



Presentation to the House Committee on Human Services

Department of Family and Protective Services

Judge John J. Specia, Commissioner

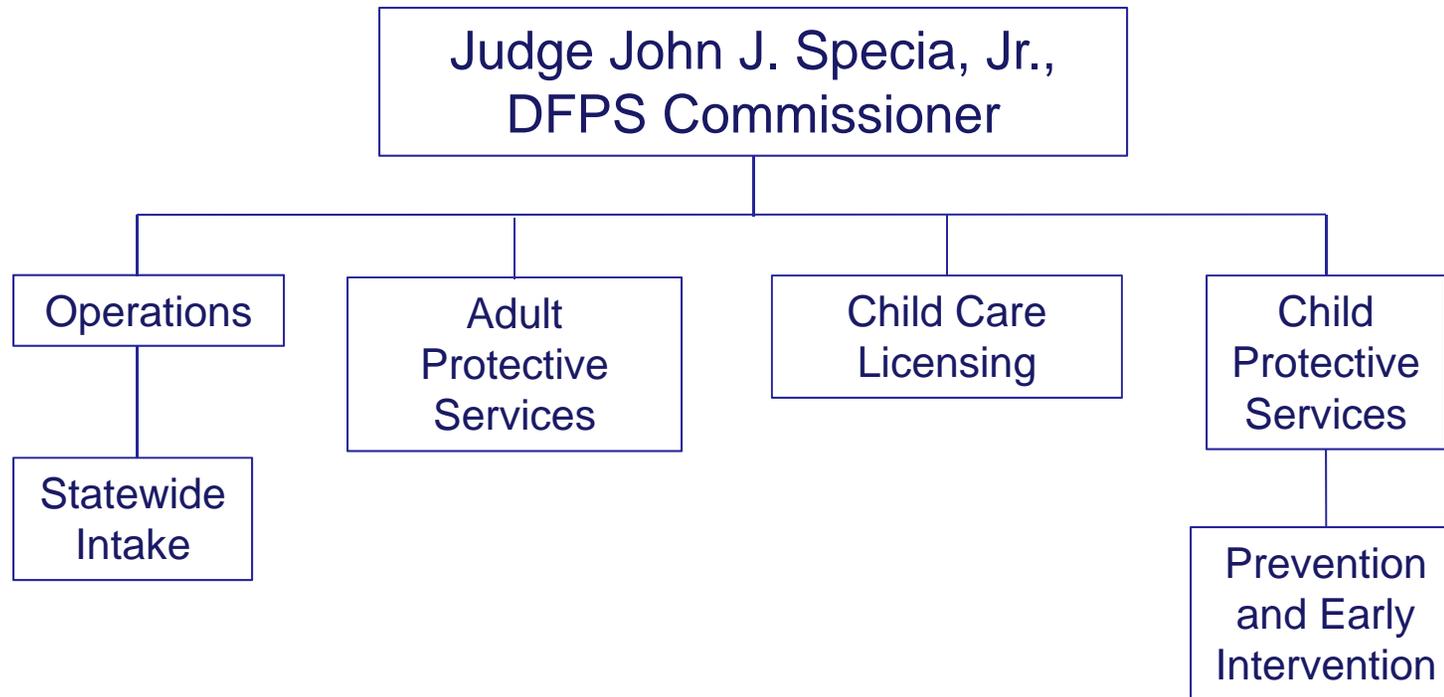
February 12, 2013



Mission

The mission of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by involving clients, families and communities.

DFPS Programs



Texas Population Growth

2002

2012

Child Population (17.8% increase)

5,986,708  7,054,634

Children in Regulated Child Day Care (22.2% increase)

882,454  1,078,044

Adults over 65 (32.4% increase)

2,127,969  2,818,076

Adults 18-64 with a Disability (21.1% increase)

1,390,140  1,683,350

Statewide Intake

Statewide Intake (SWI) is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to receive reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

- Centralized in Austin, SWI received and routed a total of 773,577 reports in fiscal year (FY) 2012.
- Of those reports:
 - 618,422 (79.9 %) were received by phone.
 - 120,802 (15.6 %) were received by Internet.

To report abuse, neglect, or exploitation contact SWI at 1-800-252-5400 or at www.txabusehotline.org.



Adult Protective Services In-Home Program

The Adult Protective Services (APS) In-Home Program investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults in the community age 65 years or older or adults with disabilities.

In FY 2012, APS conducted 87,487 in-home investigations.

- APS clients may live in their own home, family homes, or unlicensed congregate settings, such as personal care homes or room and boards.
- APS makes referrals to law enforcement and guardianship programs when it is necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the individual.
- If needed, APS arranges for services to alleviate abuse and neglect, such as emergency assistance with food and shelter.
 - APS arranged for services in 56,029 cases in FY 2012.



Adult Protective Services Facility Investigations

APS investigates abuse, neglect, and exploitation of clients receiving services in the following state-operated and/or contracted settings:

- State Supported Living Centers
- State Hospitals
- State Centers
- Community mental health/intellectual disability centers
- Privately-operated Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities
- Intellectual Disability waiver providers

APS completed 10,803 facility investigations in FY 2012.

Child Care Licensing

To protect the health, safety, and well-being of children being cared for outside of their homes, Child Care Licensing (CCL) regulates all child-care operations and child-placing agencies. CCL achieves this by:

- Conducting inspections to determine if a child care operation is complying with minimum standards and licensing laws
- Providing technical assistance when requested or needed
- Investigating reports which allege abuse or neglect and/or violation of minimum standards in child care operations subject to regulation
- Informing parents and the public about child care and about the histories of specific child-care operations



Child Care Licensing Day Care Operations

Day Care Licensing regulates 23,992 day care centers/homes, which includes:

- Child day care
- School age programs
- Before-school and after-school programs

In FY 2012, CCL conducted:

- 14,114 day care investigations
- 35,755 day care inspections
- 943 investigations of illegal daycare operations



Child Care Licensing Residential Operations

Residential Childcare Licensing (RCCL) regulated 10,459 facilities providing 24-hour care in FY 2012, including:

- Foster Family Homes
- Foster Group Homes
- General Residential Operations
- Child Placing Agencies

In FY 2012 RCCL conducted:

- 5,159 investigations
- 4,736 inspections



Child Protective Services Investigations

Child Protective Services (CPS) investigates reports of abuse and neglect of children to determine if a child or children in the home are being abused or neglected while assessing risk and ensuring child safety.

In FY 2012:

- CPS completed investigations on 275,961 children
- CPS confirmed 64,366 (23.3%) victims of child abuse/neglect
- CPS conducted 8,738 Family Team Meetings to find solutions to keep the child safe and avoid the child's removal from the family



Child Protective Services

Family Based Safety Services (FBSS)

CPS provides services to preserve families while keeping children safe in their own homes or a short-term, temporary, placement with relatives. CPS also provides services when a child is reunified after a removal. These services may include psychological evaluations, individual and group counseling, day care, relative home assessments for placement, and drug testing and treatment.

In FY 2012:

- 33,258 families received family based safety services during the year
- 11,789 children received purchased services per month on average.



Child Protective Services

Foster and Kinship Care

If a child cannot safely remain in their own home, CPS may remove the child and ask the court for temporary custody. When the court grants CPS conservatorship/custody of a child, CPS places the child in a foster or kinship placement.

As of August 31, 2012, there were 27,919 children in DFPS substitute care.

- 16,697 children were in paid Foster Care
- 9,982 children were in Kinship Homes
- 756 children were in Adoptive Homes awaiting finalization of their adoption



Child Protective Services

Permanency and Adoption

When a child cannot safely be reunited with a parent, CPS works to find a safe, loving, and permanent home for the child.

In FY 2012:

- 7,493 children exited to the care of a relative
- 2,652 children were adopted by non-relatives
- 39,056 children were provided an adoption subsidy



Child Protective Services

Transitional Living

When CPS cannot find a permanent home for a youth, CPS does everything possible to ensure that a foster youth's transition into adulthood is successful. Some of the services for these youth include:

- Preparation of Adult Living
- Education and Training Vouchers
- Circles of Support
- Extended Care for youth up to the age of 22
- Supervised Independent Living
- Return to Care
- Effective January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act requires states to extend Medicaid to youth in foster care until age 26.



Child Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention

Through contracts, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI):

- Provides community-based services that prevent juvenile delinquency and child maltreatment through the following programs:
 - Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR)
 - Community Youth Development (CYD)
 - Texas Families
 - Other At Risk Prevention
- Assists communities in identifying prevention and early intervention needs
- Supports programs designed to improve outcomes for children, youth, and their families. In FY 2012:
 - PEI child abuse/neglect prevention programs served 2,653 families
 - PEI juvenile delinquency prevention programs served 49,007 youth

Current Priorities

- Retaining a skilled and tenured workforce
- Strengthening community partnerships and collaboration
- Expecting quality and innovation



Recent Activities

Children's Rights Lawsuit

- In March 2011, Children's Rights, a national advocacy group, filed a lawsuit against Texas in federal court seeking to reform Texas' child welfare system.
- The lawsuit alleges constitutional violations against children in the Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) of DFPS. A class of all children in PMC was certified by a federal district court in May 2011.
- Texas appealed this certification to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and in March 2012, the appellate court vacated the class certification, sending the case back to the district court.
- Children's Rights filed a motion to certify new classes in October 2012. A class certification hearing was held on January 22. No decision is expected for at least 90 days.

Recent Activities

Foster Care Redesign

- Foster Care Redesign is a new way of contracting and paying for foster care services designed to improve care for children and youth in foster care and keep them closer to their homes.
- Awarded first Single Source Continuum Contract to Providence Service Corporation of Texas on December 21, 2012, to serve Regions 2/9 (Wichita Falls, Abilene, San Angelo, Midland and Odessa).
 - Start-up phase: February - July 2013
 - First child referred under new model: August 1, 2013
- Anticipated release of next Request for Proposal: Spring 2013

Recent Activities

Turnover (Rider 11 Report)

Overall, the DFPS turnover rate increased from 17.1% in FY 2011 to 19.5% in FY 2012.

CPS is the agency program with the highest turnover rate:

- CPS Investigation Caseworker turnover rate was 31.7% in FY 2011 and 33.5% in FY 2012
- CPS Family Based Safety Services Caseworker turnover rate was 27.3% in FY 2011 and 25.4% in FY 2012
- CPS Conservatorship Caseworker turnover rate was 22.7% in FY 2011 and 23.7% in FY 2012.

Entry-level CPS caseworkers make up 21% of the DFPS workforce. Their turnover increased from 35.2% in FY 2011 to 37.8% at the end of FY 2012.

Recent Activities

Turnover (Rider 11 Report)

APS turnover rate also increased:

- APS Worker turnover in FY 2011 was 16.2% and increased in FY 2012 to 19.5%.

CCL is the program with the lowest turnover rate:

- CCL Worker turnover was 11.8% in FY 2011 and 17.6% in FY 2012.
- RCCL Worker turnover was 8.5% in FY 2011 and 18.6% in FY 2012.

SWI is the only DFPS program in which the turnover rate decreased from 17.2% in FY 2011 to 16.7% in FY 2012.

- SWI Worker turnover did increase from 17.9% in FY 2011 to 19.5% in FY 2012.

Summary of Exceptional Items

Ensure Solid Foundation for Delivery of Current Services

- a. Direct Delivery Staff to Maintain Caseloads
- b. Caseload Growth for Relative Caregiver Program
- c. Caseload Growth for Foster and Protective Day Care
- d. Caseload Growth for CPS Purchased Client Services
- e. Updates to Casework System Applications

Improve Staff Retention

- a. Targeted Pay Increase for Direct Delivery Staff
- b. Strengthen Leadership Skills
- c. On-Call Pay

Summary of Exceptional Items

Improve Safety for Children

- a. Decrease CPS Delinquent Investigations
- b. Reduce CPS Conservatorship Caseload to FY 2009 Level
- c. Investigate Illegal Daycare Operations

Enhance Service Delivery by Improving Program Infrastructure

- a. Reduce Supervisor Span of Control
- b. Improve Assessment and Service Delivery Process
- c. Improve Usability of Casework System

Summary of Exceptional Items

Keep Children Out of Foster Care

- a. Strengthen CPS Kinship Services
- b. Increase Relative Caregiver Monetary Assistance

Increase Prevention Services

- a. STAR
- b. CYD
- c. Texas Families
- d. Other At-Risk