



# House Committee on Human Services

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Interim Hearing

February 21, 2008

Joyce James  
Assistant Commissioner  
Child Protective Services



**Where are the children in DFPS care? Of the 5,038 children in DFPS substitute care for Region 3 on December 31, 2007....**

**(Decrease of 1,163 children [18.8%] since March 31, 2007)**

**3,364**  
**(Decrease of 652 [16.2%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were in**  
**Foster Care**

**2,498**  
**(Decrease of 385 [13.4%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were placed in**  
**Child Placing Agency**  
**(CPA) Foster Homes**

Foster homes are families who accept foster children into their homes. These foster homes are recruited, trained, verified and managed by private CPA's. DFPS has contracts with just over 100 CPAs. The majority of CPA foster homes are verified to provide *therapeutic* foster care services.

**376**  
**(Decrease of 179 [32.3%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were placed in**  
**DFPS Foster Homes**

These are families who accept foster children into their homes and are recruited, trained, verified and managed by DFPS. The majority provide *basic* foster care services.

**50**  
**(Decrease of 1 [2.0%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were placed in**  
**Basic Child Care**

These are typically cottage and campus type settings meeting basic child needs.

**289**  
**(Decrease of 20 [6.5%] since 3/31/07)** children  
**were placed in Residential**  
**Treatment Centers**

An RTC is a very structured setting for children with serious emotional disturbance or mental health issues.

**55**  
**(Decrease of 55 [50.0%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were placed in**  
**Emergency Shelters**

These are intended for stays of less than 30 days.

**96**  
**(Decrease of 12 [11.1%] since 3/31/07)**  
**Children were placed in**  
**Other Types of**  
**Foster Care**

Such as camps, maternity homes, hospitals, juvenile detention, ICF-MR, HCS homes, state schools & hospitals.

**1,674**  
**(Decrease of 511 [23.4%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children**  
**were in**  
**Other Types of Substitute Care**

**1,431**  
**(Decrease of 484 [25.3%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were placed in**  
**Kinship Care**  
DFPS Supports relative caregivers by assisting with initial costs of accepting a child and through ongoing case management.

**93**  
**(Decrease of 19 [17.0%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were in pending adoptions in**  
**CPA Adoptive Homes**

**37**  
**(Increase of 8 [27.6%] since 3/31/07)**  
**children were in pending adoptions in**  
**DFPS Adoptive Homes**

**113**  
**(Decrease of 16 [12.4%] since 3/31/07)** children were placed in  
**Other Substitute Care**

Which includes independent living programs, unauthorized absences and court ordered placements.

## Capacity

- Since January 2007 when DFPS began tracking children without placements, the high number for Region 3 was 41 in June 2007. The number has been 2 for each of the past three months (November 2007 - January 2008).
- 85% of children from Region 3 were placed within Region 3.
- Statewide needs assessment to be conducted with recommendations in fall 2008
- DFPS establishing a plan to address the needs of children in care through targeted capacity and enhanced services.

# Adoption

## Adoption Data

- Number of consummated adoptions:

	<u>Region 3</u>	<u>Statewide</u>
o FY 2005	660	3,173
o FY 2006	638	3,376
o FY 2007	763	4,023

- Children waiting for adoption at the end of August 2007:
  - o 679 - Region 3
  - o 4,375 - Statewide

# Adoption

## Adoption – Local Efforts

- National Adoption Day in November – 221 adoptions consummated
- Heart Galleries
- Partners with 28 Child Placing Agencies to recruit adoptive families
- Adoption recruitment events
- One Church One Child recruitment contract

## Transitioning Foster Youth

### Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Program

- PAL provides services to youth ages 16 through 20 who are currently transitioning out of care or who were formerly in foster care.
- In 1986, the PAL Program was created to better address the needs of youth aging out of foster care and to ensure older youth in substitute care are prepared for the transition from foster care to adulthood.
- Statewide, of the 8,356 youth ages 16 through 20 who were eligible for PAL Services in FY 07, 7,639 or 91% received PAL Services. The number of eligible youth receiving services in FY 06 was 7,279 or 92%, and in FY 05 it was 6,474 or 89%.
- Region 3 had 1,467 youth eligible for PAL Services and 1,443 or 98% received these services.

# Transitioning Foster Youth

## Region 3 Highlights

- Youth conferences hosted by PAL staff and Regional Youth Specialist
- Dallas County unit that focuses on children age 15 and older
- TRAC Transition Center in Dallas County
- Mentoring Pilot (HB 3008 by Rep. Pierson) to begin summer of 2008 in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, and Denton counties
- Circles of Support
  - o 227 held in FY 2007
  - o 154 held in FY 2008 (through January 2008)

## Local Collaborations

- Three stakeholder meetings in past two years with 221 total attendees.
- Pilot project with Early Childhood Intervention on visitation practices with families.
- Supported the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition in efforts to receive a grant and produce a video on sexual abuse by a family member as seen through the eyes of the victim.
- Working with Dallas and Tarrant counties to develop additional drug courts.



## Local Collaborations

- Partnership between CPS and Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County resulted in the award of a 4 year national demonstration grant to increase participation of non-custodial fathers in the lives of children removed by CPS.
- Addressing disproportionality for African-American children through a regional Disproportionality Advisory Committee, in addition to county Disproportionality Advisory Committees in Dallas, Tarrant, and Denton counties.
- Added Tarleton State University as fourth university that provides interns. Others are University of Texas at Arlington, University of North Texas, and Texas Woman's University.

# CPS Workforce Data

## CPS Caseworker Turnover

YEAR	REGION 3	STATEWIDE
FY 2005	29.6%	29.3%
FY 2006	31.0%	29.8%
FY 2007	31.1%	34.1%
FY 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr)	33.1%	33.9%

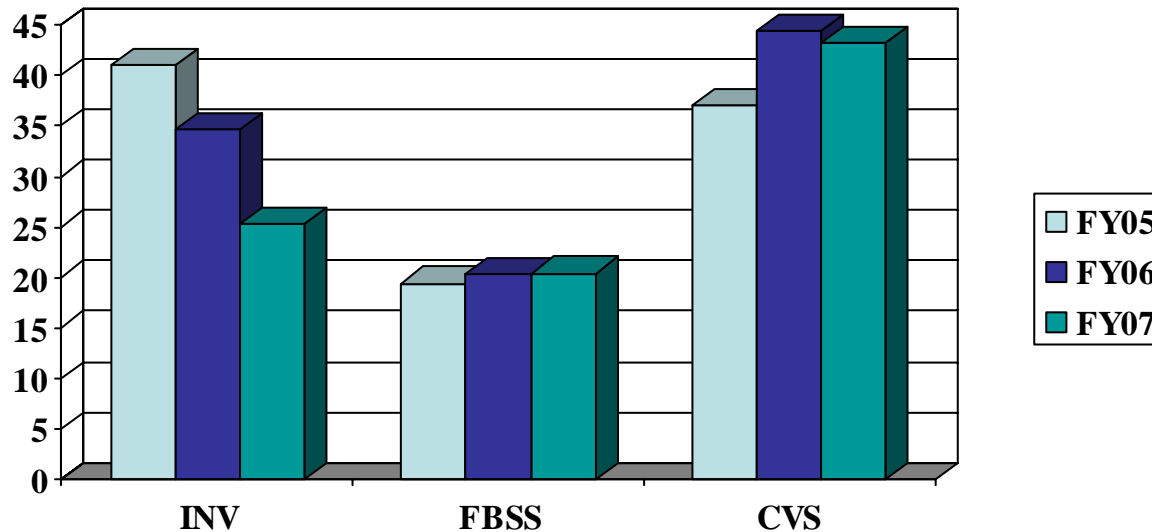
## Region 3 CPS Turnover by Position

YEAR	CVS	FBSS	INV
FY 2006	24.7%	23.2%	39.3%
FY 2007	22.6%	29.4%	39.3%
FY 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr)	32.0%	28.3%	38.5%

# CPS Caseloads - Statewide

## Average Daily Caseloads

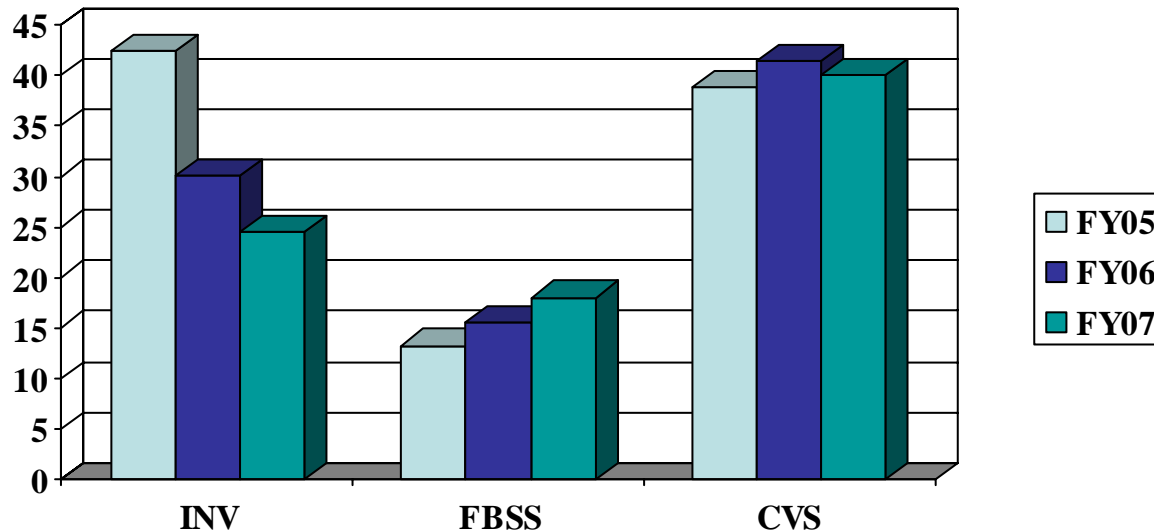
- Investigation caseloads have dropped from 41.1 in FY 05 to 25.3 in FY 07.
- Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) caseloads have increased slightly from 19.4 in FY 05 to 20.4 in FY 07.
- Conservatorship/Substitute Care (CVS) caseloads increased from 37.1 in FY 05 to 43.3 in FY 07.



# CPS Caseloads – Region 3

## Average Daily Caseloads

- Investigation caseloads have dropped from 42.4 in FY 05 to 24.5 in FY 07
- Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) caseloads have increased from 13.2 in FY 05 to 18.0 in FY 07
- Conservatorship/Substitute Care (CVS) caseloads increased from 38.8 in FY 05 to 40.0 in FY 07



# **Conclusion**