



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Capacity Strategic Plan

Region 10

November 15, 2019

Introduction

As outlined in Chapter 264.1261, of the Texas Family Code, “appropriate management personnel from a child protective services region in which community-based care has not been implemented, in collaboration with foster care providers, faith-based entities, and child advocates in that region, shall use data collected by the department on foster care capacity needs and availability of each type of foster care and kinship placement in the region to create a plan to address the substitute care capacity needs in the region.”

The statewide foster care needs assessment was completed in August 2019 and helped to inform the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, which specifically addresses the needs of each Catchment/Region.

Each region, led by regional DFPS leadership, has met with their regional stakeholders to develop a strategic plan. In addition, each region has partnered with a local provider contracted by CPS, to continue oversight and recommend changes as needed based on progress of goals established.

Foster Care Placement Forecast and Assessment of Capacity Need

The Foster Care Needs Assessment can be accessed at the below DFPS link http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Reports_and_Presentations/CPS/documents/2019/2019-08-06_Foster_Care_Needs_Assessment.pdf

Stakeholder/provider meetings for Region 10 occurred on September 10, 2019 and September 26, 2019 where the Foster Care Needs Assessment was reviewed and a Power Point of regional/catchment data was presented focusing on historical analysis and forecasted capacity needs for Fiscal Year 2020.

While DFPS is honored to submit this plan on behalf of the community, the goals and strategies contained herein belong to us all. DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the Regional capacity strategic plan:

Empowering Change, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Child Guidance Center, Emergence Health Network, Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center, El Paso Center for Children, Socorro Independent

School District, Office of Senator Jose Rodriguez, Aliviane, Juvenile Probation Department, NAMI, Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Texas Tech health Sciences Center of El Paso, El Paso Psychiatric Center, 65th District Court, World for Children, Ubring, Children's Hope, and the Circle of Living Hope.

The following strategies were identified by the stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team:

Regional Plan to Increase Capacity

Goal 1: Assess Current Capacity

It is believed there may be a surplus of basic homes identified for pre-school and school aged children in Region 10 that may not truly represent available capacity. In order to increase emergency placements into the least restrictive placement for this age group, an assessment will be conducted to determine actual capacity with each Child Placing Agency (CPA).

Objective 1.1: Determine Availability of Emergency Placement Options

- Develop a standardized method to collect information which will help determine current availability for this age group
- Evaluate identified barriers within each CPA to taking emergency placements of preschool and school age children
- Based on the information collected, the CPAs will work jointly to evaluate and implement a system improvement plan to increase capacity for emergency placements
- There will be collaborative efforts with stakeholders in helping promote recruitment events

Objective 1.2: Recruit Foster Placements of homes for pre-school, school aged children, and sibling groups

- El Paso Center for Children has committed to opening five additional homes for basic and moderate needs children
- A World for Children will work to increase their overall capacity up to 75 children
- Children's Hope will focus on increasing capacity by one home that will be licensed such that it can take a sibling group of four to five children

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders during community events.

Goal 2: Increase Placement Capacity for Teenagers

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identified 22 placements available in the region for teenagers. However, the forecast shows we will need availability for 32 teenagers by FY21.

Objective 2.1: Determine How to Grow Capacity

- The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) will conduct a focus group with existing foster parents who service this population

Objective 2.2: Recruit Foster Placements for Teenagers

- Information gathered by UTEP will be used in recruitment efforts to increase placement capacity for teenagers
- El Paso Center for Children has committed to opening two homes specifically for teenagers; and four homes specifically for survivors of sex trafficking
- A World For Children will increase their capacity to care for 10 teenagers
- Children's Hope will increase their capacity by two homes for teenagers
- Upbring will increase capacity by one home for teenagers
- Circle of Living Hope will increase their capacity by four bed spaces for this age group. The agencies main focus will be in accepting teenage placements
- CPS is committed to licensing four new homes for teenagers

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders during community events.

Goal 3: Increase Support for Caregivers with High Needs Children

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identified a need for 11 new specialized foster homes. In order to grow capacity in this area it is believed there must be increased support for existing caregivers.

Objective 3.1: Identify Gaps

- The University of Texas at El Paso will conduct a focus group/survey with existing foster parents to determine needs

Objective 3.2: Address Identified Gaps

- The CPAs will work with the Family Leadership Council on any identified resource gaps for foster parents

- The CPAs will partner up with Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center to determine what support can be offered with foster homes serving children with high needs

Objective 3.3: Recruit Foster Placements

- A World for Children will increase capacity to care for up to 10 specialized level of care children
- Upbring will focused their recruitment in increasing their specialized homes by one

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders during community events.