



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Capacity Strategic Plan

Region 4

September 1, 2019

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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:

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Reports_and_Presentations/CPS/documents/2019/2019-08-06_Foster_Care_Needs_Assessment.pdf

A stakeholder/provider meeting for Region 4 occurred on August 28, 2019 where the Foster Care Needs Assessment was reviewed.

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:

A World for Children, Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Azleway Children's Services, The Bair Foundation, Boys Haven, Buckner Children and Family Services, Castillo Children's Center, Children First, Children's Hope

Residential Services, Christian Homes Tyler, East Texas Orphan Network, Grace Manor, Hope Haven of East Texas, Lufkin Emergency Shelter, Maximus, Methodist Children's Home, Millstone Management Houston, Noble Children's Services, Youth and Family Enrichment Center, and Therapeutic Family Life

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

Regional Plan to Increase Capacity

Goal 1: Increase Capacity for Basic and Moderate Children

The Needs Assessment identified a need for increased capacity for basic and moderate children in both foster home placements as well as emergency placements.

Objective 1.1: Increase Awareness

- CPS and Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) will conduct quarterly "Foster/Adopt Expos" in areas around the region using a standardized presentation with regional data
- CPS and CPAs will work with our regional faith-based partners to identify recruitment opportunities in all counties that will support foster care and adoption initiatives

Objective 1.2: Utilize Foster Parent Experience/Expertise

- Utilize current foster families in panels and Foster/Adopt Expos to promote the need for foster care placements
- Continue to approach current and former foster families to consider increasing capacity where appropriate
- Continue "Each One, Reach One" initiative where existing foster families are encouraged to recruit one family each over the coming year

Review of this goal will occur routinely between CPS leadership and the community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.

Goal 2: Develop Effective Response Systems to Support and Maintain Foster Families

The Needs Assessment identified a need for increased basic and moderate placements for school and teen aged children. The workgroup determined the need to support and maintain existing and new foster families in an effort to meet this projected need.

Objective 2.1: Create and Sustain Forums to Support Foster Parents

- Identify and create forums in areas where Foster Care Community Collaborations would be beneficial
- CPS, CPAs, and Faith Based partners will continue to work together in a Foster Care Community Collaboration that meets quarterly to plan and implement support services for families

Objective 2.2: Develop Supports

CPS, CPAs and our Faith Based partners will:

- Recruit a pool of babysitters to support foster families using the babysitting initiatives model
- Develop Foster Family Fun Nights and Parents' Night Out to support foster families
- Develop resource rooms or closets to support foster families
- Develop confident and knowledgeable foster families by providing collaborative training opportunities and resource fairs
- Develop wrap-around support services for foster caregivers

Review of this goal will occur routinely between CPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.

Goal 3: Increase Therapeutic and Treatment Foster Home Capacity

The workgroup identified the need to join RTCs with CPAs to develop therapeutic and treatment foster homes to meet the need for increased specialized and intense placements. In addition, the workgroup recognized the importance of building positive and effective relationships with the school systems and service providers to support and increase capacity.

Objective 3.1: Develop a Collaboration between RTCs, CPAs, and GROs to Build Capacity and Support a Continuum of Care

- CPAs will work with area RTCs to develop joint training and observation opportunities for caregivers who want to provide specialized or treatment foster care
- CPAs will focus recruitment efforts for specialized foster homes in areas surrounding the RTCs to promote a continuum of care as children transition from RTC placement into therapeutic foster care
- CPS, CPAs, RTCs and GROs will develop collaborative efforts to meet with regional school district administrators to offer trauma informed training opportunities and build effective communication channels to support children in the foster care system

Objective 3.2: Recruit Quality Staff

- RTCs and GROs will utilize social media such as Facebook Live to highlight positive staff profiles in efforts to recruit quality staff and enhance positive community awareness of the facilities
- RTCs and GROs will increase their presence at local job fairs and area community colleges and universities

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.

Goal 4: Increase and Maintain Sibling Placements

The region identified a need to increase the number of siblings placed together.

- CPS will continue to have a monthly scan call to discuss barriers for getting siblings back together and identify next steps to move towards that goal.
- The CPS Child Placement Unit (CPU) will continue to work with CPA and CPS case managers for homes to accept sibling groups when openings are identified
- Whenever sibling groups must be separated, CPU will work with CPA and CPS case managers to keep siblings placed within the same CPA