



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Capacity Strategic Plan

Region 5

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 5 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:

Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Azleway Children’s Services, Boys Haven, Buckner Children and Family Services, Castillo Children’s Center, Children of Diversity, Children’s Hope, Christian Homes, Girls Haven, Grace Manor, Hope Haven, Lufkin Emergency Center, Noble Children Services, Methodist Children’s Center, Millstone Management Houston, 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 individual and collaborative recruitment events in areas around the region using community festivals and other events to raise awareness for the need for foster families

Objective 1.2: Utilize Foster Parent Experience/Expertise

- Continue “Each One, Reach One” initiative - existing foster families will continue to be encouraged to recruit one family each over the coming year
- Utilize current foster families in panels and recruitment events to promote the need for placements for foster care
- Approach current and former foster families to consider increasing capacity and/or consider taking emergency placements where appropriate

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and 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 aged children. The workgroup determined the need to support and maintain existing and new foster families in an attempt to meet this projected need.

Objective 2.1: Develop Supports

- CPS and CPAs will collaborate with our Faith Based partners to develop wrap-around support services for foster caregivers
- CPS and CPAs will work with our Faith Based and community partners to develop resource rooms or closets to support foster families

- CPS and CPAs will work collectively to empower and develop confident and knowledgeable foster families by providing collaborative training opportunities and resource fairs

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS 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