



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

**Capacity Strategic Plan**

**Region 9**

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November 15, 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 [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About\\_DFPS/Reports\\_and\\_Presentations/CPS/documents/2019/2019-08-06\\_Foster\\_Care\\_Needs\\_Assessment.pdf](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 9 occurred on September 23, 2019, September 24, 2019 and October 10, 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 2019.

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 Region 9 Capacity Strategic Plan:

High Sky, Aarow Child and Family Ministries, A World for Children, Children’s Hope, Children’s Home of Lubbock, New Horizons, Buckner, Pathways, Water Valley ISD, San Angelo ISD, CASA of Tom Green County, Angelo State

University, Miles ISD, Grape Creek ISD, Bangs ISD, Brady ISD, Santa Anna ISD, Wall ISD, Schleicher ISD, Bangs ISD, Bronte ISD, Sonora ISD, Honorable Judge Hoffman, Children's Advocacy Center, Midland CASA, Midland ISD, Region 10 Education Center

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

## **Regional Plan to Increase Capacity**

### **Goal 1: Timely Connection with Potential Foster Parents**

There is a concern that the process to verify foster homes is lengthy and lacks ongoing support for interested individuals and families. To address this, the region plans to embed a practice during recruitment which provides on-going support and timely follow-ups with interested individuals who are wanting to become foster parents.

#### **Objective 1.1: Focused Informational Meetings and Follow-Up**

- Structure informational meetings to ensure packets from each CPA are available to participants.
- Joint informational meetings will occur monthly. Each agency will also be scheduling individual informational meetings for their agencies
- Allow ample time during informational meetings to provide technical assistance for participants in filling out applications
- Structure a universal process for each Child Placing Agency (CPA) which outlines timeframes and methods of following up with applicants
- Gather information from local Foster Care Forums on recommendations for improvement in customer care
- Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) will share strategies to improve customer service
- Identify tenured foster parents from each CPA who can provide support and assistance to interested applicants
- Quarterly meetings for all Region 9 CPA agencies will be held to discuss progress on our strategic plan

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

### **Goal 2: Increase Emergency Placements**

Identify and prepare families who are willing to accept emergency placement of basic preschool age children and moderate level teenagers.

### **Objective 2.1: Providers Will Seek Increased Capacity**

- Each CPA has agreed to increase capacity in this area
- High Sky will increase capacity by 65 beds by December 2020
- Arrow Child and Family Ministries capacity building will focus on teens and sibling groups. Targeted areas will be in the rural communities in the Concho Valley Region
- A World for Children will increase capacity by 10 homes in the San Angelo area and two in Big Springs
- Buckner will work on increasing capacity to 65 basic placements and three therapeutic placements. Recruitment efforts will include Andrews and Howard Counties
- Children's Home of Lubbock will license two homes in Seminole County
- Children's Hope will license a new family each month
- New Horizons will license two homes a month in the Concho Valley Region
- Pathways will be working on expanding into Region 9 and increase capacity by three homes
- CPS will licensed three homes a quarter. Recruitment efforts will be concentrated in the out counties

### **Objective 2.1: Recruitment Efforts for Respite and Babysitting Services**

- Arrow Child and Family Ministries, High Sky, Buckner and CPS will be working to help increase babysitting services and/or respite services throughout Region 9

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

### **Goal 3: Create a Marketing Plan**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identifies a forecasted capacity need for basic and moderate placements for pre-school, school aged, and teens in Region 9 for FY20. In order to increase capacity, we must ensure the community is aware of this need.

### **Objective 3.1: Increase Awareness**

- Utilize the various social media outlets currently available
- Conduct outreach to specific organizations to allow information sharing and informational meetings

- Develop video announcements in social media outlets
- Expand informational meetings to other counties
- The Attic will provide assistance and guidance in this outreach

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