



Quarterly Report

Office of Community-Based Care Transition Implementation Status

June 2022

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Introduction

As required by Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172 (f), 87th Texas Legislature, the Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) “shall report to the legislature at least once each calendar quarter regarding the implementation of community-based care in the state.” Status reports shall be provided on September 30th, December 31st, March 31st, and June 30th of each year to the Texas Legislature.

Background

Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based grant agreement, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community (also known as “catchments”). In Stage I, this Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state’s legal conservatorship. SSCCs also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements, services to parents, and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. In Stage III, the SSCC continues the provision of all Stage I and II services and is awarded with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being. For information and data on the performance of SSCC contractors, see the [DFPS Rider 15 Report](#).

Office of Community-Based Care Transition Organizational Structure

The 87th Texas Legislature, as part of Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172, formally established the OCBCT. The OCBCT is a state agency independent of, but administratively attached to DFPS. The OCBCT and DFPS, along with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), will work together to implement CBC. The Statewide CBC Director, Theresa Thomas, has three directors who will have key roles in moving CBC forward in Texas: Community Outreach and Legislative Relations Director, and two Directors of Implementation and Operations. The contracts division that formerly was housed in the OCBCT is now housed within DFPS Purchased Client Services to better serve the SSCC contractors. See Appendix A for the current OCBCT organizational structure. Below you will see an update for initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities in each CBC area throughout the state.



THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY-BASED CARE TRANSITION

Update for Metroplex West - Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)

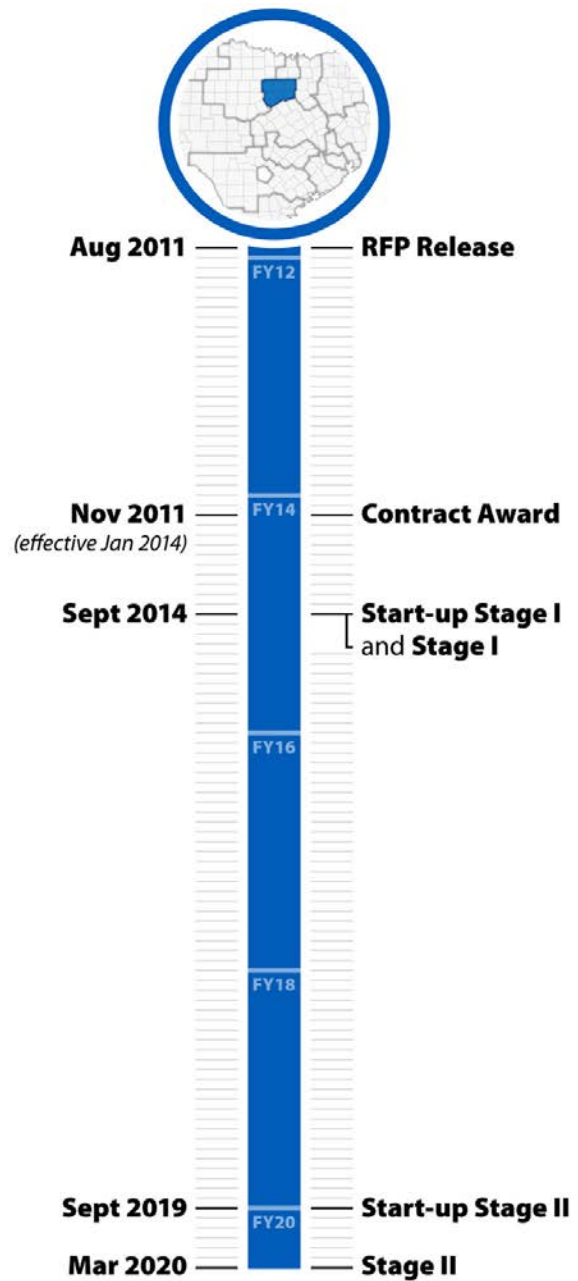
The Metroplex West (previously known as Region 3B) area is comprised of Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties in DFPS Metroplex West. The visual to the right depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.

Family Finding

OCOK staff are teaming with two Child Protective Investigation (CPI) units that have the highest removal rates in Tarrant County to assist in family finding searches. The staff are also helping to complete preliminary home assessments prior to removals and are sitting on every initial coordination meeting between CPI and OCOK.

Home Assessments

OCOK is adding a recommendation section on home assessments that are completed by OCOK kinship staff to allow for more innovation and flexibility in finding permanency. One option available on the assessment is for the assessor to mark “place with guidance” which allows permanency and kinship staff to come together and foster creative solutions to support and secure kinship placements.



“I am Kinship” Campaign

Highlighting the value of kinship care and the power of engagement, this campaign will take recommendations provided by A Second Chance Inc. and bring them to life for OCOK staff in an interactive manner. This is an internal relations campaign focusing on how every member of the OCOK team contributes to the mission of bringing kids together with family. “I am Kinship” will kick off summer 2022.

RTC Stepdown Family Finding

OCOK staff is performing intensive family finding for children who are ready to successfully discharge from residential treatment centers (RTC). This pilot began with the ACH Residential Treatment Center, with the plan to expand to the other residential treatment centers in the CBC areas. Families who are identified will begin engaging with the ACH kinship connections program to become Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) trained and will prepare their homes for the arrival of the children.

Supportive Supervision and Tuesday Talks

Permanency leadership has embarked on a focused journey to enhance the skills and knowledge of permanency specialists through the creation of “Tuesday Talks” and supportive supervision sessions for permanency supervisors. Each Tuesday, the permanency team gathers to discuss an area of interest. These TED-style talks are led by the OCOK permanency directors, with the goal to connect with field staff to enhance their knowledge about best practices, policies, and expectations. Additionally, the supervisors at OCOK, who are critically important, are receiving supportive supervision sessions to help with leadership development. The goal of these sessions is to not only grow this level of leadership, but to also engage them in the OCOK culture of teaming and support.

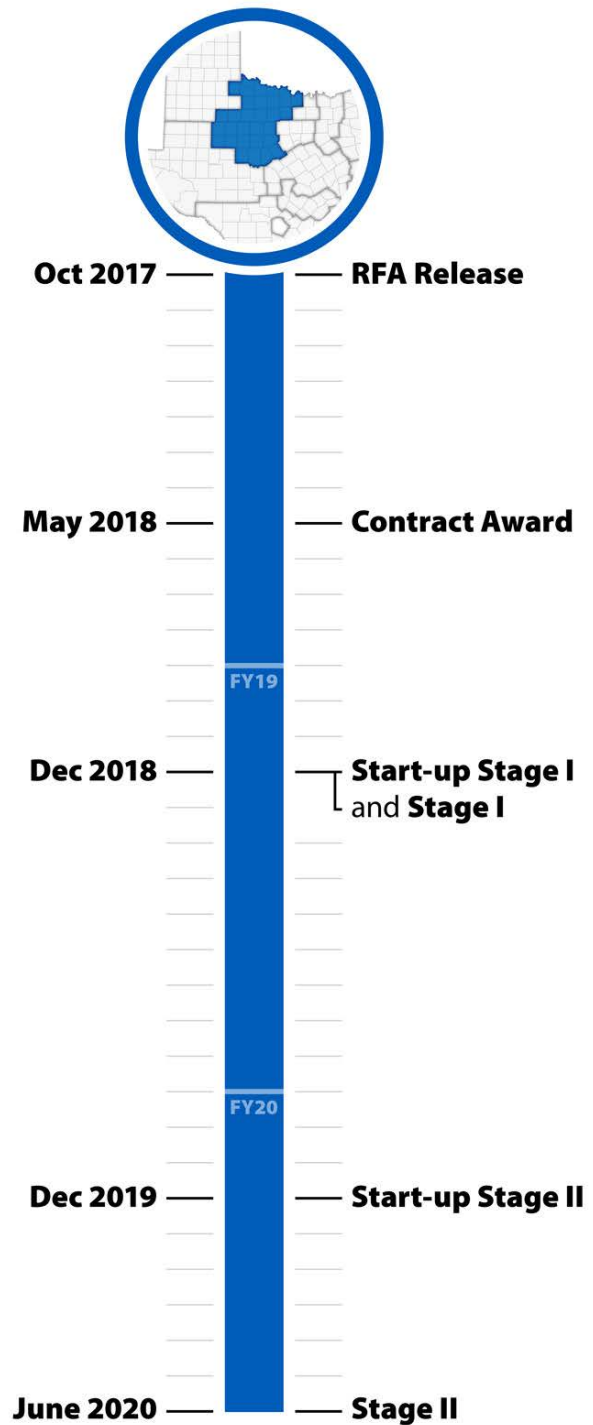


Update for Big Country & Texoma- 2INgage

The Big Country & Texoma (previously known as Region 2) area is comprised of 30 counties in northwest Texas around Abilene and Wichita Falls. The visual to the right depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.

Achieving Permanency

The Placing Us in Safe Homes (PUSH) List is created by DFPS each fiscal year. The PUSH List includes children who are in DFPS conservatorship with the permanency goal of adoption, parental rights terminated, and placement intended to be permanent. For the duration of the reporting period, no names can be added or deleted. Each region sends in a monthly report indicating the children that reached permanency that month either by adoption consummation or granting of permanent managing conservatorship (PMC) to the caregiver. The goal is to have as many children reach permanency as possible. Texoma and Big Country started with 109 children on the list in January 2022, and now the data indicated that 56 or 51.38% of the children on the list had been able to obtain permanency. 2INgage is leading the state in obtaining permanency for these identified children.



Wrap Around to Step Down Program

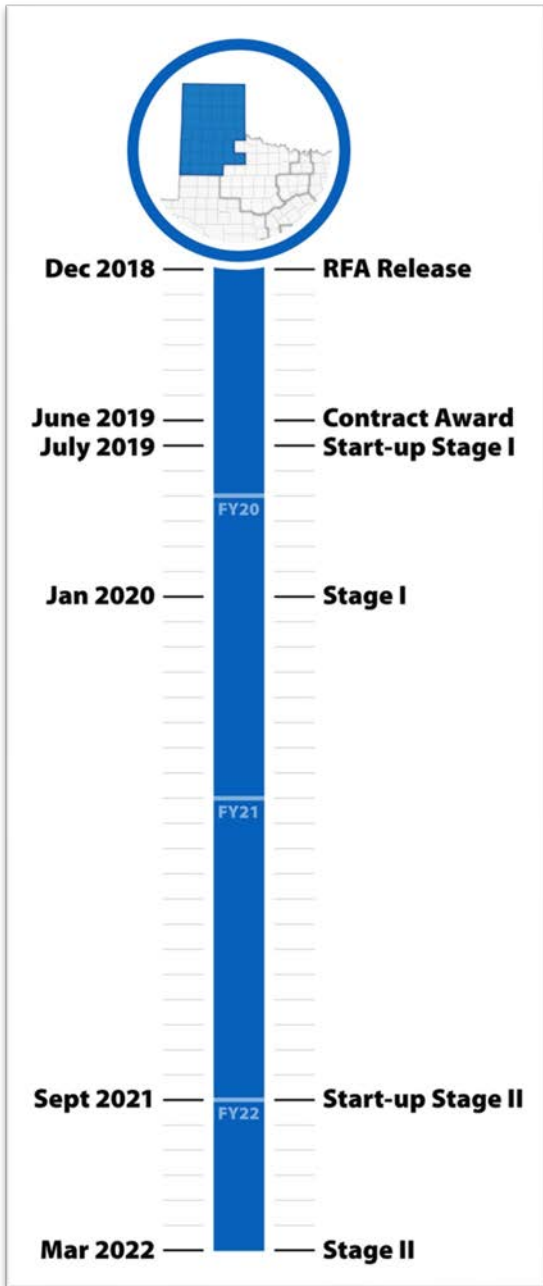
2INGage successfully launched the “Wrap Around to Step Down” program in January 2022. This program is designed to identify youth who are in treatment placements and are ready for a lesser restrictive setting. 2INGage’s intake and placement department locates the youth’s next placement whether that is paid placement or a relative placement. The clinical team offers targeted case management wrap around services once the youth is identified and moved. Currently, 2INGage is serving 14 youth through this program and five has successfully stepped down into a family-like setting through engagement in the program.

Casey Life Skills Assessment

The Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA), is a tool that evaluates the independent living skills youth need to achieve their long-term goals, such as money management and self-care. DFPS confirmed in the February 2022 Statewide Report (received in March 2022), that 2INGage/Texoma and Big Country was the top performing region in the state, completing 96.55% of CLSAs. 2INGage’s performance excelled the statewide average by 16.39%.



Update for Panhandle- Saint Francis Community Services, Inc (SFCS)



The Panhandle (previously known as Region 1) area is comprised of 41 counties in the Texas Panhandle around Lubbock and Amarillo. The visual to the left depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.

Foster Care and Adoption/Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) Recruitment and Retention Efforts

Saint Francis Community Services (SFCS) has sustained their efforts towards ongoing foster care and adoption recruitment through monthly informational sessions, social media, email broadcasts, and partnerships with a local news station and newspaper.

SFCS continues their ongoing series called “Forever Family” with KLBK News in Lubbock, and year-to-date has featured 12 children for adoption and stories on sex trafficking, disproportionality in the foster care system, and local community partnerships. This news feature airs every Wednesday. In addition, SFCS continues their ongoing adoption series with the Plainview Daily Herald, a newspaper published every Saturday. SFCS currently utilizes social media and email marketing to find potential families for children in the foster care system who are adoptable.



The current SSCCs have partnered with Daley Solutions, a local marketing firm, for intentional recruitment of children who have had challenges finding long-term permanency. Through these efforts, SFCS has recruited 176 new families in 2022 to-date and has successfully matched 30 children through selection staffing, as well as 17 families have been selected for adoption. SFCS has continued monthly region-wide foster family town halls featuring an open forum and guest speakers.

Local Capacity Building

SFCS, through partnership with the SSCCs, has been able to increase residential capacity and are in process of building a Residential Treatment Program in the Panhandle. SFCS has focused on funding treatment foster care programs, kinship support and certification, and network support. This includes working to stabilize SFCS's partner network in the Panhandle and to provide grant opportunities.

Community Engagement and Outreach

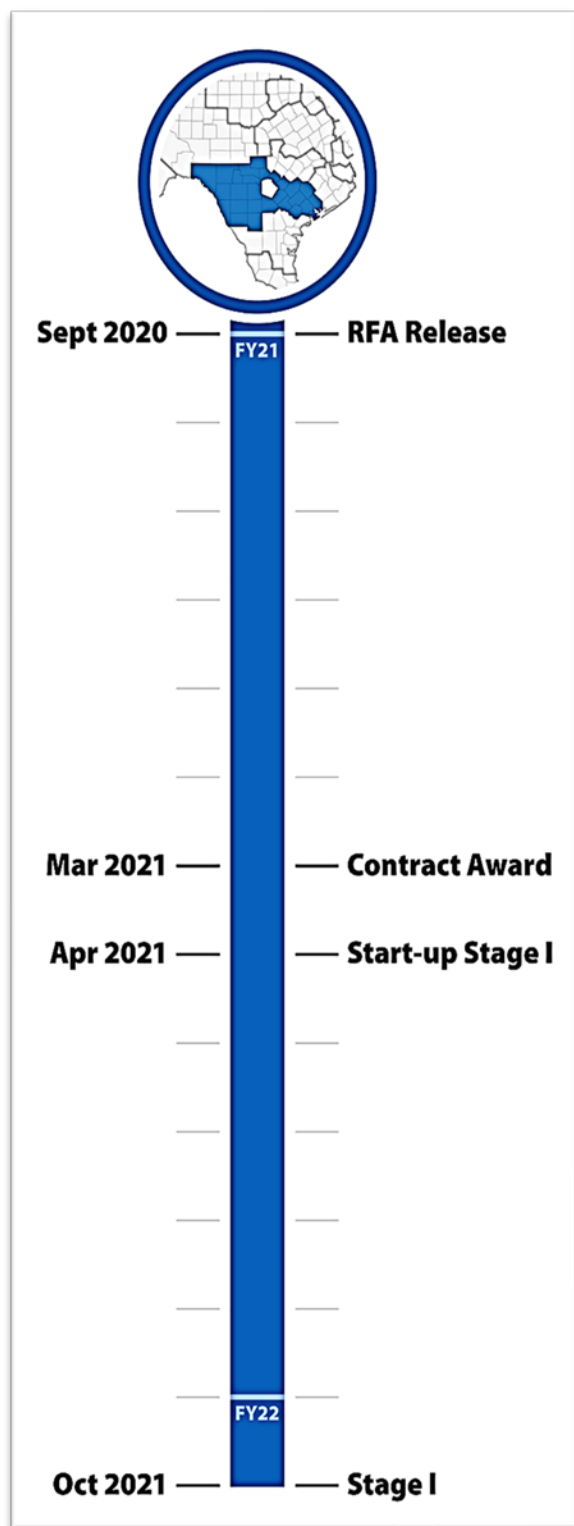
SFCS continues to collaborate with local child welfare boards, rainbow rooms, CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates), children's advocacy centers, child placing agencies, civic organizations, school districts, and other stakeholders to create a path forward in partnership. Recently, SFCS co-hosted a luncheon with the state advisory committee on promoting adoption of minority children, which focused on disproportionality in the local foster care system. SFCS also recently co-hosted a nationally recognized trauma-informed training through the "Hope for the Journey Conference" with Buckner Lubbock.

SFCS has begun a partnership with Texas Tech Mental Health Initiative that will focus on evaluating and finding solutions to serve the mental health needs of our children and families. In addition, SFCS is working on partnerships with both Texas Tech University Department of Social Work and West Texas A&M Department of Social Work to collaborate on curricula and trainings and to increase employee recruitment efforts.

Additionally, SFCS has partnered with over 45 community organizations in the Panhandle to create visitation spaces for our children and families in their communities. Currently, SFCS is hosting booths at the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce's Business Exposition and the Amarillo Business Connection Tradeshow to promote awareness of SFCS' work in the Panhandle. Lastly, to continue the promotion of awareness and to celebrate national reunification month, SFCS is hosting two large public events in the month of June at local water parks.



Update for South Central & Hill Country- Belong



The South Central & Hill Country (previously known as Region 8B) area is comprised of 27 counties, excluding Bexar County. The visual to the left depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.

Intervention, Permanency, & Prevention Services

To ensure appropriate behavioral and mental health services are available, Belong is building a holistic treatment model, centered around supportive services for children and families. The anticipated launch date is summer 2022 for the implementation of this program. Belong has connected families to over 75 community resources, has launched their first Parent Advisory Committee, and has received more than 80 referrals for in-home support services. In addition, Belong has enrolled 32 families into its Parents as Teachers (PAT) or C.A.R.E. (Case Management, Assessments, Referrals, Education) programs that focus on building a strong foundation for families while providing the necessary support and tools for each unique family. PAT is partially funded by DFPS Prevention and Early Intervention for the families residing in Guadalupe and Comal counties as the funding was awarded prior to Belong’s CBC contract; Belong assumed all costs to cover the remaining 25 counties since Belong launched its services in October 2021. The Belong team of Parent Educators have also completed 330 home visits and has partnered with families to



achieve 77 goals outlined in its prevention and early intervention programs.

Placement Preservation and SSCC Supervision

Belong has completed disruption mitigation staffings for a total of 27 youth for whom discharge notices had been received. Of these, 13 discharge notices were fully rescinded and youth remained in their placement, two youth have pending discharges while the team is diligently working to meet the needs of the youth, three youth remained in a kinship home, two youth remained in a foster home, six youth remained in a group residential operation or residential treatment center, and one youth remained in supported independent living. Belong has utilized services to preserve placements through their work with their various providers, their exceptional care requests, mentor programs, and assistance with scheduling and transporting families to appointments. Only one youth has been in SSCC supervision for a total of six days as the youth has refused placement.

Capacity Building Efforts

Belong has contracted with more than 118 providers and 160 programs in network. Belong has continued its partnership with Chosen to provide in-home support services for families to promote permanency and mitigate disruption of placement. Belong has utilized the renewing family strengths program to promote change of behaviors that would otherwise result in discharge of that youth. Through its partnership with Touchstone Alliance, Belong is set to implement its crisis stabilization program in their community, with a tentative opening in summer 2022. Belong has also collaborated with South Texas Alliance for Orphans to target faith community for recruitment of teen foster homes.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Belong's community engagement goal is to establish their presence and educate the community on community-based care as well as foster care and adoption needs in all their 27 counties. Belong has engaged with over 325 community groups, businesses, and/or faith-based organizations. Belong has attended nearly 80 community events, presented at 10 county commissioners courts, assisted several child-welfare boards in receiving county proclamations, presented at the hill country ad litem seminar as well as the Kerr county child services board. For April's child abuse prevention month, Belong hosted a virtual series of six meetings that covered critical topics focused on protecting our community's youth. Belong also continues to hold virtual information sessions on fostering and adoption along with providers to share their organizational goals and encourage families to become licensed.



Update on Community-Based Care Expansion

As appropriated by the 87th Texas Legislature, the OCBCT and DFPS, in partnership with HHSC, released a Request for Application (RFA) to expand community-based care to additional communities across the state in Metroplex East (Region 3E), Permian/Concho (Region 9), Piney Woods (Region 4), and Deep East (Region 5) on April 29, 2022. The RFA posting closed on June 20, 2022, and the Department received applications for the Metroplex East, Piney Woods, and Deep East community areas. See the timeline below for the projected staggered implementation of the next areas, given successful contract execution in each CBC area.

Timeline for Proposed SSCC Implementation:

	FY2022												FY2023												FY2024												FY2025												
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	
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On April 1, 2022, Belong was approved to begin Stage II readiness activities, and contingent upon certification of readiness, Belong is anticipated to go live for Stage II in October 2022. DFPS, OCBCT, and Belong have been working collaboratively to ensure a seamless transition to this next phase of community-based care.

Over the FY2022-2023 biennium, the OCBCT and DFPS will use funding from the 87th Texas Legislature to re-solicit the SSCC contract for Metroplex West. Initiation of the solicitation with HHSC will occur within one year before the anticipated award date to develop and implement communication plans, identify resource transfers of staff, determine fiscal allocations, and begin community planning.

Legislation Implementation Updates

Senate Bill 1896

The 87th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1896, which is an omnibus bill that impacts many divisions within DFPS, including the OCBCT. This bill created the OCBCT and appointed a



Statewide CBC Director.

The OCBCT is charged with 10 duties:

1. assess CBC areas in this state where community-based care services may be implemented,
2. develop a plan for implementing community-based care in each catchment area in this state, including the order in which community-based care will be implemented in each catchment area and a timeline for implementation,
3. evaluate community-based care providers,
4. contract, on behalf of DFPS, with community-based care providers to provide services in each catchment area in this state,
5. measure contract performance of community-based care providers,
6. provide contract oversight of community-based care providers,
7. report outcomes of community-based care providers,
8. identify the employees and other resources to be transferred to the community-based care provider to provide the necessary implementation, case management, operational, and administrative functions and outline the methodology for determining the employees and resources to be transferred,
9. create a risk-sharing funding model that strategically and explicitly balances financial risk between this state and the community-based care provider and mitigates the financial effects of significant unforeseen changes in the community-based care provider's duties or the population of the community it serves, and
10. require the annual review and adjustment of the funding based on updated cost and finance methodologies, including changes in policy, foster care rates, and community service usage.

For charges one through three, OCBCT's outreach efforts help promote and support these charges through interactions with current and potential future CBC providers to plan for CBC in communities across Texas. OCBCT continues to partner with DFPS to plan CBC roll out in the remaining eight catchment areas and ensures that innovation in planning the next areas of CBC is supported, as evidenced by OCBCT and DFPS' collaboration with HHSC to develop and post the unsolicited bid process. Additionally, modification of the CBC timeline for stage I to stage II with a reduction from 18 months to 12 months has been approved and is being implemented in the South Central and Hill Country community through the readiness process. OCBCT and DFPS are working through actualizing what this reduction in the timeline looks like, all while ensuring the success of the SSCCs and safety of children is of paramount importance.



For charges four through seven, OCBCT works closely with DFPS and HHSC to ensure that procurement regulations are followed and that adherence to federal statute, such as Title IV-E, and compliance with the federal foster care litigation orders. This collaborative approach ensures that the SSCCs are set up for success. OCBCT collaborates and partners with DFPS and the SSCCs to resolve any case work or contractual concerns. Lastly, this CBC Quarterly Report and the Rider 15 Report helps to ensure that outcomes are reported to internal and external stakeholders. This information is also shared in the quarterly public private partnership (PPP) meetings, where the public and private sectors come together to advise DFPS and OCBCT about CBC. OCBCT's outreach efforts also support the completion of this function of the office.

For the final charges, eight through ten, OCBCT continues to work alongside DFPS and HHSC to evaluate financial implications of CBC. OCBCT continues to work with external partners such as Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas, and Chapin Hall to ensure the best methods of supporting the SSCCs and community-based care. Given the direction of Senate Bill 1896 regarding evaluation of Family Based Safety Services (FBSS), the OCBCT is working with DFPS and the SSCCs to complete the Senate Bill 910 study and to collaborate on the House Bill 3041 Family Preservation service pilots; more on these efforts are outlined below.

Data Access and Standards Governance Council

Senate Bill 1896 updated the definition and requirements of the existing Data Access and Standards Governance Council, which was established by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2018. To conform to Senate Bill 1896, the Council established a quarterly meeting schedule, beginning in August and conducted its third quarterly meeting on February 16, 2022. Quarterly Council meetings will continue, and sub-workgroups will be assigned and will meet monthly between quarterly Council meetings. OCBCT continues to partner with DFPS and the SSCCs to work on interoperability standards for the information infrastructure to standardize systems.

Senate Bill 910

Senate Bill 910 requires DFPS to develop a comprehensive list of options to implement family preservation services in existing catchment areas and to submit a report to the Governor and Legislative leadership by October 1, 2022. In September 2021, an Interagency Contract (IAC) between DFPS and Texas A&M University (Public Policy Research Institute) was executed. The IAC is to provide a comprehensive study of options to help inform the quality implementation of family preservation services into the existing CBC areas as a part of community-based care, with specific focus on operations, implementation, financial modeling, contract provisions, statutory changes, and service delivery issues. The OCBCT, DFPS, and Texas A&M University continue to work together on this project. To date, Texas A&M University has conducted listening sessions with DFPS staff, focus groups with child welfare stakeholders, and has been timely in meeting



their contractual deliverable requirements.

CBC Model, Process Evaluation, and Continuous Quality Improvement

The OCBCT continues to evaluate whether the staged approach is the best approach to implement CBC statewide. The OCBCT and DFPS contracted with Texas Tech University to conduct a process evaluation of each stage of CBC. The process evaluation is a tool used by OCBCT and DFPS to assess implementation of CBC in each community area, identifying the key successes and barriers, and course correct as needed. The CBC process evaluation was completed in November 2020 and can be found on the [CBC website](#). On-going process evaluations through Texas Tech University will continue, and work is underway with the DFPS Office of Data and Systems Improvement and the SSCCs, to make a long term sustainable plan for statewide community-based care.

The OCBCT and DFPS continue to work with the Center for Child Welfare Data, affiliated with Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago, to support the outcome evaluation. Chapin Hall provides independent data analysis of each SSCC's performance on placements within 50 miles and paid foster care days, the basis for the fiscal model, and incentive payments in Stage III. Chapin Hall has begun to evaluate child outcomes in Metroplex West and Big Country & Texoma. OCBCT and DFPS further consult with Chapin Hall on continuous quality improvement processes for oversight of CBC in Stage II. The OCBCT is committed to transparency and will continue to meet statutory requirements for sharing implementation plans, implementation updates, and performance data.

Conclusion

The Office of Community-Based Care Transition, along with the Department of Family and Protective Services and stakeholder partners, continue to work diligently to implement community-based care in the four current communities (Metroplex West, Big Country & Texoma, Panhandle and South Central & Hill Country), expand community-based care to at least four additional communities this biennium (Metroplex East, Piney Woods, Deep East, and Permian/Concho), and to lay the foundation for a successful rollout statewide. After two SSCCs move into Stage II this biennium, there will be four SSCCs moving to Stage I during the next biennium. The next two biennium would then include four SSCCs in Stage I and four SSCCs in Stage II, all with the goal of statewide community-based care by 2029. View the latest [CBC Implementation Plan](#) for additional details. An updated implementation plan is due to the Texas



Legislature no later than the last day of each state fiscal biennium and will include new requirements passed during the 87th Texas Legislature.



Appendix A: Organizational Structure for the Office of Community-Based Care Transition



