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## PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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Texas Department of Human Services

## Protective Services

**I**n the past year, stories of child abuse, adult abuse, and family violence were reported almost daily by the state's newspapers and television stations—a preschooler selling crack cocaine for his mother, infants and toddlers beaten to death by parents or relatives, an Alzheimer's patient abandoned in his wheelchair at a dog-racing track, a child chained to a cabinet and slowly starved to death.

The economic recession undoubtedly played a role in the chilling rise in abuse and neglect. When families are financially strapped, they are more prone to stress-related violence. Whatever the causes, the trend resulted in higher caseloads in all protective services during fiscal year 1992. While staff sought ways to stop confirmed abuse faster, efforts were focused more than ever on stopping abuse before it happens.

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In three cities, staff field tested a risk-based assessment system designed to help determine the likelihood of abuse or neglect in families. Staff continued work on plans to automate the protective services system, which will improve tracking of abuse cases as well as simplify caseworkers' record-keeping and referral functions, allowing them to spend more time face-to-face with clients. And a public awareness campaign to prevent adult abuse was launched in Galveston County that will eventually go statewide.

Staff collaborated in efforts initiated by local coalitions across the state to make the protective services system work better for vulnerable Texans. For example, community frustration over the beating death of a 2-year-old child led to the creation of the Children's Advocacy Center in Austin in March 1992. The center allows police, prosecutors, and child protective staff to work side-by-side, promising greater efficiency and better chances for bringing child abusers to trial. To make the investigation process less painful for the children, they are interviewed by a specialist in a homelike setting. Similar projects across the state are proving that collaboration at the local level can make a difference.

The Licensing Department—entrusted with protecting the health, safety, and well-being of children in care outside their homes—involved parents, advocates, child development specialists, and other stakeholders as it worked toward revising the minimum standards for day-care licensing. Increased automation and a new monitoring system helped licensing staff develop closer partnerships with residential child-care facilities. Staff also began work on several projects to improve coordination of day-care and residential child-care licensing.

This was a year of transition for protective services staff, as they prepared to move on Sept. 1, 1992, to the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS). The Legislature created the new agency under House Bill 7 to focus more clearly on the needs of vulnerable Texans.

## Child Protective Services

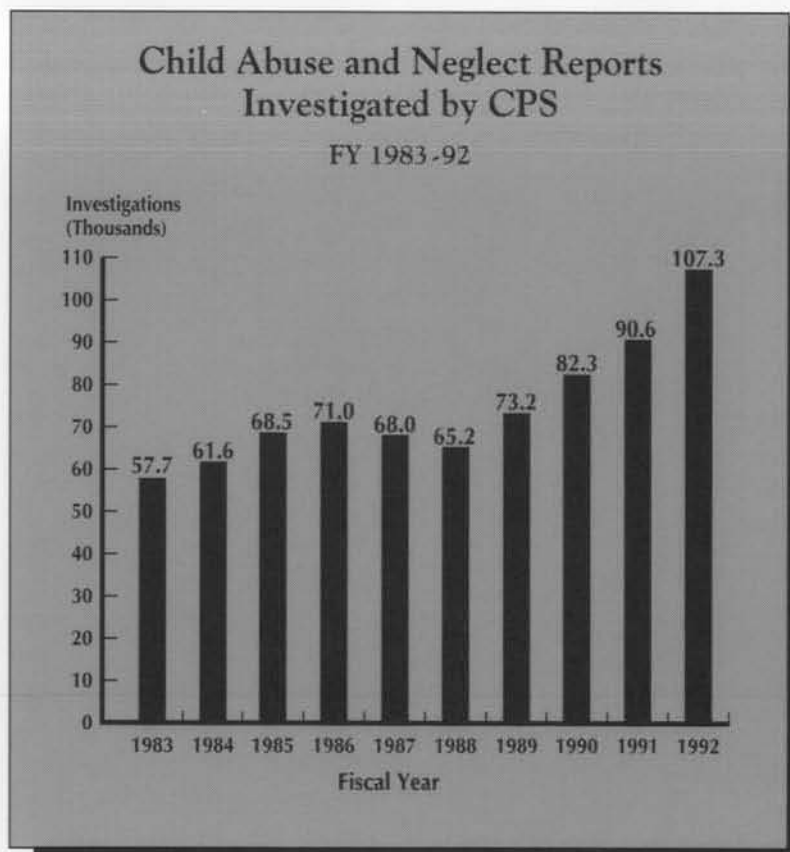
**B**y law, anyone who suspects that a child is being abused or neglected must report the situation to the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) or a local law enforcement agency. Child Protective Services (CPS) receives and investigates these reports and provides appropriate services to children and families.

This fiscal year, CPS investigated 107,276 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, an increase of 18.4 percent over the 90,601 reports investigated in fiscal year 1991. Even with this increase, reported cases represent only a small part of the total problem. An estimated 16.2 percent of Texas children are at risk of abuse or neglect, which was about 836,482 children during fiscal year 1992.

CPS staff provide services to families and children in their own homes, place children in substitute care, develop and maintain foster homes, and offer adoption and post-adoption services. When a child is abused or neglected by a family member or in the home, CPS intervenes to protect the child. Staff try to help the family become safe so the child may remain in the home or return to it. If the family is unable to make necessary changes to ensure the child's safety, staff try to find a permanent home for the child through adoption or another placement.

Reports of child abuse and neglect are received by local CPS staff and also through a 24-hour, statewide, toll-free hotline. When a report is received, it is assigned a priority based on the severity of alleged harm and the immediacy of alleged danger to the child. The priority determines how quickly an investigation is begun. If a report involves an immediate threat of serious harm or death to a child, the investigation begins as soon as possible, and definitely within 24 hours. All other investigations begin within 10 days.

If an investigation indicates that a child can safely stay at home but needs continuing supervision, CPS or community resources may offer the family a variety of in-home services, such as protective day care, homemaker assistance, parent aides, and community treatment. In-home protective services help pre-



vent the recurrence of child abuse or neglect, while avoiding the trauma the child would experience if removed from the home. Working together, the caseworker and family develop a service plan to strengthen the family's ability to provide a safe environment for the child. The program does not attempt to meet all the family's needs. It focuses on helping resolve the problems that led to abuse or neglect so the child may remain safely with the family. When it appears that the child will be safe without CPS supervision, the case is closed.

If a child's safety is seriously endangered by remaining at home, the court may temporarily place the child in foster care. As with in-home services, the caseworker and family jointly develop a service plan, and the same types of services provided in-home may be offered. Staff try to resolve the case as quickly as possible by helping the family deal with the problems that led to abuse and neglect so the child can return home.

## Foster Care

As the number of investigated reports has increased, so has the number of children in foster care. At the end of fiscal year 1987, 5,002 children were in foster care. Since then, the number has steadily increased, and by the end of fiscal year 1991, 8,475 children were in foster care. By the end of fiscal year 1992, the number rose even higher to 9,965, an increase of 17.6 percent over the previous fiscal year.

Because of the diligent efforts of staff and foster home support groups, the number of available foster homes has increased in recent years. Even so, there aren't enough foster homes and other substitute-care facilities for children who need them. Often, as soon as one child leaves a foster family, another arrives—with little time in between for the family to prepare. Some children also must change placements while in care to find foster families who can manage all their needs. CPS staff are striving to increase the number of families who are able to care for medically fragile children and children who have disabilities or other special needs, make better matches of children and families, and improve the skills of foster care providers.

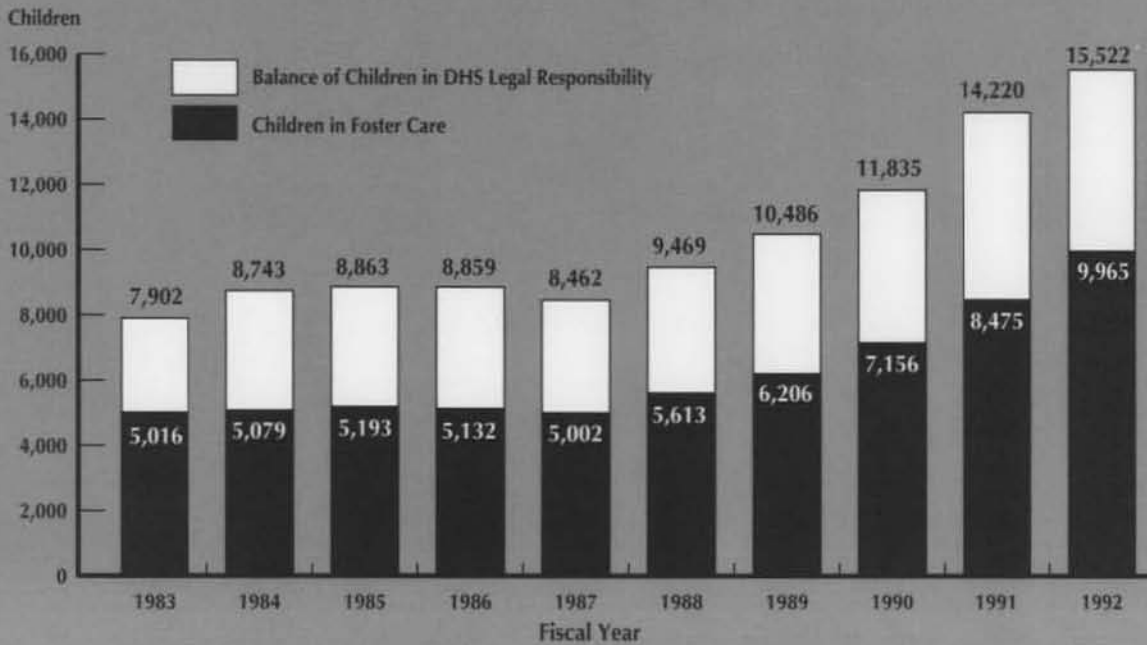
During fiscal year 1992, CPS conducted the "Texas Hero" campaign to retain and recruit foster families for children with special needs. A second campaign is in progress to recruit foster and adoptive minority families.

A preservice mutual assessment helps prospective foster and adoptive parents learn about the impacts that backgrounds of abuse or neglect have on children. During 10 sessions, staff help prospective parents assess their abilities to meet the needs of formerly abused children and learn how to work effectively with the program to meet those needs.

Foster parents receive ongoing training after they're certified. As a result of the Texas Foster Care Initiative, specialized training was provided to help

### Children in Legal Responsibility of DHS Including Children in Foster Care Placement

FY 1983-92



foster parents and staff care for children from environments of drug and alcohol abuse. Foster parents who are officers in Texas Foster Parents Inc. helped develop the training, which was delivered by local councils on drug and alcohol abuse.

During fiscal year 1992, CPS continued efforts to improve services for children needing out-of-home care. An interagency level-of-care system was created to provide a means of coordinating care similar to the concept of managed health care. Through periodic review of a child's needs, the child's level of care can be continuously matched with necessary services.

### Adoption Services

While most children in foster care return to their parents or relatives, not all families are able to resolve their problems so their children can live with them safely. When a court terminates parental rights, CPS adoption staff seek a permanent home for the child. Most abused or neglected children waiting for adoption have special needs. They often are older; have emotional, mental, or physical difficulties; are of a racial minority group; or need to be placed with one or more brothers or sisters. During fiscal year 1992, the agency placed 648 children in adoptive homes.



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CPS works in a variety of ways to increase the possibilities of adoption for these children. Subsidies are available to help adoptive parents with expenses related to placement and care of children with special needs. The subsidies are provided from either federal or state funds, depending upon the eligibility of the child, and include medical coverage.

CPS also purchases adoption services from private agencies and operates the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange. This photo listing of children waiting for adoption is distributed to more than 500 agencies and individuals in Texas and other states.

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, administered by the Texas Interstate Placement Section (TIPS), promotes cooperation among all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in foster and adoptive placement of children across state lines. Texas ratified the compact in 1975.

To safeguard the children and all people involved in their placement, the interstate compact allows prospective receiving states to ensure that placements are in the best interests of children and that applicable laws and policies have been followed before it approves placements; makes sure that children's legal and financial responsibilities continue to be met by the sending agencies or individuals; and ensures that the children move to the receiving states.

During fiscal year 1992, TIPS refined its tracking system to monitor the progress of requests both to and from Texas. The goal is to receive a decision from the interstate compact within eight weeks or 45 working days from the time the request is made by a public agency, individual, or court. Reminder letters are sent out monthly. During fiscal year 1992, 948 children were approved by the interstate compact for placement into Texas and 1,200 were approved for placement out of state.

A child who has been abused or neglected often has trouble fitting in with an adoptive family. Post-adoption services help all members of the adoptive family deal with the periodic and ongoing adjustments to adoption and treat the effects of abuse in the adopted child's background. These services are available if DHS was the managing conservator or provided adoption assistance benefits for the child before adoption.

Services include diagnostic evaluations for the adoptive child, outpatient therapy for the family, and respite care in crisis situations. Parents can join peer support groups and enroll in parenting classes. Some adoptive children may qualify for placement in therapeutic residential treatment facilities for up to a year to deal with extreme behavioral and emotional problems. Post-adoption services were provided to 2,989 people during fiscal year 1992.

## Preparation for Adult Living

For some children in foster care, neither returning home nor adoption is feasible. These children remain in long-term foster care until they gain their legal independence at age 18. Few adolescents are prepared to completely support themselves when they turn 18, and these young men and women—who often come from abusive homes and have no family connections—are no exception. The Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program was developed to help older adolescents build the skills, knowledge, and self-esteem they need to make it on their own.

PAL services include independent-living assessment and skills training; group and individual counseling; sex education; money management classes; vocational assessment and training; General Educational Development (GED) or college preparation courses; and other services aimed at preparing teen-agers for responsible adulthood. During fiscal year 1992, 1,650 clients participated in the PAL program.

## Program Directions

As CPS staff prepared for the move to PRS on Sept. 1, they continued to work on two major initiatives that promise to enhance their abilities to make positive changes in the lives of the children and families they serve:

- The Structured Model for Assessment of Risk in Texas (SMART) project was field tested in three cities in fiscal year 1992. The project employed a risk-based service delivery system that gives staff a structured, comprehensive approach to assessing families for the risk of child abuse or neglect. The risk-based assessment system is expected to be used statewide by January 1993.

- Plans under way to fully automate CPS will make it easier and faster for staff to record information, make referrals, document cases as required by state and federal laws, and manage staff and resources more efficiently.

Planning has also begun on statewide centralized intake, which would allow anyone, from anywhere in the state, to call one toll-free number to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Centralized intake should result in greater consistency in deciding which reports to accept for investigation and what priorities to assign to them. A decision about whether to implement the system statewide will be made by September 1993, after completion of a pilot in the Austin Region.

A CPS Training Institute was developed in cooperation with the four Texas universities that have graduate programs in social work. In fiscal year 1992, the institute provided training to all CPS supervisors on risk-based service delivery. The institute also began developing a certification plan for CPS supervisors.

## Family Violence

**S**pouse abuse is the major cause of injury among women who seek medical treatment—more common than automobile accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. Spouse abuse can be deadly. Thirty percent of the women who are murdered in this country are killed by their husbands or boyfriends. In fiscal year 1992, 639,712 women were physically or sexually abused in Texas by their husbands or partners. For 103,633 women, abuse occurred at least once a week.

Physical violence is almost always accompanied by psychological abuse, which many battered women say is even more devastating and degrading and can take longer to heal than physical wounds. Battered women usually become strong survivors. With support and resources, many of these women create new and safe lives for themselves and their children.

In fiscal year 1992, DHS contracted with 58 family violence shelter centers serving 152 counties throughout Texas. Services to victims of family violence include shelter, transportation, legal assistance, medical care, educational arrangements for children, and employment assistance. Shelter center staff also work actively with local law enforcement and criminal justice officials so they can better serve and protect victims. This fiscal year, family violence contractors sheltered 26,920 women and children and provided services without shelter to an additional 13,425 women.

The family violence shelter centers that contracted with DHS in fiscal year 1992 received an average of 37.4 percent of their total operating budgets from the agency. The rest of their funding came from the United Way, city and county governments, community fund-raisers, and grants from private foundations. Family violence shelter centers use a variety of in-kind contributions and rely heavily on volunteers. This past year, volunteer hours accounted for an equivalent of 331.28 full-time staff positions valued at \$2.93 million.

## Services to Runaways and At-risk Youth

**T**he typical runaway in the 1990s is not running *to* excitement and freedom, but *from* family conflicts and potential abuse. Services to Runaways and At-risk Youth addresses the needs of children who have left their homes or are at risk of running away, children who are having problems with truancy, and families in which abuse is likely to occur without intervention.

A child or family in conflict may call one of 33 contractors across the state to ask for help. A staff member from the contract agency meets with the family to try to resolve their conflicts. If they are successful, the child returns home with the family, and follow-up counseling is available for the child and family. If the conflict is not sufficiently resolved to ensure the child's safety, the contractor provides temporary residential care in an emergency shelter or foster home.



Services to Runaways and At-risk Youth expended \$3.8 million in fiscal year 1992. Crisis intervention and follow-up counseling services were provided for 6,590 children, and an additional 1,858 children received emergency residential care.

## Adult Protective Services

**F**iscal year 1992 marked the first decade of the existence of Adult Protective Services (APS) as a discrete social services program in Texas. Over this period, the program grew almost tenfold, from investigating 3,316 reports in fiscal year 1982 to 30,247 reports in fiscal year 1992. Ten years ago, adult protective services were provided by community care workers, who, in addition to investigating and intervening in situations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly people and adults with disabilities, also handled full caseloads of clients who primarily received in-home services.

Over the years, APS grew and became specialized, eventually receiving line-item appropriations for staff and services and moving under the Protective Services Division within DHS. However, because of the relatively small size of the program, APS continued to share administrative and clerical field staff with other DHS programs serving elderly people and adults with disabilities.

In fiscal year 1992, this relationship began changing as the program prepared to comply with the mandate of House Bill 7 to move all protective services into PRS. To be ready for the transfer of APS as a self-contained entity, the program streamlined operations this past year to:

- strengthen the association between state office and field staff,
- facilitate the exchange of information,
- increase the authority and responsibility of program managers and supervisors, and
- enhance consistency in all aspects of program delivery.

The resulting changes included cutting the number of APS administrative regions from 10 to seven and eliminating several layers of administration between the APS director in state office and program managers in the field.

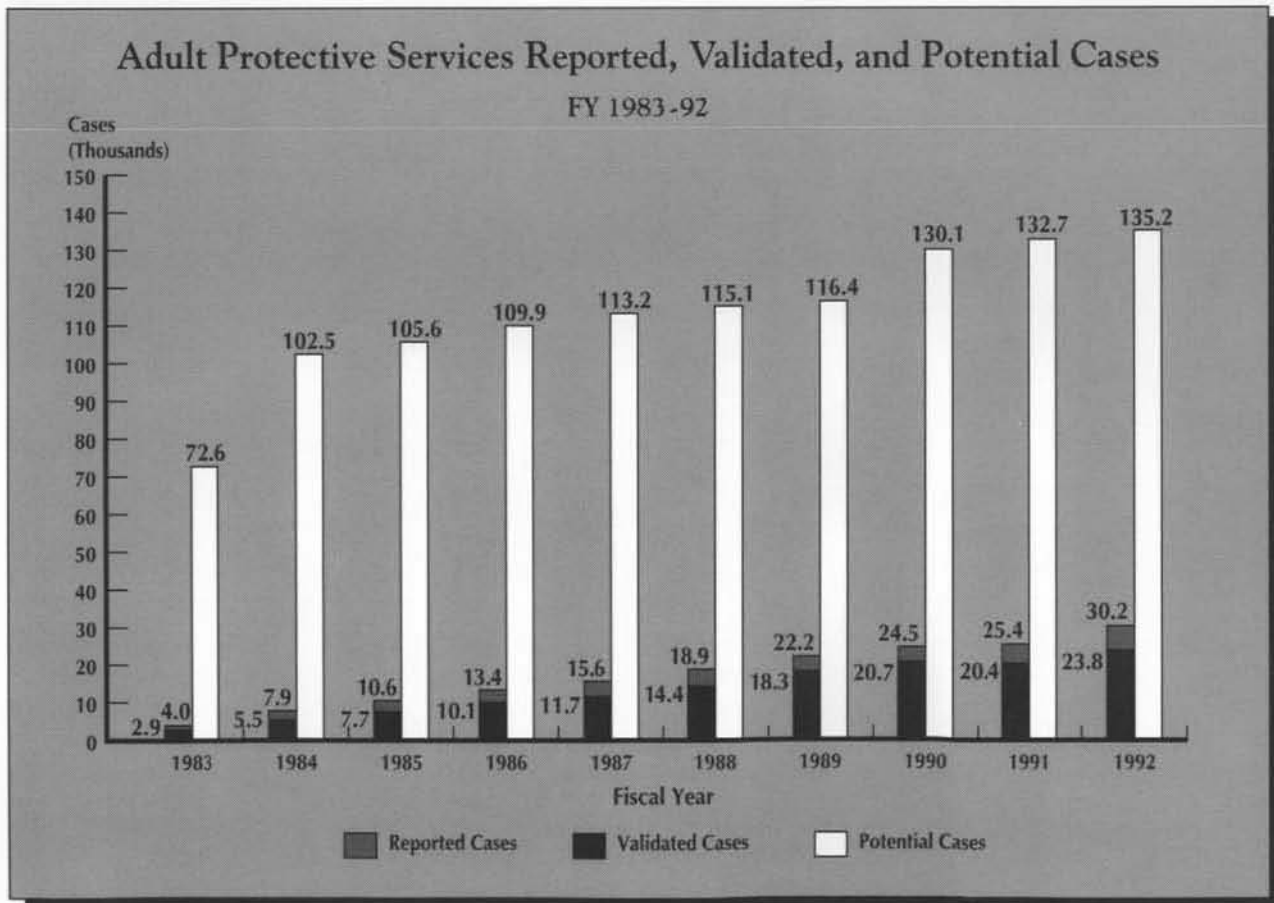
APS joined CPS in two major initiatives that will carry over into the new agency: writing the specifications and requesting proposals for the design of a protective services automated management information system and testing a statewide intake process. The former will totally automate all information now collected on protective cases; the latter will improve efficiency and increase consistency in responding to reports of abuse.

The APS public awareness project in Galveston County, a cooperative effort among local government, businesses, and DHS, continued apace. During fis-

cal year 1992, staff working on the pilot produced a brochure, posters, bookmarks, phone stickers, stuffers for utility bills, a billboard, and an update of the video *Breaking the Silence*. If the project is successful in raising public awareness of adult abuse, similar efforts will be conducted statewide.

In the midst of these significant events, normal operations continued. Intakes, which had reached 25,393 in fiscal year 1991, went to 30,247, a 19-percent increase. The validity rate, or percentage of cases that were found to be in need of protective services, remained high at 80 percent. Total program expenditures for staff and purchased services increased, going from \$14.2 million in fiscal year 1991 to \$15.6 million in fiscal year 1992. Even so, only around 17 percent of actual victims, estimated to be 135,160 Texans, received protective services.

In each month of fiscal year 1992, APS workers handled an average of 9,145 cases, an 8-percent increase over the annual monthly caseload in fiscal year 1991. Each case is active for an average of three months, meaning that over a year's time, the cumulative workload is equivalent to dealing with 102,336 cases.



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Societal problems and social policy changes directly affect the number and difficulty of APS cases. For example, the following factors can contribute to situations of adult maltreatment:

- substance abuse;
- stress caused by caregiving responsibilities;
- de-institutionalization of people with mental illness, mental retardation, and developmental disabilities without sufficient community alternatives;
- federally mandated nursing home admissions requirements that make even emergency placements by APS difficult or impossible;
- poor economic conditions pushing individuals and families into exploitative situations with elderly family members;
- societal tolerance of violence as a coping mechanism; and
- the increasing size of the population of older people and younger adults with disabilities.

The demand for guardianships is particularly pressing, in part because of federal regulations requiring surrogate decision-makers for incapacitated people who reside in nursing homes. In fiscal year 1991, APS began a pilot in West Texas using DHS staff to serve as guardians. The pilot was being evaluated in late 1992 and appeared to be effective. Also during this fiscal year, APS staff participated in a work group appointed to advise the Texas Senate Interim Committee on Health and Human Services on guardianship issues.

For APS staff, increased workloads—compounded by the escalating difficulty and severity of cases, the demands involved in being on 24-hour call and meeting emergency situations day after day, and the rigors of long-distance travel in areas with sparse coverage—lead to burnout, turnover, and stress-related illnesses.

In an effort to take care of staff so they can serve clients better, APS revised policies and procedures in fiscal year 1992 to lighten administrative tasks. Staff shortened required documentation for certain types of cases and implemented quality control methods that significantly reduced the amount of time supervisors spent reading cases.

Future steps being planned to enhance staff effectiveness are continuing education, in-service training, expansion of the APS program improvement process, increased availability of group and individual counseling for staff experiencing emotional distress as a result of their work, and new approaches to quality assurance. In view of the demographic realities of a rapidly aging Texas, the need for a highly trained, capable, and stable adult protective workforce is critical.

## Licensing Department

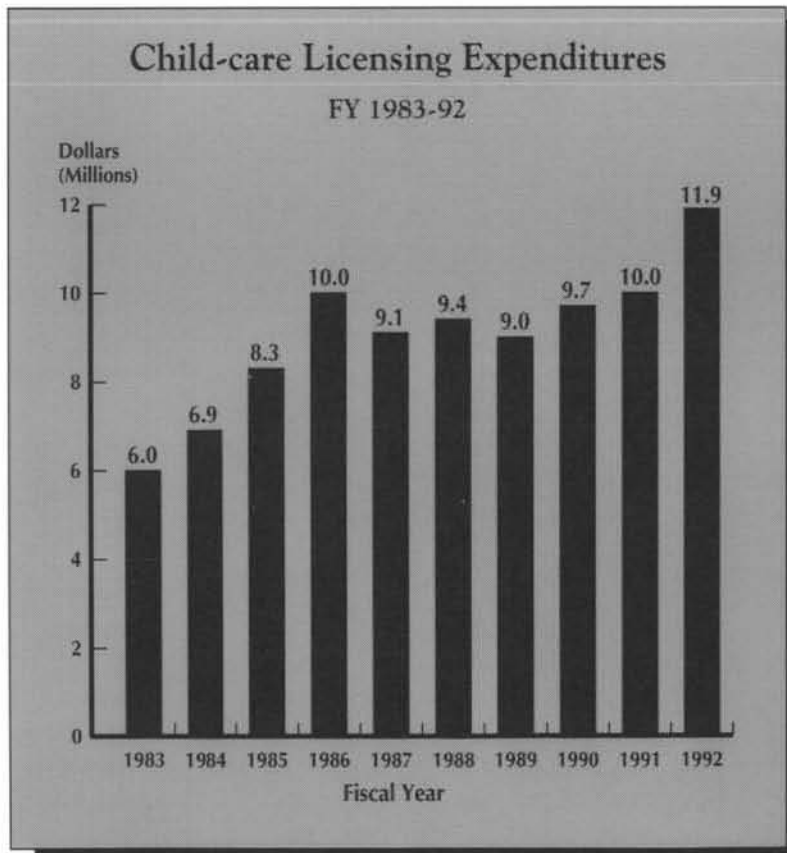
**T**he Licensing Department—working in partnership with child-care providers; parents; child advocates; and professionals in child care, child development, early childhood education, and related fields—regulates facilities that provide out-of-home care for children, as well as foster care and adoption service agencies. Licensing staff develop and enforce minimum standards for basic protection of the health, safety, and well-being of children in care and provide consultation, training, and referral services to improve the quality of child care.

The department also licenses administrators of child-care institutions and certifies social workers. Social work certification is the only licensing function that will remain with DHS when the Protective Services Division becomes part of PRS in fiscal year 1993.

In fiscal year 1992, licensing staff continued efforts to increase stakeholder involvement in making the regulatory program more effective and efficient. Day-care licensing staff held 34 town meetings in early spring 1992 to discuss three critical issues in the planned revision of day-care minimum standards: staff-to-child ratio, corporal punishment, and staff training and qualifications. About 2,900 people participated, including day-care facility owners, administrators, and staff; parents; child advocates; and professionals in related fields.

Information collected during the town meeting discussions was used to draft recommended revisions, which were being reviewed in late 1992 by a 37-member ad hoc work group representing all stakeholders. A revised draft will be sent to all affected caregivers and other interested parties, and a series of public forums will be held in early fiscal year 1993 to discuss the draft of recommended revisions.

The revised day-care minimum standards will differ significantly from previous ones. Instead of separate sets of standards for each type of licensed day-care facility, a set of core minimum standards will apply to all facilities, with additional standards specific to certain types of programs, including programs that provide care for children with special needs and programs that only provide before- and after-school care. This new format will reduce pro-



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duction and distribution costs, increase consistency and effectiveness of training for staff and caregivers, and improve the overall efficiency of the day-care standards development and revision process.

While current efforts are targeted to involving parents in the minimum standards revision process, licensing staff hope to obtain ongoing parental involvement and participation in the regulatory program. A group of Austin parents whose children are in day care helped develop a survey designed to inform and educate parents about the recommended revisions and get their input on critical issues. Day-care providers will distribute the survey to parents statewide.

Licensing staff monitored 30 percent of registered family homes during fiscal year 1992, compared with 20 percent in fiscal year 1991. The target for next fiscal year is 50 percent. Of the 3,000 registered homes inspected, only one registration was revoked.

Staff partly credit this amazingly low revocation rate to the fact that all prospective caregivers are now required to attend an orientation program and be visited by a licensing representative before registration. The orientation program introduces prospective caregivers to the regulation process and includes basic training on health, safety, child care, and child development, as well as basic information on small-business management tailored to registered family homes. A new orientation package is being developed that will include self-paced learning alternatives for caregivers and also provide training materials in Spanish and Vietnamese.

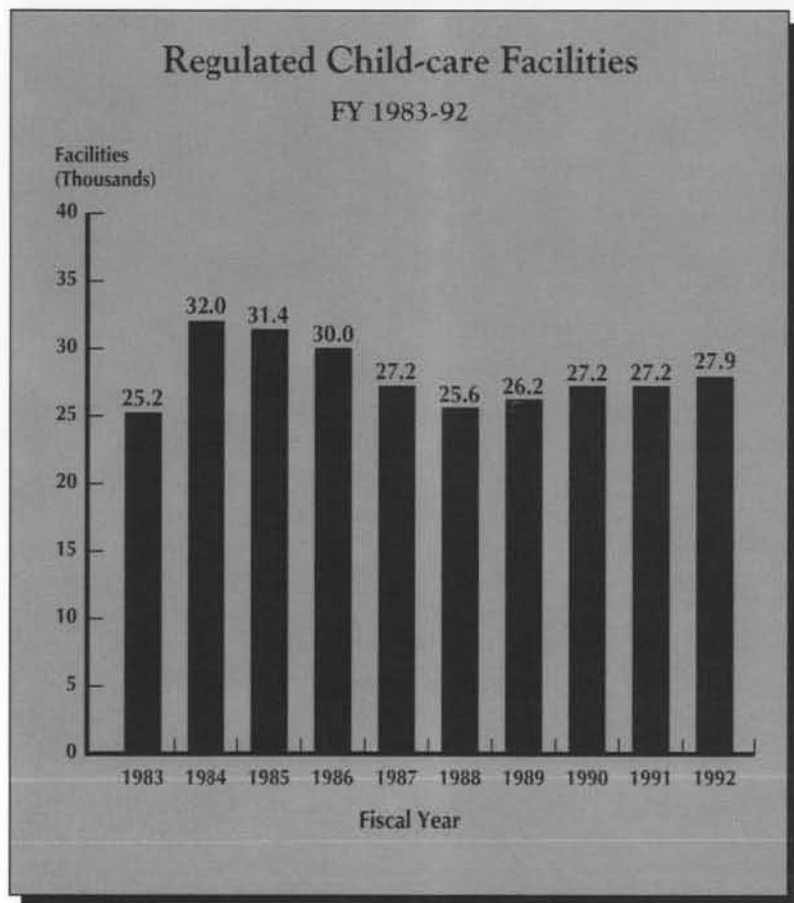
During fiscal year 1992, most of the Child Care and Development Block Grant funds were used to increase the availability of day care to families who need it. Some block grant funds were used to hire more licensing staff to ensure that newly opened facilities could be monitored adequately.

A staff work group developed a new approach to day-care monitoring during fiscal year 1992 that aims to establish a sound working partnership with newly licensed day-care facilities. With the new approach, licensing staff will make at least one "non-regulatory" visit to each new facility during its provisional licensing period to start developing a plan to foster ongoing compliance with minimum standards and develop quality child-care programs. Licensing staff expect to start using this approach in fiscal year 1993 and will systematically gather data to evaluate its effectiveness.

Licensing staff investigated 7,602 complaints against day-care facilities and registered family homes in fiscal year 1992, 11.6 percent more than in fiscal year 1991. Specialized day-care investigators handled a total of 581 reports of alleged child abuse or neglect.

At the end of the fiscal year, there were 8,066 licensed day-care facilities with a combined capacity of 572,120 children and 13,630 registered family homes caring for an estimated 81,780 children. These numbers reflect a 7.4-





percent increase in licensed day-care facilities and 3.6-percent decrease in registered family homes.

In residential child-care licensing, significant progress was made during fiscal year 1992 toward using automation to increase responsiveness with limited staff resources. All staff received basic training on their laptop computers, and software packages will be customized or developed for their use. A program was developed in fiscal year 1992 to support the state office variance system, which will be fully implemented early in fiscal year 1993. Facilities will receive advance notice of variance expiration dates and instructions on renewal and re-request procedures through the system. Notification of variance renewals will also be handled through the automated system.

Licensing staff plan to use automation to develop closer partnerships with licensed residential child-care facilities. This past year, residential child-care licensing staff conducted an automation survey of all licensed residential child-care facilities. The return rate was higher than 75 percent, and the survey showed that 91 percent of the facilities were using computers, 36 percent had modems, at least 12 percent had used electronic bulletin boards, and at least 32 percent planned to purchase additional hardware and software during fiscal year 1993. The survey indicated that 78 percent of the facilities had equipment compatible with that being used by licensing staff.

During fiscal year 1992, residential child-care licensing staff began using a new monitoring plan tailored to the needs of individual licensed facilities. Facilities that have been in operation for some time and have high levels of compliance with minimum standards are formally inspected only once a year. Other contacts with licensing representatives focus on consultation, training, and networking. Administrators and other facility staff work with licensing representatives to develop plans that meet the needs of their facilities. Newer facilities and facilities that have had problems with compliance are inspected more frequently. Licensing representatives work with these fa-

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cilities to help them develop beyond minimum standards and eventually require less frequent inspections.

The draft revisions to the minimum standards for child-placing agencies will be brought to the Texas Board of Protective and Regulatory Services early in fiscal year 1993, followed by a 60-day public comment and review period. The new minimum standards are expected to be adopted during fiscal year 1993, with a period built in for training staff and providers and time for agencies to make any needed changes in operations before the effective date.

Licensing staff have begun planning a child-placing conference that will bring together many of the stakeholders in the field of child-placing—judges, attorneys, doctors, hospital social workers, ministers, and counselors—to discuss the laws applying to child-placing, licensing policies and procedures, and the many initiatives licensed child-placing agencies are taking to make services more responsive to the needs of children, birthparents, and adoptive families.

Licensing staff also will begin work early in fiscal year 1993 on a major overhaul of all residential child-care minimum standards. Like the new standards for day-care facilities, a core set of minimum standards will apply to all residential facilities, with specialized standards to apply to specific types and sizes of facilities. Licensing staff will be revising and expanding the consolidated standards that residential child-care licensing staff and providers have been working with since 1987.

At the end of fiscal year 1992, 6,175 licensed or certified 24-hour facilities in Texas were caring for about 28,933 children, an 11.3-percent increase over the previous year. Staff investigated 924 complaints and serious incidents this fiscal year, 36.7 percent more than last year; 202 of these involved allegations of abuse or neglect and were handled by licensing investigators.

Day-care licensing and residential child-care licensing began work on two joint projects during fiscal year 1992. One is a newsletter for all licensed and registered facilities and child-placing agencies. Articles and columns deal with material of interest to specific types of programs, as well as issues relevant to all caregivers.

The second joint project is a day-care and residential child-care licensing statewide training conference to be held in November 1992. The conference will train staff in basic principles, concepts, and practices of regulatory administration. Day-care and residential child-care providers will participate in some of the training. The Licensing Department will also recognize, through presentation of Partnership Awards, individuals or groups that have made significant contributions to the licensing program or the child-care community.

Beginning in January 1992, a new administrators' licensing examination was given to all applicants. During fiscal year 1992, 128 new licenses were issued

to administrators of child-care institutions. A total of 919 administrators were licensed by the end of the year.

Administrator licensing and social work certification are financed completely through applicant fees. In fiscal year 1992, DHS spent about \$12.1 million to regulate day care and residential child care for about 682,833 children, an increase of 21 percent over fiscal year 1991. Licensing staff collected \$1.37 million in licensing fees and conducted 122,640 criminal history checks during this fiscal year.

During fiscal year 1992, staff and advisory committee members developed a draft revision of all of the rules for social work certification. This service, which will remain with DHS in fiscal year 1993, issued 1,653 certifications for social work practitioners in fiscal year 1992, bringing the total number of social work practitioners certified in Texas to 12,235.