



Commissioner
Jaime Masters

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Family and Protective Services CARP Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:00 pm
4900 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, Texas 78756
Brown-Heatley Building Public Hearing Room and Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Council Members Present In-Person:

- Scott Lundy
- Katie Olse

*Additional Council Members were present virtually.

Chairperson Scott Lundy welcomed all the attendees, committee members, and presenters and began the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Raven McKinley began the presentations with a discussion on the Foster Care Ombudsman (FCO). Raven introduced the department and discussed the FCO's statutory mandate. The Goals of the FCO office and how it helps Texas children in foster care. Ms. McKinley further discussed how providers such as those represented at CARP can work with the FCO office to help and protect children in foster care. The presentation ended with an overview of children's right while in foster care and additional FCO resources.

Commissioner Masters presented next with a follow up on Children without Placement. She made a call to all the represented or attending providers that may have space to help in placing about 87 youths. She asked anyone interested to reach out to Katie Olse or Deneen Dryden.

Liz Kromrei gave a presentation updating on the status on COVID-19 and updating DFPS's guidance to pandemic. Liz provided a link to the DFPS public website showing the current and updated COVID-19 guidance including new information on boosters. There was also a discussion on the process for children in temporary or permanent conservatorships to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations both when biological parents are and are not involved.

Katie Olse next presented on the formation of a new workgroup to address cell phone use in Residential facilities. Katie said that she will have more information on the workgroup and its progress by the next CARP meeting.

Alexis Stinnett presented on five new contract changes that have been implemented since the October CARP meeting. These five changes are to: Section 1120, Section 1540, Section 5000, Section 5700, and Section 8000.

Kason Vercher provided an update of the Incentives and Remedies. Kason acknowledged that the new system was rolling out slowly and implementing. One of the issues that has slowed the distribution of Incentives was an IT issue that is being resolved. There were questions on the appeal process and how incorrectly adjudged remedies were addressed. Those questions will be answered later since they were very specific to the provider.

Finally, Hector Ortiz presented update on the Provider Portal and Caregiver Training Hub. Hector walked through the recent launch of both in January of 2022 and the addition of training through the Caregiver Training hub. This portal will be used so that caregivers will be able to take and receive credit for required trainings. It is limited currently but will expand to different training moving forward. A friendly reminder was given to register and complete required trainings this month. The portal and hub have already been used for over 28,000 registered direct care providers and over 6500 completed trainings.

Chairperson Lundy adjourned the meeting at 2:30.