

January 8, 2021

PPP Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Table 1: PPP Committee Members

Present	Name	Title	Organization
Yes	Glenn Scruggs	Director/Program Administrator	The Giocosa Foundation
Yes	Andy Homer	Director of Public Affairs	Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
No	Judge Rob Hofmann	Judge	452nd District Court
Yes	Deneen Dryden	Associate Commissioner Director for CPS/PPP Co-Chair	Department of Family and Protective Services
Yes	Wayne Carson	CEO	ACH Child and Family Services
Yes	Hector Ortiz	CPS Director of Conservatorship Services	Department of Family and Protective Services
Yes	Katie Olse	Executive Director	Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
Yes	Jenifer Jarriel	President/PPP Co-Chair	DePelchin Children's Center
Yes	Scott Lundy	CEO	Arrow Children and Family Ministries
Yes	Michael Redden	Executive Director	New Horizons Ranch and Center
Yes	Anne Heiligenstein	Director of Texas Strategic Consulting	Casey Family Programs
Yes	Jean Shaw	Associate Commissioner for CCL	DFPS Child Care Licensing
Yes	Judge Melissa DeGerolami	Judge	Child Protection Court of South Central Texas
Yes	Michael Loo	President & CEO	Upbring
Yes	Leslie Strauch	Supervising Attorney	Children's Rights Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law
Yes	Denise Blakney	President	Building Future Families
Yes	Allicia Frye	CEO	Jonathan's Place
No	Prince Hayward	Youth Policy Specialist	Texas Network of Youth Services
Yes	Jimmy Moore	President	Children's Home of Lubbock
Yes	Jamie Bernstein	Executive Director	Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission

Other Attendees:

Meeting held virtually. Multiple public and DFPS in attendance.

Welcome and Introductions: Deneen Dryden and Jenifer Jarriel, PPP Co-Chairs

- Thanks for participation

Welcome New Member: Deneen Dryden and Jenifer Jarriel, PPP Co-Chairs

- Jaime Bernstein, Executive Director, Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission.

Foster Care Litigation Update: Tiffany Roper, DFPS General Counsel

- Monitors report filed June 2020
- Show Cause Hearing in September 2020 and Order rendered just before Christmas
- Compliance Hearing in Corpus on May 5th

Agency COVID-19 Update: Deneen Dryden, CPS Assistant Commissioner

- November started face to face contacts again for all
- Some exceptions when child or parent test positive or if they are under quarantine
- DFPS staff still wearing PPE and doing our part to not spread
- Virtual contacts are allowed for exceptions such as: if child placed in GRO and that operation has reported that 10% of their population are under quarantine or if medical provider has ordered virtual contact due to PMN
- DFPS is addressing hot spots by triaging as needed
- Heightened Monitoring organizations do require in person visits
- Question: Are vaccines going to be required? Pending and guidance will be provided

Legislative Update: Rachel Nicholson, Director of External Relations and Liz Kromrei, Director of Services

- Appropriations
 - Submitted request in October and presented to Legislative Budget Board and Governor's Office of Budget in early November. Presentation can be found on DFPS website.
 - Agency took limited approach to exceptional items.
 - Requested 5 items that includes 361.1 FTE's in FY 2022 and 401.0 FTEs in FY 2023. The exceptional items are as follows:
 - Sustain Child Protective Services
 - Comply with Federal Court Orders, in MD Lawsuit
 - Expand Community-Based Care
 - Expand Prevention and Early Intervention Services
 - Implement Families First Prevention Services Act
 - Analyzing bills filed for 87th Legislative Session 114 for CPS thus far.
 - Legislative Session begins January 12th
 - Publications of note:
 - Foster Care Needs Assessment - November

- Strategic plan for FFPSA - September
- Community-Based Care Implementation plan - December
- Other publications, riders and presentations on agency website for review.
- Next week will post additional information about cost of care and cost of service information.
- Awaiting guidance on how recent events will affect public access to legislative processes during this session.

Regional CBC Updates: SSCC's and RD's

- Region 3b OCOK - Wayne Carson
 - Challenges
 - COVID challenges including face to face visits with parents and children, court and staffing.
 - OCOK has dedicated part time position to COVID to do contact tracing, oversee cleaning of building and other COVID related activities.
 - Placement capacity for teenagers with behaviors.
 - Lost Residential Treatment beds
 - Providers worried about Heightened Monitoring implications,
 - Providers feel they are getting citations for things they have not gotten them for in the past
 - Providers feel there are increased findings of Reason to Believe for things they have not validated in the past
 - Leads to environment where people are reluctant to take kids
 - Projects
 - OCOK has commissioned a 3rd party to do study on funding for Stage II related to number of children and contract requirements. They have received 5 responses to RFP that they released and anticipate it be completed by March.
 - Working on building short term capacity. OCOK has an RFP out to see if any foster homes are interested in providing short term capacity.
 - OCOK also has a new contract with a hospital that is considering providing short term capacity.
 - Visiting with RTC's about expanding capacity
 - 2-year plan to double the size of their home-based care program.
 - Kinship placements are below state average and OCOK is looking more into the possible reasons.
- Region 2 2INgage – Linda Garcia
 - Accomplishments/Achievements/Innovations
 - Timely Court Reports
 - 2INgage has set up new system
 - Children's commission shared a tracking tool that they are now using.
 - Seeing improvement as a local judge recently acknowledged receiving reports timely.
 - 2INgage has had numerous meeting with judicial stakeholders to better understand issues.
 - Turnover Strategies
 - 2INgage has established a contract with a company to analyze workforce turnover and why staff are leaving
 - Permanency
 - 2INgage has seen an increase in family reunifications

- Heart Stories
 - Starting to see results of their Solutions Based Casework
 - PAL
 - 2INGage has completed a comprehensive inventory of youth to determine if they have Driver's License, State ID or Birth certificate and have plan to get these documents for youth
 - 2INGage also delivers PAL training themselves instead of sub-contracting
- Challenges
 - Placement capacity
 - Siblings
 - Special Needs Capacity
 - Heightened Monitoring challenges with same experiences shared by OCOK
 - Court– Still working to improve processes, caseworker skill and relationships.
- Region 8a Family Tapestry – Raquel Garza-Martinez and Brenda Watkins
 - Accomplishments/Achievements/Innovations
 - Capacity - 793 foster homes as of June 2019 and 1168 as of 1-1-21
 - Community Engagement
 - National Adoption Month (November)
 - Mini-photo shoot sessions for 38 adoptive families
 - Four-week social media campaign
 - KENS 5 Forever Family – featuring five youth
 - Received 700 online inquires and 59 phone calls
 - Primary Medical Needs Campaign (December)
 - Four-week social media campaign on recruiting retired nurses, and individuals with medical background for Medically-Brave children and youth in foster care
 - Resulted in 69 online inquiries to be come licensed PMN foster home
 - Two news stories featuring two PMN foster families
 - Texas Adoption Portal (TAP) – multimedia platform featuring Bexar County youth legally free for adoption
 - Stage II Preparation
 - Preliminary conversations with state and regional staff
 - Submitted Stage II Hiring, Salary, and Training plan to DFPS State Office
 - Focus groups at the end of this month
 - Looking at tenured and new staff and asking key questions about thoughts of Stage II, their plans, what is important to them and what Family Tapestry would need to offer for them to move
 - Starting roundtables after focus groups for Region 8 and Family Tapestry to communicate more and better prepare all levels of staff including caseworkers and supervisors
 - Also working with Casey Family Programs regarding a Change Management Training
 - Also contracted with Kristine Blackstone to help get ready for Stage II and she has already met with some judges
- Region 1 Saint Francis – Cristian Garcia
 - Safety of children: quarterly assessments that will be given to network Executive leaders, so they can see how they are doing, demographic of kids they are accepting, etc.
 - Least restrictive:

- Looking at professional foster home model
- Working with Organization that has learned how to support caregiver in trauma model and looking at how to move forward
- Placement stability: minimized number of moves but has also identified subset that has not seen progress such as teens
 - Established contract with a qualified RTC out of state
 - Increasing therapeutic care and professional parent model
- Challenges
 - Placement for Teens, Teens and higher acuity, Lack of female beds
 - Open Contract procurement – currently finalizing contracts with 2 RTC’s and 1 Teen GRO
 - Incentivize Teen Placement – Professional Foster Parent Model and increasing Treatment Foster Care beds
 - Siblings together
 - Revised policy to make sibling priority
 - Strategic Executive Partnership to create solutions as a network
 - Close Proximity
 - #BringMeHome campaign focusing on 5 Region 1 counties
 - Focus on intentional recruitment and county-specific recruitment
 - Impact of Work
 - Community wrapping around foster families during holidays
 - Continuing to build capacity in Region1 with new GRO/RTC’s
 - Continued adoption and foster care recruitment through social media channels
 - Strategic Executive Partnership

SSCC Performance: Claire Hall, CBC Program Specialist

- SSCC Fiscal Year 2020 Contract Performance
 - SSCC contract performance is reviewed quarterly and assessed annually based on:
 - Current stage of CBC implementation
 - Historical performance of the catchment
 - Unique strengths and challenges of the catchment
 - Specific SSCC change strategies and time required to implement
 - Additional data on subgroup performance and performance drivers
 - SSCC performance is not comparable to that of the state or other catchment areas, although similarities and differences in trends may contribute to the unique performance story.
- SSCC Performance Population
 - The CBC Stage I performance population is all children in foster care referred to the SSCC and served under their network.
 - The CBC Stage II performance population varies dependent on measure.
 - Some measures report performance for all children in foster care whether in an SSCC or legacy placement.
 - Some measures report performance for all children in substitute care (includes foster care, unverified relative placement, other settings).
 - New baseline targets are calculated for stage II. The baseline remains the average of the two years prior to stage I implementation, unless an SSCC has been in Stage I for greater than two years, then

the stage II baseline is adjusted to the most recent two-year average prior to the Stage II transition year.

CBC Implementation Updates: Ellen Letts

Region 8b

- September 2020: DFPS released new RFA
- December 2020: RFA closed, evaluation in progress
- September 2021: Anticipated go-live (after successful award, contract negotiation and six-month start-up)

CBC Annual Implementation Plan

- Annual update released on December 31
 - Includes:
 - Detailed timeline by stage of implementation and catchment area demonstrating the anticipated statewide roll-out schedule.
 - Continued implementation milestones for the five Community-Based Care catchment areas.
 - Proposed 4 new catchment areas (Region 3E, Region 9, Region 4, Region 5), dependent on Legislative appropriations.
 - Plans for re-procurement of Region 3B CBC contract, which will become Region 3W.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 9, 2021
