

July 9, 2021

PPP Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Table 1: PPP Committee Members

Present	Name	Title	Organization
X	Glenn Scruggs	Director/Program Administrator	The Giocosa Foundation
X	Ann Strauser for Andy Homer	Director of Public Affairs	Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
X	Judge Rob Hofmann	Judge	452nd District Court
X	Trevor Woodruff for Deneen Dryden	DFPS Deputy Commissioner/PPP Co-Chair	Department of Family and Protective Services
X	Wayne Carson	CEO	ACH Child and Family Services
X	Hector Ortiz	CPS Director of Conservatorship Services	Department of Family and Protective Services
X	Katie Olse	Executive Director	Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
X	Jenifer Jarriel	President/PPP Co-Chair	DePelchin Children's Center
	Scott Lundy	CEO	Arrow Children and Family Ministries
X	Michael Redden	Executive Director	New Horizons Ranch and Center
X	Anne Heiligenstein	Director of Texas Strategic Consulting	Casey Family Programs
X	Jean Shaw	Associate Commissioner for CCL	DFPS Child Care Licensing
X	Judge Melissa DeGerolami	Judge	Child Protection Court of South Central Texas
	Michael Loo	President & CEO	Upbring
	Leslie Strauch	Supervising Attorney	Children's Rights Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law
X	Denise Blakney	President	Building Future Families
X	Allicia Frye	CEO	Jonathan's Place
X	Prince Hayward	Youth Policy Specialist	Texas Network of Youth Services
X	Jimmy Moore	President	Children's Home of Lubbock
X	Jamie Bernstein	Executive Director	Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission

Other Attendees:

Meeting held virtually. Multiple public and DFPS staff in attendance.

Welcome and Introductions: Trevor Woodruff and Jenifer Jarriel, PPP Co-Chairs

- Thanked members for their participation
- Acknowledged celebrating Child Abuse Prevention month
- Ellen introduced Trisha Thomas, new CBC Statewide Director
- Trisha reported her focus and will work on plan going forward

Foster Care Litigation Update: Trevor Woodruff

- Focusing on compliance efforts; strong communication with court monitors; going forward will see smaller and more frequent reports from the monitors and this will allow us to make progress
- Will continue to work with monitors to define what success looks like
- We are moving in a good direction
- Thank you to the SSCC partners
- Across the board effort to continue to comply and reach where we want to be
- What do we wish we would have known earlier from the monitors? Trevor said he is primarily focused on where we are now and moving forward

Legislative Update: Patty Guerra

- Special session began yesterday; 11 agenda items and one is appropriations for foster care and partnering on capacity crisis; Gov Abbott said will call another special session in September to address redistricting
- During regular session, 844 bills and 130 passed
- SB 1896 – child without placement cannot stay in office, SSCC can monitor child without placement, conduct study to expand PCA, integrate FBSS into CBC, office of CBC transition
- HB 567 – changes to TX Family Code mostly with INV, changes definition of neglect and applies to RCCI; question about definition and Trevor replied it brings in focus on immediacy and overall goal is to only remove children that need a removal and focus on true neglect and not risk based; this change will go into effect for families and providers
- HB 3691- FBSS pilot program into 2 areas of the state, one in a CBC catchment, one rural and one urban area
- SB 910- Evaluation of FBSS into CBC

Regional CBC Updates (Q/A): SSCCs

- 8b – BELONG, a division of SJRC Texas: Tara Roussett
 - Overview of their program
 - Mission and vision
 - Discussed Belong is covering 27 counties, large geographically, looking at over 700 children in paid foster care
 - Setting up hubs around the communities to deliver services to the rural locations so they do not have to travel to the bigger cities for services
 - Showed video clip Restoration Rome, shows their vision for CBC in 8b
 - Community collaboration is important piece; they have great compliance history; wealth of knowledge for different populations; want to be able to support their network and work together

for the children; will provide tools, assistance and training; recently did a fatherhood initiative fishing day; provide in home support and strengthen families

- Implementing a legal department
- Currently in startup phase with launch day fall 2021; emphasized quality assurance team to work along with providers, provide accurate data (team for just this), grow capacity with recruitment, build advisory councils all in stage I. Stage II looking at quality providers that have excelled working with kinship.
 - Texas Casa reports they have six programs in region 8b; looking forward to partnering with Belong; meetings have started
- 3b – OCOK, a division of ACH Child and Family Services: Dr. Wayne Carson
 - Large part of their focus in last quarter has been capacity challenges. OCOK had capacity challenges when CBC first started in 2015 and used strategies such as a rental house to provide temporary placement for youth waiting for placement. By mid-2016 OCOK had built strong capacity and had little need for using unlicensed placements. This trend continued for about 4 years. However, in the last quarter of 2020 OCOK began needing more use of SSCC Supervision and this is continuing with continued difficulty finding placements for teenagers with behavioral challenges.
 - Looking at trends, OCOK has shown a drop off in capacity in serving youth with therapeutic needs in home settings, with a sharp decline from September 20 to January 21.
 - OCOK is evaluating what has led to the decline in family placement options. What families left and why? Solution is to understand these things.
 - A review of the clinical profile of children without placement revealed three distinct categories of youth. This information is helpful in determining what type of capacity is needed.
 - They have a plan working on building capacity and it takes time
 - Anne H. said the screenshots were very descriptive and very helpful. Ellen will send power points out to all members after the call.
 - Trevor talked about battling the children without placement issue and seeing same things on DFPS side.
- Region 2 – 2INgage, a partnership between TFI and New Horizons Ranch and Center: Dr. Linda Garcia
 - Good news as they celebrated full year in Stage II on June 1st. Held an in-person meeting in Abilene recently and for the first time several staff had opportunity to meet in person b/c they started Stage II during COVID. Celebrated staff graduating from CPD.
 - Worked on May 31st on data, had 69 removals for region, 75 children reach permanency, had more children reach permanency than coming into the system.
 - Working and making strides on adoptions. In January had 4 adoptions and at end of May had 19. Working with community and CASA partners and concentrating on what is needed to focus on cases to consummate adoption.
 - Experiencing similar capacity issues and they are in the same position
 - Taking time to celebrate their successes and getting out in the community after COVID
- Region 1 – St. Francis Community Services, a division of St. Francis Ministries: Cristian Garcia
 - New Regional Vice President is Rachel Williams as Cristian has taken on a new role. From Kansas and hit the ground running. Focus on getting kids back home.
 - Proud of the capacity they have been building; broken down data; had 4% increase in bed capacity; working on partnership with Vision Quest for a 16 bed all male facility; look at providers externally, keeping conversations going; have some residential capacity coming

- Increasing foster care and adoption recruitment; referred 227 new families to CPA's and matched 25 children for adoptions; issue identified is the challenge of kids who have been lingering in the system; many of these children have been jumping around; need to stop this and find them a home
- Growing outreach through coalitions, Strategic Partnering Initiative and CBC Advisory Group
- Have many partners helping in the region housing children when placement cannot be found immediately

CBC Implementation Updates: Ellen Letts

- Office of CBC Transition
 - SB 1896 and Appointment of Trisha Thomas
- Region 8a Transition to DFPS
 - Multiple transition activities
 - As of July 1st, 8A DFPS resumed all services and all children administratively transferred in IMPACT and have a legacy placement
 - Hired 40 of 47 regional staff
 - Contract close out in August or September, shoring up all financial and reconciliation pieces
 - No time frame for reprourement
 - Commissioner stated this was unfortunate and not happy about this but moving forward as the SSCC success is our success as well
 - Katie O-getting questions of why this happened and what happened? Are we looking at lessons learned? How can we learn from this moving forward? Ellen's responded that we are always tracking our lessons learned, what can we do better; releasing a contract record would be a leadership call; not sure if can share this information; Commissioner said some things learned to apply across the board and some can't say publicly.
- Region 8b Transition to CBC
 - Working on readiness activities, over 90 days into six month start up period, on track for go live in October 2021, work plan and training plan set up, rolling along well
- Legislative Implementation Plans
 - Ellen is working on these and how to implement 1896, 3691 and 910, expanding CBC to 4 catchment areas and two areas going into stage II over next biennium, will update overall implementation plan
- Data Access & Standards Governance Council Update
 - Managed through SB 11 last session, meeting yearly formally, meet in smaller groups regularly; will begin meeting formally quarterly per SB 1896
 - Have established connection with each SSCC, so IMPACT and SSCC systems can exchange data, working to operationalize this, hope to have each SSCC on board by end of August.
 - Next meeting 1st week in August
- Process Evaluation Follow-Up
 - Setting up share point sites for SSCC's to share more data pieces, improve web pages to get more information out, planning quarterly meetings to get perspective from SSCC's and lessons learned and sharing information with each other
 - Working on standing up a public SSCC performance dash board

Suggestions for Meeting Topics: Trevor Woodruff & Jenifer Jarriel

- Ellen will send out survey to get more input on meeting topics

- Meeting format; hoping to get back to in person. Asked what others prefer. Commissioner wants at least one in person each year. All in agreement for next meeting in October to be in person.

Comments

- Jennifer J. -CARP- area of incentives and question came up about SSCC's and process for how the incentive money is provided; Ellen stated Judy will be getting that information set up through contracts division; Trisha reported no answer yet but they are looking into it
- Katie O- curious if DFPS is looking at the implementation evaluation report and if some of the recommendations incorporated and if DFPS is prioritizing what to look at moving forward. Focus on TX Tech process evaluation report, wants to ensure looking at this moving forward to not have another area fail. Is there something the PPP or providers can do to help? Trisha said will be working closely with the other SSCC's and will ensure have close connections and working to improve and serve the children.
- Jimmy M.- regarding Heightened Monitoring (HM) has the next list been sent out. Next list has gone out and people notified. Working with them and those on previous list. Working with monitors and talking with providers to move to success. Commissioner sent communication to monitors about the unintended consequences of HM and ask to sit and talk with them about solutions
- Commissioner Masters: Focus is children under DFPS/SSCC supervision who are awaiting placements and working with everyone on this; talked about Trisha and her years of experience in Kansas and when she oversaw outsourcing implementation; Trisha will meet with all State CBC staff, talk with all and will reach out for some one-on-one as she is learning the culture here and listening to what is working and any changes folks want to see

Wrap up and Adjourn: Trevor Woodruff & Jenifer Jarriel

Next Meeting: October 8, 2021 at 9:00 am