



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

DFPS Rider 24 (formerly Rider 37) Report for Utilization of Appropriate Levels of Care in Foster Care

September 2019

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As required in Rider 24 (formerly Rider 37), Article II of The General Appropriations Act, 86th Texas Legislature, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shall submit quarterly reports within 30 days of the end of the fiscal quarter of updated information regarding implementation of plans to ensure foster children are placed in the most appropriate service level.

Year to Date Fiscal Year 2019

Intense Plus

Intense Plus Services are designed to address chronically serious to severe emotional and/or behavioral management problems that interfere with the child's ability to function in a family, school, or community setting outside of a therapeutic environment. At this time, Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) are the only types of facilities that may provide Intense Plus services.

As of September 16, 2019, two RTCs are contracted to provide Intense Plus services.

Treatment Family Foster Care Services

Treatment Family Foster Care is a time-limited service through which providers will be held accountable for reducing the acuity of need and facilitating placements into a less restrictive, more family-like setting. As of this reporting period, DFPS has awarded three contracts for Treatment Foster Family Care Services to be provided across the state. The three contracts were effective September 1, 2018. Each contractor has a capacity growth plan with targeted milestones for both the number of foster family homes certified to offer this service and the number of children served under each contract. The contractors report that training and preparing the foster families takes longer than anticipated and that the model works best with one rather than two children in the home receiving this service. As such, the program continues to grow but at a lower rate. As of September 16, 2019, 69 children have been placed in a Treatment Foster Family Care placement.ⁱ

Impact to Service Array

At this time, there is little impact to the service array resulting from the addition of Intense Plus and Treatment Family Foster Care. There are two RTCs contracted to provide Intense Plus Services, one of which had two children placed that meet the Intense Plus criteria for services. One child remains placed at the RTC receiving Intense Plus services and the other child receiving Intense Plus services successfully lowered to an Intense service level and remains in placement at the RTC. The other RTC became contracted to provide Intense Plus services on November 29, 2018, and currently there are no children placed in that facility that meet the Intense Plus criteria for services.

As of September 16, 2019, there are 58 active homes among the three Treatment Family Foster Care providers with 44 children. All homes are in the process of reviewing children for placement.

As the capacity in the Treatment Family Foster Care program grows and additional providers add Intense Plus Services to the array, DFPS should realize the impact of the additional service.

Utilization of Service Levels

This Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care Report is for FY 19 YTD (September 1, 2018- July 31, 2019) dataⁱⁱ. These data exclude child specific contracts and children placed in a Single Source Continuum Contract (SSCC) through Community Based Care. Data will fluctuate due to payments processing through the systems. During this reporting period, specifically the last two quarters, there was an increase in special waivers due to an increase in children with high acuity needs requiring emergency placement. DFPS continues to develop capacity for children with high acuity needs. DFPS is monitoring this increase in special waivers and will determine next steps should this increase continue. Additionally, there was a decrease in the number of children in child specific contracts during this reporting period.

Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care FY19 YTD (September 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019)

Table 1 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care during each month excluding children in child specific contracts and the Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC). There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. Numbers will be updated in the next report.

Table 1: Children in Paid Foster Care Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Month	Children	Amount
201809	16,980	\$36,314,079.18
201810	17,325	\$38,157,329.26
201811	16,977	\$36,301,905.15
201812	16,372	\$36,494,526.89
201901	16,024	\$35,831,488.57
201902	15,864	\$31,928,679.50
201903	15,427	\$34,165,749.05
201904	14,661	\$31,893,280.84
201905	14,282	\$31,561,262.90
201906	14,072	\$29,528,819.36
201907	13,596	\$30,041,720.72

Table 2 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care during each quarter, excluding children in child specific contracts and the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for Q4 only represent what has been recorded to date. Numbers will be updated in the next report. The count of children over the quarter will not match the cumulative count of children in each month in the quarter as the same child can be counted in multiple months but will only be counted once in the quarter.

Table 2: Paid Foster Care by Quarter Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	19,625	\$110,773,313.59
2	18,631	\$104,254,694.96
3	17,504	\$97,620,292.79
4	15,073	\$59,570,540.08

Table 3 represents the number of children in and spending for child specific contracts. Child specific contracts are only applicable for children not in the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. Numbers will be updated in the next report.

Table 3: Children in Paid Child Specific Contracts ¹

Month	Children	Amount
201809	226	\$2,143,941.28
201810	223	\$2,221,688.59
201811	232	\$2,322,238.74
201812	229	\$2,379,629.99
201901	234	\$2,395,352.39
201902	214	\$2,093,353.18
201903	209	\$2,272,825.92
201904	189	\$1,983,853.09
201905	206	\$2,129,902.02
201906	208	\$1,848,744.38
201907	169	\$1,805,109.76

Table 4 represents the number of children with and spending for special waivers of a child's service level. Special Waivers are issued when there is a gap in the authorized service level period of time or a need to provide services at a level greater than what is authorized by the third party review. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. Numbers will be updated in the next report.

Table 4: Children in Paid Foster Care during Active Special Waivers²

Month	Children	Amount
201809	194	\$1,247,662.78
201810	214	\$1,372,513.56
201811	202	\$1,279,224.07
201812	214	\$1,335,344.10
201901	208	\$1,337,914.76
201902	193	\$1,146,255.64
201903	242	\$1,371,393.15
201904	210	\$1,374,165.92
201905	251	\$1,569,635.44
201906	265	\$1,574,702.22
201907	262	\$1,904,322.03

Table 5 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care by service level during each month, excluding children in child specific contracts and the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to

¹ Excluded from other counts.

² Included in respective counts

date. Numbers will be updated in the next report. The count of children by service level will not match the total number of children in paid foster care as a child can have more than one service level during a month and so can be counted in multiple service levels.

Table 5: Total Children in Paid Care by Service Level Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Month	Quarter	Basic	Basic Amount	Moderate	Moderate Amount	Intense	Intense Amount	Intense Plus	Intense Plus Amount
201809	1	10,893	\$13,244,299.25	2,341	\$5,609,172.30	522	\$3,645,258.26	0	
201810	1	11,153	\$13,905,992.09	2,364	\$5,893,378.38	544	\$3,903,116.39	2	\$11,620.88
201811	1	10,880	\$13,172,387.36	2,361	\$5,647,784.85	563	\$3,845,583.90	2	\$24,043.20
201812	2	10,400	\$13,056,277.99	2,268	\$5,600,751.20	536	\$3,878,041.60	2	\$24,844.64
201901	2	10,241	\$12,786,671.38	2,154	\$5,328,202.53	537	\$3,876,099.63	2	\$24,844.64
201902	2	10,199	\$11,596,767.81	2,117	\$4,750,418.16	526	\$3,406,517.30	2	\$22,440.32
201903	3	9,820	\$12,103,332.33	2,128	\$5,201,651.70	511	\$3,634,982.40	1	\$12,422.32
201904	3	9,334	\$11,282,370.22	1,974	\$4,731,687.95	469	\$3,272,503.13	1	\$12,021.60
201905	3	9,152	\$11,376,387.60	1,907	\$4,755,466.21	466	\$3,194,787.33	1	\$12,422.32
201906	4	9,121	\$10,948,636.38	1,851	\$4,320,884.48	442	\$2,952,710.19	1	\$12,021.60
201907	4	8,881	\$11,175,448.00	1,766	\$4,345,252.29	432	\$3,040,542.76	1	\$12,422.32

Month	Quarter	Specialized	Specialized Amount	Emergency	Emergency Amount	Psychiatric Transition	Psychiatric Transition Amount	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster Care Amount	SIL	SIL Amount
201809	1	2,371	\$10,086,984.36	1,137	\$3,052,528.23	67	\$545,200.40	1	\$1,664.22	114	\$128,972.16
201810	1	2,417	\$10,483,811.48	1,164	\$3,172,023.55	80	\$643,651.69	1	\$8,598.47	114	\$135,136.33
201811	1	2,389	\$10,085,484.30	1,105	\$2,838,208.12	70	\$546,191.74	5	\$15,810.09	111	\$126,411.59
201812	2	2,356	\$10,375,320.39	983	\$2,821,994.96	68	\$536,646.49	11	\$66,846.17	115	\$133,803.45
201901	2	2,347	\$10,164,758.24	1,024	\$2,845,312.67	70	\$577,398.25	17	\$97,634.24	113	\$130,566.99
201902	2	2,335	\$9,178,058.28	925	\$2,313,546.11	62	\$396,373.78	22	\$144,787.14	113	\$119,770.60
201903	3	2,301	\$9,955,993.60	894	\$2,458,469.31	73	\$440,420.03	31	\$227,998.14	110	\$130,479.22
201904	3	2,196	\$9,301,090.31	828	\$2,270,667.25	77	\$690,259.87	27	\$209,198.09	106	\$123,482.42
201905	3	2,121	\$9,044,466.62	751	\$2,169,280.83	91	\$645,316.27	30	\$236,657.72	106	\$126,478.00
201906	4	2,075	\$8,254,624.90	731	\$1,957,079.00	98	\$739,118.86	34	\$236,512.31	96	\$107,231.64
201907	4	1,917	\$8,146,216.03	693	\$1,937,468.58	108	\$989,270.90	36	\$279,105.81	96	\$115,994.03

Table 6 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care during each month excluding children in child specific contracts. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. Numbers will be updated in the next report. The number of children in and payments for SSCC foster care has increased with the addition of an SSCC in catchment areas 2 and 8a.

Table 6: Children in SSCC Foster Care Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Month	Children	Amount
201809	1,399	\$3,731,351.60
201810	1,424	\$3,898,490.51
201811	1,584	\$3,641,778.73
201812	1,837	\$4,463,094.33
201901	1,885	\$4,984,425.93
201902	2,300	\$5,101,988.48
201903	3,034	\$7,505,299.43
201904	3,392	\$8,407,953.96
201905	3,726	\$9,771,326.66
201906	3,834	\$9,870,783.90
201907	3,920	\$10,432,277.11

Table 7 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care during each quarter, excluding children in child specific contracts. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for Q4 only represent what has been recorded to date. Numbers will be updated in the next report. The count of children over the quarter will not match the cumulative count of children in each month in the quarter as the same child can be counted in multiple months but will only be counted once in the quarter.

Table 7: SSCC Foster Care by Quarter Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	1,740	\$11,271,620.84
2	2,486	\$14,549,508.74
3	4,259	\$25,684,580.05
4	4,247	\$20,303,061.01

Table 8 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care by the different payment rates during each month, excluding children in child specific contracts. The SSCC is not paid by a child's service level. Instead, they are paid a single rate for each child that is a "blend" of the service level that would have been paid in the legacy system. There is also a

provision for the SSCC to be paid an exceptional rate for some children that is similar in concept to a child specific contract. The rate for children in Supervised Independent Living (SIL) is also a separate rate. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. Numbers will be updated in the next report. The count of children by different payment rates will not match the total number of children in SSCC care as a child can have more than one service level during a month and so can be counted in multiple service levels.

Table 8: Children in SSCC Foster Care by Service Level Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Month	Quarter	SSCC Blended Children	SSCC Blended Rate Amount	SSCC Exceptional Children	SSCC Exceptional Amount Paid	SSCC SIL Children	SSCC SIL Amount
201809	1	1,333	\$3,171,729.98	46	\$533,546.16	25	\$26,075.46
201810	1	1,366	\$3,328,049.16	48	\$545,261.02	22	\$25,180.33
201811	1	1,524	\$3,116,723.76	49	\$500,923.99	25	\$24,130.98
201812	2	1,787	\$3,915,332.38	45	\$524,511.20	19	\$23,250.75
201901	2	1,832	\$4,455,514.22	42	\$503,186.80	20	\$25,724.91
201902	2	2,246	\$4,563,243.43	48	\$517,016.41	20	\$21,728.64
201903	3	2,974	\$6,805,316.32	65	\$676,495.24	19	\$23,487.87
201904	3	3,316	\$7,609,559.00	68	\$774,733.48	19	\$23,661.48
201905	3	3,637	\$8,728,216.52	83	\$1,020,310.59	19	\$22,799.55
201906	4	3,744	\$8,781,438.99	89	\$1,067,232.15	19	\$22,112.76
201907	4	3,826	\$9,229,284.15	88	\$1,175,805.37	23	\$27,187.59

ⁱ Based on a manual count by Child Protective Services staff.

ⁱⁱ There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date through the end of July 2019. Because of this lag, data for the month of July itself was only partially available, and therefore, was not included in this report. As such, any data associated with 19Q4 only includes June and July. Data for August will be included in the next report.