



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

DFPS Rider 29 Report on Community-Based Care Implementation Status

April 2021

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Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 86th Texas Legislature, DFPS Rider 29, DFPS shall provide status reports on the implementation of Community-Based Care (CBC) Stage I into Regions 1 and 8B and CBC Stage II in Regions 3B, 2, and 8A. Status reports shall be provided on October 1st and April 1st of each year to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor.

Background

Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under CBC, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated geographic catchment area. In Stage I, this Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state's legal conservatorship. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements, services to parents, and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. The model requires competitive procurement of performance-based SSCC contracts with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being. For information and data on the performance of SSCC contractors, see the DFPS Rider 15 report.

Implementation Update

Update for Region 3B

The 3B catchment area is comprised of Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties in DFPS Region 3W. DFPS executed an SSCC contract with ACH Child and Family Services (ACH) on January 1, 2014. ACH formed Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) to serve as the SSCC. After a six-month start-up period, DFPS certified readiness and OCOK began accepting placement referrals on September 1, 2014.

On September 1, 2018, DFPS renewed its contract with OCOK to continue services under Stage I (foster care and services for children) and added requirements for Stage II Community-Based Care and transition of kinship and legal case management services. DFPS and OCOK formally announced start-up for Stage II in October 2019 and enacted a formal implementation plan to accomplish transition activities related to communications, human resources (staff and case transitions), technology, purchased client services, policy, training and performance / quality assurance. DFPS formally certified readiness on February 27, 2020.

On March 1, 2020, OCOK assumed responsibility for all substitute care services to children and families in the 3B catchment area. As of March 1, 2021, 2,052 children and their families were receiving services through the OCOK continuum of care in Stage II.ⁱ

Update for Region 2

The Region 2 catchment is comprised of 30 counties in northwest Texas around Abilene and Wichita Falls. DFPS executed an SSCC contract with Texas Family Initiative in May 2018. Texas Family Initiative formed a partnership with New Horizons Ranch and Center Inc. and created 2INGage to serve as the SSCC. After a six-month start-up period, DFPS certified readiness and 2INGage began accepting placement referrals on December 1, 2018.

DFPS and 2INGage formally announced start-up for Stage II in December 2019 and developed a formal implementation plan to accomplish transition activities related to communications, human resources (staff and case transitions), technology, purchased client services, policy, training and performance / quality assurance. DFPS formally certified readiness on May 27, 2020.

On June 1, 2020, 2INGage assumed responsibility for all substitute care services to children and families in the Region 2 catchment area. As of March 1, 2021, 1,711 children and their families were receiving services through the 2INGage continuum of care in Stage II.

Update for Region 8A

The Region 8A catchment area includes all of Bexar County. DFPS awarded a contract to The Children's Shelter in San Antonio to serve as the SSCC for the Region 8A catchment area in August 2018. The Children's Shelter created Family Tapestry to serve as the SSCC. After a six-month start-up period, DFPS certified readiness and Family Tapestry began accepting placement referrals on February 1, 2019. As of March 1, 2021, approximately 1,786 children and youth were receiving foster care services through the Family Tapestry continuum of care.

DFPS and Family Tapestry want to make sure that any movement to Stage II CBC ensures the continuity of care and services to children, youth and families. This includes resolving issues in Stage I and successfully assuming foster care network development and placement services in accordance with contract terms. Additionally, Family Tapestry recognizes the importance of establishing an experienced workforce to carry out Conservatorship services in Region 8A. They value the expertise that current CPS staff bring to this work and want to make sure they develop a more specific and timely hiring process for any currently employed CPS staff who may want to join their team. Once a start date of the 6-month transition is determined by DFPS leadership, a formal announcement will be released to Bexar County staff followed by announcements to all CPS staff and external stakeholders.

Update for Region 1

The Region 1 catchment area is comprised of 41 counties in the Texas Panhandle around Lubbock and Amarillo. DFPS awarded a contract to St. Francis Community Services in Texas, Inc. (St. Francis) to serve as the SSCC for the Region 1 catchment area on July 1, 2019. After a six-month start-up period, DFPS certified readiness and St. Francis began accepting placement referrals for children on January 6, 2020. As of March 1, 2021, approximately 1,062 children and youth were receiving services through the St. Francis continuum of care. The transition to Stage II CBC in Region 1 is based on Legislative direction and appropriation.

Update for Region 8B

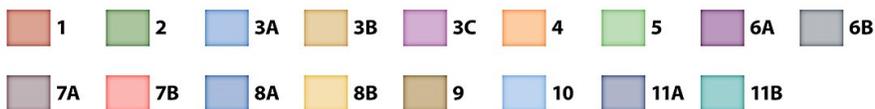
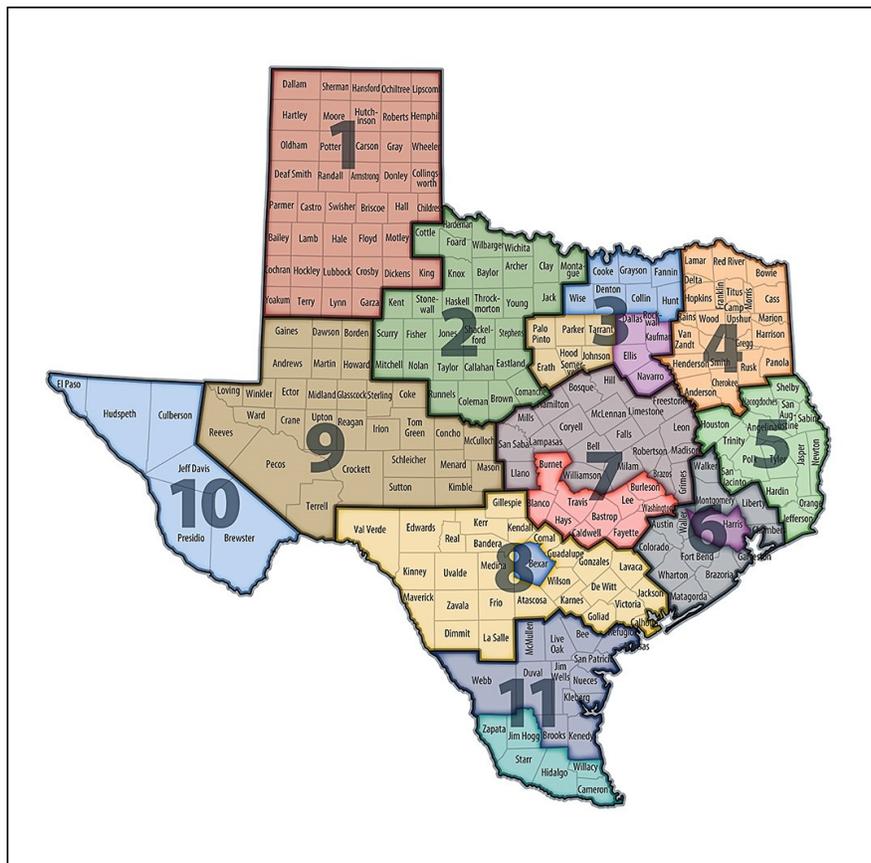
The Region 8B catchment area is comprised of all counties in DFPS Region 8 excluding Bexar County. DFPS released a Request for Application (RFA) for the Region 8B catchment area on May 2, 2019. The procurement closed on August 2, 2019. The procurement officially ended with no contract awarded in July 2020. DFPS released a new RFA for 8B on September 1, 2020, which closed on December 1, 2020. DFPS awarded a contract on March 29, 2021. Implementation of Stage I CBC is anticipated to begin in October 2021 following a successful procurement, six-month start up period, and confirmation of readiness.

Conclusion

DFPS and stakeholder partners continue to work diligently to implement Community-Based Care in the five current catchment areas and to lay the foundation for a successful statewide rollout. View the latest [CBC Implementation Plan](#) for additional details. DFPS has adapted its organization to support both implementation and ongoing oversight as more sites begin to provide services and advance to Stage II. DFPS contracted with Texas Tech University to conduct a process evaluation of each stage of Community-Based Care in each established catchment area. The process evaluation is a tool the department uses to assess implementation of Community-Based Care in each catchment area, identify the key successes and barriers, and course correct as needed. The CBC process evaluation was completed in November 2020 and can be found on the [CBC website](#). DFPS is committed to transparency and will continue to meet legislated requirements for sharing implementation plans, implementation updates, and performance data.

Appendix A: Community-Based Care Catchment Areas

Community Based Care Catchment Areas



Note: DFPS will re-align catchment areas 3a, 3B, and 3c, to follow the DFPS regional structure of 3 West (3W) and 3 East (3E). This change will result in Cooke, Wise and Denton counties adjoining with the seven counties currently included in 3B and Grayson, Fannin, Collin and Hunt counties being adjoined to catchment area 3a. This change in catchment areas will align with future procurements for SSCC contracts in the 3E and 3W catchment areas.

ⁱ All data on children served by SSCCs is from DFPS Data Warehouse Report SA_82 run date March 8, 2021. The report approximates the number of children served by SSCCs based on legal county and living arrangement and is subject to change.