



DFPS Rider 15 Report for Community-Based Care

Office of Community-Based Care Transition

September 2023

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Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 87th Texas Legislature, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Rider 15, the agency shall, on March 31st and September 30th of each year of the biennium, "report selected performance measures identified by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) that will allow for comparative analysis between the Legacy foster care and the Community-Based Care (CBC) systems." The report "shall contain the most recent data for the selected comparative performance measures, an analysis of the data that identifies trends and related impact occurring in the Community-Based Care system, identification and analysis of factors negatively impacting any outcomes, recommendations to address problems identified from the data, and any other information necessary to determine the status of the Community-Based Care system." The Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) collaborates with DFPS to complete this report.

Background

CBC changes how DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based grant agreement, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community area. In Stage I, the 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. SSCCs also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements and services to parents, and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. In Stage III, the SSCC continues the provision of all Stage I and II services and is awarded with financial incentives and remedies for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being.

Evaluation of CBC is ongoing to support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and includes both process and outcome evaluation components. Texas Family Code, Chapter 264, subchapter B-1 requires DFPS' evaluation of CBC to have "an independent evaluation of each contractor's processes and fiscal and qualitative outcomes." OCBCT continues to evaluate whether the staged approach is the best to implement CBC statewide. The OCBCT and DFPS contracted with Texas Tech University to conduct a process evaluation of each stage of CBC in each established community. The process evaluation was to be used as a tool for the department to assess implementation of CBC in each community, identify the key successes and barriers, and correct course as needed. The CBC process evaluation was completed in November 2020 and can be found on the [CBC website](#). On-going process evaluations through a Texas university will continue, and work is underway with the DFPS Office of Data and Systems Improvement and

the SSCCs to make a long-term sustainable plan for statewide community-based care implementation. An updated process evaluation is planned to be released in 2024.

The OCBCT and DFPS continue to work with the Center for Child Welfare Data, affiliated with Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago, to support the outcome evaluation. Chapin Hall provides independent data analysis of each SSCC's performance on placements within 50 miles and paid foster care days, the basis for the fiscal model and incentive payments in Stage III. Chapin Hall, DFPS, and the OCBCT are working to finalize the Stage III parameters to move eligible SSCCs into Stage III in Fall 2023.

The CBC Quality Indicators, often referred to as guiding principles and developed by the DFPS Public Private Partnership (PPP), provides a shared vision for quality services and outcomes under CBC. The achievement of quality indicators is the first major deliverable in the SSCC contract and guides the performance-based contract. CBC contract performance measures reported in Sections B and C of the Appendices align to the quality indicators, where aggregate data is available in DFPS' automated case management data system, IMPACT (Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas), for measurement. Contract performance measures indicate the status of the SSCC at a point in time, alone these are not an evaluation of Community-Based Care system of care, though each support the evaluation efforts that connect CBC quality indicators to the overall goal of the system and positive permanency outcomes.

DFPS and OCBCT assess contract performance measures quarterly as part of formal contract monitoring and CQI process. Through this process, DFPS, OCBCT, and each SSCC review performance measure results each quarter, along with other data used to identify potential trends and performance drivers. Performance drivers may include changes to the population of children, trends specific to those populations, placement utilization practices, and other data. The CQI process enables DFPS and OCBCT to understand the significance of performance measure trends and assess the strategies each SSCC has in place to maintain or improve performance. DFPS and OCBCT require formal performance improvement plans when performance measure trends show significant, sustained poor performance. Improvement plans document specific goals and action steps to address concerns, and the progressive intervention plan for the SSCCs can be found in the [annual CBC implementation plan](#), which is released at the end of each calendar year.

A workgroup comprised of DFPS and OCBCT reviewed each performance measure and discussed methodological enhancements to existing SSCC performance measures, the creation of new ones, and the removal of ineffective ones to the stated goals of CBC. In addition, the workgroup clarified and standardized compliance thresholds for each performance metric that will support when staff should place an SSCC on a corrective action plan. These enhancements were presented to the SSCCs and will be effective for fiscal year 2024.

Using the Rider 15 Report to Assess Performance

Report Sections

The Rider 15 Attachment reports three sets of performance data:

- **Section A** of the Attachment includes select Legislative Budget Board (LBB) agency performance measures for children in DFPS conservatorship. For designated community areas in Stage II of CBC, Section A shows how SSCCs perform on DFPS measures. Performance calculations for Stage I communities include both children in foster care served by the SSCCs in Stage I and children served in substitute care settings, like kinship, not served by the SSCC, except where the measure specifically references only children in foster care. For these areas, case management services remained a function of DFPS. The measures are intended to show outcomes of case management activity but are not performance measures for SSCC contracts.
- **Section B** includes CBC contract performance measures that apply to children in foster care. For SSCCs in Stage I, performance is limited to children in SSCC-contracted foster care placements. For SSCCs in Stage II, performance measures include all children from the community in foster care, whether the contract is in the SSCC network or with a legacy provider.
- **Section C** reports CBC contract performance measures that are specific to Stage II, applying to all children in conservatorship for designated community areas.
- **Sections D-F** reports Community-Based Care actual and projected expenditures for prior and current fiscal years, as the Rider 15 Report also requires.

Performance Populations

The format identified by the LBB for reporting data supports comparative analysis of performance trends for the state as a whole, non-CBC communities (also known as legacy), and individual SSCCs.

DFPS defines performance populations as follows:

- **Statewide Population** - The statewide population reports the performance of the entire state population of children. In Section B, the statewide population is limited to children in paid foster care settings. "SSCC eligible" placements are foster care placements that would be within the scope of an SSCC contract in Stage I. In Section C, all children and placements for children in Conservatorship are counted.
- **Statewide Legacy Population** - The statewide "non-CBC" population reports the aggregated performance for community areas where CBC has not been implemented. Again, Section B is narrowed to children in non-CBC communities in "SSCC-eligible" foster care placements.

- **Community SSCC Population (Section B)** – The community SSCC population reports the performance for each SSCC individually for children in paid foster care settings. SSCC performance in the first year of Stage I reflects a partial population of children transferred to the network gradually over a six-month period. The performance, therefore, cannot be compared to the historical performance of all eligible children in the community over a full fiscal year (eligible population).
- **Community - Eligible Population (Section B)** – The eligible population reports the performance for children in paid foster care settings identified as “SSCC-eligible” in the community prior to implementation. During the transition, the eligible population reports performance for children not yet transferred to the SSCC. Ongoing, the eligible population includes the small population of children not transferred, such as children in adoptive homes or placed with out-of-area providers who opted not to contract with the SSCC. The performance of this small number of remaining children should no longer be compared to historical performance, and it should instead be reviewed with the lens of how it could affect future SSCC performance once these children are transferred to the SSCC.
- **Community Population (Sections A and C.)** The community population reports the performance for children in conservatorship in both foster care and relative/kinship placements and other “substitute care” settings. It is applicable for SSCCs who have fully implemented Stage II of CBC. The community population shows the historical performance, performance during the fiscal year in which the SSCC transitioned to Stage II, and ongoing performance. For Section C, SSCC performance in the transition year of Stage II reflects shared performance with DFPS since all measures are calculated year to date.

As of FY24, there are seven designated community areas that have implemented CBC in the state of Texas, of which four have fully implemented Stage II, one began receiving placement referrals on September 1, 2023 and two are set to begin receiving placement referrals in the Fall 2023. Each designated community area has their own unique implementation of CBC, and as such, the timeline for each community should be kept in mind while comparing performance. For an outline of these timelines, refer to “First Fiscal Year Post Transition” in State of the Community-Based Care System. As CBC progresses through staged implementation, the data can be used to answer the following questions.

1. **Are there statewide changes affecting SSCC performance?** Over time, compare state and state “non-CBC” performance trends to SSCC community trends. Similarities may point to statewide factors influencing performance in CBC communities.
2. **How is the CBC system performing over time?** Over time, compare SSCC performance to the performance of the non-CBC population. If the SSCC designated community areas

are improving more than the legacy catchment areas, the changes made to the foster care system under CBC are effective.

3. **Is a particular SSCC improving performance?** Compare individual SSCC performance across fiscal years. Improvement may take time as services are transitioned to each SSCC, and the SSCC works to build the network of services in the area.
4. **Are some SSCCs performing better than others?** Compare SSCC performance one to another. While each area has unique strengths and challenges, if a specific SSCC is improving outcomes compared to historical performance at a faster rate, the strategies implemented by the SSCC may be more effective.

Limitations of SSCC Performance Data in the Stage I Transition Year

Performance data reported for SSCCs during the Stage I transition and before most of the children in foster care are transferred has several significant limitations.

1. Some children are duplicated, meaning they are represented in both the “eligible” and “SSCC” populations during the transition due to time spent in each population during the performance period.
2. The population “mix” is influenced by the specific transition plan implemented by the SSCC. “Mix” may refer to the proportion of children in foster homes and facilities. It may also be geographic given the trend of SSCCs to begin by transferring local providers to the network.

The limitations make interpreting specific performance measures during the time children are transitioning to the SSCC difficult as outlined below:

- Least restrictive placement – to the extent that an SSCC transfers more children to foster homes earlier or later in the process, the percentage of care days that are least restrictive will be increased or decreased. In addition, start dates after September 1 will represent fewer care days compared to an annual baseline.
- Proximity – to the extent that a provider transfers “in area” providers before providers located farther away, the percentage of children placed close to home will be increased or decreased. Because children in foster homes are more likely to be placed closer to home, this measure is also influenced by the pace at which Child Placing Agencies transfer under the SSCC.
- Stability – this measure is based on the number of placements experienced by children over the course of a fiscal year. Separating placement experience into time spent in legacy and time with the SSCC lowers the rate for both populations.
- Siblings placed together – sibling groups that are separated across legacy and SSCC populations may not be counted as placed apart for either population.

- Preparation for Adult Living - Youth who began taking PAL classes prior to transfer may complete their program under the legacy DFPS contract. However, after the transition they are reported as placed with the SSCC.

Assessing performance for new SSCCs takes time. DFPS and OCBCT work with SSCCs to transition foster care resources and children in existing placements to the SSCC network over a six-month period. Time is needed for the SSCC population to represent the full population of children in foster care in their designated community area. In addition, once the transition is complete, SSCCs need time in the role of network provider to continue to assess local needs and make changes that will lead to improved outcomes. As of September 2023, four out of the seven SSCCs reported have completed the Stage I transition year.

Limitations of SSCC Performance Data in the Stage II Transition Year

For Community-Based Care providers who have transitioned to Stage II, which consists of provision of case management and services to families commensurate with DFPS services in the conservatorship stage of service, the Stage II transition year reflects shared DFPS and SSCC performance. Early trends are the continuation of case activity and permanency decisions that began under the Legacy foster care system. However, performance data to assess SSCC practices and decision-making may not be available until the completion of the first full fiscal year of SSCC operation in Stage II or beyond. As of September 2023, four out of the seven SSCCs have completed the transition to Stage II.

Time is needed to operationalize programs and innovations. Research has found that “implementing systems change requires assessing the system’s strengths and needs regarding each of these elements; aligning organizational culture, policies, practices, and resources across each of these [strengths and needs]; and acting strategically in each of these areas to effect change. The process for enhancing each of these elements of systems change is not linear as they are interconnected” (Western and Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center [WPIC], 2012, p.2). DFPS and OCBCT purposefully established Stage II as a “hold harmless” period for permanency outcomes that could earn a financial incentive, incentives and remedies taking hold no sooner than 18 months of implementation in Stage II as required in statute.¹ The agency anticipated that the systemic change of shifting services from the state government to private community-based providers would require a transitional learning period as contracted providers developed operational and workforce capacity. During the transition, DFPS, OCBCT and SSCC partners work together to minimize client disruption and enact oversight processes to identify and address issues.

¹ [Texas Family Code, Chapter 264.155, Required Contract Provisions.](#)

DFPS and OCBCT host multiple implementation calls and coordination meetings with SSCCs to address issues and challenges and provide support. In addition, Regional DFPS Case Management Oversight and Technical Assistance staff perform case reads to oversee critical case activity during early implementation and offer technical assistance. DFPS and OCBCT recognize that some slow-down in case activity and documentation may temporarily occur with workforce changes and the potential for a more significant proportion of the workforce made up of new hires early on, dependent on the ability to attract and retain DFPS staff. This stabilizing period is needed as SSCCs devote resources to improving outcomes.

State of the Community-Based Care System

Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) Organizational Structure

The 87th Texas Legislature, as part of Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, section 264.172, formally established the OCBCT. The OCBCT is a state agency independent of but administratively attached to DFPS. The OCBCT, DFPS, and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) work together to implement CBC. On January 9, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott appointed George Cannata as the CBC Director of the OCBCT. George Cannata has three directors who have key roles in moving CBC forward in Texas: Community Outreach and Legislative Relations Director and two Directors of Implementation and Operations. OCBCT has one Contract Administration Manager on each implementation team to initiate SSCC contracts on behalf of DFPS. Based on the current funding methodology, as CBC expands into new areas OCBCT will receive one Community-Based Care Administrator (CBCA) per new community area, and one Program Specialist VI (PSVI) per four community areas to help assess and develop a plan for implementation.

Implementation Status

DFPS and OCBCT are working toward full implementation of CBC statewide. DFPS and OCBCT have implemented CBC in four community areas. As reported in the March 2023 Rider 15 Report, the OCBCT and DFPS used appropriations from the 87th Texas Legislature to expand CBC Stage II in the designated community areas of the Panhandle and South Central & Hill Country, as well as beginning CBC stage I start-up in the Metroplex East, Piney Woods and Deep East designated community areas. The Metroplex East designated community area went live in Stage I on September 1, 2023. The Piney Woods and Deep East designated community areas are in Stage I start-up with a planned Stage I go-live in Fall 2023.

In March 2023, a Request for Application (RFA) was posted for the Metroplex West community, to include all 10 counties in the former DFPS Region 3W area. This RFA closed on April 20, 2023 and continues to be under procurement at this time.

Additionally, with funding received by the 88th Texas Legislature, OCBCT and DFPS, in partnership with HHSC, are preparing to release four new Request for Applications (RFAs) to expand CBC in the Harris County (Region 6a), Bay Area/Montgomery (Region 6b), Bexar County (Region 8a), and El Paso (Region 10) communities. The anticipated timeframe to release the new RFAs is the Fall of 2023. See the latest CBC Annual Implementation Plan and September 2023 Quarterly Report on the DFPS Community-Based Care [website](#) for additional information.

The unsolicited proposal process is posted to the [HHSC webpage](#). For the purposes of bidding for a CBC contract, data may be requested from DFPS by completing the [external bidder data request form](#). To date, data requests have been received from several communities in the state. Visit the [CBC webpage](#) to see the status of the current and any future submissions of unsolicited proposals in real-time.

CBC Communities:

- **Metroplex West (DFPS Region 3B)** - DFPS executed an SSCC contract with ACH Child and Family Services (ACH) on January 1, 2014, for community area Metroplex West. Our Community, Our Kids (OCOK), the designated community area Metroplex West SSCC operating under ACH, began placing children on September 1, 2014. In 2018, DFPS renewed its contract with OCOK to continue Stage I services (foster care and services for children) and added requirements for CBC and transition of kinship and legal case management services. DFPS and OCOK officially announced start-up for Stage II in October 2019 and began implementing a six-month transition plan. DFPS formally certified readiness on February 27, 2020, and OCOK began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the Metroplex West designated community area. The current contract expired August 31, 2023. A Request for Application (RFA) for this area was released in March 2023 and closed on April 20, 2023. This RFA included the current counties with the addition of Cooke, Wise, and Denton counties. At this time, this area is under procurement.
- **Big Country & Texoma (DFPS Region 2)** - DFPS awarded a contract to Texas Family Initiative, LLC (TFI) to serve as the SSCC for the Big Country & Texoma designated community area in May 2018. TFI partnered with New Horizons Ranch and Center Inc. creating 2INGage. 2INGage began placing children on December 1, 2018. DFPS and 2INGage officially announced start up for Stage II in December 2019 and began implementing a six-month transition plan. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and 2INGage began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the Big Country & Texoma designated community area on June 1, 2020. In May 2023, DFPS renewed its contract with 2INGage to continue Stage II services. TFI

is the first SSCC in Texas to apply for a new community area. As mentioned previously, EMPOWER, a division of TFI, received the contract award for Metroplex East.

- **Panhandle (DFPS Region 1)** - DFPS awarded a contract to Saint Francis Community Services, Inc. (Saint Francis) to serve as the SSCC for the Panhandle designated community area on July 1, 2019. Saint Francis began serving children in the Panhandle designated community area on January 6, 2020. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and Saint Francis began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the Panhandle designated community area on March 2, 2022.
- **South Central & Hill Country (DFPS Region 8B)** -DFPS awarded a contract on March 29, 2021 to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children (SJRC) Texas. SJRC Texas formed Belong to serve as the SSCC for the South Central & Hill Country designated community area. Belong began serving children in the South Central & Hill Country designated community area on October 27, 2021. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and Belong began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the South Central & Hill Country designated community area on October 1, 2022.
- **Metroplex East (DFPS Region 3E)** – DFPS awarded a contract on February 22, 2023 to Texas Family Initiative, LLC (TFI) to serve as the SSCC for the Metroplex East designated community area. TFI partnered with CK Family Services, Jonathan’s Place, The Bair Foundation, and Pathways Youth and Family Services creating EMPOWER. EMPOWER began serving children in the Metroplex East designated community area on September 1, 2023.
- **Piney Woods (DFPS Region 4)** – DFPS awarded a contract on February 22, 2023 to Arrow Child and Family Ministries. Arrow Child and Family Ministries formed 4Kids4Families to serve as the SSCC for the Piney Woods designated community area. 4Kids4Families began Stage I start-up on March 1, 2023 and are projected to receive their first paid placement referral in Fall 2023.
- **Deep East (DFPS Region 5)** – DFPS awarded a contract on March 15, 2023 to Pressley Ridge. Pressley Ridge formed Family Care Network to serve as the SSCC for the Deep East designated community area. Family Care Network began Stage I start-up on April 1, 2023 and are projected to receive their first paid placement referral in Fall 2023.

An important factor in assessing the performance of individual agencies is the time each has had to complete the transition process and to establish innovative change strategies to improve performance over historical trends. Therefore, the first fiscal year periods post-transition where the SSCC provided all services (as opposed to shared DFPS-SSCC service provision in the data) are summarized below.

First Fiscal Year Post Transition

<i>Community</i>	Stage I	Stage II
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<i>Metroplex West (OCOK)</i>	FY16	FY21
<i>Big Country and Texoma (2INgage)</i>	FY20	FY21
<i>Panhandle (Saint Francis)</i>	FY21	FY23
<i>South Central and Hill Country (Belong)</i>	FY23	FY24
<i>Metroplex East (EMPOWER)</i>	FY25*	FY26*
<i>Piney Woods (4Kids4Families)</i>	FY25*	FY26*
<i>Deep East (EMPOWER)</i>	FY25*	FY26*

* First Fiscal Year Post Transition is estimated on this report

Current Trends and Impact to Legacy and Community-Based Care Systems

While DFPS and OCBCT anticipated transition and early implementation challenges, DFPS and OCBCT did not anticipate that the first transitions to Stage II would occur just as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak began. These external factors have impacts on both foster care capacity building (Stage I objective) and the ability to exit children from conservatorship to a permanent placement (Stage II objective) statewide.² Given that EMPOWER, 4Kids4Families, and Family Care Network have yet to acquire a full year in Stage I or Stage II, their data is exempt from the below summaries as they are not comparable to any of the current comparison populations.

Foster Care Capacity (Stage I Objective – Section B)³

The performance indicator most reflecting the foster care capacity challenge is the percentage of children placed close to home, defined in the metric as within 50 miles of removal. The downward trend for the past five fiscal years in the percentage of children placed close to home continued in FY23 Q3 for the state as a whole and for non-CBC areas. It also decreased for SSCC providers in the Panhandle, Metroplex West, South Central and Hill Country, and Big Country & Texoma designated community areas in FY23 Q3 compared to FY22.

The ability to place siblings in foster care together is another area impacted by system-wide foster care capacity challenges. SSCC providers in the Panhandle and Metroplex West show performance improvements in keeping siblings together, increasing from FY 22 by 3.5% and 3.6% respectively. Big Country & Texoma and South Central & Hill Country saw a decrease of

² <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/relatives/impact>

³ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Appendix.

5.8% and 9.7%. Non-CBC areas declined, with a 1.7% decrease in performance in FY23 Q3 compared to FY22.

Statewide, children are spending fewer placement days in a least restrictive setting compared to FY22, and all designated community areas with the exception of Metroplex West saw a decrease in children placed in least restrictive settings. Metroplex West had a 1.2% increase in placement days in least restrictive placements in FY23 Q3 compared to FY22.

Any safety performance below 100% is an area to target for improvement. Statewide and Statewide Non-CBC child safety improved in FY23 Q3 compared to FY22 Q3, with all designated community areas improving compared to FY22 Q3 except Metroplex West.

Permanency (Stage II Objective - Sections A and C)⁴

The goal of Stage II is to improve exits to permanency, including both the number of children exiting to permanency and the speed at which they exit. Placement with kin generally improves child outcomes, including permanency, either with exits to kin or by facilitating connections to parents and placement stability, which are positively related to permanency.

Texas has historically performed well in placing children in state conservatorship with relatives or kin and finding relatives or kin to permanently care for children when reunification with parents is not possible. The performance measure is important to ensure SSCCs sustain or improve upon these trends. Non-CBC areas of the state declined by 1.8% between FY22 and FY23 Q3. Metroplex West, Big Country & Texoma, Panhandle, and South Central and Hill Country saw an increase between FY22 and FY23 Q3 by 1.9%, 1.2%, 2.4%, and 6.2% respectively.⁵

With four designated community areas in Stage II, Section A performance metrics related to permanency become relevant. This report will not, however, give detailed attention to Section A exit measures because the focus of this report is the CBC contracted performance measures. The intended audience for the measures in Section A is the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), and so these measures are not discussed in this report. That said, it is worth noting that there is a statewide drop in the percent of the population exiting to permanency within 12 months since FY18. The Panhandle and Big Country and Texoma saw a 9.9% and 2.9% decrease respectively from FY22 to FY23 Q3. Metroplex West and South Central and Hill Country increased the percent of the population exiting to permanency from FY22 to FY23 Q3 by 0.5% and 4.6% respectively.

⁴ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Appendix.

⁵ Ibid.

SSCC Contract Performance Measures

Performance measure data referenced below reflects performance through the third quarter of FY23, which is provisional and subject to change.⁶

Our Community, Our Kids (OCOK) – Metroplex West (Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties)⁷

OCOK has contracted with DFPS for services to children in foster care since FY15. Beginning in FY20 Q3, OCOK transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the designated community area Metroplex West, made up of the 7 counties around Fort Worth. The average performance for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 is used as the baseline average for comparison. With the exception of the Stage II measures, the performance reflected in the baseline is that of the SSCC's own performance.

- **Safety in Foster Care** – 99.3% of children were safe in OCOK foster care placements as of FY23 Q3. Safety below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** - 1.44 foster care placements per child in FY23 Q3 shows a decrease from the FY22 Q3 measure of 1.46.⁸ This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Least Restrictive Placement Setting** – 83.3% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY23 Q3 is above baseline years of 83.2%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** – 70.9% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of FY23 Q3 is a decrease from FY22 and the baseline years of 73.0%.
- **Sibling Groups Placed Together in Foster Care** – 64.9% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY23 Q3, a decrease from baseline years of 65.9%.
- **Kinship Placement** – 36.0% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY23 Q2. This is above the baseline and an increase from FY22. This measure is delayed by one quarter and so FY23 Q3 is not available at this time.
- **Preparation for Adult Living** – 98.1% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care, and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL in FY23 Q3, which is an increase from baseline years of 77.6%.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Appendix.

⁸ DFPS Rider Report September 2022 Appendix.

2INgage – Big Country & Texoma⁹

2INgage has contracted with DFPS for services to children in foster care since FY19. Beginning in FY20 Q4, 2INgage transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the Big Country & Texoma designated community area. This area is comprised of 30 counties covering a large rural area with historical capacity challenges. The average performance for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 is used as the historical average for comparison. The performance reflected in the baseline is that of the SSCC's own performance.

- **Safety in Foster Care** – 99.7% of children were safe in 2INgage foster care placements as of FY23 Q3. Safety below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** – 1.36 placements per child in FY23 Q3 is an improvement from FY22 Q3 performance (1.38).¹⁰ This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Least Restrictive Placement Setting** – 87.0% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY23 Q3 is lower than baseline years of 88.2%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** – 35.1% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of FY23 Q3 is a decrease from FY22 and the baseline years of 39.3%.
- **Sibling Groups Placed Together in Foster Care** – 62.3% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY23 Q3, a decrease from baseline years of 64.2%.
- **Kinship Placement** – 48.2% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY23 Q2. This is above the baseline and an increase from FY22. This measure is delayed by one quarter and so FY23 Q3 is not available at this time.
- **Preparation for Adult Living** – 94.3% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL in FY23 Q3, which is a decrease from baseline years of 100%.

Saint Francis Community Services Inc. – Panhandle¹¹

Saint Francis has contracted with DFPS for services to children in foster care since FY20. Beginning in FY22 Q3, Saint Francis transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the Panhandle designated community area. This designated community area is comprised of 41 counties in an area of the state that faced significant capacity challenges prior to CBC implementation. The

⁹ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Appendix.

¹⁰ DFPS Rider Report September 2022 Appendix.

¹¹ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Appendix.

average performance for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the two years prior to Stage II implementation, is used as the historical average for comparison.

- **Safety in Foster Care** – 99.1% of children were safe in Saint Francis foster care placements as of FY23 Q3. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** – 1.39 placements per child in FY23 Q3 is an improvement from FY22 Q3 performance (1.48).¹² This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Least Restrictive Placement Setting** – 77.6% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY23 Q3 is below baseline years 80.9%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** – 39.8% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of FY23 Q3 is a decrease from baseline years of 42.7%.
- **Sibling Groups Placed Together in Foster Care** – 66.4% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY23 Q3, an increase from baseline years of 62.3%.
- **Kinship Placement** – 35.9% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY23 Q2. This is above the baseline and an increase from FY22. This measure is delayed by one quarter and so FY23 Q3 is not available at this time.
- **Preparation for Adult Living** – 76.4% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL, which is a large decrease from baseline years of 92.9%.

Belong- South Central & Hill Country¹³

Belong has contracted with DFPS for services to children in foster care since FY22 Q1. Beginning in FY23 Q1, Belong transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the South Central & Hill Country designated community area. The average performance for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the two years prior to Stage II implementation, are used as the historical average for comparison.

- **Safety in Foster Care** – 99.6% of children were safe in Belong foster care placements as of FY23 Q3. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** – 1.47 placements per child in FY23 Q3 is higher than FY20-21 Q3 baseline (1.33).¹⁴ This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.

¹² DFPS Rider Report September 2022 Appendix.

¹³ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Appendix.

¹⁴ DFPS Rider Report September 2022 Appendix.

- **Least Restrictive Placement Setting** – 76.6% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY23 Q3 is below baseline years of 83.9%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** – 37.7% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of FY23 Q3 is a decrease from baseline years of 47.1%.
- **Sibling Groups Placed Together in Foster Care** – 56.7% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY23 Q3, a decrease from baseline years of 62.5%.
- **Kinship Placement** – 52.9% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY23 Q2. This is above the baseline and an increase from FY22. This measure is delayed by one quarter and so FY23 Q3 is not available at this time.
- **Preparation for Adult Living** – 80.0% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL, which is a large decrease from baseline years of 91.3%.

EMPOWER- Metroplex East

EMPOWER went live in Stage I and began serving children in Metroplex East on September 1, 2023. This is in the first quarter of FY24, and performance measure data will be available in the March 2024 Rider 15 Report.