



Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

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Commissioner



Mission and Responsibilities

DFPS Mission -

- The mission of The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by working with clients, families, and communities.

Program Areas -

- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Child Care Licensing (CCL)
- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Purchased Client Services (PCS)



Mission and Responsibilities

Adult Protective Services (APS)

- Responsible for investigating abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults who are elderly or have disabilities
- Provides or arranges for client services as necessary
 - Financial, social, and health services
 - Referrals to other state and community resources

Child Care Licensing (CCL)

- Responsible for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of children who attend or reside in regulated child care facilities and homes
 - Issues permits to allow regulated child care to operate
 - Provides consultation, technical assistance, and training for child care providers and educating the public in the selection and improvement of child care services
 - Develops minimum standards for regulated facilities and policies for enforcement of the standards



Mission and Responsibilities

Child Protective Services (CPS)

- Responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect of children
- Provides services to children and families
 - Transition services to youth aging out of foster care
 - Places children needing care in kinship, foster, and adoptive homes

Purchased Client Services (PCS)

- Contracts with other entities to provide clients with needed services
- Manages prevention and early intervention programs that prevent juvenile delinquency and child maltreatment
 - Works with community partners to identify needs and develop/modify programs



Vulnerable Adults Current Initiatives



Improving Structure and Practice

- ✓ Guardianship Program Transfer
 - Charter signed June 2006
 - DFPS and DADS workgroup

- ✓ Quality Assurance and Performance Management
 - APS Performance Management System in place
 - Third quarter performance report submitted to Legislature

- ✓ Complex Cases
 - Subject matter experts employed in each region

- ✓ Risk Assessment
 - Client Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CARE) tool in place



Increasing Capacity

- ✓ Staff Qualifications
 - Recruitment efforts
 - Applicant screening

- ✓ Caseload Reduction Plan
 - Additional staff being hired

- ✓ Training
 - More efficient, effective and user-friendly training for staff

- ✓ Technology
 - Tablet PC user survey conducted



Working with Community Partners

- ✓ Public Awareness Campaign
 - “It’s Everybody’s Business” yearlong public awareness campaign in effect

- ✓ Special Task Units
 - Working with county officials to create Special Task Units

- ✓ Community Engagement
 - Community engagement strategic plan in place



Children and Families Current Initiatives



Strengthening Investigations

- ✓ New Investigations Structure
 - Investigations division in place

- ✓ Child Safety Specialists
 - Risk assessment training developed and delivered to staff
 - Risk and Safety Sub-committee established

- ✓ Improved Screening
 - Screeners have reviewed more than 19,000 reports and closed nearly 25%



Strengthening Investigations

- ✓ Response Time Reduction
 - Began pilot program in Dallas/Ft.Worth region

- ✓ Joint Investigations and Training
 - Joint investigations guidelines in place
 - Working with law enforcement at local level to provide joint training

- ✓ Parental Notification of Child Transfer
 - New policy and form in place



Supporting Quality Casework

- ✓ Hiring
 - CPS hired over 2000 direct-delivery staff since September 2005
- ✓ Staffing and Workload Distribution Plan
 - Functional units established and workload measurement tools in place
- ✓ Casework Documentation
 - IMPACT modifications to facilitate documentation
 - Mobile dictation service extended
- ✓ Training
 - Expanded and enhanced training, including cultural training in place
- ✓ Technology
 - Tablet PC pilot program in place



Improving Services & Child Outcomes

- ✓ Outsourcing
 - Transition plan released March 1, 2006
 - RFP for first region (Region 8) Independent Administrator released May 1, 2006
 - Advisory Committee established in Region 8

- ✓ Child Placement
 - Kinship Program began March 1, 2006

- ✓ Cultural Awareness and Disproportionality
 - Disproportionality Policy Evaluation and Remediation Plan submitted to the Legislature on June 30, 2006



Improving Services & Child Outcomes

- ✓ Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)
 - FGDM model established and policy development underway
 - 2,370 FGDM Conferences conducted
 - Circles of Support being offered to youth over age 16

- ✓ Initial Assessments
 - DFPS and HHSC working to develop a new health and behavioral health care program including initial assessment by professionals

- ✓ Education Passport
 - Policy and procedures in place to ensure the educational needs of children in care are being met
 - Educational portfolio training has been conducted with stakeholders and staff



Improving Services & Child Outcomes

- ✓ Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)
 - Provide Circles of Support for youth age 16 and older
 - Expansion of Transition Centers and transition services
 - Rules being implemented to provide care for certain youth up to age 22

- ✓ Medical Services
 - Regional nurses hired to provide medical consultation
 - Medical Consent training available online for youth, staff, and consenters
 - DFPS, DSHS, and HHSC published a report, “Use of Psychoactive Medication in Texas Foster Children State Fiscal Year 2005” in June 2006

- ✓ Community Engagement and Co-location
 - Community engagement staff in each region coordinate community-based and public awareness activities
 - Volunteer programs in place – currently 3,729 CPS active volunteers
 - Stakeholder meetings being held around the state



Child Care Licensing

- ✓ Additional CCL Staff
- ✓ Random Inspections
 - Additional monitoring staff hired
 - As of January 1, 2006, 277 random inspections of foster homes have been conducted
- ✓ Revision of Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Operations
 - Rules passed by DFPS Council July 7, 2006
 - More than 2,300 comments received from stakeholders



Preventing Maltreatment

- ✓ Prevention and Early Intervention
 - Developing an improved referral process
 - A new service “At-Risk Prevention Services” addressing child abuse and neglect or juvenile delinquency was procured Spring 2006
 - Innovative Prevention Services procured Spring 2006, funding demonstration projects addressing child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency

- ✓ Drug-Related Initiatives
 - Drug Endangered Child Protocols and methamphetamine protocols incorporated into training



Looking Ahead



Looking Ahead

- Outsourcing
 - Independent Administrator (IA) award announced – September 30, 2006
 - Independent Evaluator (IE) RFP published - October 2006
- Maintain and Enhance Reform Progress
 - Maintain staffing levels
 - Maintain and increase prevention services
- Release of the 180-Day Report on September 1, 2006