



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Capacity Strategic Plan

Region 8B

October 1, 2018

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Introduction

As outlined in Chapter 264.1261, of the Texas Family Code, “appropriate management personnel from a child protective services region in which community-based care has not been implemented, in collaboration with foster care providers, faith-based entities, and child advocates in that region, shall use data collected by the department on foster care capacity needs and availability of each type of foster care and kinship placement in the region to create a plan to address the substitute care capacity needs in the region.” The statewide foster care needs assessment was completed in August 2018 and helped to inform the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, which specifically addresses the needs of Region 8B.

Foster Care Placement Forecast and Assessment of Capacity Need

The Foster Care Needs Assessment can be accessed [here](#).

A stakeholder/provider meeting for Region 8A and 8B occurred on September 10, 2018 and a subsequent meeting was held with only providers from Region 8B on September 25, 2018. During these meeting with providers the Foster Care Needs Assessment was reviewed and a Power Point of regional/catchment data was presented focusing on historical analysis and forecasted capacity needs for Fiscal Year 2019.

While DFPS is honored to submit this plan on behalf of the community, the goals and strategies contained herein belong to us all. DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the Regional capacity strategic plan:

Families Especial, Pathways, St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, A World for Children, Bair Foundation and 4 Kids

The following strategies were identified by stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team:

Regional Plan to Increase Capacity

Goal 1: Increase Placements with Kinship Caregivers

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identified an 11% decrease for Catchment 8B in kinship placements. A total of 51% of children removed were placed in a kinship home within 60 days of removal. We understand that placing children with family members at the onset of a removal or at least within 60 days of a removal is extremely important to the children's well-being.

Objective 1.1: DFPS Focused Efforts

CPS will take the following steps to increase placements into kinship caregiver homes:

- Kinship supervisors will attend Child Protective Investigation (CPI) and CPS program meetings to discuss and encourage kinship placements
- During post removals staffings, Family Group Conference specialist will inquire about the Child Resource Form completion to see if a relative has been identified
- A communication plan regarding Kinship Placement will be rolled out to agency staff by January 2018

Objective 1.2: Collaborative Focus on Increasing Kinship Caregiver Placements

- A brainstorm session will be held at the next provider meeting to discuss ideas of what can be done on the provider side to identify kinship relatives on the onset of the child placement.

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.

Goal 2: Increase Emergency Placements for Youth

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identifies a forecasted capacity need of a combined total of 108 shelter placements that are basic, moderate and specialized placements for teens in Region 8B in FY 2019. Foster parents serving these youth need to have strong supports in place in order to be successful. It is believed that the best recruiters for these placements come from other foster parents who are currently fostering this population. If we can increase the support for current foster parents who are serving this population they will be more prone to recruit new foster parents.

Objective 2.1: Partner to Support Foster Parents

- Pathways will send information to CPS regarding their Turning Point Crisis Intervention program. This program can provide support to foster parents who are working with teens. They also have two beds that can be used to allow foster parents to place the children while they work through the crisis. This is a short term placement (no longer than 14 days) where they work with both the foster parents and teen in an effort to address the crisis.
- CPS will distribute the Turning Point program information via email to Child Placing Agencies and during program provider meetings.

Objective 2.2: Collaborative Informational Meetings

- CPS will send out to the providers an information flyer with information on scheduled informational meetings for new potential foster parents. Providers will distribute to their current or potential foster parents for recruitment.
- CPS will invite the various Child Placing Agencies in Region 8B to the recruitment meetings so families can hear about the agencies and they can select the agency that works best for them.
- CPS and Child Placing Agencies will continue to work on jointly recruiting homes that can serve our teens in catchment area 8B.

Objective 2.3: Seek Additional Supports

- CPS will work with the various Child Placing Agencies in Region 8B to identify current programs that they use to support foster parents who are serving this population. Once all the information and resources are gathered, CPS will create a resource guide to share with all providers. The target date for completion of this guide will be March 2018.

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.

Goal 3: Increase Emergency Placements

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identifies a forecasted capacity need for an overall 15% increase in shelter capacity in Region 8B. We will seek to eliminate barriers and concerns for foster parents, thus increasing time limited placements into foster homes.

Objective 3.1: Educate Child Placing Agencies and Providers

- Invite Residential Child Care Licensing and DFPS Contracts to provider meetings so they can respond to some of the concerns regarding short term placements.
- CPS will also share the individual data with Child Placing Agencies that shows the counties in Region 8B where children are being removed, thus helping to identify the need by county.
- CPS and Child Placing Agencies will share information with existing and new foster parents to determine if they would be willing to accept emergency placements.

Review of this goal will occur routinely between CPS leadership and community stakeholders at the agency provider meetings.