



# MAINTAIN FOSTER CARE RATES To Implement Foster Care Redesign

January 20, 2011

## ACTION NEEDED: MAINTAIN FOSTER CARE RATES TO IMPLEMENT REDESIGN

### **Current Rates Must Be Maintained to Fund New Contract/Payment System**

Key features include:

- **Single Rate with Performance Outcomes Plus Incentives to Reduce Time in Care**
- **One Contractor per Geographic Area Who Must Serve All Children Referred**

Must maintain current rate reimbursement level for projected foster care caseload to cover expense of new responsibilities provider must assume.

**Cuts to Rates Risk Child Safety for Vulnerable Population:** Any reduction in funding risks leaving children in dangerous, possibly life-threatening situations. Texas assumes parental responsibility for each child removed.

**Current Rates Do Not Cover the Cost of Care:** Current foster care rates reimburse only a portion of the cost of serving children removed from their homes by the State. The remainder of funds must be raised through private donations.

Recommendations to Redesign Foster Care Are Contingent On...

**Maintaining at a Minimum, Current Foster Care Funding**

Source: PPP Committee Report

## UNITED SUPPORT FOR REDESIGN: JUDICIAL, STATE, CASA, PROVIDERS, YOUTH

**The Public-Private Partnership Committee (PPP):** In January, 2010, the PPP was created as a diverse group of leaders appointed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' (DFPS) Commissioner to recommend changes to the Foster Care System that improve outcomes for children. Members include: DFPS, private providers, judges, CASA, foster youth, and the Supreme Court Judicial Commission for Children, Youth & Families.

### **The Proposal:**

- Performance Based Contracts with Payments Linked to Child Improvement and Shorter Stays
- DFPS Retains Case Management
- Provider Works with Birth Family and Has Increased Authority over Placements
- Staged Implementation with Evaluation of Successes/Failures
- Contingent on: Full Foster Care Funding, Provider Authority to Impact Outcomes Accountable for, Transfer of Resources to Cover Transferred Responsibilities, and Staged Implementation.

**All Public-Private Partnership Committee Members Support and Endorse the Recommended Changes**

## NEED FOR REDESIGN: SAFETY, PERMANENT HOME, STABILITY, COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### **Problems with Current Foster Care System:**

- **Children Stay in Care Too Long:** In 2010, more than 40 percent of the children were in the system more than a year.
- **Quality Providers Not Rewarded:** Providers who deliver quality, successful services are not distinguished from providers who do not. Performance outcomes or incentives not in contracts.
- **Services Not Available Where Needed:** 16.9 percent of foster children placed out of home region; 57.8 percent placed out of home county; and 20.3 percent of sibling groups not placed together. One-half of all Residential Treatment Centers are located in one region.
- **Services Fragmented:** No established process for coordinating moves among providers; providers have little predictability about what services will be needed by them.
- **No Positive Incentives:** Current model does not reward good outcomes and provides less money as the child improves.

## QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY MEASUREMENTS

The PPP adopted quality indicators to ensure that the individual needs of each child are paramount to the success of the new system. While every indicator may not be appropriate for every child, the group of indicators embody the optimal outcomes to strive for under the new system. Quality indicators include:

- **First and foremost, children are safe in their placements.**
- **Children are placed in their home communities.**
- **Children are appropriately served in the least restrictive environment that supports minimal moves for the child.**
- **Connections to family and others important to the child are maintained.**
- **Children are placed with siblings.**
- **Services respect the child's culture.**
- **To be fully prepared for successful adulthood, children and youth are provided opportunities, experiences and activities similar to those experienced by their non-foster care peers.**
- **Children and youth are provided opportunities to participate in decisions that impact their lives.**



## STAGED IMPLEMENTATION

GOALS	STAGE I	BENEFITS
<p>Fewer Moves for Children</p> <p>Services Available Where Needed</p> <p>Quality Services</p>	<p><b>Building Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Geographic Areas</li> <li>• Competitively Procure Continuum Contract</li> <li>• Transfer Equivalent Administrative Resources</li> <li>• Implement Performance Based Contract</li> <li>• Implement Blended Rate: De-link payment from billed level of care.</li> </ul>	<p>Improved Child Well-being</p> <p>Improved Permanency</p>
<p>Coordinated Service Planning</p> <p>Efficient Service Delivery</p>	<p><b>STAGE II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate Purchase Of Services (POS) Contract Funds</li> <li>• Allocate POS funds to Contractor to use flexibly to meet client service needs.</li> <li>• Transfer Equivalent Administrative Resources</li> <li>• Increase Provider Role with Family</li> </ul>	<p>Successful Reunification</p>
<p>Reduce Length of Stay in Foster Care</p>	<p><b>STAGE III</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Case Rate</li> <li>• Reinvest Leverage Funds</li> <li>• Increase Provider Role with Families</li> </ul>	<p>Timely Permanency</p>

## BEFORE AND AFTER SYSTEM

<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>NEW</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Enrollment</li> <li>Multiple Contract Types</li> <li>Payments Linked to Multiple Levels of Care</li> <li>Services to Families Delivered by Separate Providers</li> <li>Inconsistent Process for Transitioning Between Placements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitive Procurement</li> <li>Contract for Continuum of Care for All Service Needs</li> <li>Single Blended Case Rate</li> <li>Coordinated Services to Child and Family</li> <li>Coordinated Placement Moves</li> </ul>

## TEXAS FOSTER CARE

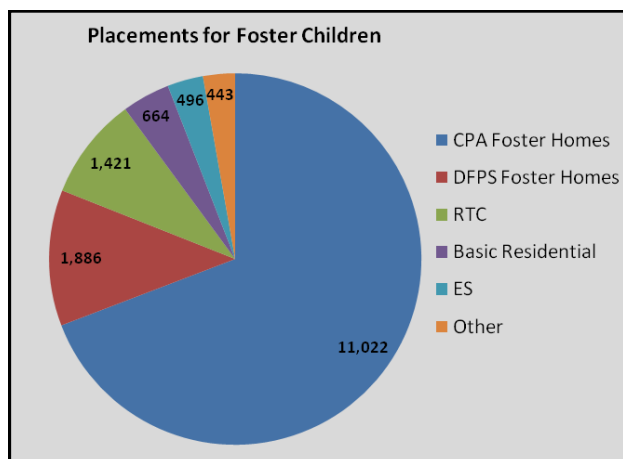
### **Who Are the Children in Foster Care:**

- In 2010, 66,897 Texas children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect, and of those children, 17,027 were removed from their homes by Child Protective Services (CPS). *(A 35% increase in removals from 2009)*
- Once a child is removed from their home, the State has a year, with a possible six-month extension, to resolve the case and either reunite the child with his family or a relative, or terminate parental rights and place the child in an adoptive home.
- If none of these options work out, the child becomes a long-term ward of the State by entering Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC). In 2010, 42.5% of the children in foster care were in PMC.
- In 2010, 6,026 children were awaiting adoption.

## FOSTER CARE SETTINGS

### **Most Children Are in Family Settings:**

- In 2010, 17,027 of the children in DFPS conservatorship were living in foster care (out-of-home placement).
- 81% are in family settings.
- 88% are cared for by private agencies, most of which are non-profit organizations.

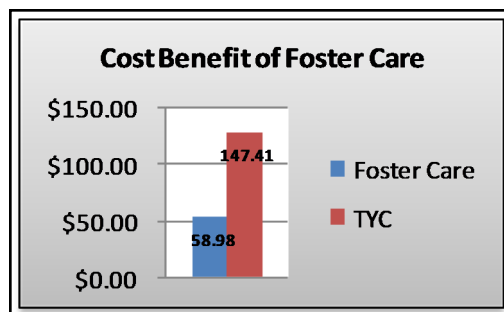


*Source: DFPS 2009 Data Book*

## COST BENEFIT

### **Link to Criminal Justice System:**

- In 2010, 36% of Texas Youth Commission (TYC) offenders had a documented history of abuse or neglect. Foster care costs less than half the cost per day of TYC.
- Successful outcomes while in foster care are important for children harmed by abuse and neglect in leading successful lives.



*Source: Texas Youth Commission 2008 Data*

### Region 1: Lubbock/Amarillo

The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Buckner Children & Family Services  
Cal Farley's  
Children's Home of Lubbock  
Children's Hope Residential Services  
Methodist Children's Home  
South Plains Children's Shelter  
Texas Boys Ranch, Inc.

### Region 2 & 9: Abilene/Midland

Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Buckner Children & Family Services  
Cal Farley's  
Caring Family Network  
Christian Homes and Family Services  
Concho Valley Home for Girls/Children Emergency Shelter  
Harmony Family Services  
High Sky Children's Ranch  
Methodist Children's Home  
New Horizons Ranch & Center, Inc.  
Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

### Region 10: El Paso

The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Child Crisis Center of El Paso  
El Paso Center for Children  
Methodist Children's Home

### Region 8: San Antonio

Arms of Hope/Medina Children's Home  
Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
BCFS Health and Human Services  
Bluebonnet Youth Ranch  
Boys Town Texas  
Boysville, Inc.  
Brownson Home, Inc.  
Cal Farley's  
Caring Family Network  
Casey Family Programs  
The Children's Shelter  
Devereux Texas Treatment Network  
Methodist Children's Home  
Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services  
St. Jude's Ranch for Children  
Texas Mentor  
Therapeutic Family Life

### Region 11: Edinburg

Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Buckner Children & Family Services  
Methodist Children's Home  
Spaulding for Children

### Region 3: Arlington

ACH Child & Family Services  
Arms of Hope  
Arrow Child and Family Ministries  
Azleway, Inc.  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Brookhaven Youth Ranch  
Buckner Children & Family services  
Cal Farley's  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Ft. Worth  
Covenant Kids  
Christian Homes and Family Services  
Faithworks, Inc.  
Gladney Center  
Julliette Fowler Homes-Children, Youth, & Family Services  
Kid Net Foundation—D.B.A. Jonathan's Place  
Kornerstone  
Lena Pope Home  
Lifeline Children and Family Services  
Methodist Children's Home  
Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services  
Pressley Ridge  
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of TX (SAFY)  
Texas Baptist Home for Children  
Texas Mentor  
Therapeutic Family Life

### Region 4: Tyler

Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
Azleway, Inc.  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Buckner Children & Family Services  
Christian Homes and Family Services  
Methodist Children's Home  
Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services  
Therapeutic Family Life

### Region 5: Beaumont

Azleway, Inc.  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Buckner Children & Family Services  
The Hughen Center  
Nacogdoches Boys Ranch  
Therapeutic Family Life

### Region 7: Austin

ACH Child & Family Services  
Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
Austin Children's Shelter  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Cal Farley's  
Camelot Community Care  
Caring Family Network  
Casey Family Programs  
Cherokee Home for Children  
Everyday Life RTC, Inc.  
Helping Hand Home for Children  
Homes 4 Good  
Marywood  
Methodist Children's Home  
New Horizons Ranch & Center  
Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services  
Pressley Ridge  
The Settlement Home  
STARRY  
Texas Mentor  
Therapeutic Family Life

### Region 6: Houston

Arrow Child & Family Ministries  
Azleway, Inc.  
The Bair Foundation of Texas  
Boys & Girls Harbor  
Cal Farley's  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Galveston -Houston  
DePelchin Children's Center  
Devereux Texas Treatment Network  
Gulf Coast Trades Center  
Homes4Good  
Homes of St. Mark  
Houston Achievement Place  
Methodist Children's Home  
Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services  
Rainbow of Love Adoption Agency, Inc.  
Safe Haven Community Services  
Sheltering Harbour  
Spaulding for Children  
Texas Mentor  
Therapeutic Family Life

### Our Mission:

Strengthening Services  
to Children & Families  
Through Quality Care and Advocacy