

GOALS OF CBC

SAFETY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DURING COVID-19

PLACEMENT STABILITY

LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT SETTING

SIBLING GROUPS PLACED TOGETHER

KEEPING CHILDREN CLOSE TO HOME

PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIVING

PLACEMENT WITH RELATIVES

REUNIFICATION

NORMALCY

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT...

### THE CBC RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

As part of the Texas' safety net, child welfare does not stop or even slow down during a pandemic, rather the services are growing in importance and are more complex to provide. We will continue to study the short and long term data to better understand system trends as a result of COVID-19, however, we know that the essential needs for at-risk children, youth, and families continue to grow daily.

To address this need thoughtfully and strategically, Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) throughout Texas have been leading the way, supporting children and families by connecting families and children to essential resources, providing virtual community engagement opportunities, and so much more. This newsletter sheds light on this work, and includes opportunities to engage and support these communities.

#### ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

*Texoma/Big Country, and Fort Worth/Arlington*

#### Weekly Community Engagement Calls

During this time, 2INgage has been facilitating weekly, virtual community engagement meetings to address COVID-19 shifts between community organizations, the judiciary, and the larger Texoma/Big Country child welfare community. Some calls are actively organized by the Regional Attorney to discuss the judicial system's intersection with child welfare system. 2INgage uses these calls to gather information and work with their network of community organizations in Region 2 to ensure sufficient facilities capable of housing youth that test positive for COVID-19. 2INgage has made every effort to communicate information frequently to ensure that their network, including foster families and children, are kept up to date with the latest safety information of office closures, court and visitation schedules.

#### Ask Dr. Worsley

To best address medical concerns expressed by foster families that are concerned about COVID-19, Our Community Our Kids has been setting up zoom calls with Dr. Worsley, a doctor in the Fort Worth area who has been providing news on the latest developments of how the virus is spreading, symptoms of COVID-19, and relaying best health practices to help families prevent contracting the disease. Calls with Dr. Worsley are being scheduled on an as needed basis for foster families and organizations in OCOK's network.



## REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Saint Francis Ministries is a founding member of the [National Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice](#). Together with the National Trauma Campaign, St. Francis is working to promote recognition of trauma and a response to COVID-19 that builds resilience both for children across the nation and also for the children and families served in St. Francis' network.



Local Walmart Donating to Family Tapestry in San Antonio

## PPE AND SANITATION NEEDS

San Antonio and Fort Worth/Arlington

There has been a steady need for personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the last few months to keep families, children and direct-care child welfare staff safe. The CBC organizations are meeting this need through community partnerships and distributing these essentials to the children and families they support.

Through local partnerships, Family Tapestry has been able to distribute PPE to their network in the form of masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer, and more. At the end of June, Family Tapestry formalized a needs assessment survey after gathering information from their families. These responses were condensed and sent to state leaders, resulting in additional support, donations, and resources for Family Tapestry’s network.

Permanency specialists at Our Community Our Kids have put together special PPE kits to help protect children and families in foster homes as well as shelters and other general residential homes. *With OCOK providing masks, gloves and gowns if needed, some community organizations have been more willing to consider admitting youth who had been exposed to COVID-19.*



*“This is the essence of Community Based Care -- coming together as a community to better coordinate services for children and families.”*

Courtney Leaverton, Director of Community Engagement,  
Our Community Our Kids



## SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DURING A STRESSFUL TIME

Fort Worth/Arlington

**Our Community Our Kids has created an Emergency Fund for families during the economic recession.**

Committed to preventing placement breakdown due to the temporary economic hardship, OCOK has launched an Emergency Fund- thanks to the support of donors and discretionary funding. Much of the funding so far has helped families work towards reunification or newly reunified families afford home life essentials such as rent, electricity, and insurance. Additionally, a number of kinship families have been supported to ensure they have the resources to support the children they are caring for.

**OCOK has also launched online services for families complete with virtual supports such as counseling and kids’ activities.**

Through working closely with their permanency specialists, OCOK has been able to offer virtual supports tailored to the changing needs of their children and families.

### CBC CONTACTS FOR COVID-19 RESOURCES

#### Our Community Our Kids/ACH Child and Family Services

Fort Worth/Arlington

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#### Family Tapestry/ The Children’s Shelter

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#### 2INgage

Texoma/ Big Country

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