

CBC RIDER 15 & RIDER 29 REPORT SUMMARY

March / April 2020

On March 31st and August 31st, DFPS is required to submit a public report on performance outcomes for Community Based Care (CBC). This biannual report has previously been known as the “Rider 21 report.” For this report, the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) has identified outcome measures that will allow for comparative analysis between the legacy foster care and the Community Based Care systems. The Legislature utilizes this report, in part, to understand the effectiveness of CBC in areas across Texas.

Rider 29 additionally requires that DFPS provide status reports on the implementation of CBC Stage I in Regions 1 (Lubbock) and 8b (counties surrounding Bexar), and CBC Stage II in Regions 3b (Tarrant and surrounding counties), 2 (Abilene/Wichita Falls), and 8a (Bexar County) to the LBB and the Governor.

For purposes of utilizing this summary, it is important to understand the differences in stages of service for CBC, the current status of catchment areas operating under the CBC framework, the outcomes under review, and a few key takeaways.

Stages of Service

- Stage I, this Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) is responsible for finding foster homes or other living arrangements for children in state care and providing them with services to meet identified needs.
- Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or “kinship” placements and the provision of legal case management.
- Stage III, SSCCs are held financially responsible for outcomes via incentives and remedies.

Current CBC Areas

Out of the 16 catchment areas, CBC has rolled out in four areas, with a fifth area coming online soon. The Texas Legislature appropriated funds for Stage 1 in five areas and Stage 2 in three areas, all of which should be rolled out by September 2021. Transition into each stage is based on the SSCC’s readiness.

Outcome Measures

In determining which data to examine, the LBB and DFPS sought to answer the following questions:

1. Are there statewide changes affecting SSCC performance?
2. Is the redesigned CBC system doing better than the legacy system?
3. Is an SSCC improving performance over time?
4. Are some SSCCs performing better than others?

To answer these questions, this report focuses on six data measures that are compared against “baseline” data which is an average of a catchment’s fiscal year performance for several years prior to the contract start.

RIDER 15 REPORT OUTCOMES

Limitations of the Data

Assessing performance for new SSCCs requires time. The transition of foster care resources and children in existing placements to the SSCC network takes place over a period of approximately six months. Once the transition is complete, time is needed to continue work that began in the start-up phase to assess local needs and make changes that lead to improved outcomes. Additional data limitations include:

- Some children are duplicated and are represented in both the “legacy” and “SSCC” populations during the transition
- The population “mix” is influenced by the specific transition plan implemented by the SSCC. Some SSCCs begin transfer of higher needs children. Some focus on children with lower needs, or those in different placement settings, or those in different areas of the catchment. Differences in population “mix” can impact outcomes during the transition period.

Key Takeaways

Three of the four SSCCs performance is listed below. Saint Francis Ministries began services on January 6, 2020 and therefore does not have any data to release in this report but will be included in future Rider 15 reports. Each SSCC is at a different place along the path toward implementation, and therefore it can be challenging to generalize about the overall performance of CBC compared to the legacy system. It can be even more challenging to compare SSCCs to one another, and we caution against doing so at this stage of implementation. However, despite those challenges, there are some notable takeaways when looking at the data in total:

- Every SSCC achieved 100% in the safety outcome in the first quarter of fiscal year 2020 (Q1FY20)
- Every SSCC is performing better than baseline on children placed within 50 miles of their home
- Every SSCC is performing at or better than baseline on placement stability
- 2 of the 3 SSCCs are performing better than baseline on all siblings in a sibling group being placed together
- 2 of the 3 SSCCs are performing better than baseline on children being placed in the least restrictive setting
- Only 1 SSCC is performing better than baseline on completion of Preparation for Adult Living Classes

On the following pages are more detailed descriptions of each SSCC’s performance measures. These descriptions include examples of ways in which the SSCCs are working to improve performance, use data to spot issues before they become crises, and innovate best practices.

REGION 3B, ACH/ OCOK

Safety

- 100% of children were safe in foster care placements with no investigation findings of abuse or neglect.

Placement Stability

- 1.13 placements per child in FY20Q1 compared to 1.18 in FY18Q1 and is consistent with 1.13 placements per child in FY19Q1.
- OCOK continues disruption mitigation practices, implementation of provider reviews, and attention to low performing Child Placing Agencies.

Least Restrictive Placement

- 79% of foster care days spent in foster family or kinship foster homes compared to 75% baseline.
- OCOK increased Therapeutic Foster Care capacity for helping children leave residential care into therapeutic care in foster homes.
- OCOK continues to provide in-home behavioral health, in-home parenting skills training, and wraparound services at intensive levels which have proven to support placement stability and healing.
- OCOK's Professional Home-Based CARE (PHBC) program, which serves children who have had multiple residential treatment stays, psychiatric hospitalizations, and/or runaway episodes, has been in operation for 1.5 years. The program provides children intensive home-based care and wraparound behavioral health services that include the biological family alongside their foster parents. The program has grown to 30 homes and has served 27 children.

Placement within 50 Miles

- 77% of children were placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of the quarter, compared to 74% baseline.
- OCOK opened two new facilities in FY19 (Gladney General Residential Organization and ACH Residential Treatment Center) and has begun placing children in two facilities (Camp Worth and Hidden Cove). While the focus remains placing more children in the least restrictive settings possible, the need for residential services for some children is now being met in the community.

Siblings Placed Together

- 66% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of the quarter compared to 63% baseline.

Preparation for Adult Living

- 92% of youth turning 18 completed PAL compared to 86% baseline.

REGION 2, 2INGAGE

Safety

- 100% of children were safe in foster care placements with no investigation findings of abuse or neglect.

Placement Stability

- 1.09 placements per child in FY20Q1 shows improved stability compared to 1.14 FY17-18Q1 baseline.
- 2INGage utilizes an empirically validated placement matching tool called Every Child a Priority (ECAP), which generates the best placement match for children and youth based on their unique characteristics and the profiles of potential foster homes.

Least Restrictive Placement

- 76% of foster care days spent in foster family or kinship foster homes compared to 78% baseline.
- 2INGage strengthened a partnership with Mosaic, an organization offering in-home counseling and skills training to children and foster families. Since December 2018, Mosaic expanded their coverage area from Taylor County to include all of Catchment area 2. They also expanded the staff in their local program from 3 to 21.

Placement within 50 Miles

- 48% of children were placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of the quarter compared to 47% baseline.
- 2INGage has been strategic in engaging stakeholders across a very rural and large region to address gaps in services and placement capacity.

Siblings Placed Together

- 57% of sibling groups placed together compared to 66% baseline.
- 2INGage, in collaboration with Child Placing Agency (CPA) providers from the Catchment, has restructured the foster care rates for CPAs. New rates incentivize agencies to keep siblings together, recruit homes for placement of teens, and help children/youth transition to less restrictive setting (foster home placements) after they successfully complete residential treatment.

Preparation for Adult Living

- 83% of youth turning 18 completing PAL compared to 91% baseline.

REGION 8A, FAMILY TAPESTRY

Safety

- 100% of children were safe in foster care placements with no investigation findings of abuse or neglect. Family Tapestry has contracted with Praesidium, a research-based risk and safety assessment and training organization, to conduct its “Know Your Score (KYS)” assessment with providers. The assessment produces a safety score and recommendations to improve on practice and policy. Assessments began in August 2019.
- Family Tapestry is delivering network training to improve the quality of care and build consistency throughout the provider network. Family Tapestry is partnering with Texas A&M San Antonio and University of Texas to provide training at no cost to providers on a quarterly basis on topics they suggest. Recent topics have included TBRI, Motivational Interviewing, Human Trafficking, Cultural Diversity & Compassion Fatigue.

Placement Stability

- 1.17 placements per child in FY20Q1 shows sustained performance compared to the baseline, also 1.17.
- Family Tapestry is implementing Disruption Mitigation Staffings for child specific and extended and return to care youth.

Least Restrictive Placement

- 72% of foster care days spent in foster family or kinship foster homes compared to 70% baseline.
- A partnership with Telemundo 60 San Antonio to host an adoption phone bank yielded 56 adoption inquiries in the span of two hours. Other community events have included a first of its kind “Foster Family Town Hall”, a Foster Parent Listening Tour, and Adoptive Family Day at a local theme park.

Placement within 50 Miles

- 86% of children were placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of the quarter compared to 75% baseline.
- The Family Tapestry #FosteringTruth foster care home recruitment campaign yielded an 11% increase (conservative estimate) in foster home capacity, with national foster care campaigns yielding a 4-6% increase.

Siblings Placed Together

- 66% of sibling groups placed together compared to 64% baseline.
- Family Tapestry created the Whataburger Center for Children and Youth to provide short-term care for children/youth who are without placement while a longer-term placement option is located. Common characteristics of children and youth placed at the Whataburger Center are children who are a part of large sibling groups, and adolescents and young adults with behavioral and emotional issues

Preparation for Adult Living

- 73% of youth turning 18 completing PAL compared to 88% baseline.

Timeline of Each Current CBC Area

3b (Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties) <i>ACH/ OCOK</i>	Region 2 (Abilene/Wichita Falls) <i>2INgage</i>	Region 8a (Bexar County) <i>Family Tapestry</i>	Region 1 (Amarillo/Lubbock) <i>Saint Francis Ministries</i>	Region 8b (excluding Bexar County)
<p>January 2014: Contract begins</p> <p>September 2014: Began placing children in Region 3b</p> <p>In 2018, DFPS renewed contract with OCOK and added requirements for Community-Based Care due to passage of Senate Bill 11 and transition of kinship and legal case management services</p> <p>October 2019: Stage II startup, began implementing six-month transition plan</p> <p>February 2020: Approximately 1,200 children and youth receiving Stage 1 Placement Services</p> <p>March 2020: OCOK assumed responsibility for all substitute care services to children and families in the catchment (approx. 1,860 children)</p>	<p>May 2018: TFI awarded contract, formed a partnership with New Horizons Ranch to create 2INgage.</p> <p>December 2018: 2INgage began placing children</p> <p>December 2019: Startup for Stage II, began implementing six-month transition plan</p> <p>March 2020: Approximately 750 children and youth receiving Stage 1 Placement services</p> <p>June 2020: Stage II services are anticipated to begin</p>	<p>August 2018: The Children’s Shelter awarded contract</p> <p>February 2019: The Children’s Shelter created Family Tapestry and began placing children</p> <p>October 2019: DFPS conducted an on-site monitoring of The Children’s Shelter and noted concerns with the SSCC’s fiscal management processes and system. The Children’s Shelter submitted a plan to correct identified issues and DFPS has been monitoring progress</p> <p>March 2020: Approximately 1,720 children and youth receiving Stage 1 Placement services</p> <p>May 2020: DFPS will conduct on-site monitoring</p> <p>Fiscal Year 2020: Stage II start-up activities will begin</p>	<p>July 2019: Contract awarded to Saint Francis</p> <p>January 2020: St. Francis began serving children in Region 1 on January 6, 2020</p> <p>March 2020: Approximately 740 children and youth receiving Stage 1 Placement services</p> <p>Stage II transition is dependent on future legislative appropriation which will not occur before September 2021.</p>	<p>May 2019: DFPS released a RFA for the Region 8b catchment area</p> <p>August 2019: Procurement closed</p> <p>Spring 2020: Contract award expected</p> <p>Early fall 2020: Implementation is anticipated to begin after a six-month start up period and confirmation of readiness</p>