



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER
Carey D. Cockerell

Implementation of Senate Bill 6 Comprehensive Overview Senate Health and Human Services Committee November 14, 2006

VULNERABLE ADULTS

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
 - Fourth quarter performance report submitted to Legislature – 100% of tasks completed
- ✓ Risk Assessment
 - Client Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CARE) tool in place
 - University of Texas final evaluation report on CARE showed the tool is effective
- ✓ Complex Cases
 - Subject matter experts hired to assist with complex cases
 - 9 experts in exploitation and evidence-driven investigations hired statewide
 - 9 experts in self-neglect hired statewide

Increasing Capacity

- ✓ Enhancing Staff Qualifications
 - 897 pre-employment screening tests conducted
 - 18 APS staff approved for educational stipends
- ✓ Caseload Reduction Plan
 - 179 additional workers being phased-in statewide
- ✓ Training
 - New basic training has been expanded from three to eleven weeks and includes web-based, classroom, and on-the-job training
- ✓ Technology
 - Tablet PC user survey conducted
 - Cultural change management plan developed to offer training and other job aids

Working with Community Partners

- ✓Public Awareness Campaign
 - “It’s Everybody’s Business” yearlong public awareness campaign in effect
- ✓Special Task Units
 - All 19 required counties with population of 250,000 or more have created Special Task Units
 - Two additional counties, not required by SB 6, are creating Special Task Units
- ✓Community Engagement
 - Community satisfaction survey sent to 2,450 stakeholders across the state
 - Finalized report will be published in December 2006

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Strengthening Investigations

- ✓Improved Screening
 - 41 Screeners have reviewed more than 24,000 reports
 - Nearly 25% of these screened reports have been closed resulting in more caseworker time spent on cases needing attention
- ✓New Investigations Structure
 - Investigations division in place
 - 131 Special Investigators, with law enforcement background, hired statewide to assist in complex cases
 - 7 Law Enforcement Liaisons hired to build partnerships between DFPS and law enforcement in local communities and to assist in hiring special investigators
- ✓Child Safety Specialists
 - 20 Child Safety Specialists hired bringing the total to 43
 - Risk assessment training developed and delivered to staff
 - Risk and Safety Sub-committee established to better address risk and safety tool
- ✓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
 - Contract with Shaken Baby Alliance in place to provide advanced training on abuse/neglect investigations
- ✓Parental Notification of Child Transfer
 - New policy and form in place

Supporting Quality Casework

- ✓Hiring
 - CPS hired over 2,200 direct-delivery staff since September 2005
- ✓Staffing and Workload Distribution Plan
 - Functional units established and workload measurement tools in place to allocate new staff to regions
 - Average daily caseloads for investigative caseworkers

- Sept 05 – 38.9
- Sept 06 – 27.8
- Average daily caseload for conservatorship caseworkers
 - Sep 05 - 42.6
 - Sep 06 - 44.2

✓Casework Documentation

- IMPACT modifications to facilitate documentation
- Mobile dictation service extended

✓Training

- New caseworker training expanded from a six-week to twelve-weeks
- Additional training expanded and enhanced including:
 - cultural, kinship program, medical consent, Tablet PC, educational portfolio, and more
- Joint training with law enforcement allows for CPS and law enforcement to effectively conduct joint investigations

✓Technology

- 1,794 Tablet PCs were distributed to CPS investigators by October 2006
- An additional 424 will be supplied to new CPS investigative staff by close of the biennium
- Tablet PCs have replaced the desktop computers allowing full computing capability in the field; this includes a wireless service for communication and information access

Improving Services & Child Outcomes

✓Outsourcing Substitute Care and Case Management Services

- Request for Information released October 2005
- Stakeholder meetings held around the state Fall 2005 – Spring 2006
- Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) released February 2006
- Transition plan released March 1, 2006
- RFP for first region (Region 8) Independent Administrator released May 1, 2006
- Transitional Regional Advisory Committee established in Region 8 July 2006
- Evaluation of RFP proposals conducted Fall 2006
- Procurement remains open

✓Relative Caregiver Program

- Kinship caregiver program implemented March 2006
- The number of children placed with relatives has increased 82% from 2004 to 2006.

✓Cultural Awareness and Disproportionality

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

✓Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

- FGDM model established and policy developed
- As of August 2006 3,075 FGDM Conferences conducted
- FGDM evaluation submitted to the Legislature October 2006
 - Parents and relatives more satisfied with FGDM over traditional services
 - FGDM increases reunifications and relative placements and decreases foster care placements
 - Higher rate of positive outcomes for African American and Hispanic children

✓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
 - Education portfolios distributed to regions for every child in care

- ✓Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)
 - 1,091 Circles of Support conducted for youth age 16 and older
 - Expansion of Transition Centers and transition services
 - Transition Centers operating in Regions 3,6,7,8
 - Regions 1,2,10, 11 have varying levels of services available and are exploring community interest in opening up a Transition Center
 - Youth aging out of foster care are now provided with continuous Medicaid coverage through a single application process up to the age of 21

- ✓Medical Services
 - Comprehensive Healthcare Delivery System for Children in Foster Care procurement in evaluation phase
 - Scheduled implementation September 2007
 - Resources made available to CPS workers including:
 - Forensic medical consultation available via Forensic Assessment Centers
 - Regional nurses hired to provide medical consultation
 - Medical Consent training available online for staff
 - Training for youth and external medical consenters will soon be available online
 - DFPS, DSHS, and HHSC published a report, "Use of Psychoactive Medication in Texas Foster Children State Fiscal Year 2005" in June 2006

Building Community Partnerships

- ✓Community Engagement and Co-location
 - Community engagement staff in each region coordinates community-based and public awareness activities
 - Volunteer programs in place – currently 3,729 CPS active volunteers
 - Stakeholder meetings being held around the state
 - DFPS is co-located with other community entities at 43 sites around the State; in most of these sites DFPS is co-located with Children's Advocacy Centers, law enforcement or schools

Preventing Maltreatment

- ✓Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)
 - Community-Based Family Services Program
 - Rules have been developed and approved, will be effective December 1, 2006
 - A Request for Proposals is in development; the initial contract will be effective March 1, 2007
 - Evidence-based prevention services
 - The new Family Strengthening and Youth Resilience programs, funded through budget strategy A.2.16, procured evidence-based services
 - The Community Youth Development (CYD) and Texas Families: Together and Safe (TFTS) programs were re-procured to require evidence-based services

- ✓Drug-Related Initiatives
 - Drug Endangered Child Protocols and methamphetamine protocols incorporated into training
 - 9 substance abuse specialists hired statewide

LICENSING AND REGULATION

Ensuring Child Safety

- ✓Background Checks
 - Implemented a 2 working-day turnaround to the child care facilities for the requested checks.
- ✓Drug Testing Requirements
 - As of January 1, 2006, a residential child care operation must have a drug testing policy and inform DFPS within 24 hours after becoming aware that a person who directly cares for or has access to a child in the operation has abused drugs within the past 7 days.
- ✓Additional Child Care Licensing (CCL) Staff
 - 63 additional CCL staff hired
- ✓Foster Home Inspections
 - Residential Child Care Licensing staff began random sample monitoring of foster homes in all DFPS regions as of June 2006
 - As of August 31, 2006, more than 800 random inspections of foster homes have been conducted
 - By the end of FY 2007, RCCL will be monitoring 1/3 of all agency foster homes yearly
- ✓Revision of Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Operations and Child Placing Agencies
 - More than 2,300 comments received from stakeholders
 - Rules adopted and to be effective January 1, 2007