Foster Care Redesign:  Region 3b

Testimony for
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
April 20, 2016
Foster Care Redesign in Texas

Region 3b Counties & Number of Children
(Tarrant – 899
Parker – 83
Palo Pinto -90
Johnson - 224
Erath – 25
Hood - 61
and Somervell -10)

As of March 2016
1,392
foster children in Region 3b

17,000 foster children in Texas

Divided into 16 Regions
Three Phase Implementation

Stage I: Building Infrastructure
- Establish Catchment Areas
- Competitively Procure Continuum
- Transfer Equivalent Administrative Resources
- Implement Performance Based Contract
- Implement Blended Rate: De-link BLOC and ALOC

Stage II: Consolidate POS $...
- (Flexible) Allocation of Funds to SSCC
- Transfer Equivalent (Admin) Resources
- Increase Provider Role with Family

Stage III: Timely Permanency
- Implement Case Rate
- Reinvest Leverage Funds
- Increase Provider Role with Families

STAGED IMPLEMENTATION
- Reduce Length of Stay
- Coordinated Service Planning
- Efficient Service Delivery
- Fewer Moves
- Services Where Needed
- Quality Services

Improved Child Well-being
Improved Permanency
What’s Different?
“Our Kids” not “CPS Kids”

(It’s not a “mini-CPS” model)
Local Control/Teamwork

Accountability

Unified Voice for Kids

Urgency

Capacity Building

Flexibility/Innovation
Accountability = Performance Based Contract

• Children are safe in care
• Children are placed within 50 miles of their home
• Siblings are kept together
• Children are stable in their placements

The Future of Foster Care
Redesign is Getting Results-Year 1

- **83%** of youth placed within 50 miles of home.  (Benchmark 71%)
- **94%** of youth stable in placement*  
  (Benchmark 89%* at 24 months)
- **99.9%** of youth are safe in care
- **79%** of youth placed with families  
  (Benchmark 71%)
- **20%** increase in # foster homes
More Results: As a Result of Redesign . . .

- DFPS workers in Region 3b report having more time to spend with children.
- DFPS supervisors report caseworkers now return calls in a more timely manner and the quality of written narratives has improved.
- Overtime has decreased for DFPS staff.

These results were reported by TDFPS in a March, 2016 update on Foster Care Redesign.
“High Needs Kids”

• Redesign allows targeted capacity building

• 32 children have moved from Residential Treatment to Therapeutic Foster Homes

• Stage 3 allows earlier and expanded interventions with families

• Shorter lengths of stay can provide resources for more family interventions
Recommendations

• Foster Care Redesign supports the improvement of both DFPS and the Provider Network. It’s not a new program, it’s a new way of working together for kids

• Redesign needs to start in additional catchment areas soon

• Redesign needs to be fully funded to sustain the system improvements and improved outcomes for children