



House Human Services Committee

Foster Care, Licensing and Prevention Programs

Department of Family and Protective Services

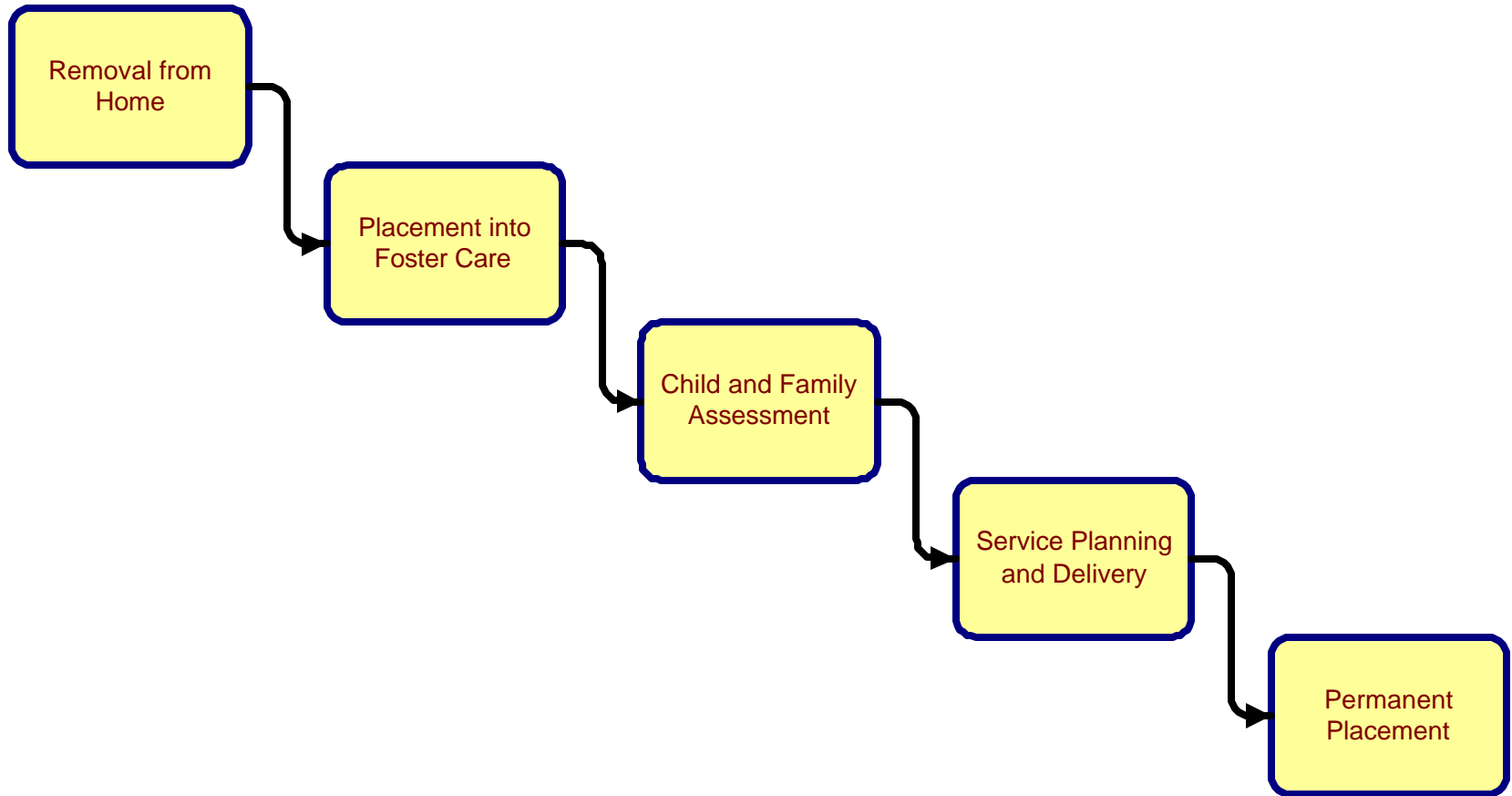
March 1, 2005

Overview of CPS Foster Care

Joyce James

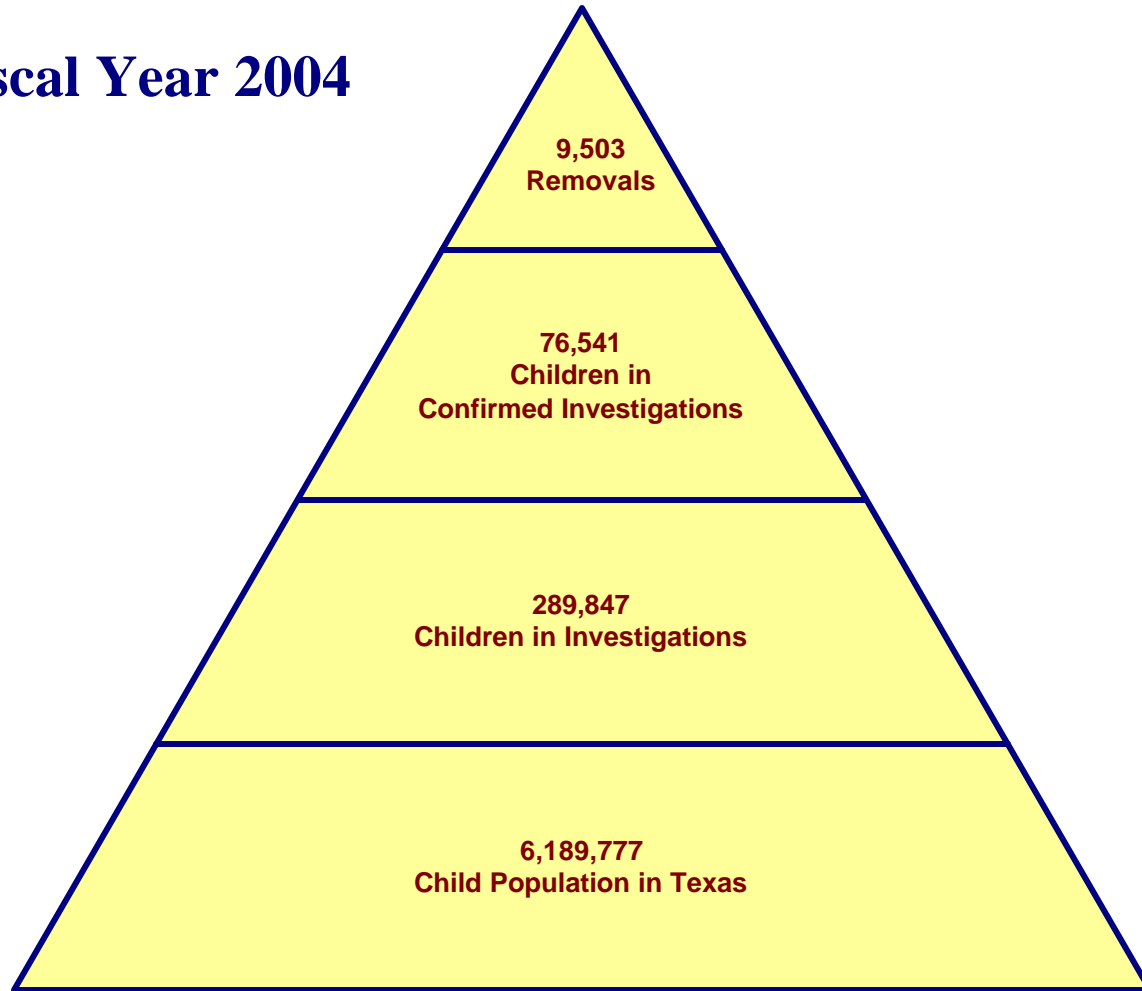
Assistant Commissioner for
Child Protective Services

Overview of Foster Care Services



Removal from Home

Fiscal Year 2004



Placement into Foster Care

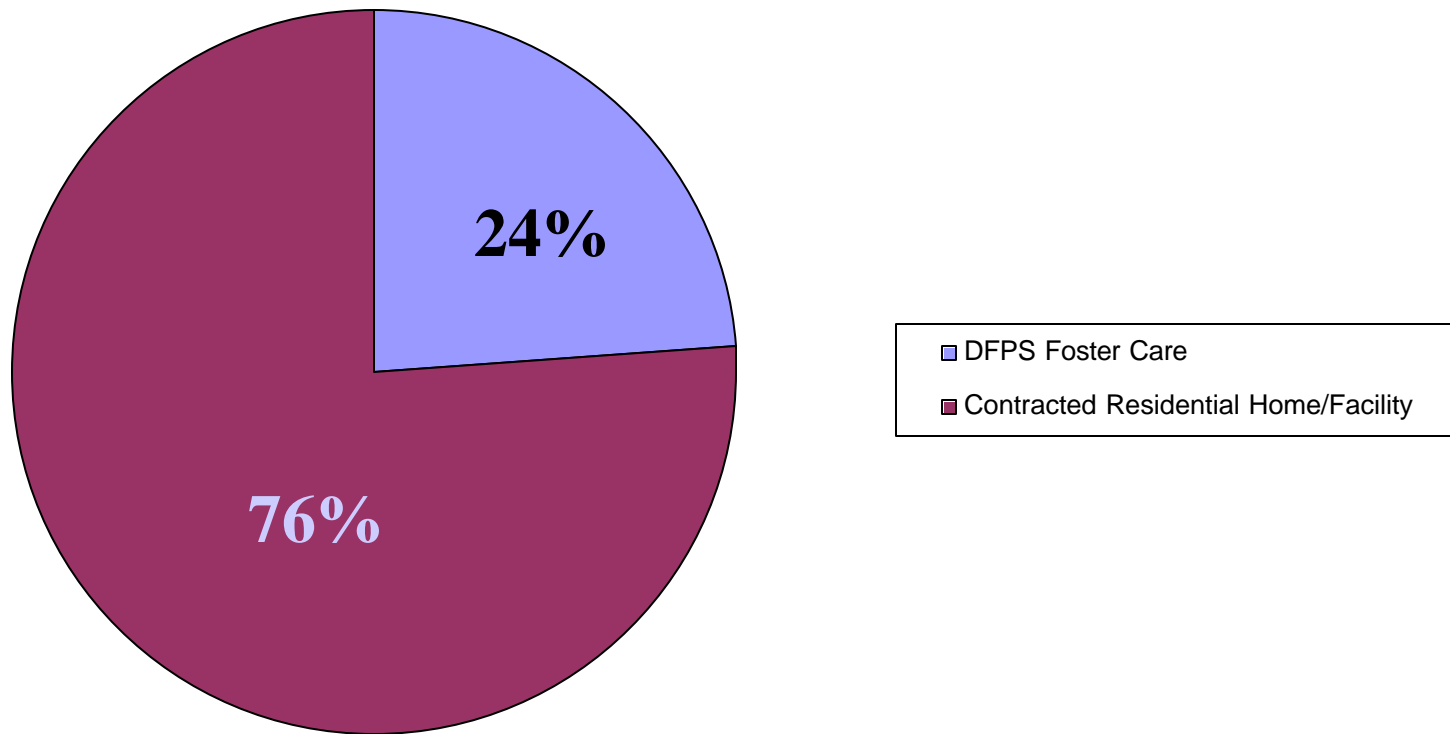
Guidelines

- Placement with non-custodial parent or kinship caregivers
- Child's best interest
- Close Proximity
- Least restrictive, most family-like setting
- Siblings placed together
- Placement stability

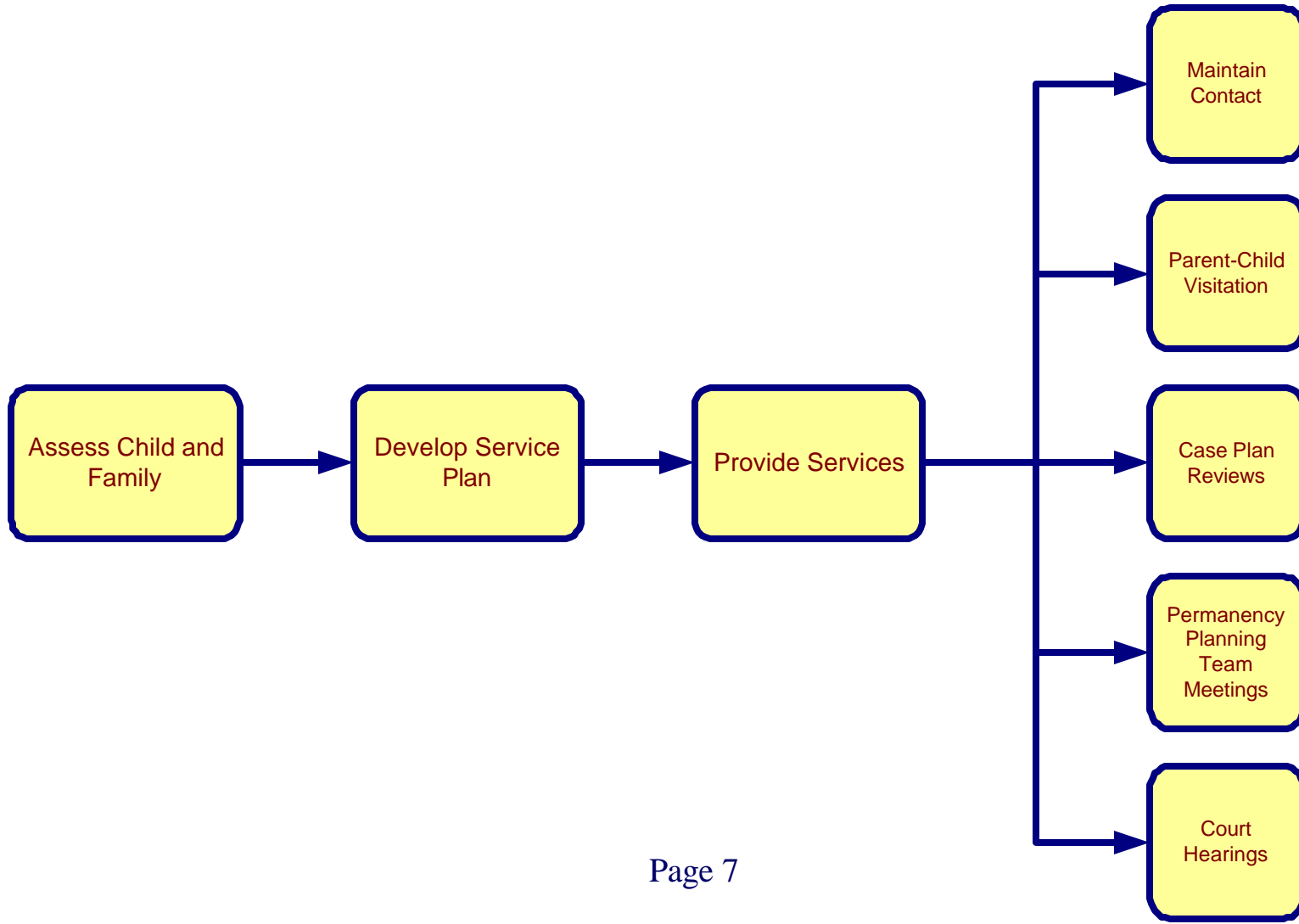
FY 2004 Data

- 83.9 % children placed in home region
- 80 % children in family-type placement
- 60.1 % siblings placed together

DFPS and Contracted Care



Assessment, Planning & Service Delivery



Child and Family Assessment

Requirements

- When children enter substitute care, assessments are obtained to identify the family's and the child's strengths and needs. The results of the assessments are incorporated into the parents' and the child's service plans.

Issues

- Lack of consistent, coordinated, comprehensive assessment performed by appropriate, credentialed professionals.
- Children who are perceived to have basic needs rarely receive a behavioral assessment
- Assessments of children and families are dependent on purchase of services funds or locally available Medicaid providers.

Service Planning and Delivery

Requirements

- CPS establishes detailed case plans for providing services to children in substitute care and to their families in order to:
 - establish a structured, time-limited process for providing services, and
 - ensure that services and activities progress as quickly as possible towards
 - the child's safe return home, or
 - another permanent placement if the child cannot return home safely.

Issues

- Limited family involvement.
- Institutionalized permanency planning team meetings may be ineffective.
- Families feel disempowered.
- Extended family or community support is not engaged.
- “Cookie cutter” approach to service plans.

Permanency Planning

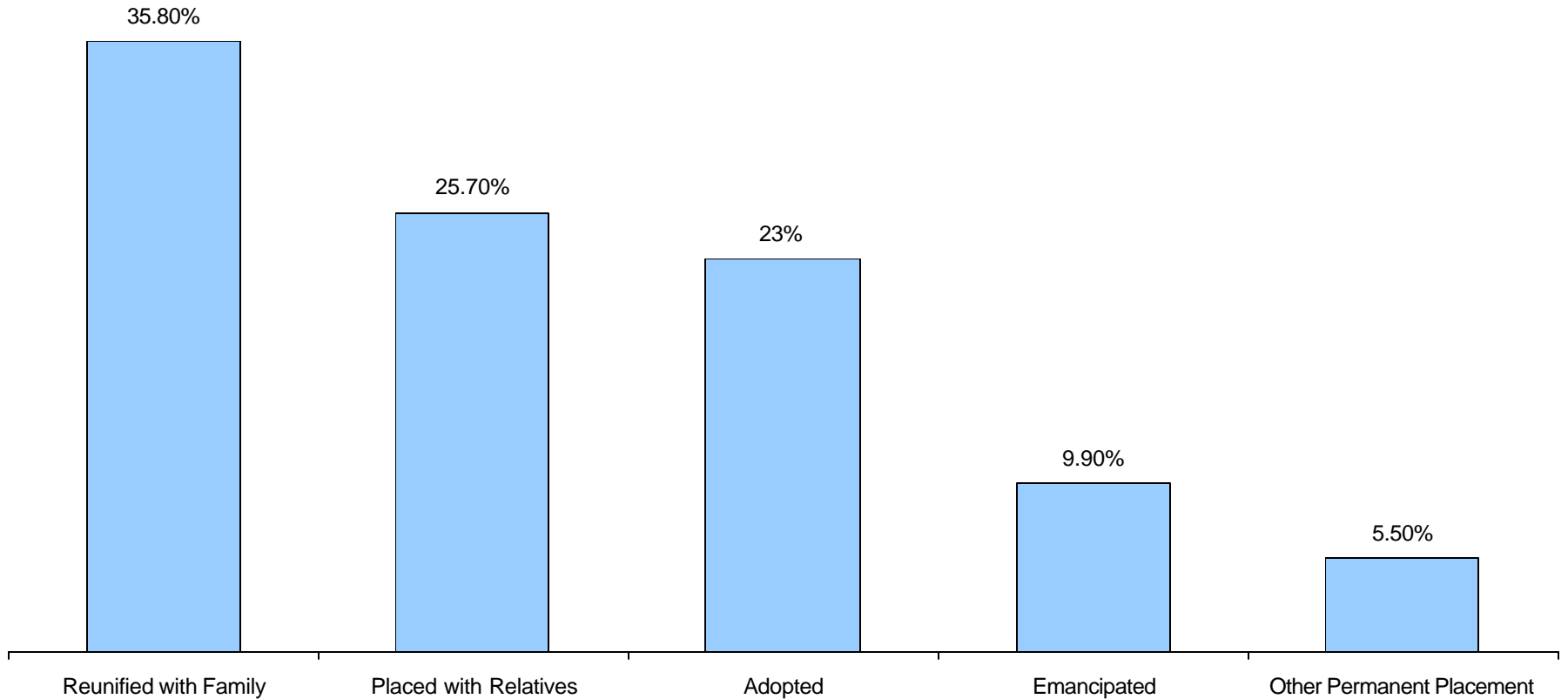
Definition

Permanency planning means a philosophy and planning process that focuses on the outcome of family support by facilitating a permanent living arrangement with the primary feature of an enduring and nurturing parental relationship.
-Texas Government Code, Section 531.151, Definitions

Issues

- State and Federal permanency timeframes
- Service availability
- Adoption assistance subsidy
- Fragmented system for recruiting foster /adopt homes
- Limited placement options

Permanency Outcomes



Overview of Residential Child Care Licensing

Diana Spiser
Assistant Commissioner
Child Care Licensing

Authority

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is granted the authority to regulate child-care facilities and child placing agencies by the Texas Legislature in Chapter 42 of the Texas Human Resources Code.
- This authority is exercised through the Department's Child Care Licensing Division.
- The purpose of **regulation** is to protect a group or class of children through the development and enforcement of minimum standards.
- **Licensing** enforces compliance with minimum standards through inspections, investigations and remedial action.

Scope

The Residential Child Care Licensing division regulates 24-hour child care facilities and child placing agencies.

FY'04 RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE FACILITIES	Number	Capacity
Child Placing Agency	275	30,382
Independent Foster Homes	56	298
Residential Treatment Center	88	3,843
Emergency Shelter	64	1,751
Basic Care Facility	69	4,523
Maternity Home	16	199
Therapeutic Camp	7	356
Institution serving Children w/Mental Retardation	3	138
TOTAL	578	41,490

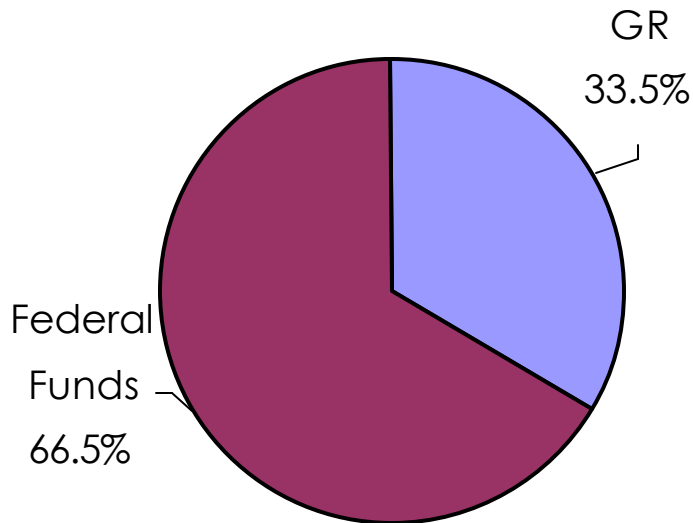
Minimum Standards

All residential child care operations must meet minimum standards for:

- Staff Qualifications, Training and Background Checks
- Child/Caregiver Ratios
- Admissions, Service Planning, and Discharge
- Client and Staff Record Keeping
- Medical and Dental Care
- Physical Facilities
- Sanitation and Fire Safety
- Behavior Interventions, including Restraint and Seclusion

Budget/Staffing

FY'05 RCCL Budget



Total \$2,964,878

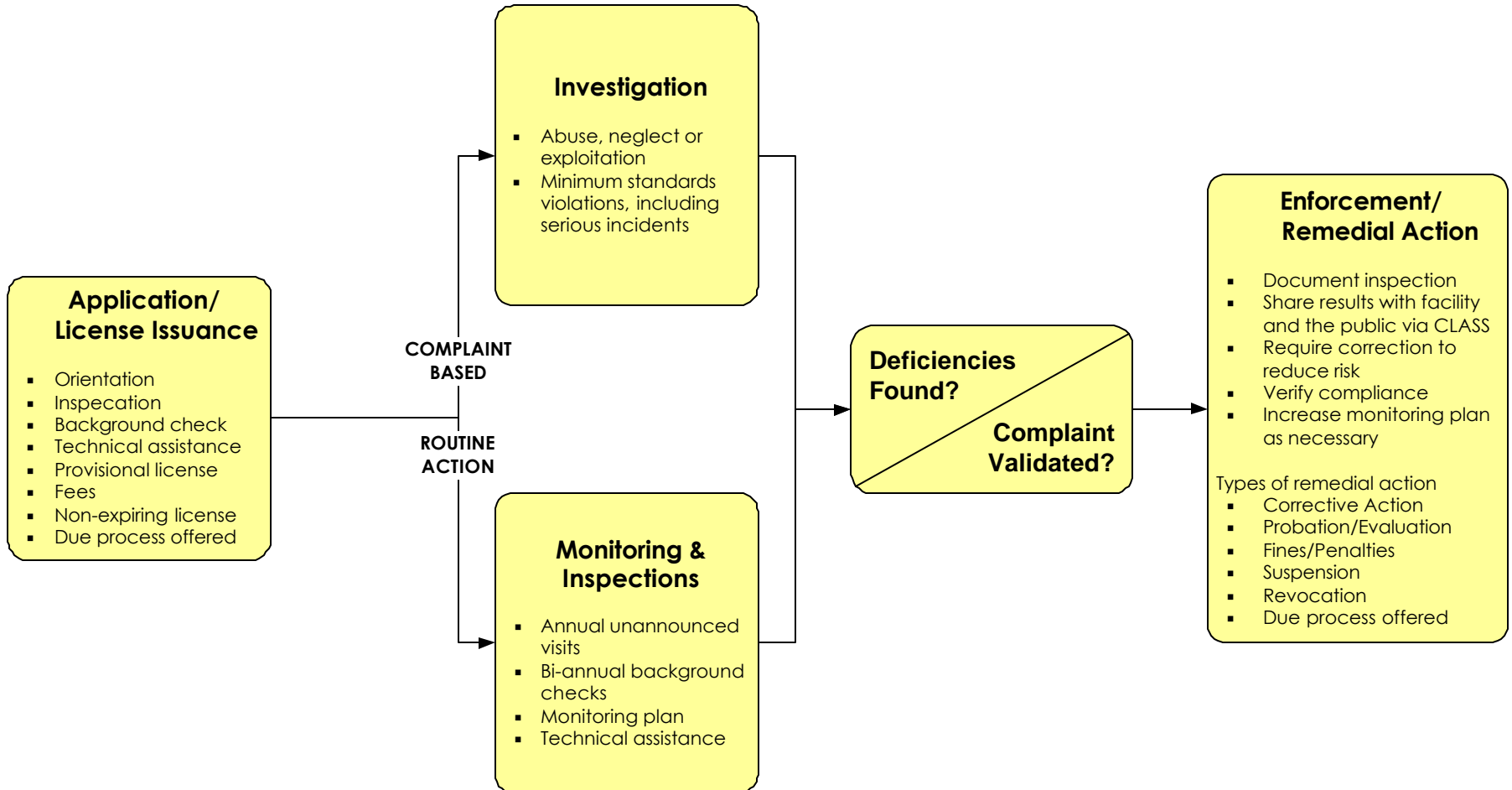
RCCL Staff

Monitoring Workers	22.5
Investigators	22
Supervisors	7
Total FTE	58.5

Licensing Philosophy

- Risk to children is assessed each time staff are present at a child-care operation.
- Licensing staff strive to provide consistent and fair enforcement of the licensing law and rules through its new **S.T.O.P (Seeing The Overall Picture)** philosophy.
- Technical assistance is provided, as needed, to help the provider develop the knowledge needed to maintain compliance.
- To inform the placement decisions for stakeholders and parents, results of licensing inspections and investigations are posted on the DFPS public web site www.txchildcaresearch.org

Regulation Process



Inspection Process

A Licensing worker takes the following steps in inspecting a child-care facility or agency:

1. Prepares for the inspection
2. Informs the person in charge at the facility of the purpose of the inspection and the standards/laws which will be inspected;
3. Evaluates standards and laws through thorough inspection of the facility and grounds, interviews with staff and children; and reviews of records;
4. Discusses the results of the inspection with the person in charge
5. Enters the inspection results into the CLASS system; and
6. Mails the official inspection report to the facility.

Investigation Process

A Licensing worker takes the following steps in investigating allegations of abuse/neglect and minimum standards violations:

1. Reviews the “intake report” processed by Statewide Intake;
2. Initiates the investigation based on the priority of the report;
3. Evaluates standards and laws through thorough inspection of the facility and grounds, interviews with staff and children; and reviews of records;
5. Enters the investigation results into the IMPACT and CLASS system; and
6. Mails notice of the finding to the alleged perpetrator, reporter, and facility.

Overview of Prevention and Early Intervention Program

Jeannie Coale

Assistant Commissioner

Purchased Client Services

PEI Overview

Background

- Created by 76th Texas Legislature to consolidate prevention and intervention programs for at-risk children, youth and families
- FY2004 budget shortfalls:
 - eliminated 7 of PEI's 14 programs
 - reduced funding for 6 of the 7 remaining programs

Purpose

- Promote community-based services that
 - protect children
 - strengthen families
 - promote positive youth development
 - prevent abuse, neglect, and delinquency
 - reduce the likelihood of involvement in the child welfare system

Services to At-Risk Youth

Services Offered

- Family focused with priority on helping youth remain in their homes
- Family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, and individual and family counseling
- Community and family focused universal child abuse prevention services including presentations, outreach materials, parenting classes

Service Population

- Runaways, truants, and youth living in family conflict
- Children age 9 and younger who have allegedly been involved in delinquent offenses
- 10-16 year olds who have allegedly committed misdemeanor or felony offenses but have not been adjudicated delinquent

Service Area

- Statewide
- Served 27,409 youth in FY 2004.

Community Youth Development

Services Offered

- Community-based delinquency prevention services that
 - Support positive youth development
 - Prevent juvenile crime
 - Strengthen families and communities
- Services are locally determined and may include: tutoring services, after-school and/or recreational activities, mentoring, youth leadership development and enrichment activities

Service Population

- Youth up to age 17 who live in communities with high incidence of juvenile crime

Service Area

- 15 ZIP code areas with high incidence of juvenile crime.
- Served 22,026 youth in FY 2004.

Texas Families: Together and Safe

Services Offered

- Family support and case management services provided through community-based prevention programs that:
 - alleviate stress,
 - promote parental competencies, and
 - increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children.

Service Population

- At-risk families

Service Area

- Services are provided in 33 Texas counties.
- Served 15,529 families in FY 2004.

Community Based Child Abuse Prevention

Services Offered

- Support creation and development of community based prevention services
- Strengthen community and parental involvement in child abuse prevention efforts

Service Population

- Communities and families in the areas served

Service Area

- CBCAP Community Partnerships for Strengthening Families are located in six areas of the state and currently serve 42 counties

Tertiary and Secondary Child Abuse Prevention Programs

Services Offered

- Community-based, volunteer-driven prevention, intervention and aftercare services

Service Population

- Families of children who are no longer served by CPS or who are at risk of child maltreatment

Service Area

- This program serves families in six Texas counties
- Served 63 families in FY 2004

Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program

Services Offered

- Delinquency prevention program dedicated to building pride, honor, and self-esteem in at-risk 10-17 year old youth
- Mentoring, tutoring, Buffalo Soldier history classes, character development, self-esteem building, life skills training, field trips to state parks, encampments, and community service activities

Service Population

- At-risk 10-17 year old youth

Service Area

- Services are available in three Texas counties
- Served 233 youth in FY 2004

Texas Youth and Runaway Hotlines

Services Offered

- Statewide 24-hour crisis intervention and telephone counseling
- Information and referrals to callers in need of food, shelter, or transportation to their homes
- Conference calls to parents and shelters; and
- Confidential message relay service between runaways and parents

Service Population

- Youth dealing with family conflicts, delinquency, truancy, abuse and neglect, and running away

Service Area

- Statewide
- Responded to 35,197 calls in FY 2004