



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

**Capacity Strategic Plan**

**Region 4**

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October 1, 2018

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## **Introduction**

As outlined in Chapter 264.1261, of the Texas Family Code, “appropriate management personnel from a child protective services region in which community-based care has not been implemented, in collaboration with foster care providers, faith-based entities, and child advocates in that region, shall use data collected by the department on foster care capacity needs and availability of each type of foster care and kinship placement in the region to create a plan to address the substitute care capacity needs in the region.”

The statewide foster care needs assessment was completed in August 2018 and helped to inform the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, which specifically addresses the needs of each Catchment/Region.

Each region, led by regional DFPS leadership, has met with their regional stakeholders to develop a strategic plan. In addition, each region has partnered with a local provider contracted by CPS, to continue oversight and recommend changes as needed based on progress of goals established.

## **Foster Care Placement Forecast and Assessment of Capacity Need**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment can be accessed [here](#).

A stakeholder/provider meeting for Region 4 occurred on September 26, 2018 where the Foster Care Needs Assessment was reviewed and a Power Point of regional/catchment data was presented focusing on historical analysis and forecasted capacity needs for Fiscal Year 2019. The region 4 catchment data can be accessed at the DFPS link referenced above.

While DFPS is honored to submit this plan on behalf of the community, the goals and strategies contained herein belong to us all. DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the Regional capacity strategic plan:

A World for Children, Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Azleway Children’s Services, The Bair Foundation, Boys Haven, Buckner Children and Family Services, Children First, Children’s Hope Residential Services, Christian Homes Tyler, East Texas Orphan Network, Grace Manor, Hope Haven of East

Texas, Maximus, Methodist Children's Home, Noble Children's Services, Youth and Family Enrichment Center, and Therapeutic Family Life

The following strategies were identified by the stakeholders and DFPS regional leadership team:

## **Regional Plan to Increase Capacity**

### **Goal 1: Increase Capacity for Basic and Moderate Children**

The region needs to increase capacity for basic and moderate children in both foster home placements as well as emergency placements.

#### **Objective 1.1: Increase Awareness**

- CPS and Child Placing Agencies (CPA) will join in a collaborative effort to utilize the "Instant Family" movie screenings in October 2018 to raise awareness for the need for foster and adoptive families
- CPS and CPAs will conduct quarterly "Foster/Adopt Expos" in areas around the region using a standardized presentation with regional data
- CPS and CPAs will work with our regional faith-based partners to prepare for City Serve mission opportunities in Smith County and surrounding areas that will support foster care recruitment

#### **Objective 1.2: Utilize Foster Parent Experience/Expertise**

- Utilize current foster families in panels and Foster/Adopt Expos to promote the need for foster care placements
- Approach current and former foster families to consider increasing capacity where appropriate
- Develop "1 for 1" initiative - existing foster families will be encouraged to recruit one family each over the coming year

Review of this goal will occur routinely between CPS leadership and the community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.

### **Goal 2: Develop Effective Response Systems to Support and Maintain Foster Families**

The Needs Assessment identified a need for increased basic and moderate placements for school and teen aged children. The workgroup determined the need to support and maintain existing and new foster families in an effort to meet this projected need.

**Objective 2.1: Create Forum to Support Foster Parents**

- CPS, CPAs, and Faith Based partners will work together to develop a Foster Care Community Collaboration that will meet quarterly to plan and implement support services for families

**Objective 2.2: Develop Supports**

CPS, Child Placing Agencies and our Faith Based partners will:

- Recruit a pool of babysitters to support foster families using the East Texas Orphan Network babysitting initiative
- Develop Foster Family Fun Nights and Parents' Night Out to support foster families
- Develop resource rooms or closets to support foster families
- Develop confident and knowledgeable foster families by providing collaborative training opportunities and resource fairs
- Develop wrap-around support services for foster caregivers

Review of this goal will occur routinely between CPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.

**Goal 3: Increase Therapeutic and Treatment Foster Home Capacity**

The workgroup identified the need to join RTCs with CPAs to develop therapeutic and treatment foster homes to meet the need for increased specialized and intense placements. In addition, the workgroup recognized the importance of building positive and effective relationships with the school systems and service providers to support and increase capacity.

**Objective 3.1: Develop a Collaboration between RTCs, CPAs, and GROs to Build Capacity and Support a Continuum of Care**

- CPAs will work with area RTCs to develop joint training and observation opportunities for caregivers who want to provide specialized or treatment foster care
- CPAs will focus recruitment efforts for specialized foster homes in areas surrounding the RTCs to promote a continuum of care as children transition from RTC placement into therapeutic foster care
- CPS, CPAs, RTCs and GROs will develop collaborative efforts to meet with regional school district administrators to offer trauma informed training opportunities and build effective communication channels to support children in the foster care system

**Objective 3.2: Recruit Quality Staff**

- RTCs and GROs will utilize social media such as Facebook Live to highlight positive staff profiles in efforts to recruit quality staff and enhance positive community awareness of the facilities
- RTCs and GROs will increase their presence at local job fairs and area community colleges and universities

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.