DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services

Ex Officio Report to Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

July 29, 2021

701 West 51st Street, Austin Texas 78751

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/

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Contents

Executive Summary 2
Performance Measures 2
Legislative Appropriation Request 2
Calendar 2
Key personnel or organizational changes 3
Significant interagency initiatives relating to disability programs 3
New disability or accessibility program initiatives ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Additional Information 4
Follow up responses to previous GCPD meeting: 4

Executive Summary

Key bullet points

- Office of Community-Based Care Transition created and staffed.
- Chief Accountability and Protection Officer leads accountability team formerly known as Office of Consumer Relations.

Performance Measures

Although not disability domain-specific, the agency's current and historical key performance indicators are published online.

Legislative Appropriation Request

As previously reported, the agency's *Legislative Appropriations Request for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023* and additional information was published in Fall 2020.

Calendar

Upcoming council, advisory board, and other public meetings

Aug 6	Texas Family and Protective Services Council meeting; meeting details TBD.

Meetings held since last report and, if available, link(s) to minutes or other record of action

May 14	Texas Family and Protective Services Council meeting archive link.
Jul 8	CARP archive link.
Jul 9	Public Private Partnership (PPP) archive link.

Key personnel or organizational changes

- Theresa "Trisha" Thomas was appointed by the Governor as the Director of the Office of Community-Based Care Transition. This independent state agency and its related oversight committee, newly created by Senate Bill 1896, oversees the agency's implementation of the community-based care model across the state. Thomas has over 30 years of human services experience in county, state, federal and contract positions, including seven years as the Child Support Director of the Kansas Department for Children and Families. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University School of Law.
- The Office of Consumer Relations will be renamed Internal Affairs and will remain under Jose Martinez, who was recently promoted to Chief Accountability and Protection Officer and now sits on the agency's executive team.
- Vicki Kozikoujekian recently assumed the role of General Counsel.
- Internal Audit Director Chance Watson is now serving as Chief Audit Officer.

Significant interagency initiatives relating to disability programs

- Child Protective Services (CPS) developmental disability program specialist continues working with counterparts at Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop cross-agency training on guardianship. In Regions 4 & 5 through mid-August, the agencies are hosting a series of joint training sessions about the process for referring aging-out youth for a guardianship assessment. Topics will include preparation for a referral to HHSC, required documentation and information, process for assessing for guardianship, reasons for denial, and responsibilities when HHSC becomes guardian.

- The CPS director of placement and several of the regional developmental disability specialists continue revising the person-centered training (PCT) curriculum. New stories to be added to the curriculum have been completed and reviewed by the group; group mentors (PCT trainers) will be meeting soon to finalize.

Additional Information

The Department of Family and Protective Services has released the following publications:

Children and Youth Missing from DFPS Conservatorship FY 2020 Report published May 27.

2019-2020 Citizen Review Team Report published June 3.

APS Strategic Plan FY 2021-2025 published July 13.

DFPS has no information to report on the following areas:

- Long-range strategic plans for people with disabilities
- Disability Program Updates
- New disability or accessibility program initiatives

Follow up responses to previous GCPD meeting:

- CPS has assigned the developmental disability specialists (DDS) within each region to serve as contact points for any referrals regarding children in foster care who are identified as deaf or hard-of-hearing in foster care. Each month, the regional DDSs review these cases and offer case support as needed. The statewide DDS supports the regional DDSs to ensure the agency is meeting client needs. Region 8 (Bexar and several surrounding counties) has three regional DDSs.
- In response to the question regarding guidelines for removal of durable medical equipment in a custodial setting, DFPS did not receive case-specific information to sufficiently research this matter. However, the CPS director of placement discussed this matter with Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and it is believed that the incident in question could have occurred in a county-based juvenile justice facility, of which DFPS does not have oversight.