



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Partners for Children & Families Committee

August 19, 2024



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I. Call to Order

Jamie Bernstein | Michael Redden
PCFC Co-Chairs

II. Introduction of Members

- **Jamie Bernstein**, Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission
- **Denise Blakney**, Building Future Families
- **Robbie Callis**, Casey Family Programs
- **Tabitha Charlton**, Kidsave, Inc.
- **Chelsea Churchill**, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas
- **Fedora Galasso**, Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)
- **Jenifer Jarriel**, DePelchin Children's Center
- **Brandon Logan**, One Accord for Kids
- **Michael Loo**, Upbring
- **Mike Maples**, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- **Michael Redden**, New Horizons Ranch & Center, Inc.
- **Megan Ransom**, Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS)
- **Tara Roussett**, SJRC Texas
- **Vicki Spriggs**, Texas CASA
- **Ashleigh Wilkes**, A World for Children



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III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jamie Bernstein | Michael Redden

PCFC Co-Chairs



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IV. Rules / Bylaws Update

Jamie Bernstein | Michael Redden

PCFC Co-Chairs

Jason Steele

DFPS Director of Stakeholder and Government Relations



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V. Subcommittee Chair Appointments

Jamie Bernstein | Michael Redden

PCFC Co-Chairs

Jason Steele

DFPS Director of Stakeholder and Government Relations

Subcommittee Chairs

Subcommittee chairs oversee subcommittee meetings, set agendas for subcommittee meetings in consultation with DFPS staff, and report subcommittee activities to the Core committee.

- a. Intake and Investigations:** Chelsea Churchill
- b. Contract Oversight and Regulatory:** Ashleigh Wilkes
- c. Services and Supports:** Mike Maples
- d. Foster care/Kinship Policies:** Robbie Callis
- e. Community Based Care:** Michael Loo
- f. Placement:** Tara Roussett

Subcommittee Next Steps

- Subcommittee appointments will be made from the applications that were received during the prior two application periods.
- Appointments to be made based on applicants' experience, preferences, and needs of the subcommittee.
- Subcommittees to meet prior to the next PCFC meeting.
- Subcommittees will meet to go over the goals for the subcommittee, review the charges, and report back to the core committee priorities of the subcommittee.

Subcommittee Charges

Subcommittee	Topics
Community Based Care	The focus is to discuss SSCC Operations, such as CBC implementation execution, expansion, and common operations issues.
Placement	The focus is on capacity (both for SSCC and Legacy areas) and shared capacity. Opportunity to discuss capacity need data to see where gaps exist and seek collaborative solutions to meet the needs of children.
Contracting and Oversight	The focus is on system wide contract requirements, heightened monitoring, facility-based investigations, and HHS Regulatory.

Subcommittee Charges

Subcommittee	Topics
Foster Care/ Kinship Policy	The focus is on policies and practices related to children in foster care and discuss supports and needs of children and caregivers.
Intake and Investigations	The focus is on Intake, Family Based investigations and Alternative Response, and issues related to procedures and intermediate supports to prevent removals.
Services and Support	<p>The focus is on the continuum of care for children and families, such as, behavioral health, family support services, aging/older youth services.</p> <p>This committee will stay engaged with HHS Behavioral Health and Family Support Services for continued cross-agency collaboration.</p>

Subcommittee Support

PCFC Subcommittees	DFPS Program Area Lead (Executive Sponsor)	Subject Matter Expert Support
Community Based Care (CBC)	CBC Operations (Grace Windbigler)	Hollie Mims (SME)
Placement	CPS (Erica Banuelos)	Hector Ortiz (SME)
Contract Oversight and Regulatory	COO (Lisa Kanne)	Kason Vercher (SME)
Foster Care and Kinship Policy	CPS (Erica Banuelos)	Natalie Taylor (SME)
Intake and Investigations	CPI (Marta Talbert/Stephen Black)	Natalie Reeves (SME)
Services and Support	Behavioral Health (Luanne Southern)	Sherry Rumsey (SME)



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VI. Agency Update

Stephanie Muth
DFPS Commissioner

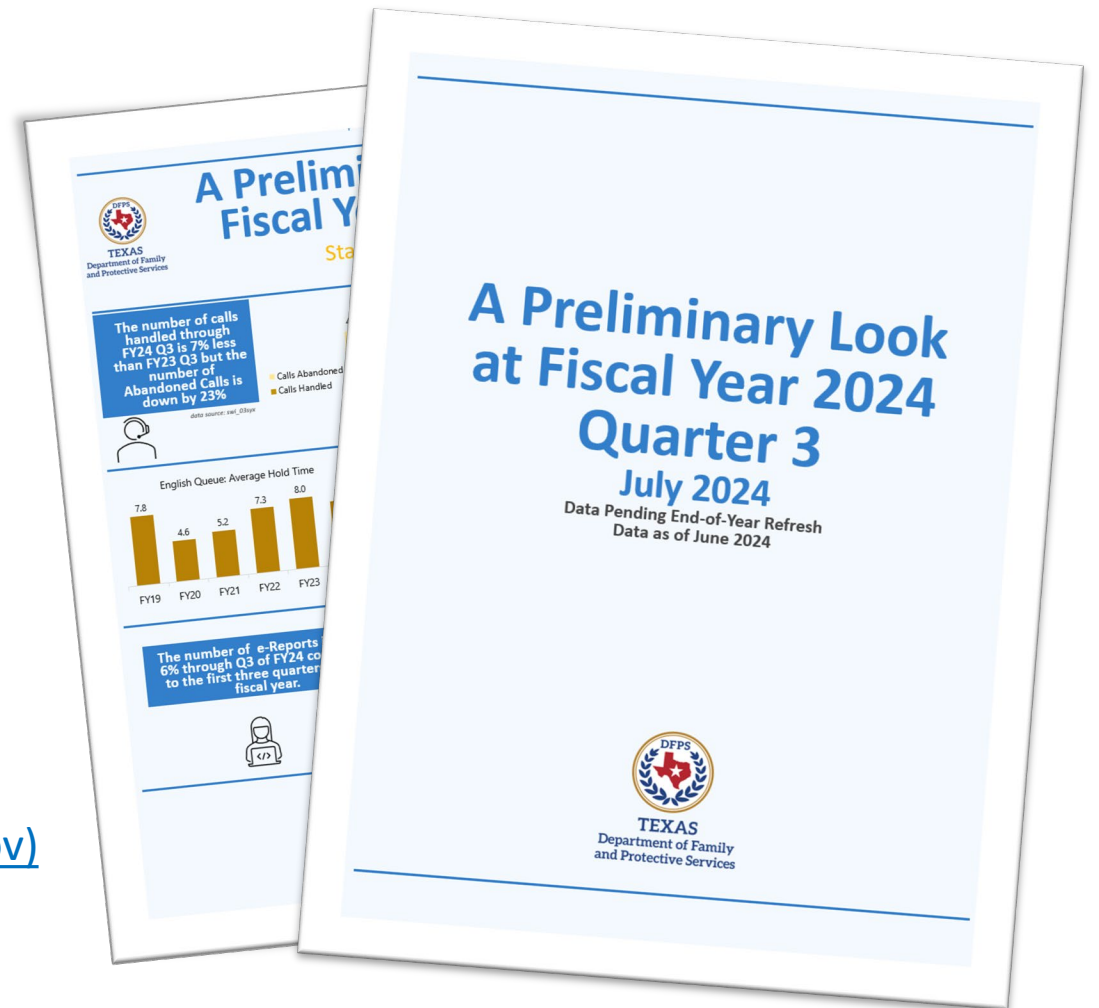
Audrey O'Neill
Deputy Commissioner for Programs

A Preliminary Look at Key Data Points

DFPS published quarterly key data points for all programs in a concise, quick reference format.

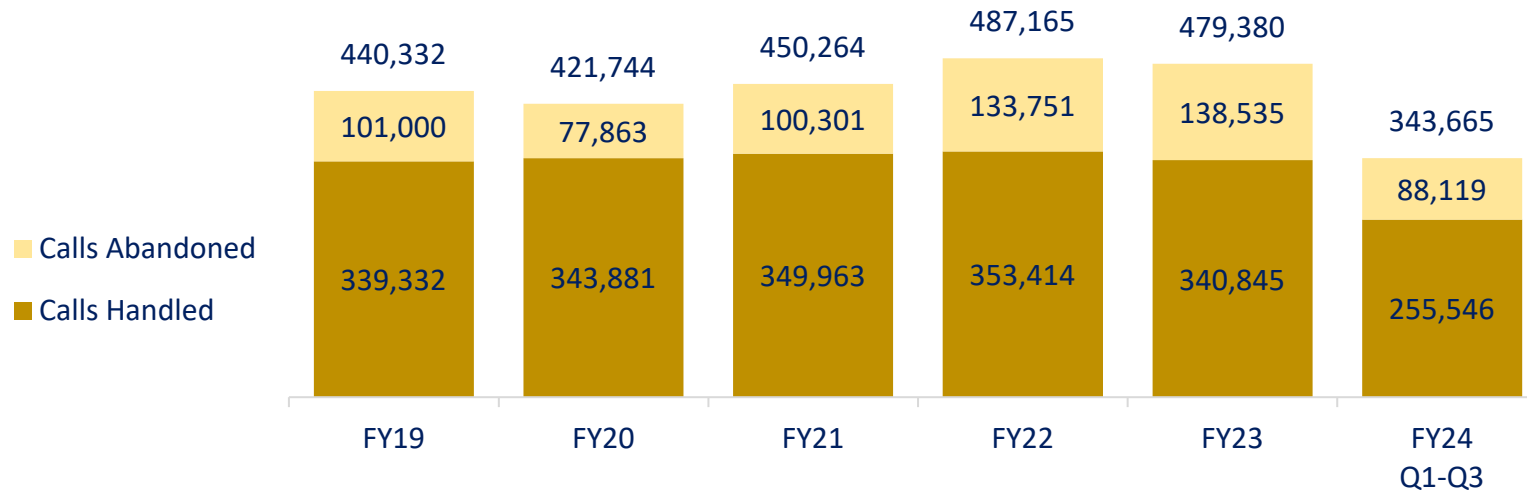
- SWI Call Volumes
- Average Daily Caseloads
- Children Without Placement Data
- CBC Performance Measures
- Workforce Data

[DFPS Quarterly Performance Update \(texas.gov\)](https://www.texas.gov)

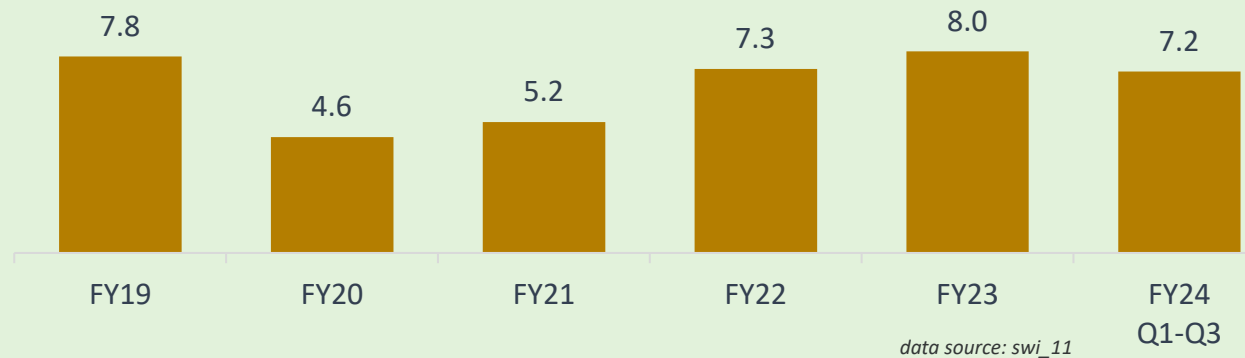


Statewide Intake

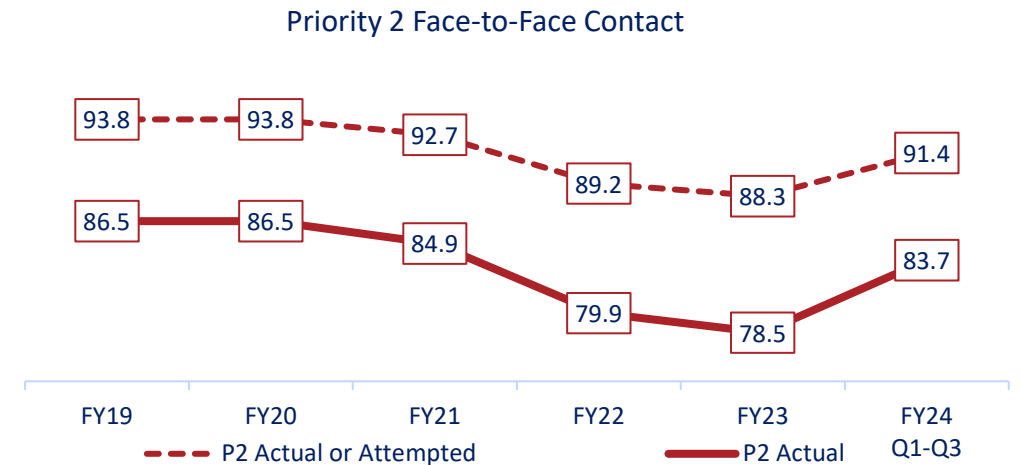
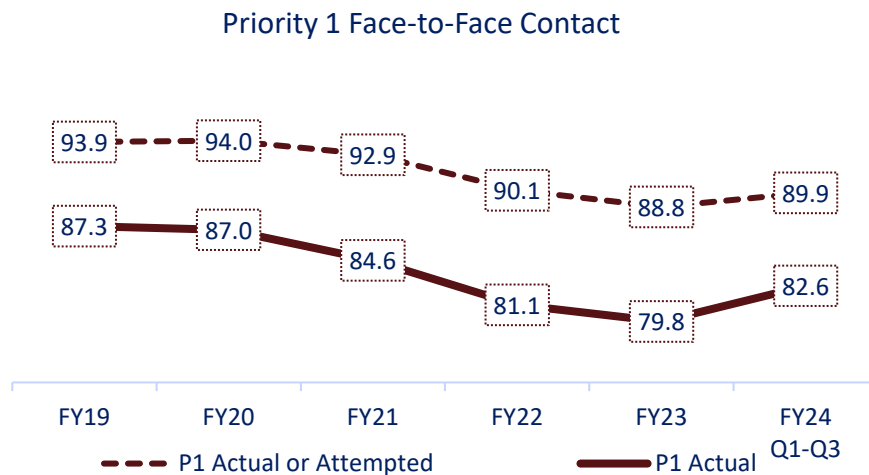
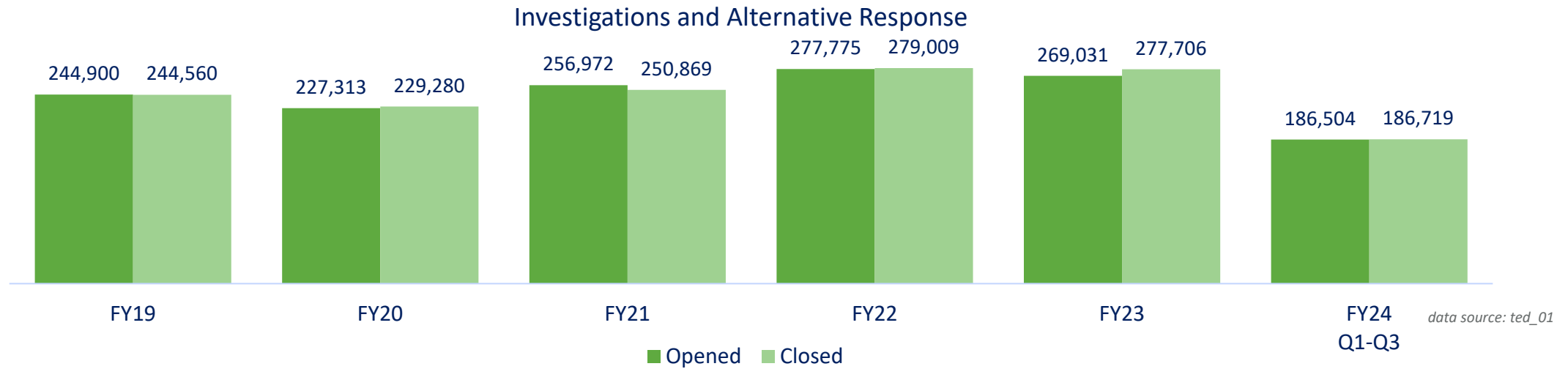
English Queue Calls



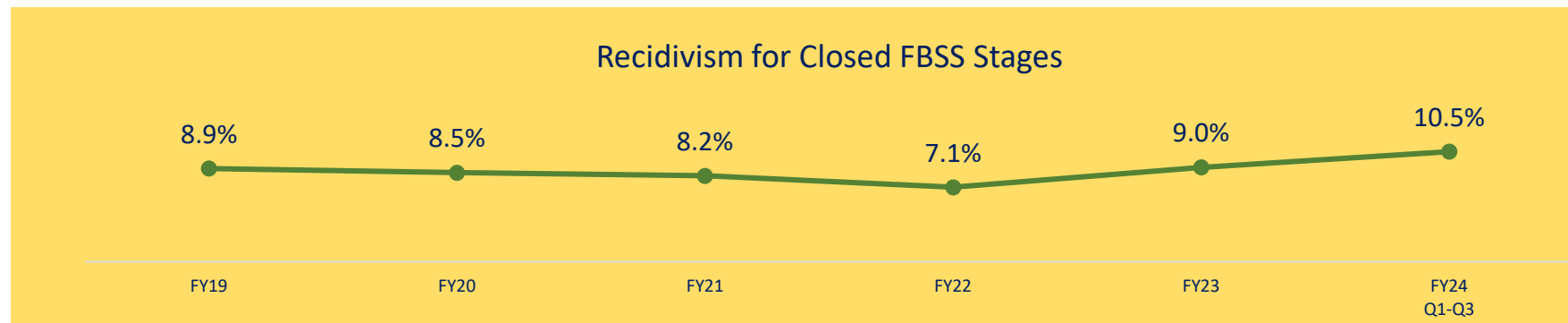
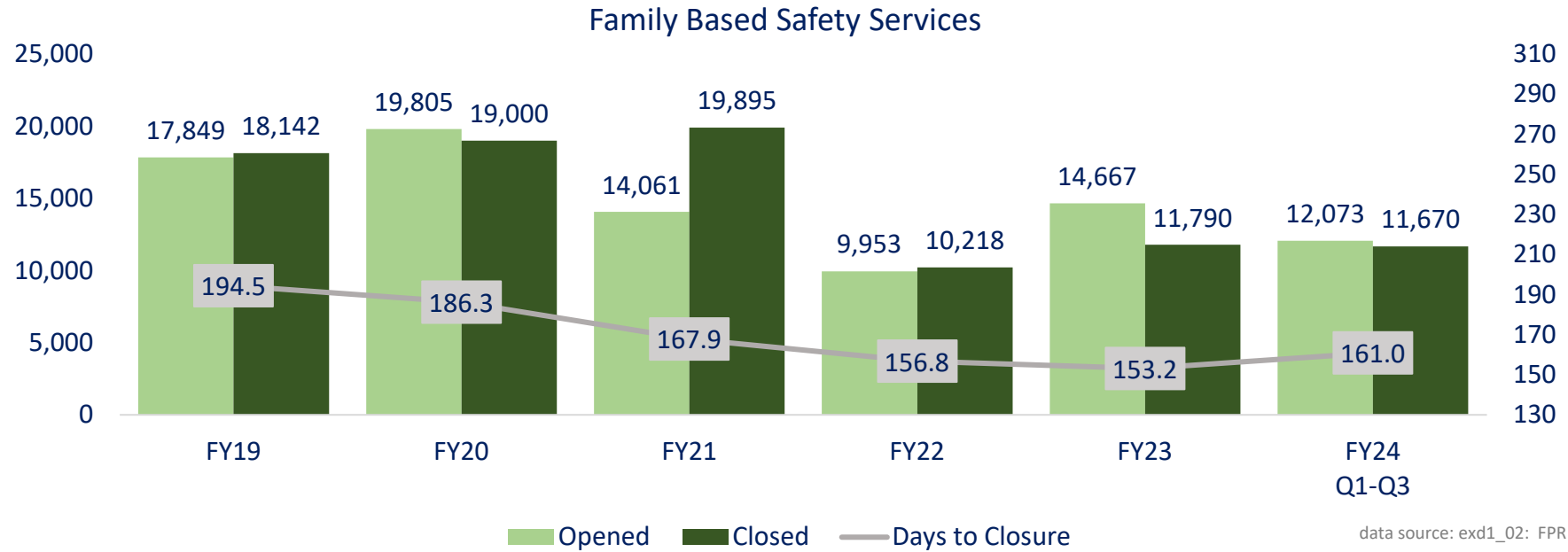
English Queue: Average Hold Time



Child Protective Investigations



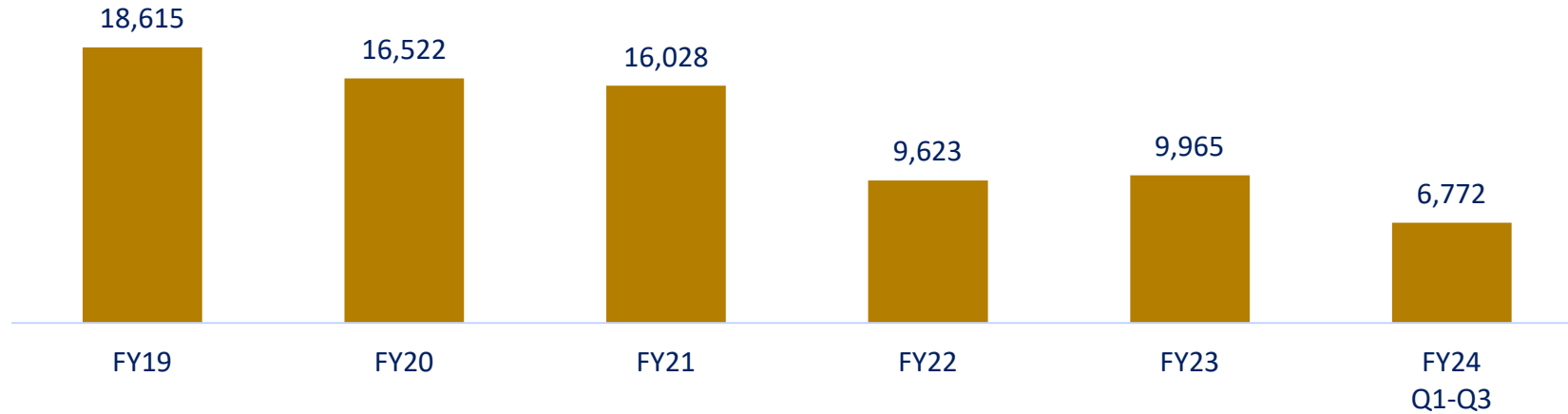
Child Protective Services



data source: exd1_02: Recidivism on FBSS Stages Closed with No Further CPS Involvement

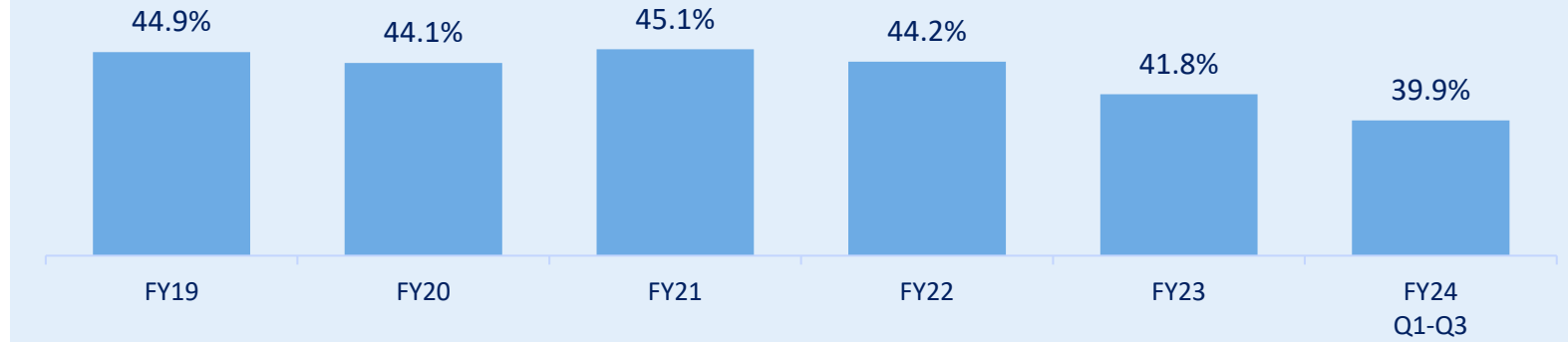
Child Protective Services

Children New to Substitute Care



data source: SA_19

Children in Kinship Placements

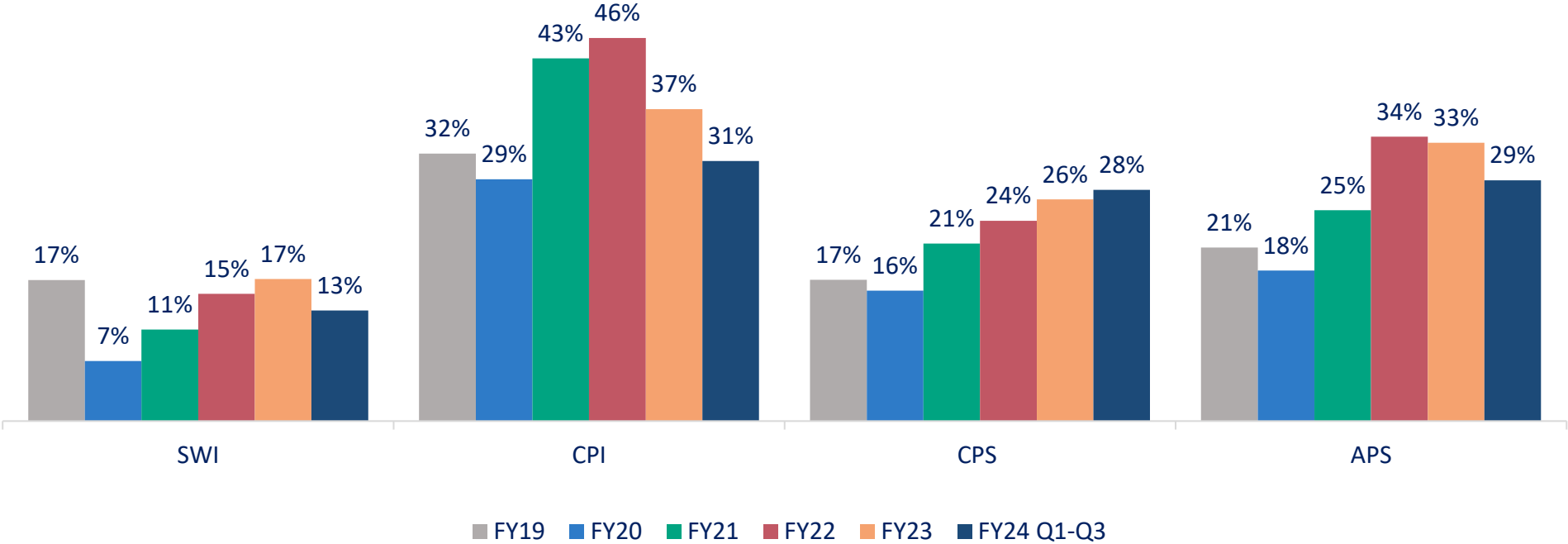


data source: exd1_03

Note: Includes both verified and unverified kinship. Metric represents the percent of children in substitute care in kinship on the last day of each fiscal year/quarter

Workforce Development

Turnover: All Caseworkers



data source: Turnover and HR-Related Data and DRIT 114339, Note: Uses SAO methodology and CPI excludes SI



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VII. Process Improvements to Texas Health Steps Verification

Kason Vercher

DFPS Director of Residential Contracts

Process Improvements to Texas Health Steps Verification

Texas Health Steps is healthcare and related services for children birth through age 20 who have Medicaid.

Texas Health Steps exams are also referred to as Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment or EPSDT exam.

All children in DFPS Conservatorship must have a Texas Health Steps Medical exam within 30 days of entering foster or kinship Care.

Senate Bill 11: 85th Legislative Session (2019)

A child-placing agency or general residential operation that contracts with the department to provide services **must ensure that the children** that are in the managing conservatorship of the department and are placed with the child-placing agency or general residential operation **receive a complete early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) checkup.**

DFPS is required by statute to implement a provision in contracts with Child Placing Agencies and General Residential Operations to **seek monetary penalties for failure to comply with the health screening requirements.**

- Texas Human Resources Code Section 42.0432

Process Improvements to Texas Health Steps Verification

Legislatively mandated with intent to:

- Ensure children receive Texas Health Steps Examinations.
- Create accountability for the services provided.
- Improve provider performance.

Process Improvements to Texas Health Steps Verification

Implementation Overview:

- Effective – FY19 (September 2018).
- Hold Harmless Period – FY19 Q1 & Q2 (September 2018 – February 2019).
- Incentives and Remedies Fully Began – FY19 Q3 (March 2019).

Process Improvements to Texas Health Steps Verification

Current Review Process for Texas Health Steps:

1. Review Health Passport
2. Review DFPS Medical-Dental-Vision Examination Form (Form 2403)
3. Review Additional Documentation
4. Review Appeal Documentation (if appeal requested)

Process Improvements to Texas Health Steps Verification

DFPS Current Project:

- Reviewing the current findings for Texas Health Steps.
- Will adjust findings and associated liquidated damages where necessary.

DFPS Future Project:

- Will examine the review process for Texas Health Steps compliance.
- Will examine the 2403 form and plan to revise the document based on provider feedback.

Goal is to make verification of a complete and timely Texas Health Steps exam occurred less onerous on the providers.



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VIII. Region 3E/Metroplex East Community-Based Care Update

Shirley Dwyer

EMPOWER

Grace Windbigler

DFPS CBC Operations Director



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IX. Community-Based Care Updates

Hollie Mims

**CBC Operations and
Stakeholder Engagement Director**



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X. Children Without Placement Update

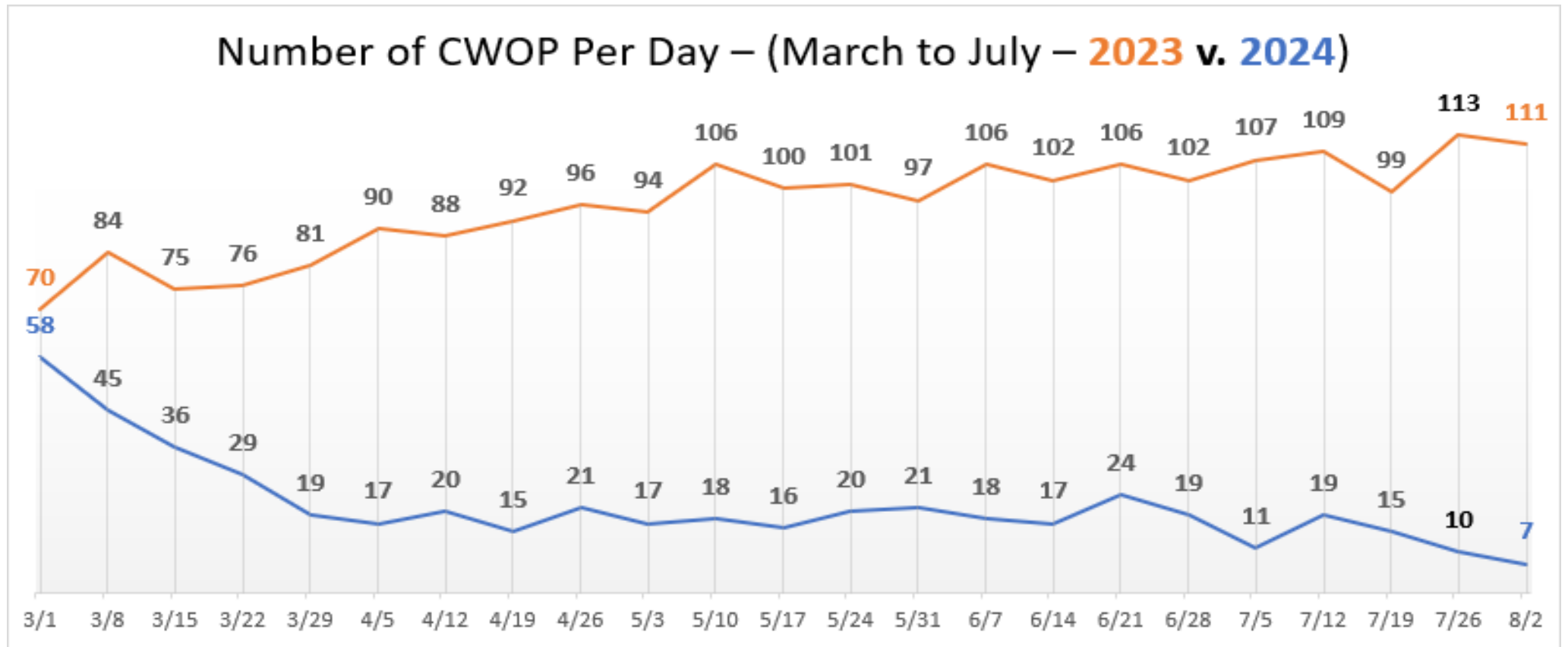
Audrey O'Neill

Deputy Commissioner of Programs

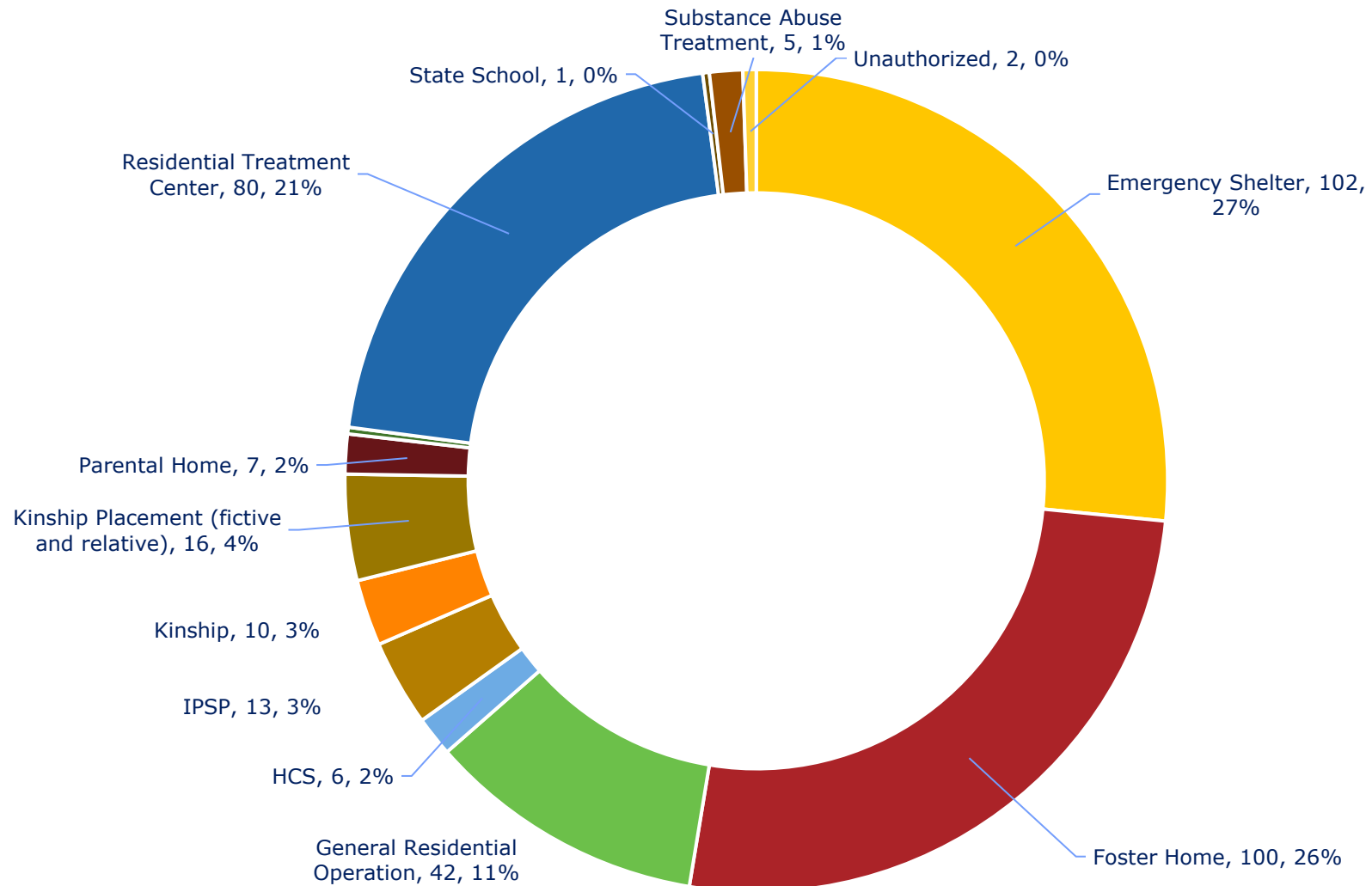
Erica Banuelos

CPS Associate Commissioner

Children Without Placement – Progress Data

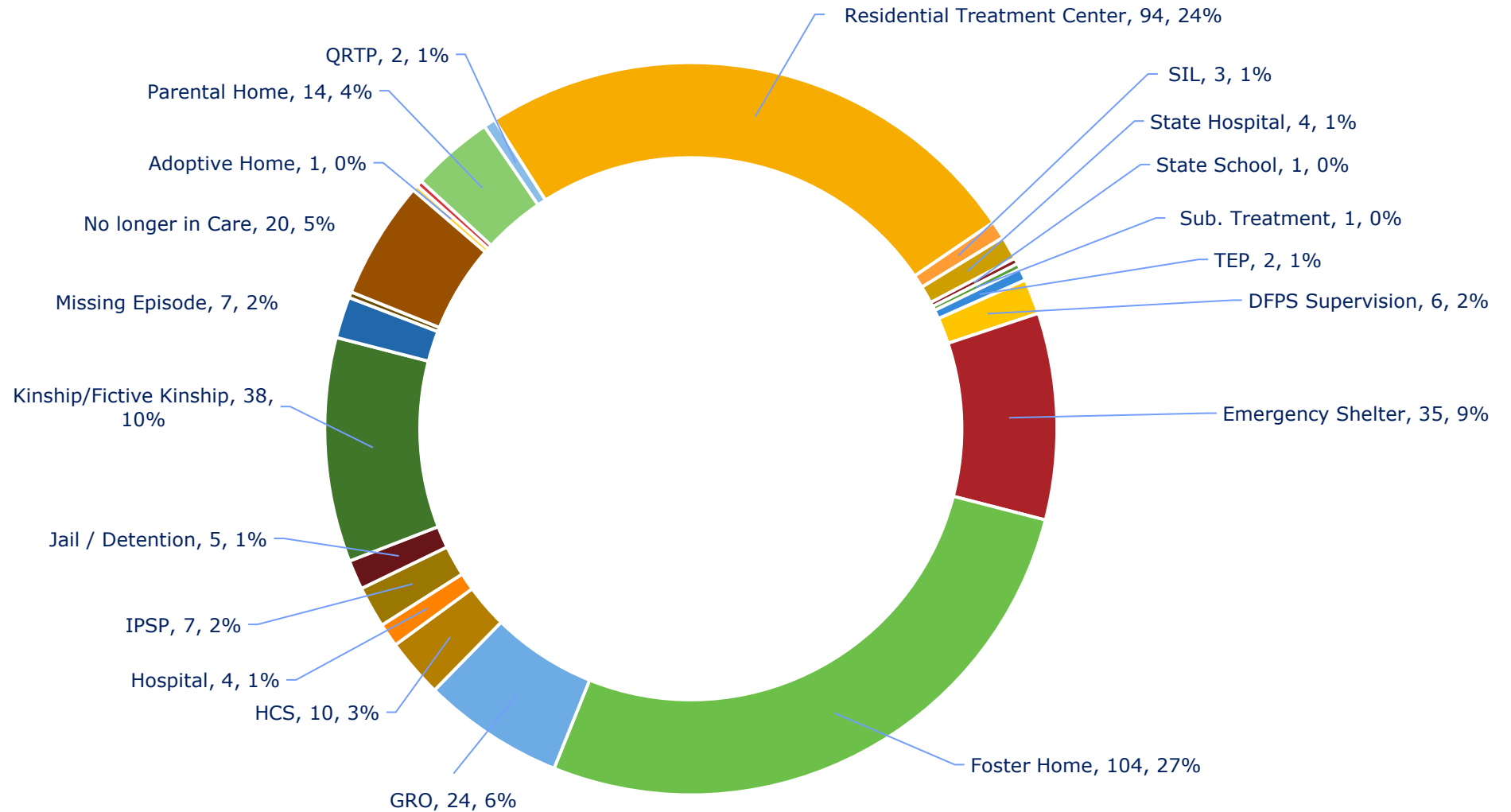


Children Without Placement – Initial Placement Data



Source: DFPS Analysis as of 7/31/2024

Children Without Placement – Current Placement Data



Source: DFPS Analysis as of 7/31/2024

Placement Support Staffings

CPS began providing placement support staffings in May 2024.

As of August 13, 2024, we have held 107 meetings in total:

- 17 providers extended discharge date
- 33 rescinded their discharge
- An additional 30 meetings have been held by Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) staff:
 - 2 providers extended discharge date
 - 13 rescinded their discharge
 - 15 did not rescind their discharge

Staffings are held when:

- A discharge notice is submitted by a provider
- A provider request a staffing
- A member of the case management team requests a staffing.

Locating Placements for Youth with Diabetes and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Of the 57 youth that experienced CWOP in July 2024:

- 7% were diagnosed with diabetes.
- 3.5% were diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Small group with large impact.

Support for Caregivers

1. Superior Health Service Coordination

- Help with hands-on training for diabetes education and training;
- Refer children and youth to the Diabetes Disease Management program; and
- Emergency care providers

2. 24/7 Nurse Advice Line

- Call 866-912-6283 (English and Spanish available)

3. Diabetic supplies delivery is covered by STAR Health Network

- Visit www.premierkidscare.com; or
- Call 1-888-892-9001

Support for Caregivers Continued

1. HHSC Children's Autism Program

- Serves children ages 3-15;
- E-mail: childrens.autism.program@hhs.texas.gov
- Visit 211Texas.org

2. Medicaid Applied Behavioral Analysis Services

- Medicaid covers many services including:
 - Case management;
 - Early Childhood Intervention;
 - Medical Nutrition Counseling; and
 - Occupational, physical and speech therapy and more

3. Autism Society of Texas

- Visit <https://www.texasautismsociety.org/about-us/>

Support for Caregivers – Stakeholder Input

How can we better support caregivers in meeting the needs of youth with diabetes and/or autism spectrum disorder?



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Thank You

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Erica Banuelos
Associate Commissioner for CPS
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X. Adjourn

Committee Contact:

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Advisory Committee Liaison

dfpscouncil@dfps.Texas.gov