



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

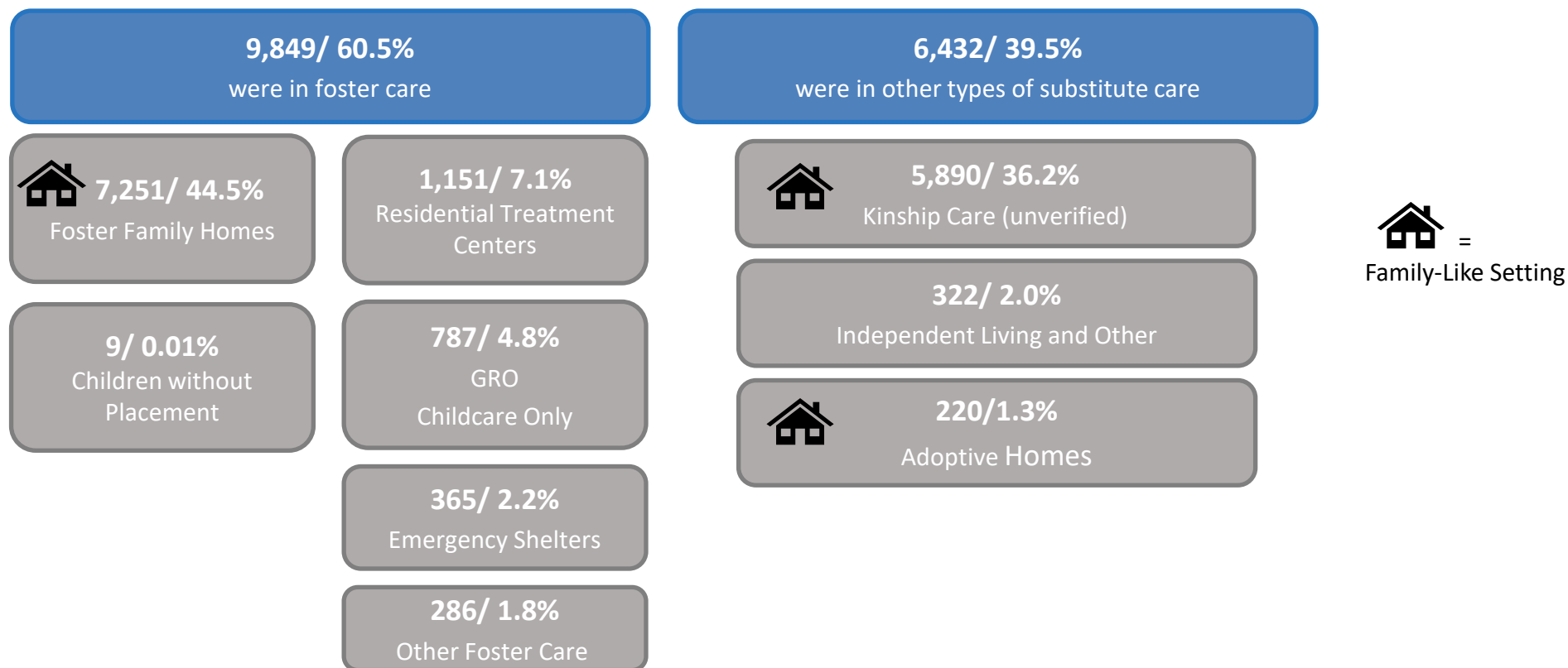
Presentation to the House Committee on Appropriations: Texas Child-Centered Care (T3C) System

Stephanie Muth
DFPS Commissioner

September 10, 2024

DFPS Census

Most children in DFPS care reside in family-like home settings. Of the 16,281 children in care (ages 0-17) at the end of July 2024, 13,361 (82%) resided in a family-like home setting:



What is Texas Child-Centered Care?

Texas Child-Centered Care (T3C) formerly known as Rate Modernization represents a ***complete*** transformation of the foster care system.

Replaces the 40-year-old rate structure with the following:

- Foster Care placements informed by an individual assessment.
- Clearly defined service packages designed to meet the individual needs of children in care.
- Rate methodology that aligns the cost of care to quality foster care services.
- Continuous quality assurance and improvement structure.

The Path to T3C

86th Regular Session (2019)

- General Appropriations Act (GAA), Special Provision 32 required HHSC, in consultation with DFPS, to evaluate the existing foster care rate methodology.

87th Regular Session (2021)

- The GAA, Special Provision 26, directed DFPS, with the assistance of HHSC, to develop an alternative reimbursement methodology for foster care and CBC rates, including aligning rates to clearly defined program models.

88th Regular Session (2023)

- The GAA included funding directed to the implementation of and new rates paid under the T3C System.

January 2025

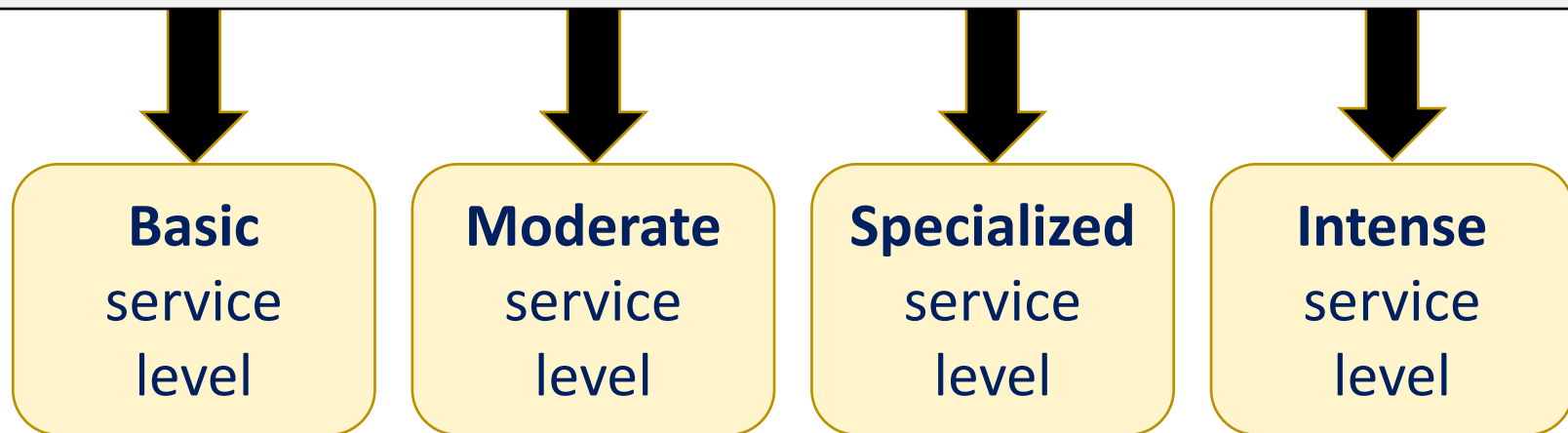
- Providers transition to T3C begin serving children.

September 2027

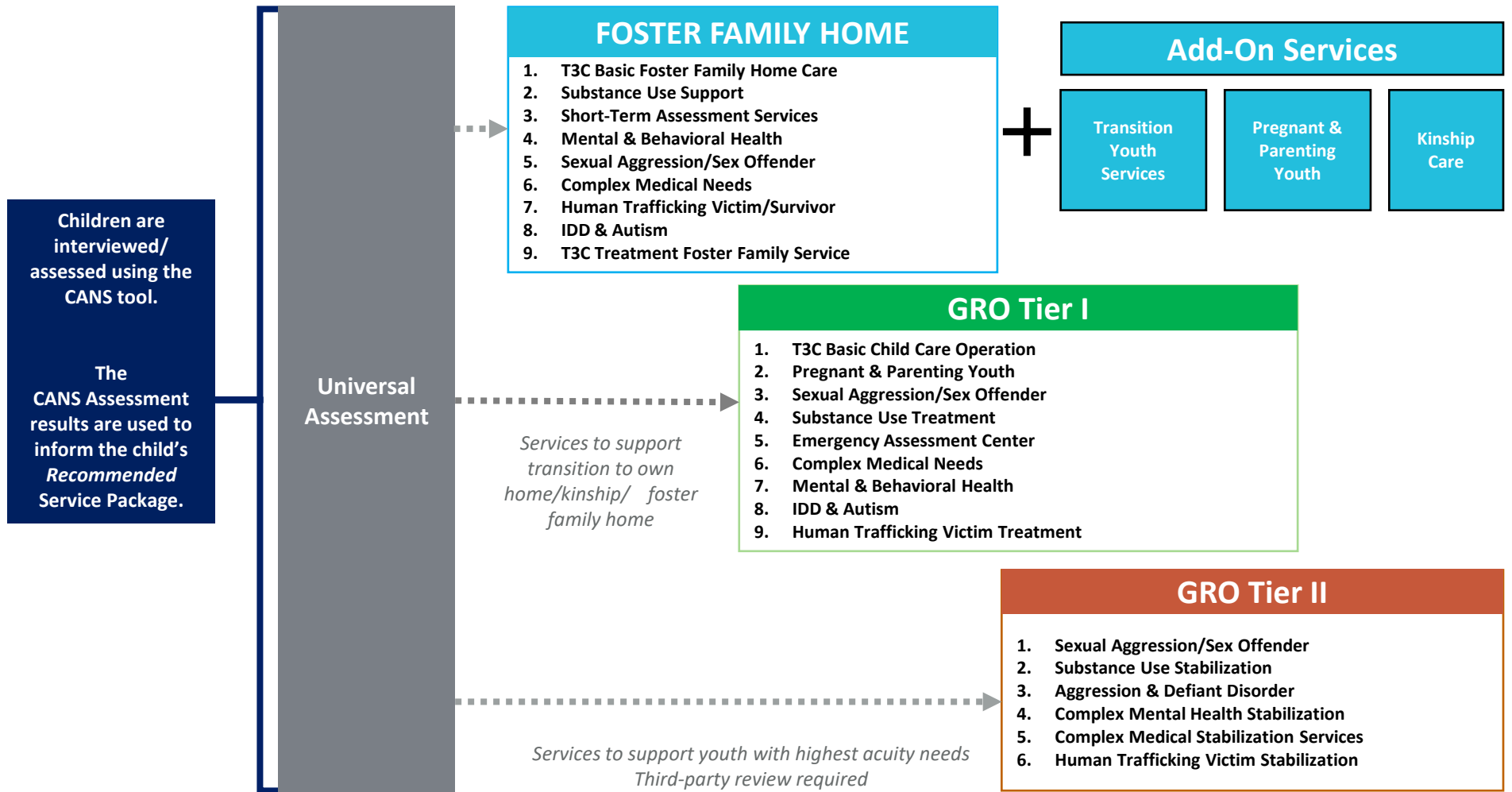
- All providers must be transitioned to T3C.

The Current System

Children are assigned one of four service levels based on a review of documentation, largely focused on behaviors, and are placed accordingly.



The New T3C System



Benefits of T3C

Restructuring the service delivery model through

Provider credentialing for clearly defined service packages

Universal Assessment Process

Payment for service packages based on child needs

The system will

Match children to providers that will best meet their needs

Develop a comprehensive network of quality services

Provide method-based compensation for providers & caregivers

Resulting in

Improved experience for all children, youth, & young adults

DFPS Transition to the T3C System

Provider preparedness efforts:

- Development of the *T3C System Blueprint*: a technical guide, detailing requirements of each service package.
 - Quarterly updates and webinars.
- Deployment of Provider Transition Grant Funding
 - Total of \$5.7M was distributed to 80 awardees.
- Training for Providers
 - Readiness Assessment Tool completed by 127 organizations.
 - Readiness Workshops held in Houston, Ft. Worth, Lubbock, and San Antonio and a virtual option reached over 600 participants.
 - Training Suite and Learning Opportunities along with bi-weekly T3C virtual office hours since May.

Partner and staff preparedness efforts:

- Training for approximately 6,650 impacted agency and SSCC staff.
- Partnering with the Children's Commission and Texas CASA to train members of the Judiciary and stakeholders.

DFPS Transition to T3C

Infrastructure Changes

- Customization of a Texas CANS 3.0 tool and decision support model.
- Executing a third-party Continuous Quality Assurance & Improvement contract.
- Development of a Universal Human Trafficking Prevention Training Model.
- Development of TAC Rules to support the T3C System.
- Development of provider cost reports and a new forecast model.
- Revision to Single Source Continuum and Residential Child Care Contracts and Procurements.
- Establishing a structure to support the credentialing of providers.
- Substantial changes to agency's case management IT System (IMPACT, CLASS, & GPS) and data collection and reports.
- Modification to, and development of, new policies, processes, procedures, resource guides to support the new system.

Provider Transition to T3C

Readiness Activities

- Assessing Service Packages to determine which to provide.
- Incorporating trauma and evidence-informed Treatment Models.
- Updating policies and procedures consistent with Service Package(s) requirements.
- Hiring staff (if needed) to support Service Package delivery.
- Developing training for foster parents, direct delivery caregivers, intake, case management, clinical, and other impacted provider staff.
- Modifying or purchasing IT systems to support data collection, tracking, and reporting requirements.
- Applying for accreditation to offer one or more of the GRO Tier II Service Packages.

Observations on Key Challenges

- Operating under multiple payment structures/delivery models during transition.
- Availability of behavioral health providers.
- Availability of high-quality needed specialty services across the state.
- Avoiding duplication of monitoring efforts across systems.



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Thank You

For more information on T3C,
please visit the agency's webpage:

[https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Texas Child Centered Care/default.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Texas_Child_Centered_Care/default.asp)

Contact:
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