



Quarterly Report

Office of Community-Based Care Transition Implementation Status

December 2022

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Introduction

As required by Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172 (f), 87th Texas Legislature, the Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) “shall report to the legislature at least once each calendar quarter regarding the implementation of Community-Based Care in the state.” Status reports shall be provided on September 30th, December 30th, March 31st, and June 30th of each year to the Texas Legislature.

Background

Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based grant agreement, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community (also known as “catchments”). In Stage I, this Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state’s legal conservatorship. SSCCs also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements, services to parents, and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. In Stage III, the SSCC continues the provision of all Stage I and II services and is awarded with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being. For information and data on the performance of SSCC contractors, see the [DFPS Rider 15 Report](#).

Office of Community-Based Care Transition Organizational Structure

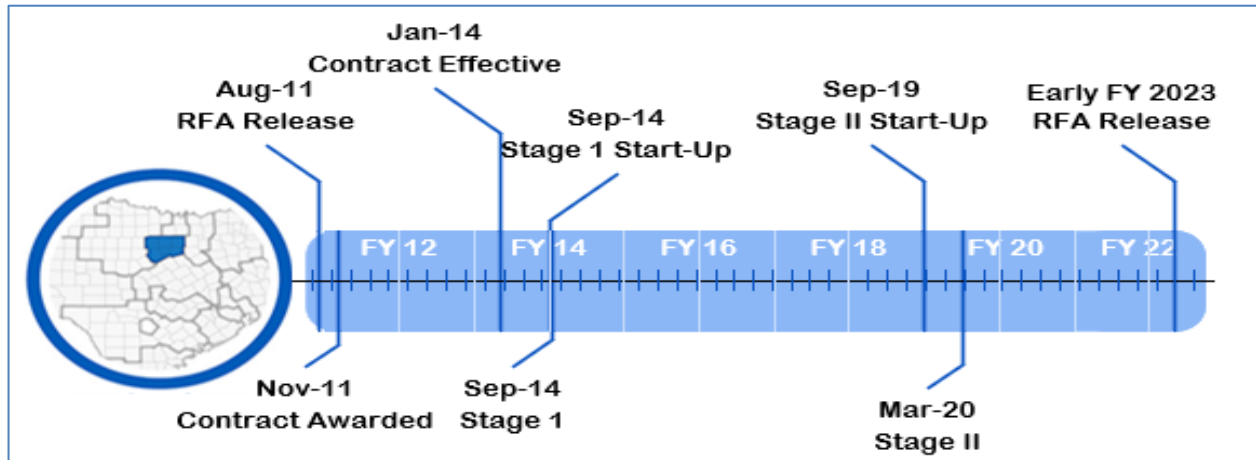
The 87th Texas Legislature, as part of Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172, formally established the OCBCT in 2021. The OCBCT is a state agency independent of, but administratively attached to DFPS. The OCBCT and DFPS, along with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), will work together to implement CBC. The Statewide CBC Director, Theresa Thomas, has three directors who will have key roles in moving CBC forward in Texas: Community Outreach and Legislative Relations Director, and two Directors of Implementation and Operations. Based on the current funding methodology, as CBC expands into new areas OCBCT will receive one Community-Based Care Administrator (CBCA) per new community area, and one Program Specialist VI (PSVI) per four community areas to help assess and develop a plan for implementation. See Appendix A for the current OCBCT organizational structure. Below you will see an update for initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities in each CBC area throughout the state.



THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY-BASED CARE TRANSITION

Update for Metroplex West - Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)

The Metroplex West (previously known as Region 3B) area is comprised of Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties in DFPS Metroplex West. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Expansion of Kinship

OCOK continues to partner with A Second Chance Inc. to provide day-long kinship engagement and values enrichment sessions. OCOK staff have completed this training and community sessions will be offered in the coming months. To date, OCOK has exceeded their 2022 goal and have 31% of their population in Kinship placements.

Intensive Permanency Services

OCOK has entered a partnership with Alia, who will provide consultation for intensive permanency services for youth who have the greatest needs for trauma healing and permanence. Focusing on healing and belonging, this work will take place to increase permanency outcomes for their youth, with a heightened focus on family.

Capacity

OCOK is a part of a state-wide Recruitment Blitz for foster parents which has worked to raise awareness of the complex needs of their youth needing supportive placements. OCOK is working alongside ACH Child and Family Services to develop capacity for higher needs children through the expansion of the Morris Program and the development of a Stabilization and Assessment Center. The Morris Program offers safe, stable, and nurturing homes for youth, ages 14-17, who are unable to live with their families or in a community home setting. This program provides



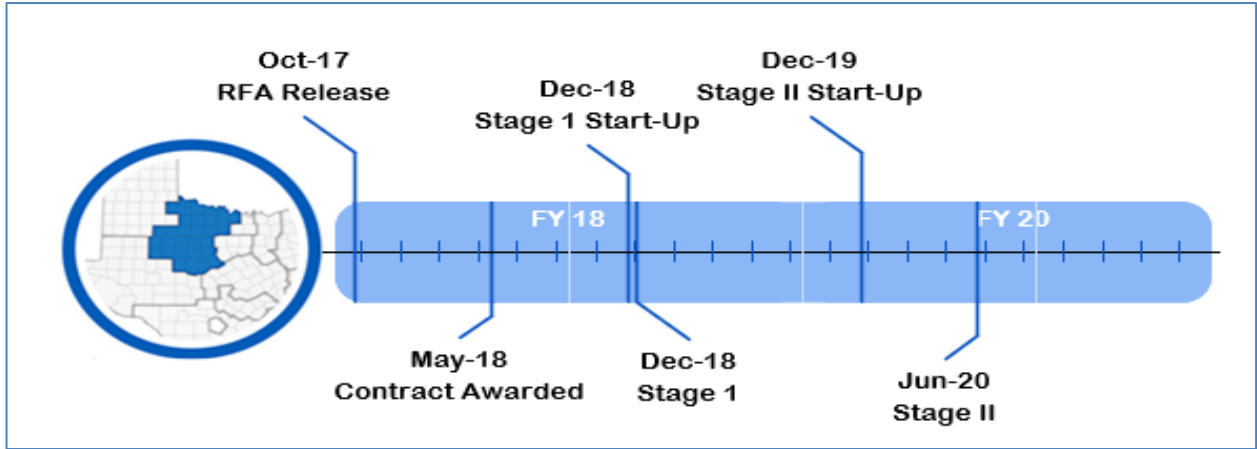
home-based intervention therapy that assists youth in gaining independent living skills in a safe and supportive environment. Youth will work toward gaining the necessary skills to succeed in a variety of settings. This may include a family foster care placement, family reunification, or a transition to independence or an independent living program.

Supervisor Credentialing

OCOK has worked to develop a stable and effective workforce through their continued partnership with the National Certification Board for Child Welfare Professionals and Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services. Supervisors are currently going through a robust training program and will be sitting for the credentialing examination in early 2023.

Update for Big Country & Texoma- 2INgage

The Big Country & Texoma (previously known as Region 2) area is comprised of 30 counties in northwest Texas around Abilene and Wichita Falls. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Kinship

2INgage has increased kinship placements for all age groups and has successfully placed 50% of children with kinship within 60 days. To help locate families and place children into kinship homes, 2INgage moved the family finder staff into their kinship units. Currently, 2INgage has 75 kinship families in the process of becoming licensed.

TXPOP Implementation

The Texas Permanency Outcomes Project (TXPOP) implementation is still underway in Brownwood. 2INgage launched their Local Advisory Board, held their first case consultation, and

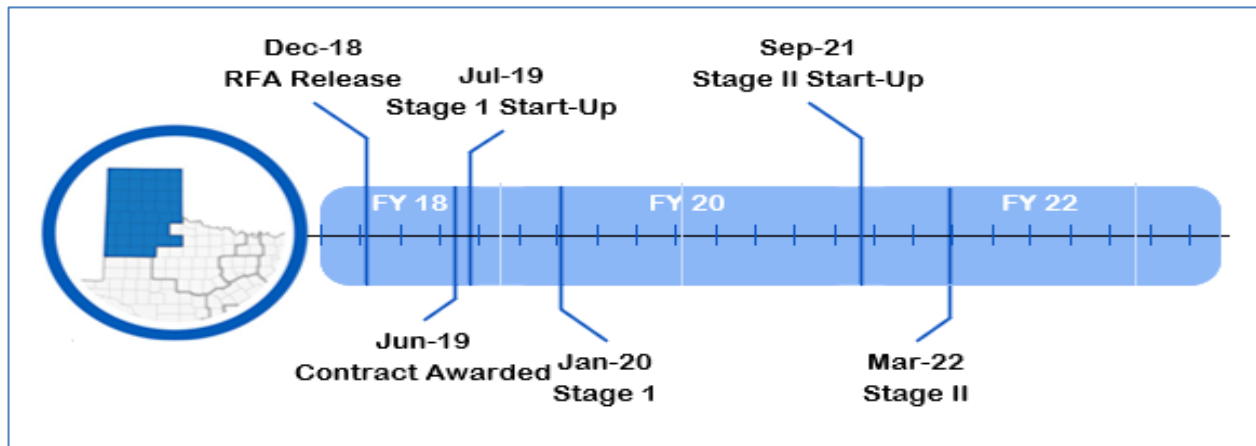
co-hosted the Child Welfare Academy in Abilene. The Child Welfare Academy allows for staff and external stakeholders to obtain a certificate as a Child Welfare Worker through the University of Texas School of Social Work.

Community Partnership

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher program is a new partnership between 2INGage, DFPS, Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas, Baptist Child and Family Services (BCFS), and the Abilene Housing Authority. The FYI Voucher program provides free housing for youth who age out of foster care; there are currently 25 units available to house former foster young adults. 2INGage is in the early stages of implementation with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Wendy’s Wonderful Kids. In partnership with local child welfare boards, 21 out of 30 counties in region are sponsoring children for Christmas. 2INGage also began hosting Foster Parent Listening sessions; leadership attends in the evenings to listen and talk to foster parents.

Update for Panhandle- Saint Francis Community Services, Inc (SFCS)

The Panhandle (previously known as Region 1) area is comprised of 41 counties in the Texas Panhandle around Lubbock and Amarillo. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Increased Capacity

SFCS has continued to hire leadership, counselors, and staff for their Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). In collaboration with Texas Family Initiative (TFI), SFCS is working to bring the Texas Professional Foster Care program to the region. To improve retention and



recruitment, SFCS disbursed funds to their providers in the region to support staffing incentives for partner agencies, network development, foster parent events, and building necessary resources, such as daycare and childcare, extracurricular and educational needs, and respite.

SFCS continued to focus on placement incentives and kinship support. During this reporting period, SFCS disbursed funds to support kinship families and providers towards licensing kinship families.

Partnership through Community

SFCS received \$153,000 in furniture donations from Texas Tech University, serving over 300 local families and six community partners. First Baptist Church of Borger (Haven House) and First Baptist Church of Lubbock (Global Mission Center) opened their doors for supervised visitations. SFCS continued to focus on foster care and adoption recruitment through monthly meetings, social media, and email broadcasts. Year-to-date there have been:

- Fifty-eight children matched in adoption selection staffings,
- Four adoption staffings are pending, and
- Thirty-five families were selected for adoption.

SFCS has an ongoing adoption series, “Forever Family”, with KLBK News in Lubbock and with the Plainview Herald Newspaper. SFCS also worked with community partners for Trunk-or-Treat, Thanksgiving, and Christmas celebrations.

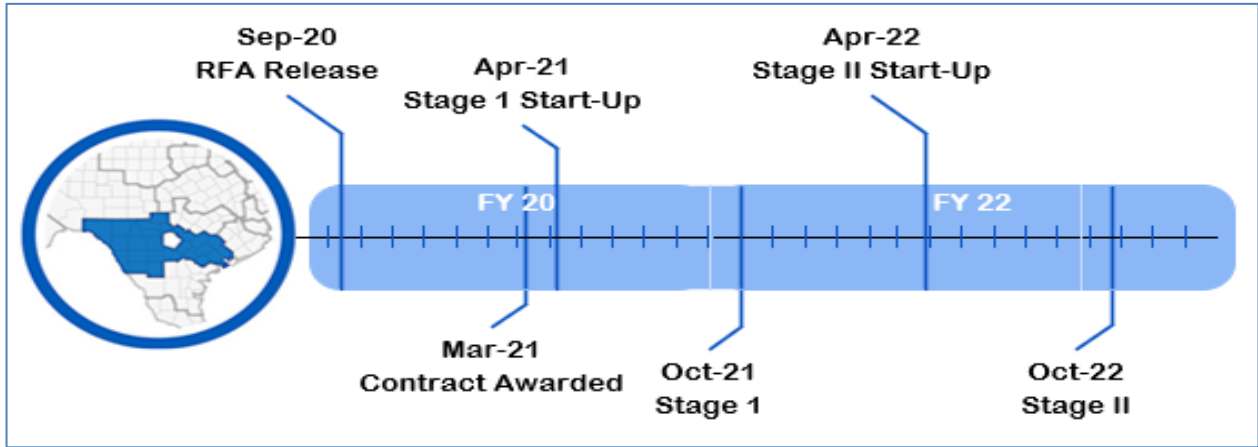
Connections Program

As part of the case management model, SFCS employs Connection Specialists; their role involves working internally alongside permanency staff and externally in partnership with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the South Plains. Their work with CASA oversees the Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) program. The aim of this program is to identify familial connections and build a network of support for parents and youth that includes permanency options. The SFCS Connections Program operates similarly to the CFE program to identify, establish, and help families to maintain a network of support and permanency options. In addition, they also identify supportive persons, programs, and resources outside of the family and work with parents, youth, and the network to follow through with their commitments. Since SFCS entered Stage II on March 2, 2022, Connection Specialists have made almost 200 connections for youth. These connections have provided hope for older youth without connections and have also provided placement options for them in some cases.



Update for South Central & Hill Country- SJRC and their Division, Belong

The South Central & Hill Country (previously known as Region 8B) area is comprised of 27 counties, excluding Bexar County. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Capacity Building Efforts

Belong has contracted with more than 137 residential contract providers and 182 different programs to service foster care children and families. Belong has provided training support for in-network providers to maintain staff ratios and capacity, as well as continued the implementation of prevention services to support reunification and permanency.

Belong utilized the Renewing Family Strengths program to provide services to youth that promote change in the behaviors that would otherwise result in the discharge of the youth. Belong has been an active participant in the Texas Family First Pilot to provide three evidence-based program models to court-ordered families and prevent child removals. In partnership with Chosen, there have been 284 Behavioral Support/Parent Coaching sessions, 250 weekly action plans, and 79 Crisis Intervention sessions.

Belong has continued its partnership with Touchstone Alliance to take over programming on the SJRC Bulverde campus. Touchstone developed and continues to maintain weekly therapeutic clinical meetings, where clinical directors and stakeholders meet to review program implementation. In addition, Touchstone has implemented a Neurosequential Model of Therapeutic (NMT) training to better understand and help at-risk youth, as well as initiated a therapeutic response process to replace behavior modification and consequences reactions.



Permanency & Prevention Services

Belong works in collaboration with two family support programs – Parents as Teachers (PAT) to provide in-home support to the South Central and Hill Country Region. To promote permanency, Belong’s family support services include caregiver support groups, group classes, community events, and a community-wide Fatherhood Initiative aimed at providing engagement opportunities for male caregivers and their children. Belong received 44 new referrals for in-home support services and enrolled 19 new families.

As of November 28, 2022, there has been 250 home visits completed by family support workers in the prevention team. Home visits work as a key component for the prevention of abuse and neglect and are used to promote positive parent-child interaction, teach development-centered parenting skills, and encourage family well-being by building positive support systems and community connections. Belong has partnered with families to achieve 50 goals. Belong has also connected families to 77 community resources such as transportation, housing, medical services, mental health services, intervention programs, etc.

Intervention and Placement Preservation

Belong completes Placement Disruption Mitigation Staffings for every youth who is at risk for being discharged from their placement. Between September through November 28, 2022, Belong completed placement disruption mitigation staffings for 22 children who received discharge notices from their placement. Of the 22 children:

- Two children preserved their foster or adoptive home placement,
- Two children preserved placement in a Residential Treatment Center,
- One child preserved placement in a General Residential Operation,
- One child moved to Supervised Independent Living,
- And one child moved to a Kinship placement.

Belong successfully preserves placements primarily through counseling services, skills training, and providing transportation. Belong’s connection with Chosen assists children in foster home and/or adoptive home placement by providing families and their children with trauma-informed training and clinical offerings.

Training

During late August, Belong completed Stage II readiness requirements. Belong’s training department collaborated with DFPS to ensure that internal staff were case assignable upon the start of Stage II. As Belong geared up for Stage II, the training department continuously coordinated



training for 24 newly hired SJRC employees and worked on increasing the number of SJRC Child Placing Agency foster parents trained.

Belong has also provided Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training to over 60 DFPS staff and New Employee Orientation training to over 90 staff for five external providers.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Belong has engaged with over 100 community groups, businesses, and/or faith-based organizations. Belong has worked with the Weekly, Hands-on, Independent, Tutoring (WHIT) Program to establish educational resources for the region. Belong hosted their first Father’s Day Health Fair in partnership with the New Braunfels Food Bank. Belong continued to host monthly virtual foster and adoption information meetings, engaged with groups to develop a Youth Council, and hosted foster-care resource fairs throughout the South Central and Hill Country area to inform communities of available services.

SSCC Supervision

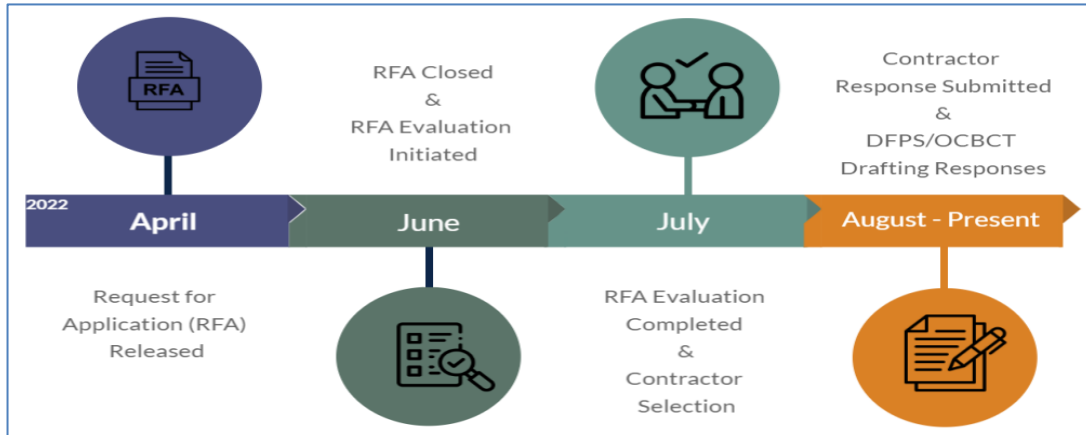
The “Belong House”, a home on SJRC’s licensed campus, is available as a temporary home for children who are awaiting placement while Belong’s Intake and Placement team works extensively to secure placements that meet every child’s needs. Belong’s utilization of the “Belong House” is of last resort, and because of their philosophy, they have had very few cases of SSCC Supervision. During August – November 28, 2022, there have been no instances of SSCC Supervision under Belong.

Update on Community-Based Care Expansion

As appropriated by the 87th Texas Legislature, the OCBCT and DFPS, in partnership with HHSC, is in contract negotiations for Community-Based Care in the following communities: Metroplex East (Region 3E), Piney Woods (Region 4), and Deep East (Region 5). See the timeline below for the projected staggered implementation of the next areas, given successful contract execution in each CBC area. As of August 20, 2022, the process for unsolicited proposal submission was formalized and posted to the [HHSC webpage](#). For the purposes of bidding for a CBC contract, data may be requested from DFPS by completing the [external bidder data request form](#). To date, data requests have been received; there have been no submissions of an unsolicited proposal. Visit the [CBC webpage](#) to see the status of submitted unsolicited proposals in real-time.



Proposed timeline for CBC implementation in new community areas



Belong completed Stage II readiness activities and received certification of readiness. On October 1, 2022, Belong went live in Stage II. Belong was the first SSCC to adopt the expedited timeline, reduced from 24 to 18 months, and moved into Stage II within 11 months from Stage I. DFPS, OCBCT, and Belong worked collaboratively to ensure a seamless transition to this next stage of Community-Based Care.

Over the FY2022-2023 biennium, the OCBCT and DFPS will re-solicit the SSCC contract for Metroplex West to include all counties in the region in the procurement since OCOK's current contract ends August 31, 2023. The solicitation with HHSC is close to being posted and OCBCT along with DFPS has begun to develop and implement communication plans, identify resource transfers of staff, determine fiscal allocations, and begin community planning for the new contract which is anticipated to start September 1, 2023.

Community Outreach

The OCBCT has placed a lot of focus and emphasis on community outreach to provide information and awareness of CBC and what it means for the community. The OCBCT collaborates with community stakeholders and leaders to share information and answer questions regarding the implementation of CBC. On October 14, 2022, OCBCT hosted the Public Private Partnership meeting (PPP) and on October 19, 2022, OCBCT participated in the Child Protection Round Table. Other ongoing meetings with external stakeholders include collaboration with the University of Texas, Texas Tech University, and Texas A&M University. The OCBCT also meets regularly with the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, the SSCC Outreach and Communication Specialists, and the Bexar County Systems of Care with continued collaboration with community stakeholders and leaders on re-establishing CBC in Bexar County. In an effort to not only network, educate, and share information, the OCBCT has attended and participated in the



following meetings/conferences to gather information and hear other innovative ideas and implementation processes:

- The Children’s Commission Stakeholder Collaborative calls (bi-weekly),
- Kinship Steering Committee (monthly),
- Symposium on Treatment Foster Care hosted by TACFS,
- National Community Based Child Welfare Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri on October 4-6, 2022, and
- Positive Permanency Roundtable on November 8, 2022.

The OCBCT created presentations and presented information on CBC at the following external events:

- the Texas Council on Child Welfare Boards on October 13, 2022,
- the Texas Child Care Administrators Conference on October 25, 2022,
- the Child Welfare Judge’s Conference on October 25, 2022,
- the Bexar County Foster Care Summit on November 29, 2022, and
- the Coalition of Child Serving Sector’s Harris County Bench Bar on December 2, 2022.

The OCBCT continues to provide information and keep DFPS staff informed on CBC and any updates. The OCBCT has presented at CBC Townhalls for Regions 4/5, 8b, and 7. The OCBCT is currently hosting monthly lunch and learn sessions for DFPS staff regarding CBC through December 2022. OCBCT staff are assigned to each area not currently CBC in order to provide outreach, encourage, and support community providers to be prepared to move to CBC. Outreach has been done consistently to establish a presence in communities across the state.

Legislation Implementation Updates

Senate Bill 1896

The 87th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1896, which is an omnibus bill that impacts many divisions within DFPS, including the OCBCT. This bill created the OCBCT and appointed a Statewide CBC Director.

The OCBCT is charged with 10 duties:

1. assess CBC areas in this state where Community-Based Care services may be implemented,
2. develop a plan for implementing Community-Based Care in each community area in this state, including the order in which Community-Based Care will be implemented in each



- community area and a timeline for implementation,
3. evaluate Community-Based Care providers,
 4. contract, on behalf of DFPS, with Community-Based Care providers to provide services in each community area in this state,
 5. measure contract performance of Community-Based Care providers,
 6. provide contract oversight of Community-Based Care providers,
 7. report outcomes of Community-Based Care providers,
 8. identify the employees and other resources to be transferred to the Community-Based Care provider to provide the necessary implementation, case management, operational, and administrative functions and outline the methodology for determining the employees and resources to be transferred,
 9. create a risk-sharing funding model that strategically and explicitly balances financial risk between this state and the Community-Based Care provider and mitigates the financial effects of significant unforeseen changes in the Community-Based Care provider's duties or the population of the community it serves, and
 10. require the annual review and adjustment of the funding based on updated cost and finance methodologies, including changes in policy, foster care rates, and community service usage.

For charges one through three, OCBCT's outreach efforts help promote and support these charges through interactions with current and potential future CBC providers to plan for CBC in communities across Texas. OCBCT continues to partner with DFPS to plan CBC roll out in the remaining community areas and ensures that innovation in planning the next areas of CBC is supported, as evidenced by OCBCT and DFPS' collaboration with HHSC to develop and post the unsolicited proposal process along with finalizing statutory rules. Additionally, modification of the CBC timeline for stage I to stage II with a reduction from 18 months to 12 months was approved and implemented in the South Central and Hill Country community through the readiness process, and will also be utilized in Metroplex East, Piney Woods, and Deep East communities and all subsequent communities. Belong was the first SSCC to move to Stage II within the expedited timeline from 24 months to 18 months. OCBCT continues to look at the timeline for flexibility based on the SSCC and community readiness.

For charges four through seven, OCBCT works closely with DFPS and HHSC to ensure procurement regulations are followed, adherence to state and federal statutes regarding the administration of the foster care program, and compliance with the federal foster care remedial orders. This collaborative approach ensures that the SSCCs are set up for success. OCBCT collaborates and partners with DFPS and the SSCCs to resolve any case work or contractual



concerns. The CBC Quarterly Report and the Rider 15 Report help to ensure that outcomes are reported to internal and external stakeholders. Information is also shared in the quarterly public private partnership (PPP) meetings, where the public and private sectors come together to advise DFPS and OCBCT about CBC. In October 2022, the PPP meeting was combined with the Committee on Advancing Residential Practices (CARP) meeting in an effort to further tap into the provider knowledge base as CBC moves forward. It is the will of both advisory groups to continue with a combined agenda throughout 2023; DFPS and OCBCT are supportive of this effort. Lastly, OCBCT testified at the CBC Transition Joint Legislative Oversight Committee hearing and will continue to work closely with the Legislature, DFPS, and SSCCs to further the implementation of CBC. The OCBCT's outreach efforts support the completion of this function of the office. The OCBCT is committed to transparency and will continue to meet statutory requirements for sharing implementation plans, implementation updates, and performance data and measures.

For the final charges, eight through ten, the OCBCT continues to work alongside DFPS and HHSC to evaluate financial implications of CBC. The OCBCT is working on the CBC Rate Modernization Project with DFPS, HHSC and their contractors. The OCBCT continues to work with external partners such as Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas, and Chapin Hall to ensure the best methods of supporting the SSCCs and Community-Based Care. Given the direction of Senate Bill 1896 regarding evaluation of Family Based Safety Services (FBSS), the OCBCT worked in collaboration with DFPS and the SSCCs to complete the Senate Bill 910 study, which provides insight into the options for including family preservation services into the CBC model. To collaborate on the House Bill 3041 Family Preservation service pilots, trainings for each SSCC area were held with DFPS to discuss their evidence-based models and the processes for referrals into the Texas Family First (TFF) pilot programs. The TFF pilot programs were launched in each SSCC area and families can now be referred to the pilot when the criteria has been met.

Data Access and Standards Governance Council

Senate Bill 1896 updated the definition and requirements of the existing Data Access and Standards Governance Council (DASGC), which was established by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019. To conform to Senate Bill 1896, the Council established a quarterly meeting schedule; the last meeting was held on December 2, 2022 and the next scheduled meeting is set for March 9, 2022. Quarterly Council meetings continue in addition to monthly meetings that are scheduled as needed. The OCBCT and SSCCs continue to partner with DFPS ITS, Data and Systems Improvement (DSI), and Management Consulting Group (MCG) to develop a roadmap towards full interoperability that will provide a standardized information infrastructure. Beginning in FY23, SSCC Information Technology (IT) and Data leads started participating in monthly DFPS Information and Technology Services (ITS) meetings. These meetings review current projects,



discuss obstacles in current system, and go over future schedules. The OCBCT continues to advocate for a long-term solution to interoperability and still has the three substantial interoperability projects submitted in FY21, pending funding availability.

CBC Model, Process Evaluation, and Continuous Quality Improvement

The OCBCT continues to evaluate whether the staged approach is the best approach to implement CBC statewide. The OCBCT and DFPS contracted with Texas Tech University to conduct a process evaluation of each stage of CBC. The process evaluation is a tool used by the OCBCT and DFPS to assess implementation of CBC in each community area, identifying the key successes and barriers, and course correct as needed. The CBC process evaluation was completed in November 2020 and can be found on the [CBC website](#). On-going process evaluations through Texas Tech University will continue, and work is underway with the DFPS Office of Data and Systems Improvement and the SSCCs, to make a long term sustainable plan for statewide Community-Based Care. An updated process evaluation is planned to be released by Texas Tech University in FY23.

The OCBCT and DFPS continue to work with the Center for Child Welfare Data, affiliated with Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago, to support the outcome evaluation. Chapin Hall provides independent data analysis of each SSCC's performance on placements within 50 miles and paid foster care days, the basis for the fiscal model, and incentive payments in Stage III. Chapin Hall and the OCBCT, with the input of DFPS and the SSCCs, will be finalizing Stage III in this fiscal year.

Conclusion

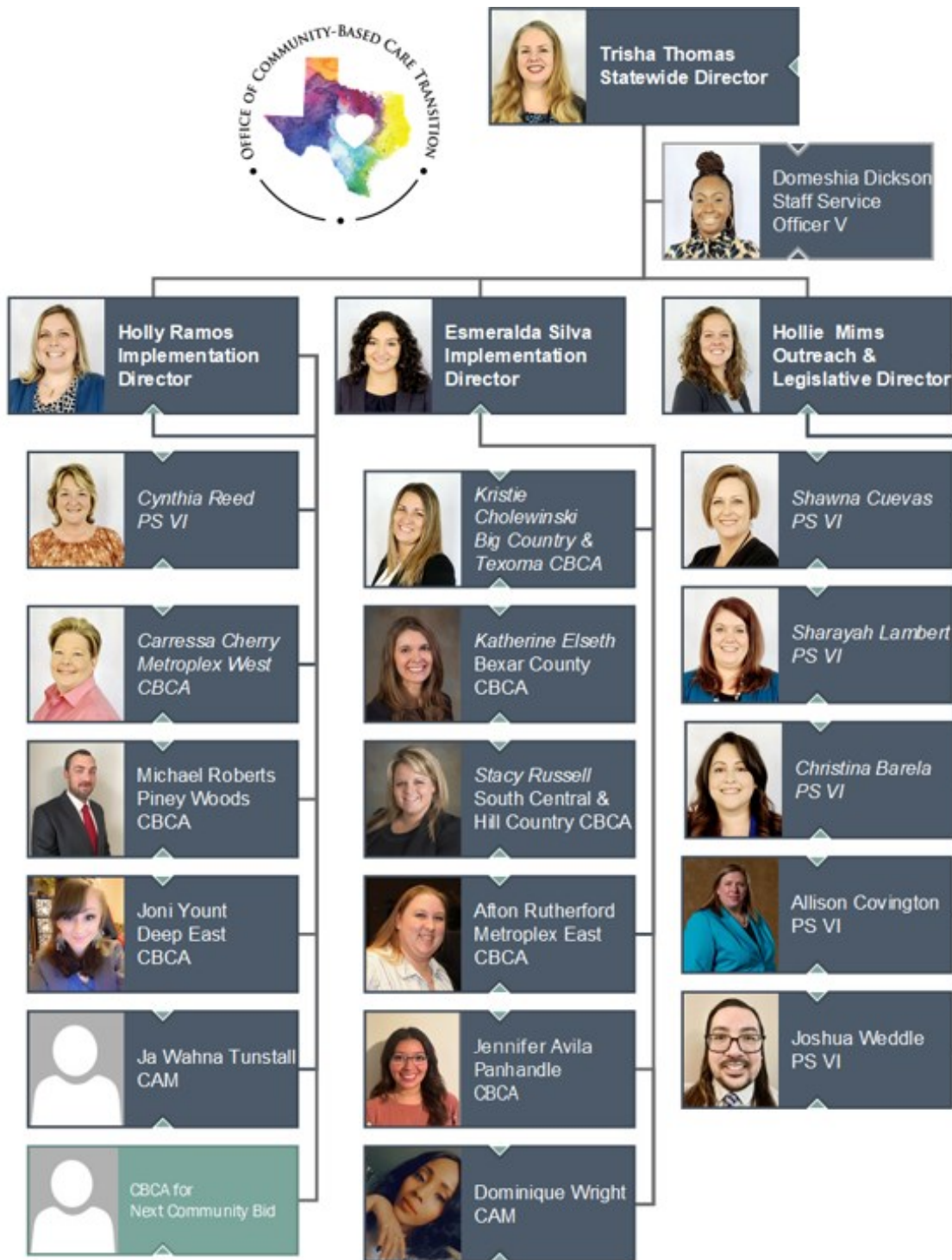
The OCBCT, DFPS, and stakeholder partners are committed to successfully implementing and sustaining CBC in the four current communities (Panhandle, Big Country & Texoma, Metroplex West, and South Central & Hill Country). Depending on contract awards, the upcoming three community areas will continue to support CBC implementation. The potential award of unsolicited proposals lays the foundation for a successful rollout statewide. In this biennium, one SSCC has moved into Stage I with the anticipation of three additional SSCCs moving into Stage I. Two SSCCs have moved into Stage II. This timeline could be accelerated due to unsolicited proposal awards. At a minimum and based on funding, the next biennium would include four SSCCs in Stage I and four SSCCs in Stage II, with the following biennium including the remaining four SSCCs in Stage I and four SSCCs in Stage II with the goal of statewide Community-Based Care



by 2029, or sooner. View the latest [CBC Implementation Plan](#) for additional details; it is updated annually and will include new requirements passed during the 88th Texas Legislature. The OCBCT is preparing and excited for the next Legislative Session. The OCBCT appreciates the opportunity to provide information on all the successes this office has achieved in its first 16 months after being established and is well on its way to fully and successfully transitioning Texas to CBC as soon as possible.



Appendix A: Organizational Structure for the Office of Community-Based Care Transition



Appendix B: Current Community-Based Care Communities

