



**ACH** child and  
family services  
protecting children.preserving families.since 1915.

## **Foster Care Redesign: Region 3b**

**Testimony for  
Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
April 20, 2016**

# Foster Care Redesign in Texas

Divided into 16 Regions

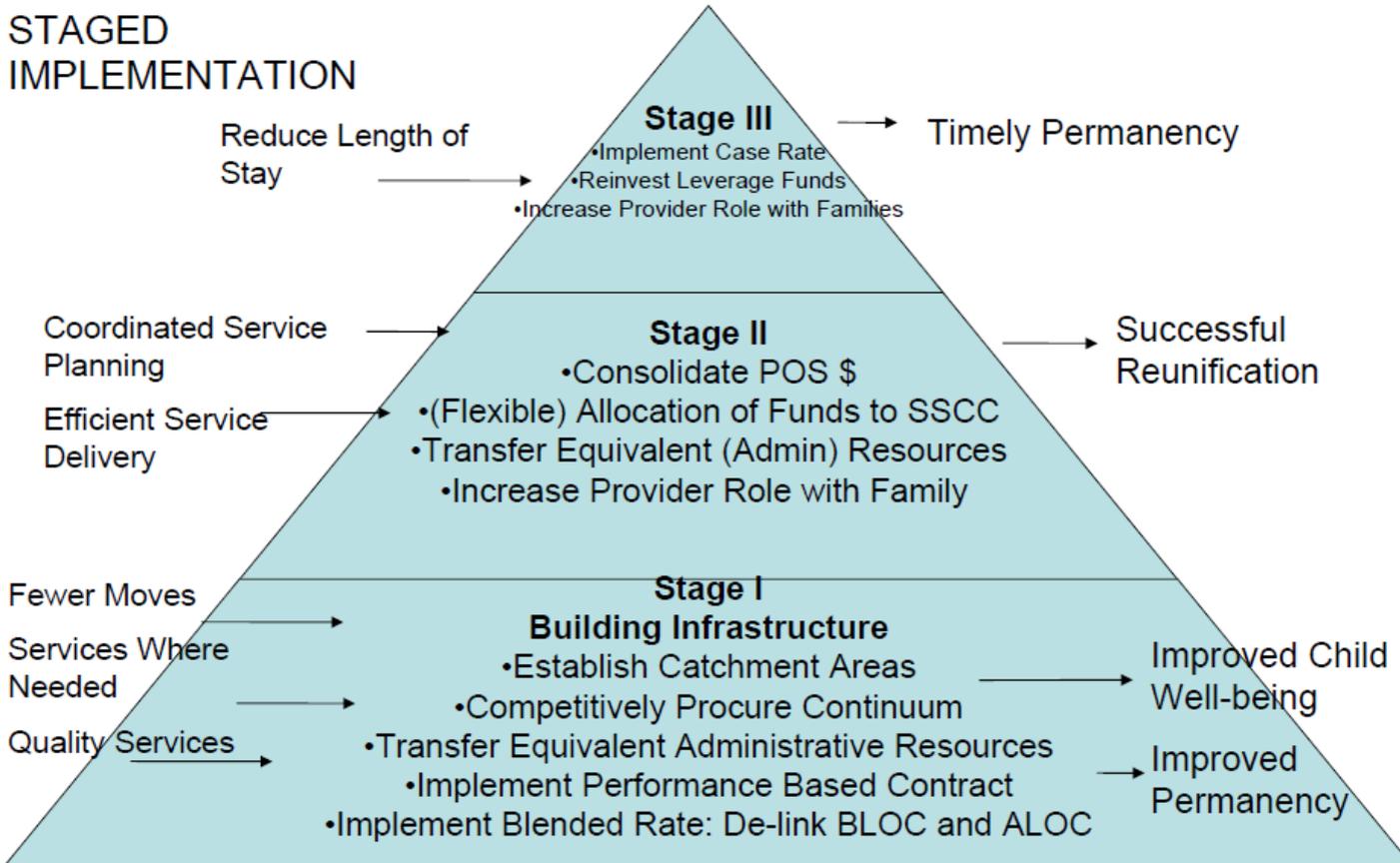


Region 3b  
Counties &  
Number of  
Children  
(Tarrant – 899  
Parker – 83  
Palo Pinto -90  
Johnson - 224  
Erath – 25  
Hood - 61  
and  
Somervell -10)

17,000  
foster  
children  
in Texas

As of March  
2016  
1,392  
foster  
children in  
Region 3b

# Three Phase Implementation





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# What's Different?



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**“Our Kids” not “CPS Kids”**

**(It’s not a “mini-CPS” model)**

- ✓ **Local Control/Teamwork**
- ✓ **Accountability**
- ✓ **Unified Voice for Kids**
- ✓ **Urgency**
- ✓ **Capacity Building**
- ✓ **Flexibility/Innovation**



# Accountability = Performance Based Contract

- Children are safe in care
- Children are placed within 50 miles of their home
- Siblings are kept together
- Children are stable in their placements



The Future of **Foster Care**

# Redesign is Getting Results-Year 1

- **83%** of youth placed within 50 miles of home. (Benchmark 71%)
- **94%** of youth stable in placement\* (Benchmark 89%\* at 24 months)
- **99.9%** of youth are safe in care
- **79%** of youth placed with families (Benchmark 71%)
- **20% increase** in # foster homes



# More Results: As a Result of Redesign . . .

- DFPS workers in Region 3b report having *more time to spend with children*
- DFPS supervisors report caseworkers now *return calls in a more timely manner* and the *quality of written narratives has improved*
- *Overtime has decreased* for DFPS staff



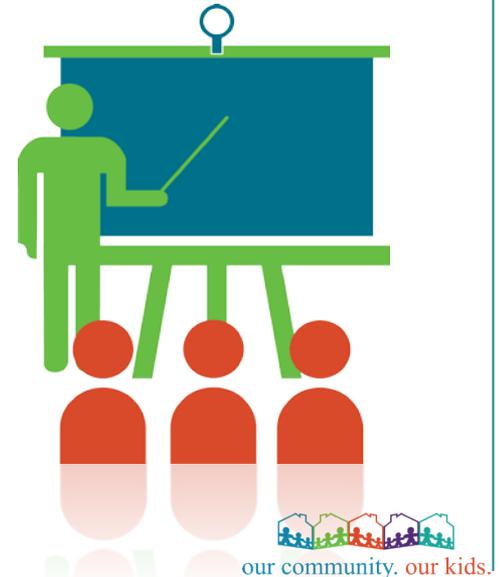
*These results were reported by TDFPS in a March, 2016 update on Foster Care Redesign*

# “High Needs Kids”

- **Redesign allows targeted capacity building**
- **32 children have moved from Residential Treatment to Therapeutic Foster Homes**
- **Stage 3 allows earlier and expanded interventions with families**
- **Shorter lengths of stay can provide resources for more family interventions**

# Recommendations

- Foster Care Redesign supports the improvement of both DFPS and the Provider Network. It's not a new program, it's a new way of working together for kids
- Redesign needs to start in additional catchment areas soon
- Redesign needs to be fully funded to sustain the system improvements and improved outcomes for children





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