



DFPS Rider 15 Report for Community-Based Care

Office of Community-Based Care Transition

September 2024

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Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 88th Texas Legislature, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Rider 15, the agency shall, on March 31st and September 30th of each year of the biennium, "report selected performance measures identified by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) that will allow for comparative analysis between the Legacy foster care and the Community-Based Care (CBC) systems." The report "shall contain the most recent data for the selected comparative performance measures, an analysis of the data that identifies trends and related impact occurring in the Community-Based Care system, identification and analysis of factors negatively impacting any outcomes, recommendations to address problems identified from the data, and any other information necessary to determine the status of the Community-Based Care system." The Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) collaborates with DFPS to complete this report.

Background

CBC changes how DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based contract, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community area. In Stage I, the 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 and 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 DFPS is statutorily authorized to provide SSCCs with financial incentives or remedies for outcomes related to performance, including permanency outcomes.

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 SSCC outcome evaluation. Chapin Hall provides independent data analysis of each SSCC's performance on placements within 50 miles and paid foster care days, the latter of which is the basis for the fiscal model and incentive payments in Stage III. Chapin Hall, DFPS, and the OCBCT have finalized the Stage III parameters, and there are currently four SSCCs in Stage III.

The CBC Quality Indicators, often referred to as guiding principles, provide a shared vision for quality services and outcomes under CBC. The achievement of quality indicators is the first major deliverable in the SSCC contract and guides the performance-based contract. CBC contract performance measures reported in Section B of the Appendices align to the quality

indicators, where aggregate data is available in DFPS' automated case management data system, Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT), for measurement.

DFPS and OCBCT host multiple implementation calls and coordination meetings with SSCCs to address issues and challenges and provide support. In addition, Regional DFPS Case Management Oversight and Technical Assistance staff (CMO staff) perform case reads to oversee critical case activity and offer technical assistance. DFPS and OCBCT recognize that some slow-down in case activity and documentation may temporarily occur with workforce changes and the potential for a more significant proportion of the workforce made up of new hires early on, dependent on the ability to of the SSCC to attract and retain DFPS staff. This stabilizing period is needed as SSCCs devote resources to improving outcomes.

DFPS and OCBCT assess contract performance measures quarterly as part of formal contract monitoring and a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Through this process, DFPS, OCBCT, and each SSCC review performance measure results each quarter, along with other data used to identify potential trends and performance drivers. Performance drivers may include changes to the population of children, trends specific to those populations, placement utilization practices, and other data. The CQI process enables DFPS and OCBCT to understand the significance of performance measure trends and assess the strategies each SSCC has in place to maintain or improve performance. Whenever DFPS and the OCBCT identifies performance concerns or compliance issues, DFPS will intervene as indicated in the contract progressive intervention process, which includes a range of required actions the SSCC will take to reverse the trend or address the area of non-compliance. The progressive intervention plan for the SSCCs can be found in the [Annual CBC Implementation Plan](#), which is released at the end of each calendar year.

Using the Rider 15 Report to Assess Performance

Report Sections and Attachments

The Rider 15 Report is accompanied by two attachments, the Data Attachment and the Financial Attachment, which can be found on the [DFPS Reports webpage](#). The Data Attachment reports three sets of performance data, which are described below:

- **Section A** of the Data Attachment includes select Legislative Budget Board (LBB) agency performance measures for children in DFPS conservatorship. For designated community areas in Stage II of CBC, Section A shows how SSCCs perform on DFPS measures. Performance calculations for Stage I communities include both children in foster care served by the SSCCs in Stage I and children served in substitute care settings, like kinship, not served by the SSCC, except where the measure specifically references only

children in foster care. For these areas, case management services remained a function of DFPS. The measures are intended to show outcomes of case management activity but are not performance measures for SSCC contracts.

- **Section B** of the Data Attachment includes CBC contract performance measures that apply to children in foster care. For SSCCs in Stage I, performance is limited to children in SSCC-contracted foster care placements. For SSCCs in Stage II, performance measures include all children from the community in foster care, whether the contract is in the SSCC network or with a legacy provider. The term “eligible” is used for children in an active SSCC catchment but who are placed in a legacy foster care placement.
- **Section C** of the Data Attachment reports CBC contract performance measures that are specific to Stage II, applying to all children in conservatorship for designated community areas.
- **The Rider 15 Financial Attachment** reports CBC actual and projected expenditures for prior and current fiscal years, which is required for the Rider 15 report. The reader will also see the blended rate and exceptional care rate for each SSCC catchment area on the second tab of this attachment.

With seven designated community areas in Stage II, Section A performance metrics related to permanency become relevant. This report will not, however, give detailed attention to Section A measures because the focus of this report is the CBC contracted performance measures.

Interpretation of Performance

As CBC progresses through staged implementation, the data can be used to help inform the following questions.

1. **Are there statewide changes which could also affect SSCC performance?** Examine trends over time in statewide performance. If there are trends upward or downward across the state, this may point to statewide factors influencing performance.
2. **How is the CBC system performing over time?** Over time, compare SSCC performance to the performance of the “Non-CBC” population. If the SSCC designated community areas are improving more than the legacy catchment areas, the changes made to the foster care system under CBC may be effective.
3. **How is a particular SSCC performing over time?** Compare individual SSCC performance across fiscal years. Improvement may take time as services are transitioned to each SSCC, and the SSCC works to build the network of services in the area.
4. **Are some SSCCs performing better than others?** Compare SSCC performance one to another. While each area has unique strengths and challenges, if a specific SSCC is improving outcomes compared to historical performance at a faster rate, the strategies implemented by the SSCC may be more effective.

Performance measure data referenced below reflects performance through the third quarter of FY24, which is provisional and subject to change.

State of the Community-Based Care System

Implementation Status

DFPS and OCBCT are working toward full implementation of CBC statewide. DFPS and OCBCT have implemented CBC in seven community areas. As of May 31, 2024 (end of FY24Q3), no SSCCs are in Stage I.

The SSCCs currently in Stage II are as follows:

- All Children’s Home (ACH) and their SSCC division, Our Community Our Kids (OCOK), in Metroplex West for the three counties of Cooke, Denton, and Wise,
- Texas Family Initiative (TFI) and their SSCC division, EMPOWER, in Metroplex East,
- Arrow Child and Family Ministries and their SSCC division, 4Kids4Families, in Piney Woods, and
- Pressley Ridge and their SSCC division, Texas Family Care Network (TFCN), in Deep East.

The SSCCs currently in Stage III are as follows:

- Saint Francis Community Services Inc (SFCS) and their SSCC division, Saint Francis Community Services, Inc, in the Panhandle,
- Texas Family Initiative (TFI) and their SSCC division, 2INgage, in Big Country and Texoma,
- ACH and their SSCC division, Our Community Our Kids (OCOK), in Metroplex West, counties of Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, and Tarrant, and
- St. Jude’s Ranch for Children (SJRC) Texas and their SSCC division, Belong, in South Central and Hill Country.

See Appendix A for a map of the CBC community areas.

Current Trends and Impact to Legacy and Community-Based Care Systems

An important factor in assessing the performance of individual SSCCs is the time each has had to complete the transition process and to establish innovative change strategies to improve performance over historical trends. The below data is reported only for SSCCs where the current data reflects the performance of just the SSCC. For more information on how to interpret transition data, see Appendix B: “Limitations of SSCC Performance for Stage I and Post-Transition to Stage II.” The first fiscal year post-transition to Stage II, where the SSCC

alone provides all services (as opposed to shared DFPS-SSCC service provision in the data) are summarized below.

First Fiscal Year of Individual Performance

Community	Stage II Start	First Fiscal Year of Individual Performance
Metroplex West (OCOK)**	FY20 Q3*	FY21
Big Country and Texoma (2INgage)	FY20 Q4*	FY21
Panhandle (Saint Francis)	FY22 Q3	FY23
South Central and Hill Country (Belong)	FY23 Q1	FY23
Metroplex East (EMPOWER)	FY24 Q3	FY25
Piney Woods (4Kids4Families)	FY24 Q3	FY25
Deep East (TFCN)	FY24 Q3	FY25

* Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

** OCOK was awarded three additional counties in November 2023 and entered Stage II for all of Metroplex West in FY24 Q3, making their first fiscal year of individual performance in FY25 for all of Metroplex West.

Given that the data for FY24 Q3 does not reflect fully transitioned performance in Stage II for EMPOWER, 4Kids4Families, TFCN, and OCOK’s three northern counties of Cooke, Denton, and Wise, their data is exempt from the below summaries as they are not comparable to any of the current comparison populations. These areas will be included in the summaries for the March 2025 submission.

Foster Care Capacity (Stage I Objective – Section B)¹

The goal of Stage I is to create and sustain a network of paid foster care providers within the catchment area to ensure paid care placements provide safety and well-being, such as being placed as a sibling group or close to home. These measures and objectives continue into Stage II and III.

¹ DFPS Rider Report September 2024 Data Attachment.

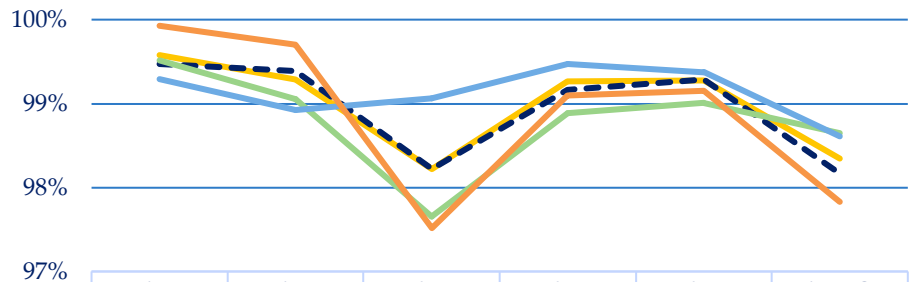
Percentage of Children Safe in Paid Foster Care*

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who do not experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation while in Foster Care.

All safety performance below 100% is an area to target for improvement.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children safe in paid foster care decreased by 0.9% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of children safe in paid foster care decreased by 1.1% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** No SSCC providers met the set target of 100% in keeping children safe in paid foster care.



	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24 Q3
Statewide	99.6%	99.3%	98.2%	99.3%	99.3%	98.3%
Statewide - Non-CBC**	99.5%	99.4%	98.2%	99.2%	99.3%	98.2%
Panhandle (1)	99.5%	99.1%	97.7%	98.9%	99.0%	98.6%
Big Country and Texoma (2)	99.3%	98.9%	99.1%	99.5%	99.4%	98.6%
South Central and Hill Country (8B)	99.9%	99.7%	97.5%	99.1%	99.2%	97.8%

*Y-axis starts at 97% and ends at 100%

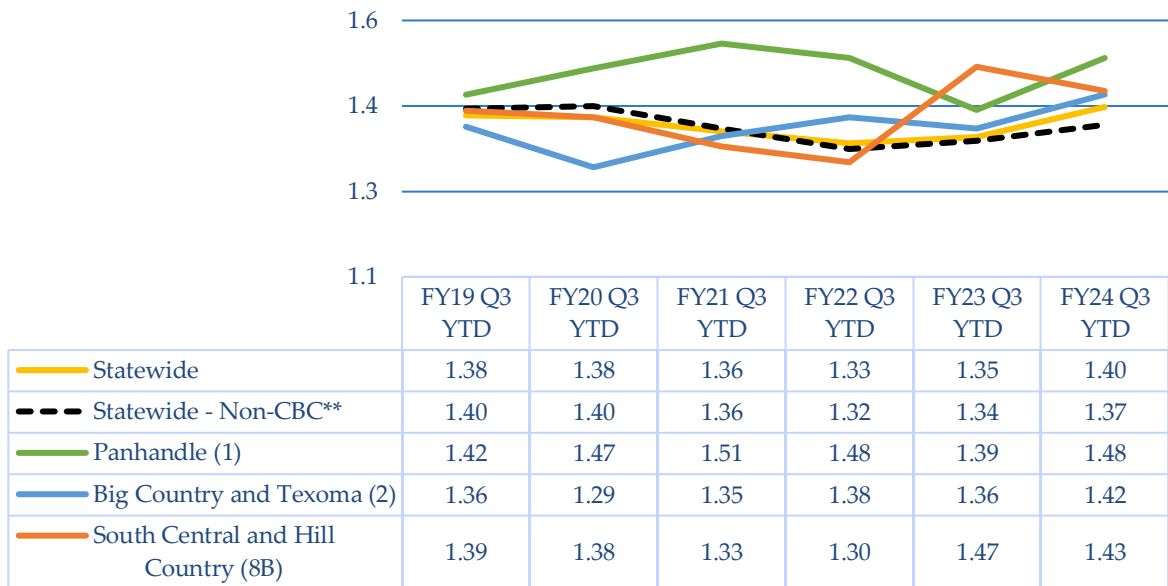
**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Paid Foster Care Placements per Child/Youth*

This performance measure is defined as the number of SSCC Foster Care placements per child.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** Placement stability for children/youth Statewide declined in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23 Q3, increasing from 1.35 to 1.40 paid foster care placements per child, indicating worsening stability.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** Placement stability for children/youth Statewide Non-CBC declined in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23 Q3, increasing from 1.34 to 1.37 paid foster care placements per child, indicating worsening stability.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider improved stability for children in their care in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23 Q3.



*Y-axis starts at 1.10 and ends at 1.60. Y-axis indicated paid foster care placements per child.

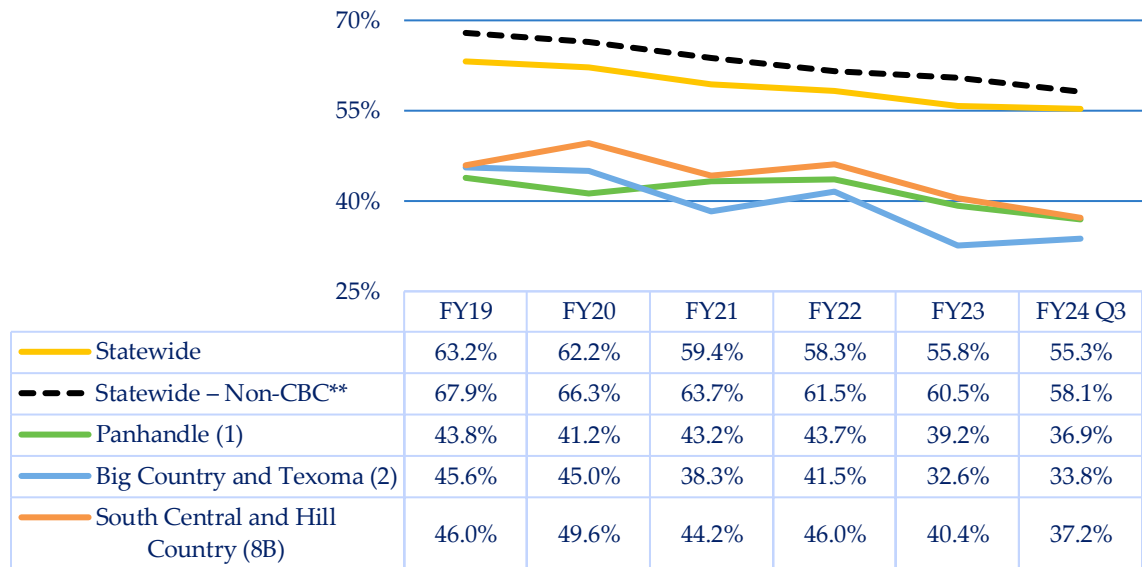
**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8

Percentage of Children Placed within 50 Miles of Removal Location*

The performance indicator most reflective of the foster care capacity challenge is the percentage of children placed close to home, defined in the metric as within 50 miles of removal.

Overall, performance declined for this measure, except for one CBC region:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children placed close to home decreased statewide by 0.5% in Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3 (FY24 Q3) compared to Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23).
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of children placed close to home decreased by 2.4% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** The percentage of children placed close to home increased for one of the three CBC regions in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.



*Y-axis starts at 25% and ends at 70%

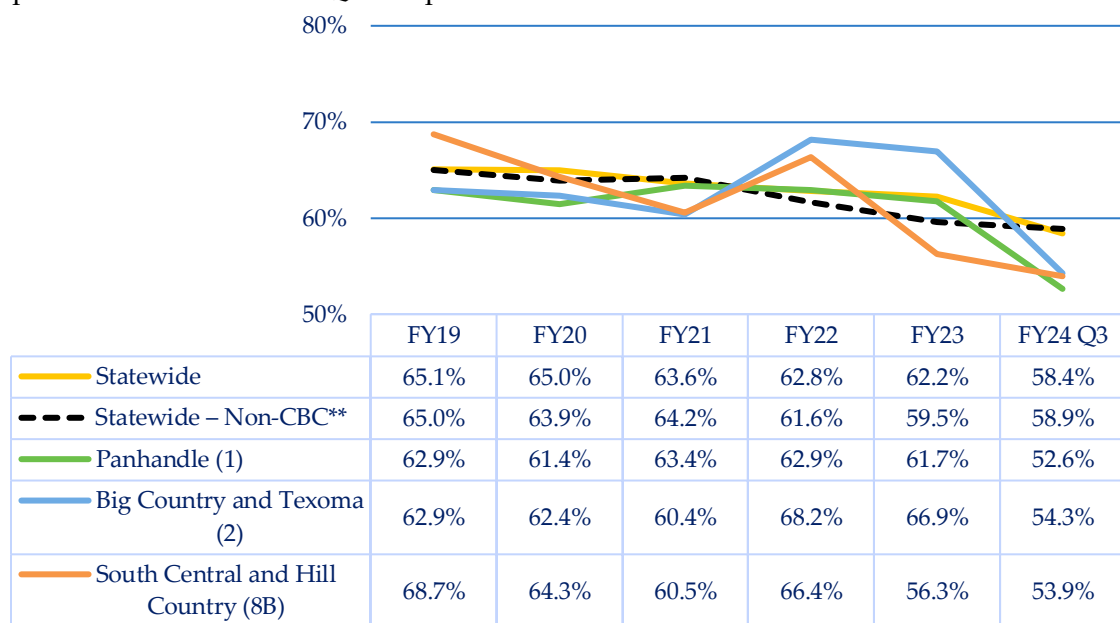
**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percentage of Siblings in Paid Foster Care Placed Together*

The ability to place siblings in foster care together is another area impacted by system-wide foster care capacity challenges.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of siblings in paid foster care placed together decreased statewide by 3.8% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of siblings in paid foster care placed together decreased by 0.7% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** No SSCC providers show performance improvements in keeping siblings together in paid foster care in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.



*Y-axis starts at 50% and ends at 80%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Permanency (Stage II Objective - Section C)²

The goal of Stage II is to improve exits to permanency, including both the number of children exiting to permanency and the speed at which they exit. Given that the SSCCs for the areas of Metroplex West (counties of Cooke, Denton, and Wise), Metroplex East, Piney Woods, and Deep East only have been in Stage II since the end of FY24 Q3, measures around permanency and new CPS intervention will only reflect exits from DFPS Conservatorship under Legacy,

² Ibid.

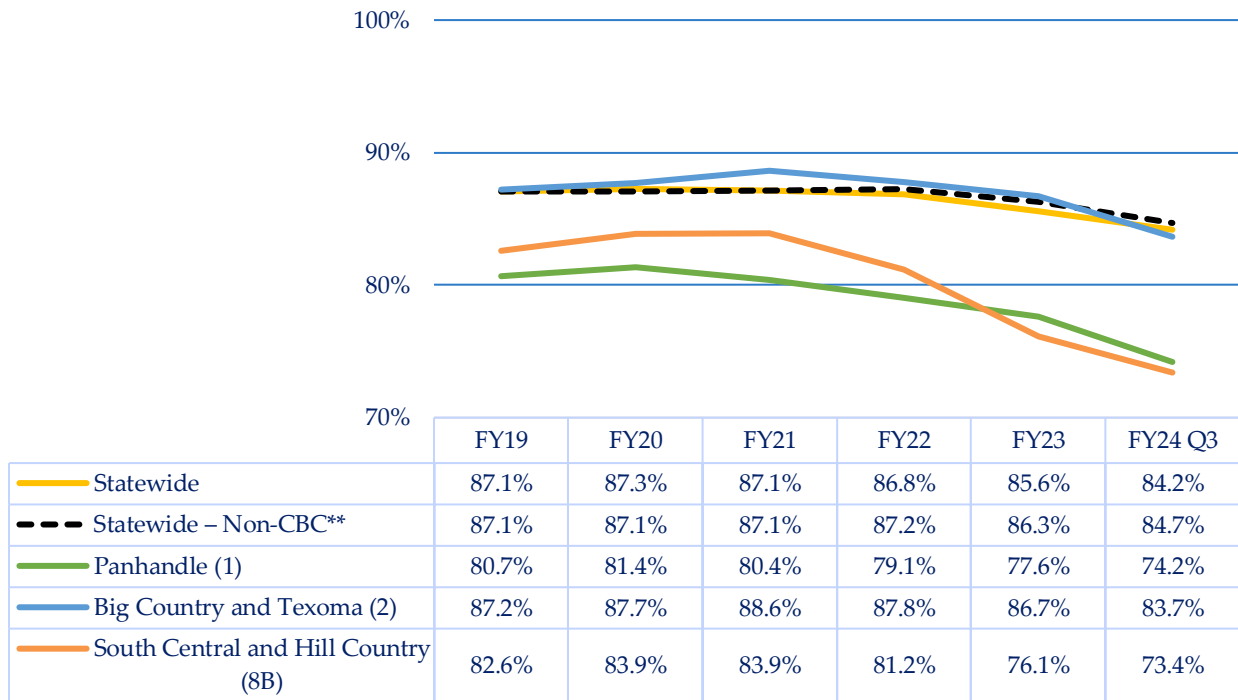
while other measures will reflect mixed performance. As such, the performance for these SSCCs will be reported in the March 2025 Rider 15 report.

Percentage of Placement Days in a Home Setting*

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of placement days in a home setting for children and youth in conservatorship.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of placement days in a home setting decreased statewide by 1.4% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of placement days in a home setting decreased by 1.6% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** No SSCC providers show performance improvements in placing children in home settings in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.



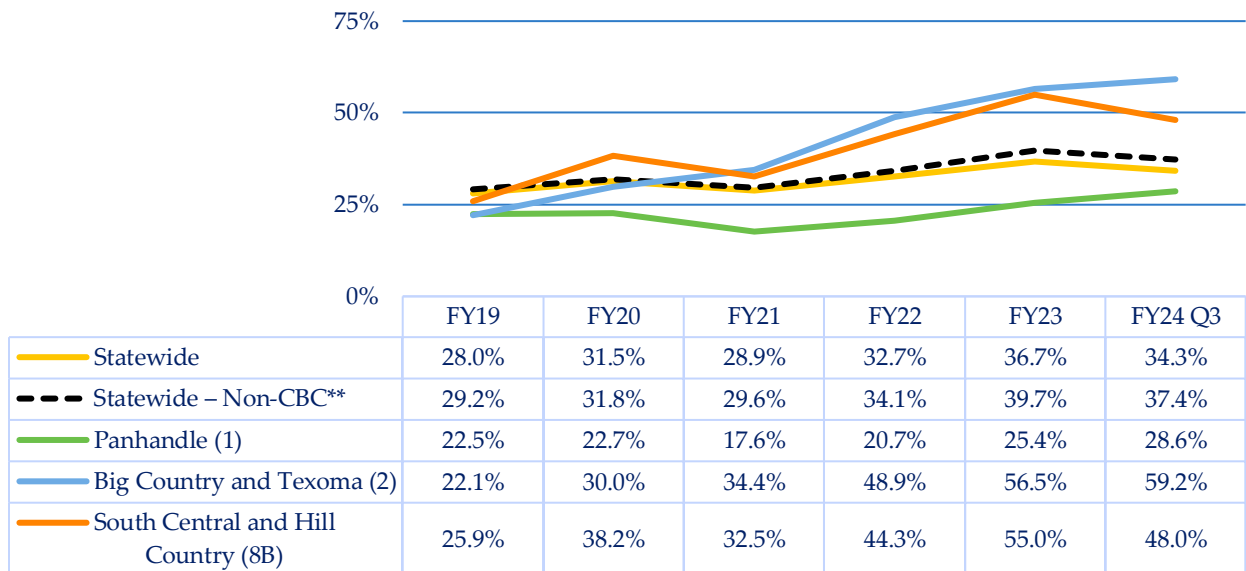
*Y-axis starts at 70% and ends at 100%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Youth Age 16 or Older who have a Driver's License or State Identification Card*

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of youth aged 16 or older Statewide who have a driver’s license or state identification card decreased in FY24 Q3 by 2.5% compared to FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of youth aged 16 or older Statewide Non-CBC who have a driver’s license or state identification card decreased in FY24 Q3 by 2.4% compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers increased the percent of youth aged 16 or older Statewide who have a driver’s license or state identification card in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.



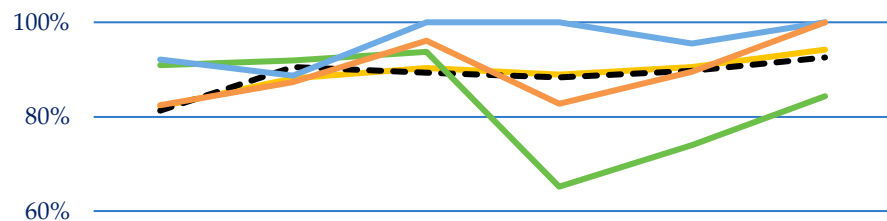
*Y-axis starts at 0% and ends at 75%.

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training*

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Youth Statewide who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training increased in FY24 Q3 by 3.7% compared to FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Youth Statewide who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training increased in FY24 Q3 by 2.8% compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** All SSCC providers increased the percent of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.



	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24 Q3
Statewide	82.1%	88.2%	90.4%	88.8%	90.5%	94.2%
Statewide – Non-CBC**	81.3%	90.4%	89.4%	88.4%	89.8%	92.6%
Panhandle (1)	91.0%	92.0%	93.8%	65.2%	74.0%	84.3%
Big Country and Texoma (2)	92.2%	88.7%	100.0%	100.0%	95.6%	100.0%
South Central and Hill Country (8B)	82.5%	87.3%	96.2%	82.7%	89.5%	100.0%

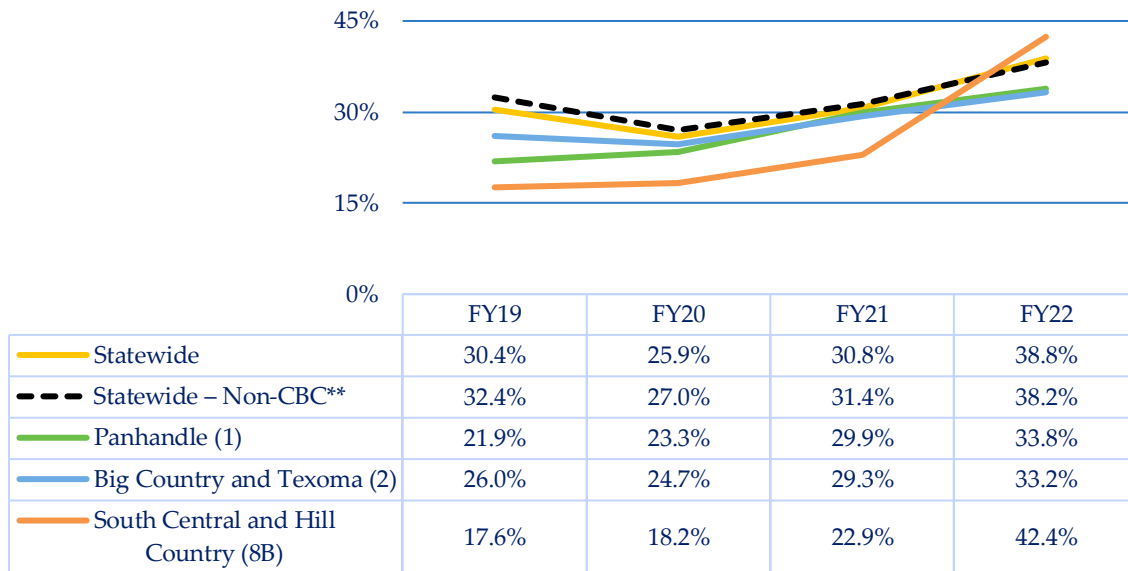
*Y-axis starts at 40% and ends at 100%.

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year*

Overall, performance has improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Children Statewide who Exit to Permanency within 1 year increased by 8.1% for children removed in FY22 compared to FY21.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Children Statewide Non-CBC who Exit to Permanency within 1 year increased by 6.8% for children removed in FY22 compared to FY21.
- **CBC:** All SSCC providers increased the percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year from exit for children removed in FY22 compared to FY21.



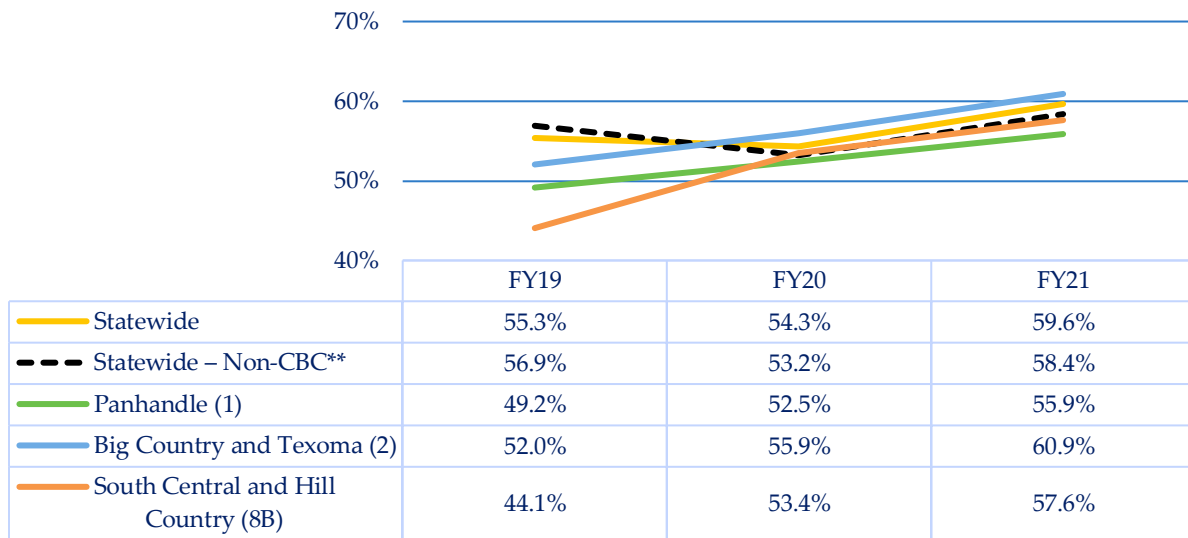
*Y-axis starts at 0% and ends at 45%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months*

Overall, performance has improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Children Statewide who Exit to Permanency within 18 months increased by 5.3% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Children Statewide Non-CBC who Exit to Permanency within 18 months increased by 5.2% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **CBC:** All SSCC providers increased the percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months from exit for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.



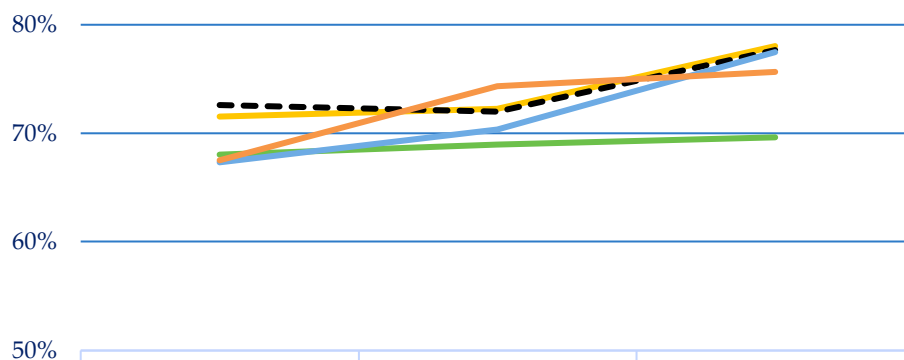
*Y-axis starts at 40% and ends at 70%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years*

Overall, performance has improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Children Statewide who Exit to Permanency within 2 years increased by 5.8% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Children Statewide Non-CBC who Exit to Permanency within 2 years increased by 5.7% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **CBC:** All SSCC providers increased the percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years from exit for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.



	FY19	FY20	FY21
Statewide	71.5%	72.2%	78.0%
Statewide - Non-CBC**	72.6%	72.0%	77.7%
Panhandle (1)	68.0%	69.0%	69.6%
Big Country and Texoma (2)	67.3%	70.4%	77.5%
South Central and Hill Country (8B)	67.5%	74.4%	75.7%

*Y-axis starts at 50% and ends at 80%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 3 years*

Too few years of data are available; we cannot make performance comparisons at this time.

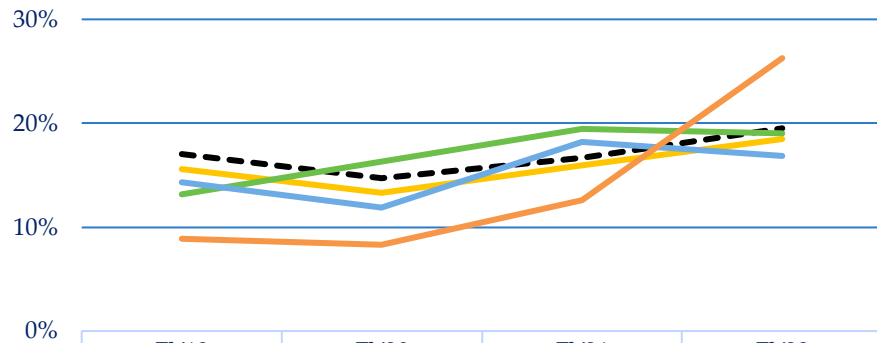
Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year*

Overall, performance is mixed for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Children Statewide who Exit to Reunification within 1 year increased by 2.5% for children removed in FY22 compared to FY21.

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- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Children Statewide Non-CBC who Exit to Reunification within 1 year increased by 2.8% for children removed in FY22 compared to FY21.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider increased the percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year from exit for children removed in FY22 compared to FY21.



	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Statewide	15.6%	13.3%	16.0%	18.5%
Statewide – Non-CBC**	17.0%	14.7%	16.7%	19.5%
Panhandle (1)	13.2%	16.3%	19.5%	19.0%
Big Country and Texoma (2)	14.3%	11.9%	18.2%	16.9%
South Central and Hill Country (8B)	8.9%	8.3%	12.6%	26.3%

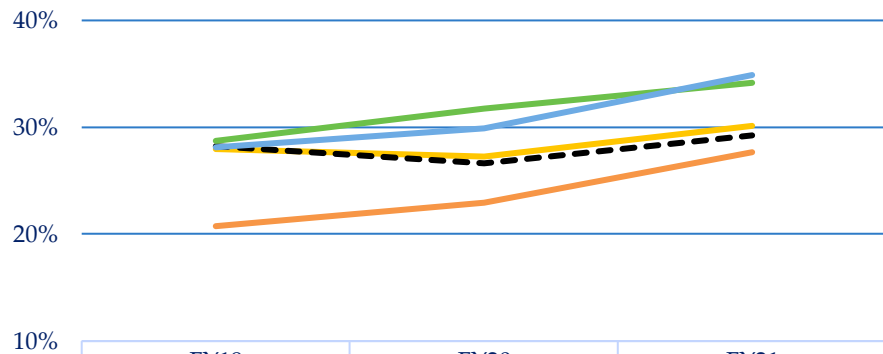
*Y-axis starts at 0% and ends at 30%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months*

Overall, performance is improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Children Statewide who Exit to Reunification within 18 months increased by 2.9% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Children Statewide Non-CBC who Exit to Reunification within 18 months increased by 2.6% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **CBC:** All SSCC providers increased the percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months from exit for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.



	FY19	FY20	FY21
Statewide	27.9%	27.3%	30.1%
Statewide - Non-CBC**	28.2%	26.6%	29.2%
Panhandle (1)	28.7%	31.8%	34.2%
Big Country and Texoma (2)	28.1%	29.9%	34.9%
South Central and Hill Country (8B)	20.8%	22.9%	27.7%

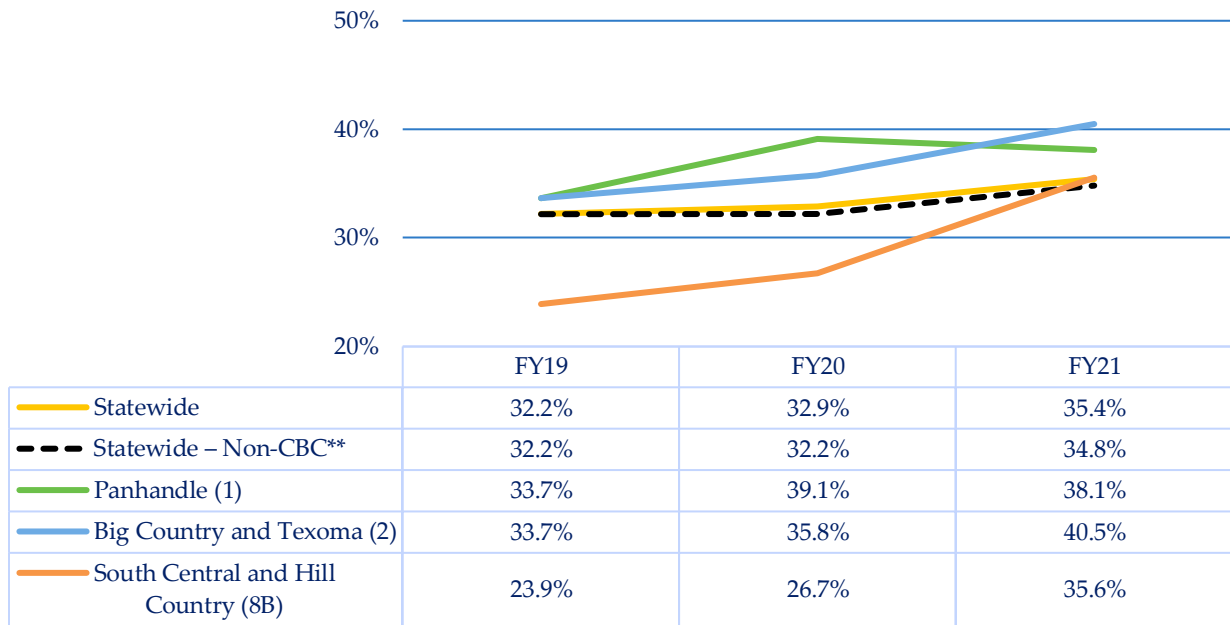
*Y-axis starts at 10% and ends at 30%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years*

Overall, performance is mixed for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Children Statewide who Exit to Reunification within 2 years increased by 2.5% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Children Statewide Non-CBC who Exit to Reunification within 2 years increased by 2.6% for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider decreased the percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years from exit for children removed in FY21 compared to FY20.



*Y-axis starts at 20% and ends at 50%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years*

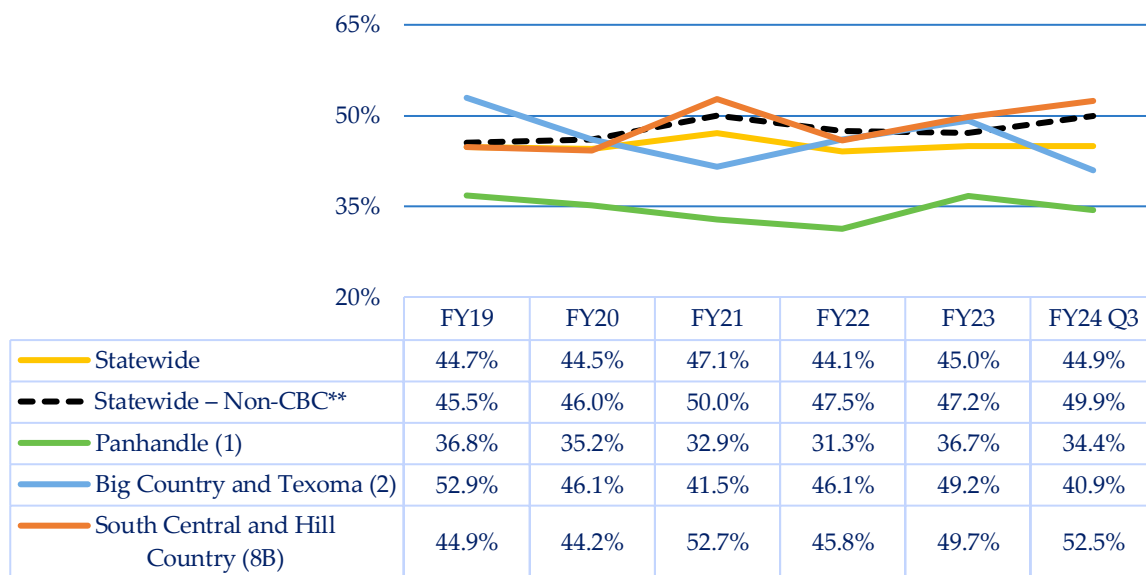
Too few years of data are available; we cannot make performance comparisons at this time.

Percentage of Children Placed with Kin at 60 Days after Removal*

Placement with kin generally improves child outcomes, including permanency, either with exits to kin or by facilitating connections to parents and placement stability, which are positively related to permanency.

Overall, performance is mixed for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal decreased by 0.11% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal increased by 2.7% in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider shows performance improvements in placing new removals with kin on the 60th day in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.



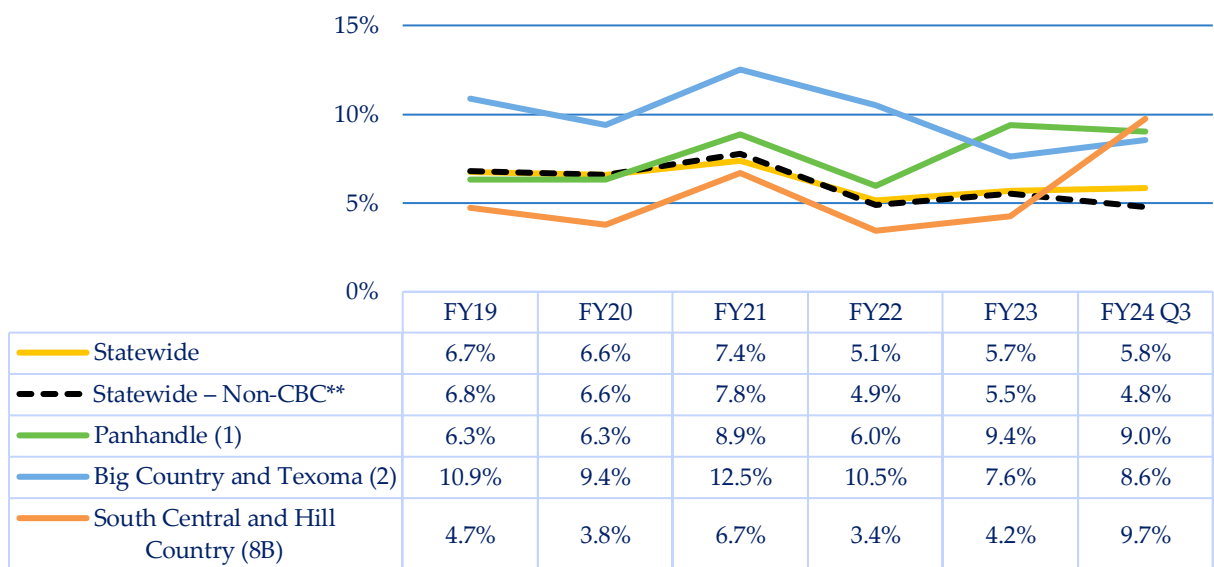
*Y-axis starts at 25% and ends at 65%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit*

Overall, performance is mixed for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of Children Statewide who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit increased in FY24 Q3 by 0.2% compared to FY23, representing a decrease in performance.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:** The percentage of Children Statewide Non-CBC who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit decreased in FY24 Q3 by 0.8% compared to FY23, representing improved performance.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider improved the performance for the percent of Children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit in FY24 Q3 compared to FY23.



*Y-axis starts at 0% and ends at 15%

**Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B

Saint Francis Community Services Inc. – Panhandle³

The Panhandle designated community area (DFPS Region 1) is served by Saint Francis Community Services, Inc (SFCS), and their SSCC Division Saint Francis Community Services, Inc, and has been served by this SSCC since FY20. Saint Francis is currently in Stage III for all 41 counties in the Panhandle and transitioned to Stage III on March 1, 2024. Beginning in FY22 Q3, Saint Francis transitioned to Stage II of CBC to provide case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the Panhandle designated community area. This designated community area faced significant capacity challenges prior to CBC implementation. The average performance for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the two years prior to Stage II implementation, is used as the historical average for comparison, referred to as the “baseline” or “baseline rate.”

- **Safety in Paid Foster Care** - 98.6% of children were safe in Panhandle foster care placements as of FY24 Q3. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Paid Placement Stability** - Current performance is 1.48 placements per child in FY24 Q3. Rider 15 for FY23 Q3 reflected 1.39 placements per child, which indicates worse performance in FY24 Q3 comparatively.⁴ This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Home Setting** - 74.2% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 3.4%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 80.9% by 6.7%.
- **Maintaining Connections: Proximity** - 36.9% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of as of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 2.3%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 42.2% by 5.2%.
- **Maintaining Connections: Siblings** - 52.6% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 9.1%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 62.3% by 9.7%.
- **Placement with Kin** - 34.4% of children were placed in kinship placements on the 60th day after removal in FY24 Q3, a decrease from FY23 by 2.3%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 34.0% by 0.4%.
- **Preparation for Adulthood: ID/Driver's License** – 28.6% of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or a TX ID card in FY24 Q3 is an increase from FY23 by 3.2%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 20.1% by 8.5%.
- **Preparation for Adulthood: PAL at 18 years old** - 84.3% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL and FY24

³ DFPS Rider Report September 2024 Data Attachment.

⁴ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Data Attachment.

Q3 is an increase from FY23 by 10.3%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 92.9% by 8.6%.

- **CPS Reinvolvement** - Of children who exited to permanency during the fiscal year prior, 9.0% were confirmed victims, removed from home or in a new FPR stage within 12 months of their exit to permanency. This is a decrease from FY23 by 0.4%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 7.6% by 1.4%, which indicates worse performance compared to baseline.

Timely Exits to Permanency – Panhandle*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ⁵
FY22	Within 1 Year	+3.9%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+3.4%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+0.7%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	-1.2%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q3; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

Timely Exits to Reunification – Panhandle*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ⁶
FY22	Within 1 Year	-0.4%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+2.4%
FY21	Within 2 Years	-1.0%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+5.3%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q3; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

**Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

⁵ Change refers to the change in the rate of permanency for one entry cohort versus the prior entry cohort (where "entry cohort" is the children who are removed in that fiscal year); a positive change indicates the rate increased over the prior year reflecting improved performance, while a negative change indicates the rate decreased from the prior year, reflecting worse performance.

⁶ Ibid.

2INGage – Big Country & Texoma⁷

The Big Country and Texoma designated community area (DFPS Region 2) is served by Texas Family Initiative and their SSCC division 2INGage and has been served by this SSCC since FY19. Beginning in FY20 Q4, 2INGage transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the Big Country & Texoma designated community area. 2INGage is currently in Stage III for all 30 counties in Big Country & Texoma as they moved to Stage III on March 1, 2024. This area covers a large rural area with historical capacity challenges. The average performance for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 is used as the historical average for comparison. The performance reflected in the baseline is that of the SSCC's own performance, referred to as the "baseline" or "baseline rate."

- **Safety in Paid Foster Care** - 98.6% of children were safe in Big Country and Texoma foster care placements as of FY24 Q3. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Paid Placement Stability** - Current performance is 1.42 placements per child in FY24 Q3. Rider 15 for FY23 Q3 reflected 1.36 placements per child, which indicates worse performance in FY24 Q3 comparatively.⁸ This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Home Setting** - 83.6% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 3.1%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 88.2% by 4.6%.
- **Maintaining Connections: Proximity** - 33.8% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of as of FY24 Q3 is an increase from FY23 by 1.2%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 39.9% by 6.1%.
- **Maintaining Connections: Siblings** - 54.3% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 12.7%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 64.2% by 9.9%.
- **Placement with Kin** - 40.9% of children were placed in kinship placements on the 60th day after removal in FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 8.2%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 43.3% by 2.4%.
- **Preparation for Adulthood: ID/Driver's License** – 59.2% of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or a TX ID card in FY24 Q3 is an increase from FY23 by 2.6%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 41.3% by 17.8%.
- **Preparation for Adulthood: PAL at 18 years old** - 100% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL and FY24

⁷ DFPS Rider Report September 2024 Data Attachment.

⁸ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Data Attachment.

Q3 is an increase from FY23 by 4.4%. Current performance is at the baseline rate of 100%.

- CPS Reinvolvement** - Of children who exited to permanency during the fiscal year prior, 8.6% were confirmed victims, removed from home or in a new FPR stage within 12 months of their exit to permanency. This is an increase from FY23 by 0.9%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 11.5% by 2.9%, which indicates improvement over baseline.

Timely Exits to Permanency – Big Country & Texoma*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ⁹
FY22	Within 1 Year	+4.0%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+5.0%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+7.1%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+0.9%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q3; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

Timely Exits to Reunification – Big Country & Texoma*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ¹⁰
FY22	Within 1 Year	-1.3%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+5.0%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+4.7%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+3.2%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q3; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

⁹ Change refers to the change in the rate of permanency for one entry cohort versus the prior entry cohort (where "entry cohort" is the children who are removed in that fiscal year); a positive change indicates the rate increased over the prior year reflecting improved performance, while a negative change indicates the rate decreased from the prior year, reflecting worse performance.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) – Metroplex West ¹¹

ACH and their SSCC division Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) began as the SSCC in the Metroplex West designated community area for the seven southern counties on January 1, 2014. Their contract expired in August 2023. Through the competitive procurement process DFPS awarded ACH/OCOK with the SSCC contract for all 10 counties in Metroplex West on November 1, 2023. OCOK began serving the children of Metroplex West designated community area for the northern three counties of Cooke, Denton and Wise in Stage I on April 1, 2024. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and OCOK began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the northern three counties of Cooke, Denton and Wise in Stage II on May 1, 2024. Additionally, ACH/OCOK began Stage III for the seven southern counties on March 1, 2024. Given that the SSCC has only been in Stage II since the end of FY24 Q3, measures around permanency and new CPS intervention will only reflect exits from DFPS Conservatorship under Legacy in Cooke, Denton, and Wise counties, while other measures will reflect mixed performance. As such, the performance for this SSCC will be reported in the March 2025 submission when the performance is reflective of the SSCC in the whole designated catchment area.

EMPOWER- Metroplex East¹²

DFPS awarded a contract on February 22, 2023, to Texas Family Initiative, LLC (TFI) to serve as the SSCC for the Metroplex East designated community area. TFI partnered with CK Family Services, Jonathan’s Place, The Bair Foundation, and Pathways Youth and Family Services creating EMPOWER. EMPOWER began serving children in Metroplex East on September 1, 2023. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and EMPOWER began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the Metroplex East designated community area on March 1, 2024. Given that the SSCC has only been in Stage II since FY24Q3, measures around permanency and new CPS intervention will only reflect exits from DFPS Conservatorship under Legacy, while other measures will reflect mixed performance. As such, the performance for this SSCC will be reported in the March 2025 submission.

4Kids4Families- Piney Woods¹³

DFPS awarded a contract on February 22, 2023, to Arrow Child and Family Ministries. Arrow Child and Family Ministries formed 4Kids4Families to serve as the SSCC for the Piney Woods designated community area. 4Kids4Families began serving children in the Piney Woods on November 1, 2023. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and 4Kids4Families began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the Piney Woods

¹¹ DFPS Rider Report September 2024 Data Attachment.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

designated community area on May 1, 2024. Given that the SSCC has only been in Stage II since FY24Q3, measures around permanency and new CPS intervention will only reflect exits from DFPS Conservatorship under Legacy, while other measures will reflect mixed performance. As such, the performance for this SSCC will be reported in the March 2025 submission.

Texas Family Care Network (TFCN)- Deep East¹⁴

DFPS awarded a contract on March 15, 2023, to Pressley Ridge. Pressley Ridge formed the Texas Family Care Network (TFCN) to serve as the SSCC for the Deep East designated community area. Texas Family Care Network began serving children in Deep East on November 1, 2023. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and TFCN began providing case management and all substance care services to children and families in the Deep East designated community area on April 1, 2024. Given that the SSCC has only been in Stage II since FY24Q3, measures around permanency and new CPS intervention will only reflect exits from DFPS Conservatorship under Legacy, while other measures will reflect mixed performance. As such, the performance for this SSCC will be reported in the March 2025 submission.

Belong- South Central & Hill Country¹⁵

DFPS awarded a contract on March 29, 2021, to St. Jude's Ranch for Children (SJRC) Texas. SJRC Texas formed Belong to serve as the SSCC for the South Central & Hill Country designated community area. Belong is currently in Stage III for all 27 counties in South Central and Hill Country. The average performance for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the two years prior to Stage II implementation, are used as the historical average for comparison, referred to as the "baseline" or "baseline rate."

- **Safety in Paid Foster Care** - 97.8% of children were safe in South Central and Hill Country foster care placements as of FY24 Q3. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Paid Placement Stability** - Current performance is 1.43 placements per child in FY24 Q3. Rider 15 for FY23 Q3 reflected 1.47 placements per child, which indicates improved performance in FY24 Q3 comparatively.¹⁶ This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Home Setting** - 73.4% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 2.7%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 83.9% by 10.5%.

¹⁴ DFPS Rider Report September 2024 Data Attachment.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ DFPS Rider Report September 2023 Data Attachment.

- **Maintaining Connections: Proximity** - 37.2% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of as of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 3.2%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 47.1% by 9.9%.
- **Maintaining Connections: Siblings** - 53.9% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 2.3%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 62.5% by 8.6%.
- **Placement with Kin** - 52.5% of children were placed in kinship placements on the 60th day after removal in FY24 Q3 is an increase from FY23 by 2.8%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 48.8% by 3.7%.
- **Preparation for Adulthood: ID/Driver's License** – 48.0% of youth age 16 or older who have a driver's license or a TX ID card in FY24 Q3 is a decrease from FY23 by 7.0%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 35.4% by 12.5%.
- **Preparation for Adulthood: PAL at 18 years old** - 100% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL and FY24 Q3 is an increase from FY23 by 10.5%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 91.3% by 8.7%.
- **CPS Reinvolvement** - Of children who exited to permanency during the prior fiscal year, 9.7% were confirmed victims, removed from home or in a new FPR stage within 12 months of their exit to permanency. This is an increase from FY23 by 5.5%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 5.2% by 4.5%, which indicates worse performance compared to baseline.

Timely Exits to Permanency – South Central & Hill Country*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ¹⁷
FY22	Within 1 Year	+19.5%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+4.2%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+1.3%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+6.0%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q3; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

¹⁷ Change refers to the change in the rate of permanency for one entry cohort versus the prior entry cohort (where "entry cohort" is the children who are removed in that fiscal year); a positive change indicates the rate increased over the prior year reflecting improved performance, while a negative change indicates the rate decreased from the prior year, reflecting worse performance.

Timely Exits to Reunification – South Central & Hill Country*

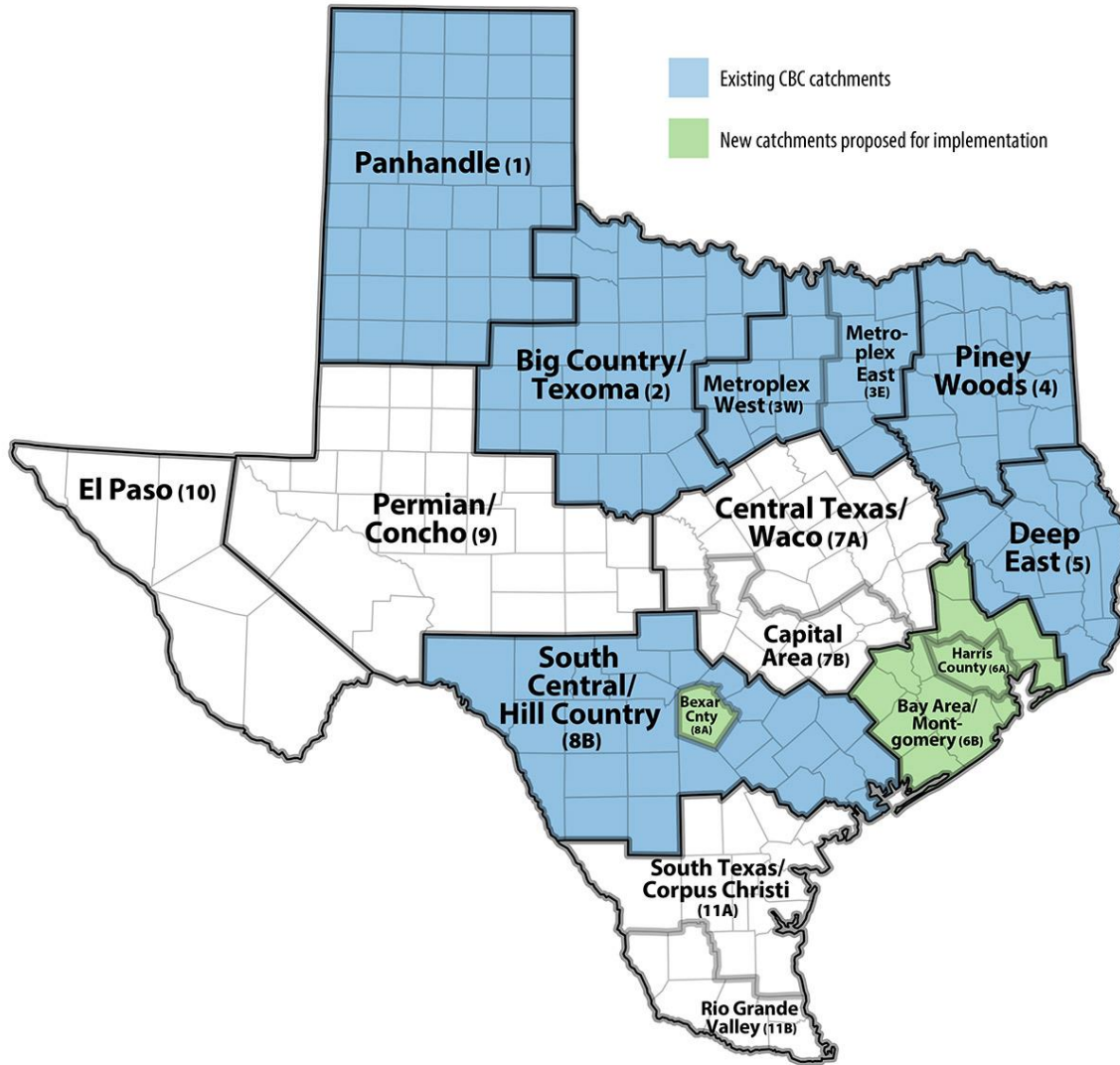
Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ¹⁸
FY22	Within 1 Year	+13.7%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+4.8%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+8.9%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+1.5%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q3; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

¹⁸ Ibid.

Appendix A: Current Community-Based Care Community Areas



Appendix B: Limitations of SSCC Performance for Stage I and Post-Transition to Stage II

Stage I Transition

Performance data reported for SSCCs during the Stage I transition and before most of the children in foster care are transferred has several significant limitations.

1. Some children are duplicated, meaning they are represented in both the “SSCC Eligible” and “SSCC” populations during the transition due to time spent in each population during the performance period.
2. The population “mix” is influenced by the specific transition plan implemented by the SSCC. “Mix” may refer to the proportion of children in foster homes and facilities. It may also be geographic given the trend of SSCCs to begin by transferring local providers to the network.

The limitations make interpreting specific performance measures during the time children are transitioning to the SSCC difficult as outlined below:

- Home Setting – to the extent that an SSCC transfers more children to foster homes earlier or later in the process, the percentage of care days that are least restrictive will be increased or decreased. In addition, start dates after September 1 will represent fewer care days compared to an annual baseline.
- Proximity – to the extent that a provider transfers “in area” providers before providers located farther away, the percentage of children placed close to home will be increased or decreased. Because children in foster homes are more likely to be placed closer to home, this measure is also influenced by the pace at which Child Placing Agencies transfer under the SSCC.
- Placement Stability – this measure is based on the number of placements experienced by children over a fiscal year. Separating placement experience into time spent in legacy and time with the SSCC lowers the rate for both populations.
- Siblings placed together – sibling groups that are separated across legacy and SSCC populations may not be counted as placed apart for either population.
- Preparation for Adult Living - youth who began taking PAL classes prior to transfer may complete their program under the legacy DFPS contract. However, after the transition they are reported as placed with the SSCC.

Time is needed for the SSCC population to represent the full population of children in foster care in their designated community area.

Post-Transition to Stage II

For Community-Based Care providers who have transitioned to Stage II, which consists of provision of case management and services to families commensurate with DFPS services in the conservatorship stage of service, certain measures with specific tasks such as obtaining a Driver's License/ID, PAL completion, and to some extent Kin Placement at 60 Days reflect shared DFPS and SSCC performance. Early trends may be the continuation of case activity and permanency decisions that began under the Legacy foster care system.