

The 89th RECAP



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89th Texas Legislature: A Snapshot

- *Sine die* – Adjourn “without a day” at end of 140-day Regular Session (June 2)
- Record number of bills passed and a robust budget
- Everything changes, but stays the same
 - New leadership in the House, Same leadership in the Senate

89th Bill Stats

8,719

bills filed
(more than ever
recorded in
either chamber)

39%

bills received
public
hearings

25%

bills passed
out of either
chamber

14%

bills finally
passed and
sent to the
Governor

89th Legislative Recap

TACFS 89th Legislative Priorities

1

Establish a Full Continuum of Family Preservation Services

2

Support Sustainability of Foster Homes and Community Organizations through Targeted Liability Support and Regulatory Streamlining

3

Improve Mental Health Supports for Children and Families

4

Strengthen the Statewide Rollout of CBC and T3C, Allowing for Greater Flexibility and Creativity to Serve High Acuity Kids

Family Preservation

89th Legislative Recap

Family Preservation



- Family preservation programs a permanent part of the continuum of services available to Texas families.
- Texas Family First pilots a permanent part of Community-Based Care.
- Family preservation beyond FFPSA-eligible services

Key themes: Families should be able to access high-quality, appropriate services that prevent entry into foster care and ensure families can stay safely together. Services should be coordinated as part of CBC contracts.

Family Preservation



\$22.9 million in general revenue (state funds) to continue the work started in the Texas Family First Pilots (now the Texas Family First and Enhanced Family Engagement Pilots)

- Pilots will continue to serve court-ordered services cases but can also serve other children at imminent risk of removal, including to prevent parental relinquishment (subject to available funds and DFPS approval).
- SSCCs (to the extent funds are available) also implement enhanced family engagement efforts in conservatorship.*

*DFPS Rider 41, SB 1398, Contingency Rider 18.59

Family Preservation – Other Laws

HB 116 | *Dutton*

Removes the “O” ground for termination.

HB 1106 | *Shaheen*

A/N definition does not include refusal to affirm gender or sexual orientation.

HB 1151 | *Hull*

Alternative health or refusal of psychotropic meds is not abuse/neglect.

SB 2018 | *Paxton*

Allows tax breaks for contributions to orgs that serve at-risk families.

Liability & Regulatory

89th Legislative Recap

Liability & Regulatory



- **Continue to refocus regulatory scheme on child safety**
 - HB 2789 (Frank) is SB 593 2.0. removes CPA licensure requirement for SSCCs, TB testing requirements, minimum liability insurance requirements, trespass posting and more.
- **Ensure better access to liability insurance for non-profit foster care providers**
 - SB 1558, landmark legislation that sets a national standard for improved access to liability insurance. Charitable Immunity and Liability Act protection for non-profit providers and “good standing” framework for vicarious liability protection.
- **Key themes:** Foster care providers need a focused and intentional regulatory framework, paired with access to liability insurance that allows them to continue to serve children and families.

Liability & Regulatory – Other Laws

HB 140 | *Noble*

Investigations council at DFPS, training/compliance with procedures.

HB 1403 | *Harris*

Disallows CPA/HHSC/DFPS from asking about guns, specifically the types of firearms or if any changes in firearms occur, financial penalty.

HB 3153 | *Kerwin*

Background checks and reference checks, includes an exemption that our checks are already sufficient.

HB 3597 | *Hickland*

Public hearing for GROs in counties less than 500,000.

HB 5394 | *Rose*

Prohibit additional requirements on kinship caregivers.

Mental Health

Mental Health

- **\$40 million** in additional funds at HHSC for youth mobile crisis outreach teams.
- HHSC SMART Innovation Grant funding continued
- **\$92.6 million** in additional funds at HHSC for rate increases and expanded capacity at community mental health hospitals.

Mental Health – Other Laws

HB 1151 | *Hull*

Alternative health or refusal of psychotropic meds is not abuse/neglect.

SB 855 | *Sparks*

Allows foster parents to pay out of pocket for services outside of Medicaid.

Community Based Care

89th Legislative Recap

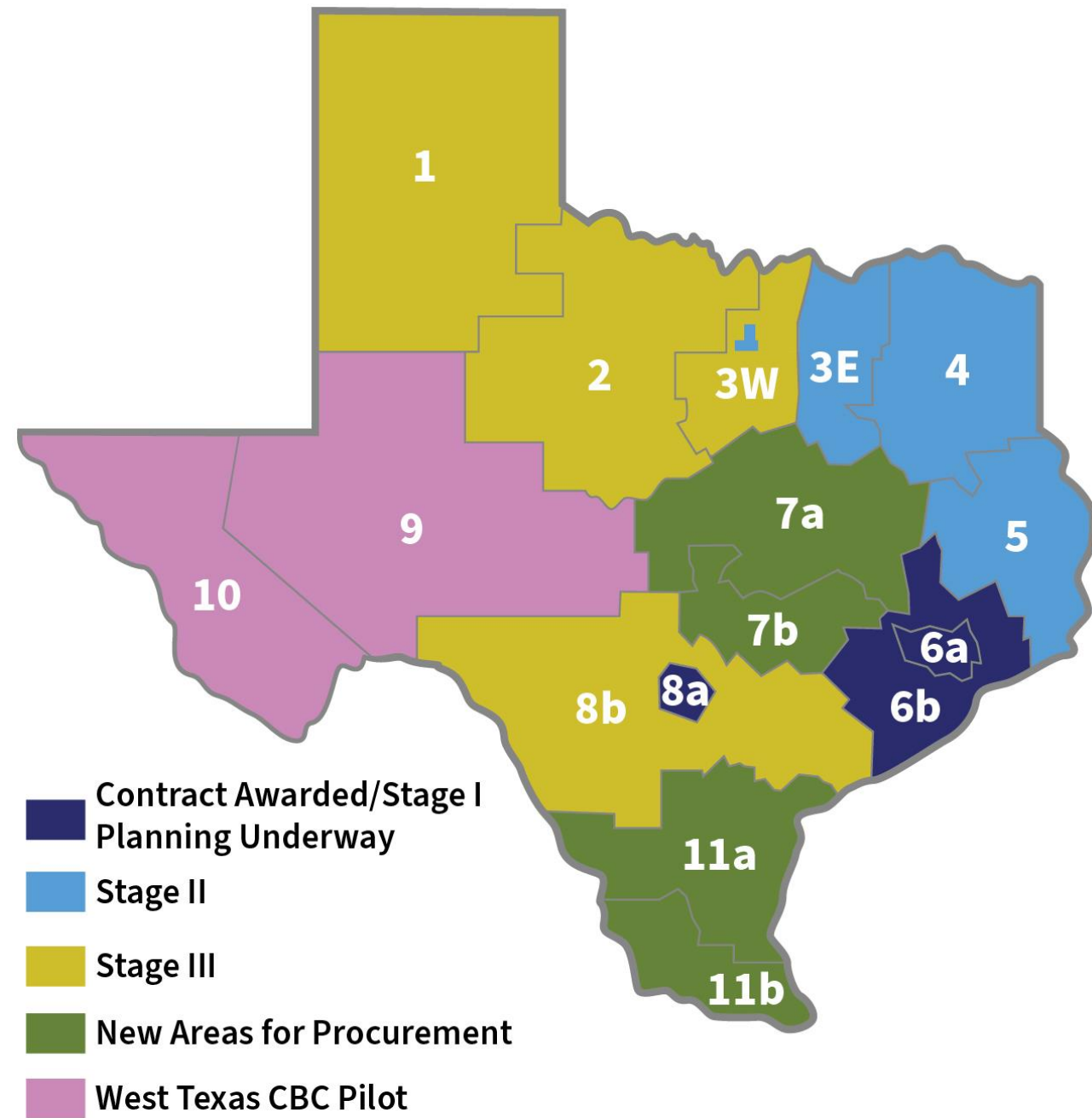


CBC

- CBC continuation and expansion
- \$2,500 network support payment
- Funded early payments to the SSCCs during Stage I and II readiness

CBC Map

SB 1 (FY 26-27 Budget) continued funding for existing regions and funds expansion into 7A, 7B, 11A, 11B and a pilot for 9 and 10



*Cook, Denton, and Wise counties in 3W are in Stage II

CBC – Other Laws

HB 4129 | *Davis, Aicha*

DFPS must implement formal measures for CBC to ensure quality, including financial interventions, quality improvement plans, etc.

SB 513 | *Sparks*

CBC pilot in West Texas

SB 1589 | *Hancock*

Individual or wholesale Case management takeover by DFPS

SB 2032 | *Paxton*

SSCC/DFPS can't terminate without 180 days notice, may enter into contract with another SSCC to take over

SB 2034 | *Paxton*

Allows for SSCC receivership in limited circumstances

Support for Children and Youth

- **HB 451:** Developmentally appropriate human trafficking screening for children entering care.
- **HB 1211:** Extend deadline for enrollment from age 25 to age 27 to take advantage of the Tuition Fee Waiver.
- **HB 4655:** PAL classes include financial info about credit scores, payday loans, car loans, and more.
- **SB 2165:** Prohibition of case closure while children are missing or on runaway.



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Budget

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- T3C rates fully funded and \$12 million in grant funds continue!
- Expanded daycare access for kinship placements
- Funded GR match for federal funds for transitional living services
- Continued and expanded UTHSC contract for RTC services
- Funded some DFPS resources for more consistent RTB findings and Due Process timeliness
- Funded some technology improvements including revamped "IMPACT," SEMARC, and cybersecurity



Budget Highlights

- HHSC Rider requiring STAR Health Service Coordination
- Included TACFS rider requiring improved Medicaid Credentialing process
- Included TACFS rider for additional Heightened monitoring information on types of facilities, when they entered HM, licensed/actual capacity, and number of DFPS/HHSC staff tasked with HM.



Budget Highlights

What's Next?

- Ongoing implementation partnership with HHSC and DFPS
- Years 3 & 4 of T3C Grants and Implementation
- Continued CBC Rollout/Expansion
- Sunset!
- Resources and experts/supports to help you
- Availing opportunities for funding, grants, and innovation to community organizations



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Recap

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