

THE IMPORTANCE OF CASA DURING THE TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

As the new Community-Based Care (CBC) system comes into being, CASA staff and volunteers will be called upon to engage and support a wider range of stakeholders and processes. As new Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) begin CBC implementation, it will be important for CASA advocates to continue to serve as a consistent figure in a child's life regardless of the systemic changes happening behind the scenes.

Building a Quality Provider Network

CASA programs can support SSCCs in developing and maintaining a quality provider network. CASA often knows the providers in their region and can offer the SSCCs important feedback about placements. SSCCs will rely on the knowledge and experience of their local CASA programs as they work to establish a strong community network during Stage I.

Ensuring Continued Support

Under state law, CPS and SSCCs are supposed to consult with CASA on placement decisions. However, CASA may face a logistical challenge in Stage I, when a program is working with two agencies and two sets of contacts: the SSCC for placement and CPS for case management. It will be important that volunteers are supported in managing this additional layer of complexity and understand who is responsible for what when it comes to decision-making and advocacy for children and families.

Aiding in the Development of Plans

As SSCCs prepare for Stage II of CBC, they are required to develop a community engagement plan and an implementation plan. Local CASA program leadership or staff should reach out to their SSCCs and offer to participate in the development of these plans during Stage I. Additionally, SSCCs are required to develop and publicly post an operations manual for their service area 60 days prior to beginning Stage II. CASA programs should request a copy of this manual and help staff become familiar with new case manager practices and protocols.

Creating Opportunities for Collaboration

CASA programs should offer to host meetings, create cross-training opportunities, and offer other types of support as SSCCs transition to Stage II. CASA can provide significant support to children, their families, and SSCCs during the transition from Stage I to Stage II, when case management services shift from CPS to the SSCC. The transition from Stage I to Stage II can be difficult and it is important for CASA to collaborate with SSCCs as much as possible to ensure families and children don't fall through the cracks. It is crucial to take on the responsibility CASA has as the child's advocate in contributing to the success of the transition.

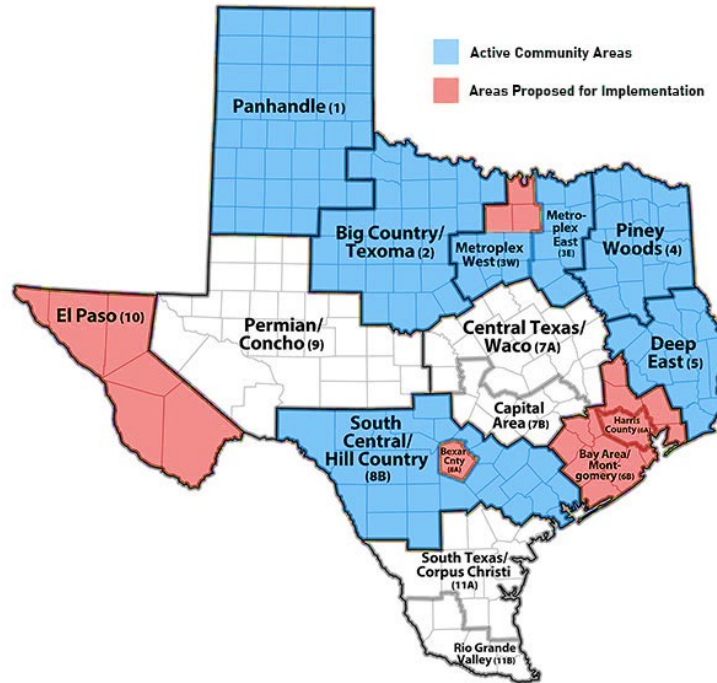
Staying Flexible

CASA programs will benefit from staying flexible, open, and positive during the time of transition. A successful CBC model depends on everyone working together to promote improved care and positive outcomes for children and families experiencing the foster care system.

Texas CASA is here to help you and your program throughout the transition to Community-Based Care. Please contact the Public Policy Team at publicpolicy@texascasa.org for guidance!



COMMUNITY-BASED CARE FY24 MAP AND TIMELINE



<i>Region</i>	<i>SSCC</i>	<i>Current Status</i>	<i>Next Step</i>
3B-Metroplex West	OCOK	Stage III	N/A
2-Big Country & Texoma	2Ingage	Stage III	N/A
1-Panhandle	St. Francis	Stage III	N/A
8B-South Central & Hill Country	BELONG	Stage II	Stage III anticipated 6/2024
3E-Metroplex East	EMPOWER	Stage II	Stage III
4-Piney Woods	4Kids4Families	Stage I	Stage II anticipated 5/2024
5-Deep East	Texas Family Care Network	Stage I	Stage II anticipated 5/2024

Texas CASA CBC Guide 3rd Edition now available:
<https://texascasa.org/resources/community-based-care-guide/>

