Region 10

The Heart Galleries of Texas received funding in the 88th Legislative Session to improve permanency outcomes for youth who have experienced foster care. Over the past year, efforts have focused on expanding the Heart Galleries model across the state, increasing community collaboration, developing online trainings and resources, identifying the post-permanency needs of families, and conducting a Request for Applications (RFA) process to select qualified providers in each region to help meet the post-permanency needs of families.

About the Heart Gallery of El Paso

Heart Gallery Organization: Paso del Norte Community Foundation
Website: https://www.heartgalleryelpaso.org/
Launch Event: November 14, 2023

The Heart Gallery of El Paso has an active advisory board and strong referral relationship with DFPS. At the beginning of the year, they had 24 youth featured on their website and since then, they have received 19 new referrals and featured 10 more youth. Six youth featured this year were also adopted. In terms of community engagement, the gallery hosted a launch event on November 14, 2023, and organized 14 outreach events, reaching 440 attendees. They also held 9 collaborative stakeholder meetings, with 98 attendees, and 15 information sessions, attended by 144 community members. On average, they hosted 12 Heart Gallery exhibits a month displaying 47 portraits, and their web traffic has increased from 728 visits in January to 9,314 visits in August. In months where they held monthly news segments, web traffic reached over 40,000 visits.

Needs Assessment of Post-Permanency Services in Region 10

In March of 2024, researchers from the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing and staff at the Texas Center for Child and Family Studies conducted a statewide post-permanency needs assessment, surveying caregivers and providers about services, needs and barriers for families after adoption or permanency legal conservatorship. In Region 10, **10 caregivers** and **17 providers** participated in the survey. A summary of findings is reported below.

Familiarity with Post-Permanency Services

- 50% of caregivers (*n* = 5) and 53% (*n* = 9) of providers were very or extremely familiar with post-permanency services.
- Four caregivers reached out to their region's Post-Permanency Services Provider (40%).
- Three caregivers reported being very or extremely satisfied with the assistance they received (75%).

Service Satisfaction by Service Sector

- % of caregivers who were somewhat or very satisfied with:
- Post-permanency services (80%, *n* = 8)
- Medical services (70%, *n* = 7)
- School-based services (44%, *n* = 4)
- Developmental services (43%, *n* = 3)
- Childcare (38%, *n* = 3)
- Respite (22%, *n* = 2)
- Mental health services (22%, *n* = 2)

Note: Percentages are based on the number of people who answer each question. Please exercise caution when interpreting findings with small sample sizes. Small sample sizes can limit the generalizability of the results, as they may not accurately represent the broader population.

Most Needed Services and Supports

- **Expanded mental health services**, including long-term psychiatric services, family therapy, residential treatment, crisis intervention support, grief counseling, and services for both youth and parents.
- **Qualified professionals** who can address issues related to trauma, adoption, bullying, sexual abuse, and sexual aggression.
- **Family supports available over time**, including peer support, group activities with other families, support over time, assistance with basic needs, and respite care.
- **Legal support and services**, particularly for conservatorship families.
- **Centralized place** where families can find help navigating different systems, learn about services and eligibility, and receive continued education.
- 67% of caregivers also indicated they were interested in **Parents Night Out** and 56% were interested in **family meet-ups or events**.

Caregiver Barriers to Accessing Services

- Lack of mental health services including residential treatment.
- Difficulties finding providers who can accommodate family schedules.
- Limited access to educational services such as tutoring and developmental disability support.
- Costs of services and residential treatment not covered by Medicaid.

Provider Barriers to Supporting Families

- Lack of continuum of care services, particularly residential treatment.
- Communication and language barriers.
- Lack of capacity, support, and funding to promote non-traditional programs or activities focused on creating strong connections within families.
- Lack of local funding and services available to kinship families.

Top services that caregivers needed but had difficulty accessing or were unable to get:

- Individual therapy (specialized)
- Residential treatment center (RTC)
- Family therapy
- Behavior support services
- Tutoring

To learn more about this needs assessment, go to: Needs Assessment of Post-permanency Services in Texas Dashboard. You can locate all the data specific to your region.

Looking Ahead

The Heart Gallery and Paso del Norte Community Foundation are working toward building a more comprehensive and collaborative child welfare focus in the community, and taking leadership in that effort. Based on the needs assessment and RFA selection process, they were selected to provide services in Region 10:

- CASA of El Paso: Identify specialized providers to serve the El Paso community and open access to post-permanency families.
- El Paso Child Guidance Center: Provide Region 10 families with access to therapeutic services, including Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT), and Attachment Based Family Therapy (ABFT).

The University of Texas at Austin
Moritz Center for Societal Impact
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

The University of Texas at Austin
Texas Institute for
Child & Family Wellbeing
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES