The Foster Care Redesign model designed and implemented in Region 3B by ACH Child & Family Services is called "Our Communtiy, Our Kids (OCOK)." The model promises better outcomes for children and youth in foster care, but if it is not adequately funded, it will fail.

TNOYS recommends the following:

- Increase funding for foster care rates, which will benefit children being served in both the Legacy and Redesign systems
- Increase funding to cover administrative costs of a SSCC
    o DFPS requested an additional $808 per child per year

"Our Community, Our Kids" features many improvements and advantages over the current Legacy system that are expected to improve outcomes for children:

- A high level of engagement with the providers and stakeholders in the community; this engagement includes inclusivity (all providers in good standing are allowed to contract) and transparency.
- A software system called "Every Child A Priority (ECAP)" is being utilizeld to match children and sibling groups with the best available placement based on placement data entered in the system and the needs of the child(ren).
- The Quality Parenting Initiative is being utilized to improve the quality of foster homes. This initiative has been implemented in Florida and California with promising results and has the support of some of the most prominent child welfare organizations in the country.
- All providers in the network have been trained to use the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strenghts (CANS) assessment tool within 21 days of placement. CANS is a tool developed to support service planning, quality improvement initiatives and the monitoring of outcomes of services. Versions of CANS are used in 25 states in child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, and early intervention applications. Studies have found that when used in residential treatment settings, CANS reduces lengths of stay dramatically, reduces psychiatric hospitalizations, saves millions of dollars, and promotes better outcomes for children (Praed Foundation).

- Most providers in the OCOK network are part of a coordinated IT network in which they are able to input data directly into a central OCOK database.

The larger Foster Care Redesign model places a stronger emphasis than the Legacy model on holding providers accountable for the outcomes of the children they serve:

- Outcomes include making placements less than 50 miles from home, placing siblings together, and involving youth in decisions about their care.
- No eject/no reject referrals
- Focus on data driven decision making

Foster Care Redesign will fail if it is not appropriately funded:

- Foster care rates were already under-funded in Texas and OCOK is paying providers in its network 4% less than they are paid under Legacy.
- The PCG report commissioned by DFPS in the fall found the following barriers to financial solvency for a SSCC:
    o Several tasks required of a SSCC were not funded.
    o Some resources for required tasks were not transferred to the SSCC or funded by DFPS.
    o Additional financial resources are needed to build and maintain operations of a SSCC.