

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner Stephanie Muth

October 1, 2024

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas State Capitol P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Dade Phelan Speaker of the House Texas House of Representatives P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768

The Honorable James Frank Texas House of Representatives P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768 The Honorable Dan Patrick Lt. Governor of Texas P.O. Box 12068 Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst Texas Senate P.O. Box 12068 Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan, Chair Kolkhorst, and Chair Frank:

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) submits this letter in lieu of the *Foster Children in Drug Research Programs Report*. Family Code, Section 266.0041 requires DFPS to annually report on the following:

- The number of children in DFPS conservatorship who are enrolled or participated in a drug research program during the previous year;
- The purpose of the drug research program in which a child in DFPS conservatorship was enrolled or participated; and
- The number of children in DFPS conservatorship for whom an order was issued under Family Code, Section 266.0041 (i).

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To implement the requirements of this bill, DFPS developed policy, trained key staff, and made enhancements to IMPACT, the DFPS case management database, to add fields to automatically track this data.

The data indicates:

- During fiscal year 2024, there were no children in DFPS conservatorship who enrolled or participated in a drug research study.
- There were no court orders related to a clinical trial issued in fiscal year 2024 for a child in DFPS conservatorship.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Jason Steele, Director of Government Relations, serves as the lead staff on this matter, and he may be reached by telephone at 512-552-1398 or by email at Jason.Steele2@dfps.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Muth