Findings

Children in Region 8 were assigned to the comparison group and received services as usual.

Children in Region 7 were assigned to the intervention group and received Pathways 2.

**PARTICIPATION**

- 135 caregivers who received Pathways 2 attended 5+ sessions (76%)
- 117 caregivers in the comparison group completed the survey (43%)

**CHILD BEHAVIOR**

After six months, Pathways 2 caregivers reported a significant decrease in their child’s tendency to internalize problems such as anxiety, depression, social withdrawal, and somatic symptoms.

Pathways 2 had a greater impact on child behavior for relative families.

**GRIEF AND LOSS**

Pathways 2 caregivers scored significantly higher on the post and significantly higher than the comparison group on their understanding of grief and loss. When caregivers fully understood grief and loss, they were able to shift the way they responded to their child.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Offer Pathways 2 as a trauma-informed training to help prepare and support families. In terms of outreach, it may be helpful to encourage kinship caregivers, in particular, to attend trainings. Additionally, we found that advertising the provision of free childcare was a helpful incentive. Almost half of the Pathways 2 families said they would not have come without childcare.

The Behavior Problems Index (BPI) measures the frequency, range, and type of childhood behavior problems that children ages four and older may exhibit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Relatives</th>
<th>Non-relatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRETEST (Before Pathways 2)</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTTEST (6 months after Pathways 2)</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>29.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher score = More behavior challenges.

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**PROJECT PARTNERS**

QIC-AG partnered with the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS)

**CONTINUUM PHASE**

Focused Services

**INTERVENTION**

Texas DFPS implemented Pathways to Permanence 2: Parenting Children Who Have Experienced Trauma and Loss (Pathways 2). Pathways 2 is a seven-session (21-hour) group-delivered interactive series for caregivers that helps caregivers understand the impact of trauma and loss on all aspects of a child’s development.

**STUDY DESIGN**

Quasi-Experimental

**RESEARCH QUESTION**

Will children in Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) of Texas DFPS in Region 7 who do not have a finalization hearing scheduled within 60 days of screening experience: increased permanency outcomes; decreased time to finalization/permanence or time in care; increased placement stability; improved child and family wellbeing; and improved behavioral health for children and youth if families are provided with Pathways to Permanence 2 compared to families who receive services as usual in DFPS Region 8?

**Evaluation Results from Texas**

**PARTNERS**

QIC-AG partnered with the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS)

**CONTINUUM PHASE**

Focused Services

**INTERVENTION**

Texas DFPS implemented Pathways to Permanence 2: Parenting Children Who Have Experienced Trauma and Loss (Pathways 2). Pathways 2 is a seven-session (21-hour) group-delivered interactive series for caregivers that helps caregivers understand the impact of trauma and loss on all aspects of a child’s development.

**STUDY DESIGN**

Quasi-Experimental
This research summary was designed by staff at the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing at The University of Texas at Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, in conjunction with the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University.

**Evaluation questions?** Please contact Nancy Rolock at nancy.rolock@case.edu or Rowena Fong at rfong@austin.utexas.edu.

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