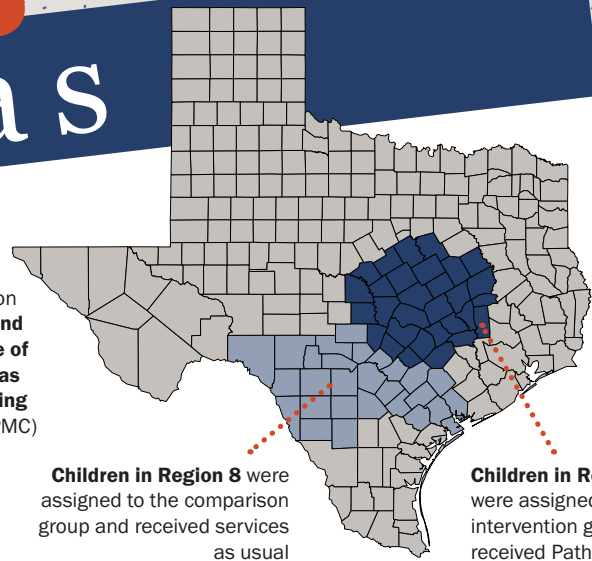


# Evaluation Results from Texas



The target population included **children and youth up to the age of 18 years old in Texas Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC)**

**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

## 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?

## Findings

### PARTICIPATION

✓ **135**  
CAREGIVERS WHO RECEIVED PATHWAYS 2 ATTENDED 5+ SESSIONS (76%)

✓ **117**  
CAREGIVERS IN THE COMPARISON GROUP COMPLETED THE SURVEY (43%)

### 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.

### 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.

HIGHER SCORE = MORE BEHAVIOR CHALLENGES



PRETEST (Before Pathways 2)

POSTTEST (6 months after Pathways 2)

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

### Six month after attending Pathways 2...

- ✓ **89%** had a better understanding of attachment
- ✓ **87%** had a better understanding of child development
- ✓ **85%** felt more able to respond to their child's needs

### 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.



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Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Grant #90CO1122. The contents of this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This information is in the public domain. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the QIC-AG.

The QIC-AG was funded through a five-year cooperative agreement between the Children's Bureau, Spaulding for Children, and its partners the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.