On February 1, 2019, Family Tapestry, a division of The Children’s Shelter, launched Community Based Care in Bexar County.

Community Based Care was developed with the purpose of bringing significant change to the current system, by allowing communities to come together as a network to transform the foster care experience for children and families. Family Tapestry, with their network partners, have started doing just that. The level of communication between community partners has increased exponentially; allowing for deeper conversations about the needs of our children and the people that support them.

Major accomplishments in the first 60 days include the care of nearly 900 children. In addition, no child has slept in an office due to the opening of the Whataburger Center, a safety-net facility for harder to place children and youth. We have a greater understanding of the needs in Bexar County, one of which is the lack of specialized capacity for older youth and for children with medical needs. As a result, our Bexar County judges are creating a specialized focus on older youth to ensure that all are working towards finding them a forever home.

The task before us is momentous—to transform a system. The first 60 days have afforded us a strong foundation that we have learned from and helps shape and inform our networks next steps. We look forward to the future with the continued deepening and strengthening of partnerships as we build a new system that our community can be proud of.

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877 children in care in the Family Tapestry Network
*Number of children as of March 31, 2019

74.8%
*Number of siblings as of March 31, 2019

75.6%
*Number of children as of March 31, 2019

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Whatabout Center for Children & Youth
A short-term safety net facility designed to keep children out of offices.

64 youth were provided care at the center with an average length stay of 14 days

11 young adults ages 18 to 19 returned to care

Capacity gaps identified
- Therapeutic foster homes for teens
- Foster homes for children with medical needs
- Step-down programs from psychiatric hospitals
- Specialized services for substance abuse treatment, and sexualized behaviors
- Comprehensive support services for young adults in care

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