FORT BEND COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD
2018-2019 Budget Request

A. Non-reimbursable Boarding Care

This includes exceptional care supplemental payments of $2.50 per day to local foster parents providing care for teenagers and children with special needs who would otherwise require institutional placements.

The County is also responsible for payment of emergency placements of children in shelters or foster homes for a period not to exceed 24 hours. These children are then returned to parents or relatives within that time period.

Non-reimbursable Boarding Care Expenditures   **$1,500**

B. Medical and Dental Services

Children's Protective Services is required to obtain medical and dental exams for each child who comes into care. Medicaid only covers costs if a child requires medical treatment. Also, Medicaid does not cover any expenses if a child is not a legal resident of the United States. During investigations, particularly sexual abuse, it is necessary to obtain medical examinations, lab test, and/or x-rays on children. Medicaid has a limit on the number of monthly prescriptions paid. County funds are needed for medications not covered by Medicaid, over the counter medications, bandages, prostheses, special medical equipment, eye glasses, and other miscellaneous medical needs.

Medical and Dental Services   **$ 2,500**

C. Legal Liaison

The Legal Liaison functions as a liaison between Children's Protective Services and the Fort Bend County District Attorney's office. The Legal Liaison prepares court orders, affidavits, certificates of services, and helps prepare cases for trial. This is a full time position.

Legal Liaison Expenditures   **$19,500**

D. Therapy and Psychological Testing

Funds are needed to provide supplemental coverage to the State Counseling Contract for court ordered therapy, psychological testing, and psychological testing.

Therapy and Psychological Testing   **$ 2,500**

E.   <u>Hair Follicle Drug Testing</u>

Funds are needed to pay for hair follicle drug testing. Hair follicle tests are most accurate, and can go back to detect drug usage from many months to over a year prior drug use. Fort Bend County Judges court order hair follicle testing in most cases involving drug abuse.

Hair Follicle Drug Testing   **$8,000**

F.   <u>FBI Fingerprinting</u>

Funds are needed to assist relative and kinship caregivers in paying for fingerprinting fees associated with adoption certification. FBI fingerprinting and Criminal Background checks are required of all adoptive placements as well as all household members over the age of 14 years. Funds will be used for reimbursing the placements for their fingerprinting fees.

FBI Fingerprinting Expenditures   **$3,000**

E.   <u>Training & Conferences</u>

This expenditure is needed to cover training expenses for foster parents and Children's Protective Services staff.

Training Expenditures   **$ 8,000**

F.   <u>Birthday gifts for children in CPS Custody</u>

This expenditure is to provide each child in the custody of Fort Bend County C.P.S. a $100 gift card to ensure their birthday is recognized and acknowledged.

Birthday Expenditures   **$ 20,000**

G. <u>Materials and Supplies</u>

1. <u>Clothing</u>

As the Managing Conservator of any child in Foster Care it is the responsibility of Children's Protective Services to provide clothing. The cost per child is fixed at $900 per year.

Clothing Expenditures   **$180,000**
<u>Fixed Supplies</u>

Various items that may be needed for investigations and researching community resources which may include community directories, books, cameras.

Supplies	$ 500
Property/Equipment:	$ 500

Fixed Supplies   **$ 1,000**

2. <u>Special Needs</u>

Audio Visual	$ 300
Birth/Death Certificates	$ 1,000
Citations	$ 7,000
Miscellaneous	$ 5,000
Publications	$ 2,600
School fees	$ 500
Subscriptions	$ 300
Travel (children, foster parents)	$ 300
Refreshments (water & coffee)	$10,000

Special Needs Expenditures   **$27,000**

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST   **$273,000**

APPROVED at the Child Welfare Board Meeting held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018.

Dr. Jonita Reynolds, Chair
Fort Bend County Child Welfare Board