



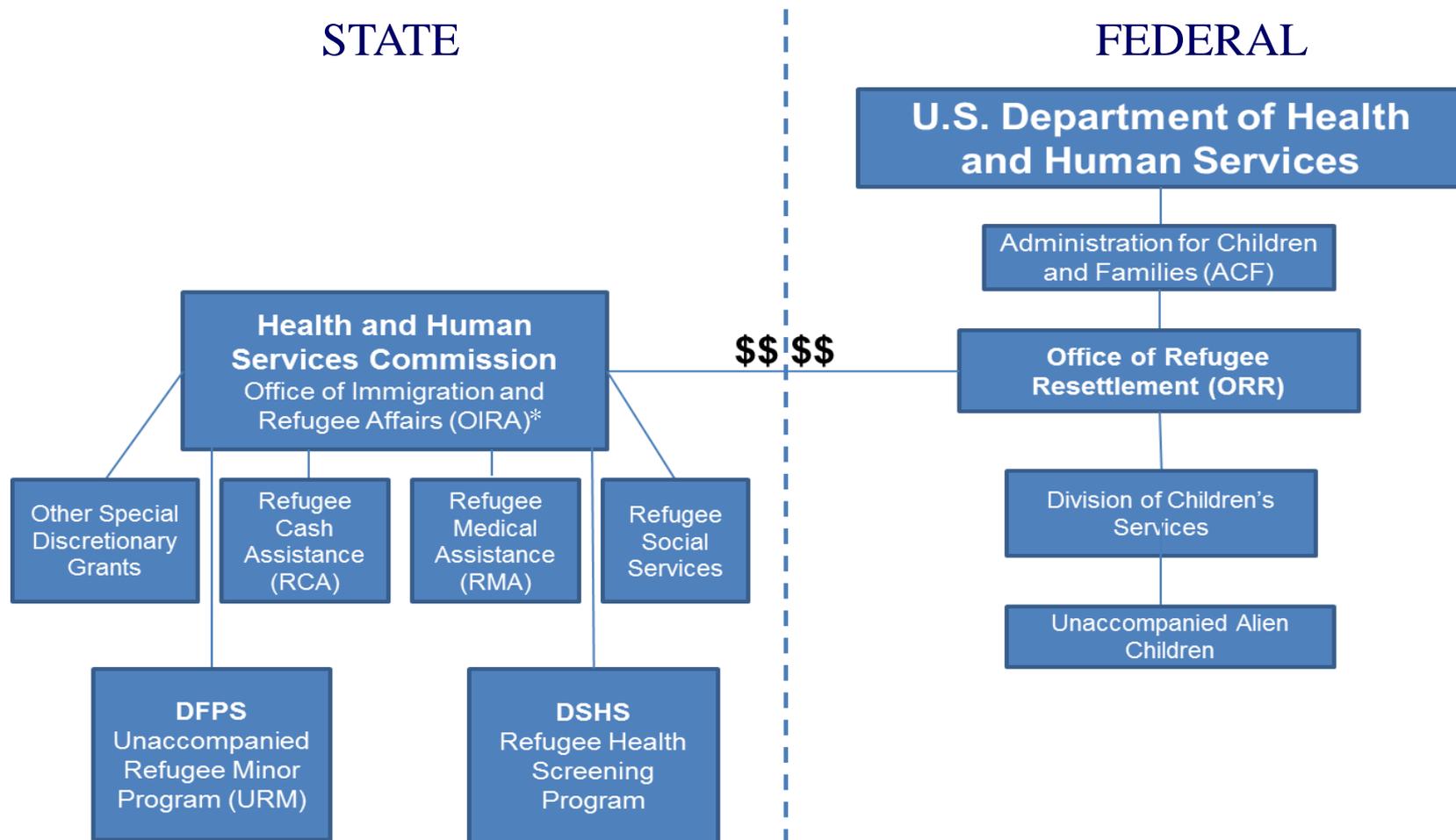
Presentation to Joint Interim Committee to Study Human Trafficking

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Organizational Chart



*Program eligibility requires lawful immigration status.

Unaccompanied Alien Children and their Federal Interagency Processing

Unaccompanied Children at the Southwest Border

At the direction of the President, a Unified Coordination Group is leveraging Federal resources to address the humanitarian situation associated with the influx of unaccompanied children entering the U.S. across the southwest border. This chart depicts the general process to enhance capacity resulting from federal coordination.



* Note: This chart only shows interagency process to address the humanitarian situation.

DoD is providing temporary shelter to assist HHS including JB Lackland, NB Ventura County and Ft. Sill.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

OIRA Overview

- The Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) serves as the single point of contact for coordination of refugee services for the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).
- Although the federal ORR is involved in assisting the current influx of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC), the state program OIRA is not involved with this population, as these children are not considered refugees and do not have a lawful immigration status.
- OIRA assists lawfully present, program eligible participants in becoming self-sufficient as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States.

OIRA Participants

- OIRA program eligibility is limited to individuals who have received the following federally designated statuses:
 - Refugees; Asylees; Entrants and parolees from Cuba and Haiti; Special Immigrant visa holders from Iraq and Afghanistan;
 - Certified international victims of trafficking and unaccompanied international children with a federally issued eligibility or certification letter*;
 - Children with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status**; and
 - U status recipients**.

*An international victim of trafficking is a person who is not a citizen of the United States who has been forced through abduction, the use of threat, deception, fraud, or sale for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor.

**Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and U status designations apply only to children and are granted by the U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services.

OIRA Scope Related to Trafficking

- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) directs the federal ORR to:
 - Identify and assist international trafficking victims; and
 - Issue “certification” and “eligibility” letters for adult and child victims, respectively, that allow them to receive services and benefits.
- Upon receipt of certification or eligibility, international trafficking victims are eligible for refugee assistance programs.
 - In 2013, 50 adult victims and 44 minor victims received services in Texas through OIRA.
- Domestic victims of trafficking are not eligible for the federally-funded OIRA programs.
 - As U.S. citizens, domestic victims may be eligible for Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, and TANF programs, if they meet program requirements.

OIRA Programs

- OIRA is 100% federally funded, and its programs are defined by the federal ORR.
- OIRA provides services to eligible refugees, including international trafficking victims, to supplement and enhance initial refugee resettlement and placement in Texas through six main program components, specifically:
 - Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA);
 - Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA);
 - Refugee Social Services (RSS);
 - Special Discretionary Grants;
 - the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM); and
 - the Refugee Health Screening Program.

Refugee Health Screening Program

- The Refugee Health Screening Program (RHP) at the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provides OIRA participants with culturally and linguistically appropriate health screenings.
 - RHP's current budget is \$13.26 million for FY 2014; this federal funding is through Refugee Medical Assistance and the Preventative Health Grant.
- The health assessment, provided by one of seven RHP-contracted clinics, includes:
 - A complete health history, with review of overseas medical documents;
 - A physical exam, lab tests, and vaccinations;
 - Assessment of mental health and social service needs;
 - Referral for health issues revealed in the screening process.
- The clinic locations coincide with refugees' placements in Texas by the federal ORR. In 2013, the most common resettlement counties for RHP clients were: Harris (39%); Dallas (19%); Tarrant (14%); Travis (13%); Bexar (8%); Potter (4%); and Taylor (2%).

Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program

- Pursuant to an interagency contract with HHSC OIRA, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) operates the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program, which provides foster care and other services for federally designated URM.
 - OIRA provides \$6 million in federal funding to fund two URM programs in Fort Worth and Houston that may serve up to 100 refugee-eligible children in FY 2014.
 - The URM program is separate and different from the UAC program.
- Within DFPS, Child Protective Services (CPS) monitors the federal contract and ensures appropriate levels of service are provided to participants in the URM program.
 - CPS does not have custody of URM children.

Identifying Human Trafficking

- Identifying victims of trafficking is difficult.
 - Victims are physically or psychologically controlled by their traffickers and often trained to tell lies and false stories about their situation.
 - Traffickers often move their victims from place to place.
 - Victims frequently don't see themselves as victims and distrust service providers and law enforcement.
- Signs of trafficking include:
 - “Branding” tattoos, such as with “daddy” or bar code designs;
 - Gifts from unknown sources;
 - Large amounts of cash on hand;
 - New or pre-paid cell phones;
 - Bald spots or rotting teeth;
 - Burns or cuts, lacerations, carvings or bruises from beatings, and injuries in less visible locations; and
 - Pregnancy or history of pregnancy.

Identifying Human Trafficking: Examples of “Branding”



A “branding” tattoo found on a woman involved in a sex trafficking ring.



A sex trafficking victim shows her tattooed lip with the name of her pimp.

HB 2725 - Minimum Standards for Trafficking Victim Placements

- HB 2725, Texas 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, requires the adoption of minimum standards for general residential operations (GROs) that provide comprehensive residential services to victims of trafficking.
- Proposed rule changes would create a new treatment service type for trafficking victim services and will apply when GROs and child placement agencies (CPAs) provide trafficking victim services to a certain number of children in their care. Changes include:
 - Increased staffing for GROs;
 - Additional training for caregivers and employees;
 - More enhanced security and confidentiality policies to protect trafficking victims and employees; and
 - Additional medical and mental health requirements.

Texas Human Trafficking Task Force

- HB 1272, Texas 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, strengthens the Texas Human Trafficking Task Force by directing the task force to develop a standardized training for HHSC, DFPS, education and medical professionals so that direct delivery personnel can identify trafficked victims and those who are vulnerable to being trafficked.
- HHSC, DFPS and DSHS continue to work with the Office of the Attorney General and other Task Force members.

DSHS Human Trafficking Initiative

- Separate from OIRA, DSHS has developed a domestic human trafficking initiative in DSHS Health Service Region 1 (the Panhandle and the South Plains).
- Started December 2013, the initiative has focused on strengthening community and interagency partnerships to more effectively increase awareness and education about human trafficking identification and interventions. Specific efforts include:
 - Education of health care providers to identify sexually-abused children and their traffickers;
 - Coordination with DFPS to educate and train CPS staff and foster parents;
 - Specialized training for other professions likely to have contact with victims;
 - Youth-specific educational and awareness programs in schools and other locations where children gather;
 - Development of medical protocols and a referral process for possibly trafficked or trafficking individuals.

Challenges with the Influx in Illegal Border Crossings

- Border patrol facilities can be overwhelmed.
- The state continues to work with our federal partners on better visibility of:
 - Screenings and background checks of family or sponsors, in advance of release of UACs; and
 - Screenings and release of family units within the state of Texas.