

DHHS

Division of Children and  
Family Services

Alternative Response

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PRESENTATION TO THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 17, 2015



# Nebraska Revised Statute 28-712

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**“The department shall** provide a report of an evaluation of the status of alternative response implementation pursuant to subsection (2) of this section to the commission and electronically to the Legislature by November 15, 2015. **The commission shall** provide feedback on the report to the department before December 15, 2015.”

# A) The screening process used to determine which cases shall be assigned to alternative response

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- Hotline receives a report of child abuse and neglect
- This report is accepted or not accepted based on application of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) screening criteria
- Accepted reports are then screened applying the 21 Alternative Response (AR) Exclusionary Criteria and the 6 Review Evaluate & Decide (RED) Team criteria
- Accepted reports aka Intakes are either AR eligible or AR ineligible
- AR ineligible families are assigned to the Traditional Response (TR) pathway (Assessment/Investigation) for a response
- 50% of AR eligible intakes are assigned to the AR pathway-50% of AR eligible intakes are assigned to the TR pathway
- The screening process, exclusionary criteria and RED Team criteria were developed in collaboration with the AR Statewide Advisory Committee, the AR Director's Steering Committee and the DHHS Internal Workgroup

## B) The number and proportion of repeat child abuse and neglect allegations within a specified period of time following initial intake

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- This data is being captured via NFOCUS and is being reflected in the Continuous Quality Improvement Packet
- Allegation has been defined as: Accepted report of abuse and neglect
- The specified period of time has been defined as: Within 12 months of the initial accepted report
- Analyzing this data today would be premature, as the sample size to date is very small and period of time pilot has been implemented is very short

## C) The number and proportion of substantiated child abuse and neglect allegations within a specified period of time following initial intake

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- This data is being captured via NFOCUS and is being reflected in the Continuous Quality Improvement Packet
- Substantiated has been defined as: Accepted report of abuse and neglect that has been assigned a Traditional Response (assessed/investigated) and the finding was agency substantiated or court substantiated
- The specified period of time has been defined as: Within 12 months of the initial accepted report
- Analyzing this data today would be premature, as the sample size to date is very small and period of time pilot has been implemented is very short

## D) The number and proportion of families with any child entering out of home care within a specified period of time following initial intake

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- This data is being captured via NFOCUS and is being reflected in the Continuous Quality Improvement Packet
- Entering out of home care has been defined as: child(ren) placed in any setting outside the family home
- The specified period of time has been defined as: within 6 months from the date the first intake was accepted for assessment
- Analyzing this data today would be premature, as the sample size to date is very small and period of time pilot has been implemented is very short

E) Changes in child and family well being in the domains of behavioral and emotional functioning and physical health and development as measured by a standardized assessment instrument to be selected by the department

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- The standardized assessment instrument selected is the PFQWB Protective Factor Questionnaire-Well Being (PFQWB)
- Created in collaboration with CCFL
- This tool is a combination of: the protective factor questionnaire (FRIENDS), items from the SDM Family Strengths and Needs Assessment, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (EBP wellbeing tool) and items from the New Mexico Court Improvement Project. While the tool is a combination of various tools, an independent data analysis of each tool will be completed.
- The data collected from the PFQWB will not be analyzed as though it was from one tool.

## F) The number and proportion of families assigned to the alternative response track who are reassigned to a traditional response

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- This data is being captured via NFOCUS and is being reflected in the Continuous Quality Improvement Packet
- Two categories: Programmatic and Technical
- Programmatic Track changes are driven by the 5 Mandatory Response Reassignment criteria or the 7 RED Team referral criteria
- Technical track reassignments are driven by NFOCUS data definitions or operator error



## G) A cost analysis that will examine, at a minimum, the costs of the key elements of services received

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DHHS collects expenditures via NFOCUS and SharePoint Databases

DHHS collects expenditure data on both formal and informal supports and services by payer source and by county

The most prevalent services utilized have been on concrete/informal supports such as housing (rent, deposits, cleaning and utilities), transportation (motor vehicle repair, gas, tires and a windshield), food and clothing

The most prevalent formal services utilized have been intensive family preservation (IFP) and family support

Personnel costs are also a part of the cost analysis

The department may begin using alternative response in up to five additional alternative response demonstration project locations on or after January 1, 2016 Neb.Rev.Stat. 28-712

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- Expansion planning has been occurring over the past 6 months
- The AR Statewide Advisory Committee and the AR Director's Steering Committee have provided valuable input into this plan
- Phase I Expansion is scheduled to begin in early 2016 and includes the following counties:
  - 25 counties in the Western Service Area
  - 4 counties in the Central Service Area, and
  - 6 in the Northern Service Area

Considerations for expansion planning included:

- Data on AR eligible families
- Community preparedness
- Service Area Administrator input/staffing readiness
- Clustering next to existing pilot sites
- AR must be implemented in 93 counties prior to 2019

# Families Served through Alternative Response as of 11/09/2015

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Alternative Response (AR)			
		Current AR Families	Total Families Served through AR
Western Service Area	1-Oct-14	0	0
	2-Nov-15	15	30
Central Service Area	1-Oct-14	0	0
	2-Nov-15	7	46
Northern Service Area	1-Oct-14	0	0
	2-Nov-15	8	24
Southeast Service Area	1-Oct-14	0	0
	2-Nov-15	18	162
DHHS Eastern Service Area	1-Oct-14	0	0
	2-Nov-15	12	55
Statewide	1-Oct-14	0	0
	2-Nov-15	60	317