

Children and Family Services System-Wide CFRS & Program Improvement Plan Update

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- Link to PIP on DHHS Website: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Child-and-Family-Services-Review.aspx>

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Round 3 Data Indicators

Nebraska Federal Indicators Matrix - Round 3

Review Period: Oct 2019

NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	Recurrence of Maltreatment	Maltreatment in Care	Youth Entering Care Achieving Permanency in 12 Months	Re-Entry within 12 Months of Discharge	Youth in Care 12-23 Months Achieving Permanency in 12 Months	Youth in Care 24+ Months Achieving Permanency in 12 Months	Placement Stability
Target:	≤ 7.9%	≤ 7.00	≥ 43.8%	≤ 8.3%	≥ 46.2%	≥ 36.3%	≤ 4.12
Eastern	6.0%	6.30	34.6%	4.3%	44.7%	45.6%	3.58
Southeast	7.3%	4.11	44.6%	1.8%	47.3%	42.9%	2.96
Central	3.0%	2.31	43.4%	0.9%	57.1%	54.5%	2.74
Northern	3.8%	2.06	37.2%	2.6%	58.6%	60.5%	2.62
Western	5.0%	4.09	50.0%	5.9%	62.5%	61.3%	2.61
State	6.1%	4.65	39.9%	3.4%	49.9%	48.9%	3.13

■ = Passing
■ = Not Passing

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Round 2 Data Indicators

Nebraska Federal Indicators Matrix - Round 2
Review Period: Oct 2019

NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence	Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care	Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification	Timeliness of Adoption	Permanency for Children in Foster Care	Placement Stability
Federal Target:	94.60%	99.68%	122.6	106.4	121.7	101.5
Eastern	97.77%	99.88%	117.8	139.8	154.7	104.5
Southeast	92.04%	99.61%	104.7	181.4	171.7	116.6
Central	100.00%	100.00%	133.1	146.0	192.3	114.5
Northern	95.65%	99.71%	120.6	167.7	190.5	114.8
Western	99.12%	99.72%	119.0	163.0	192.4	117.6
State	96.67%	99.80%	114.9	157.8	173.6	110.9

■ = Passing the Federal
■ = Not Passing the Federal Indicator

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CFSR and PIP Overview

Federal Review, System-wide solutions:

- The State of Nebraska participated in Round 3 of the Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) the week of June 5-9, 2017.
 - Federal and State reviewers analyzed 65 cases (40 foster care and 25 in-home) conducted via the Traditional Review process in Douglas, Hall, and Platte/Colfax counties.
 - The review also included a statewide assessment & interviews with more than 200 stakeholders about the performance of Nebraska's child welfare system.
 - Nebraska was found to be out of substantial conformity on each of the CSFR case review outcomes and 3 of the 7 systemic factors.

Program Improvement Plan Goals, Strategies and Activities:

- Program Improvement Plan approved by Children's Bureau in May 2019.
- Established Baseline & Target measurements for CSFR items requiring improvement
- **Plan includes 7 goals, 15 Strategies, 55 Key Activities which include over 300 specific action steps.**
- Every calendar quarter we are reviewing a minimum of 65 (in-home & out of home) cases from across the state to demonstrate conformance with the item targets. Case details provided to ACF for their second-level review.
- Every 6 months ACF will be on-site to interview and discuss strategies, activities and performance
- We have until July 2021 + 6 months to achieve targeted case review scores

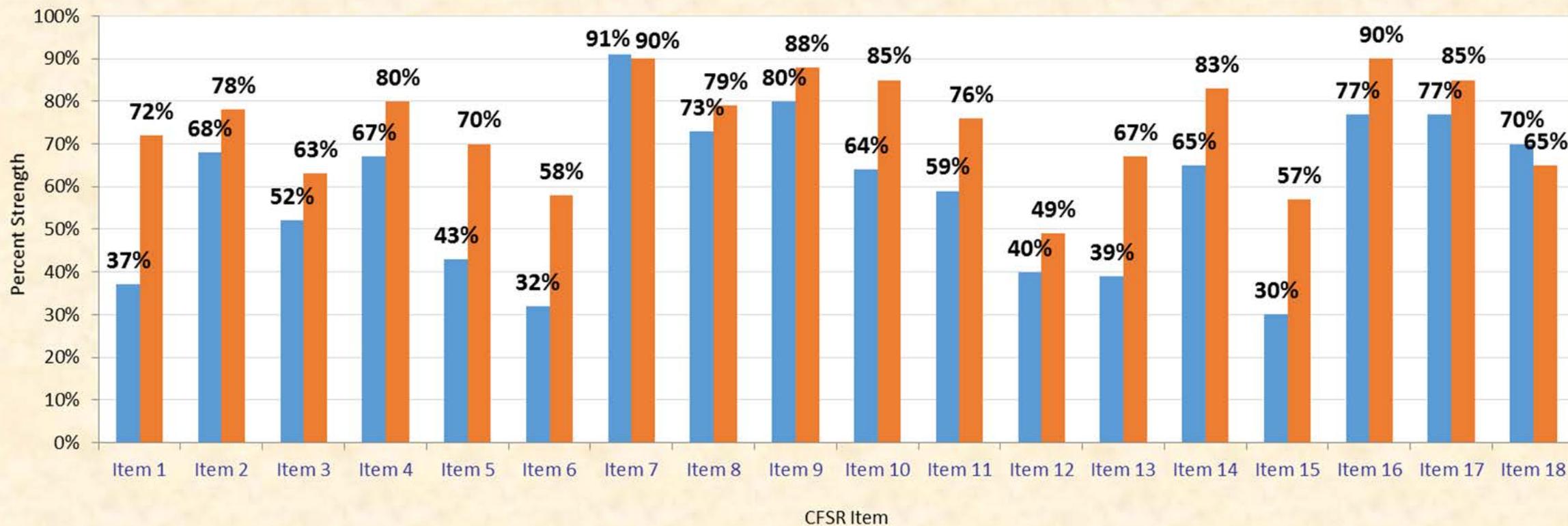
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CFSR Case Management Results



Nebraska 2008 Review Findings vs 2017 Preliminary Findings CFSR Items 1 - 18: Percent Rated as Strength

■ 2008 CFSR Official Results
■ 2017 CFSR Preliminary Results



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Structure of Statewide Continuous CFSR Case Reviews

Baseline to Set PIP Goals

Review Begin Date 11/1/2018
 Sample Period 11/1/2017 to 4/30/2018
 Period Under Review 11/1/2017 to Review Date

Service Area	Out of Home	In Home	Total	Primary Office
ESA	17	13	30	Omaha
SESA	8	6	14	Entire Service Area
CSA	5	2	7	Grand Island
NSA	5	2	7	Seward/York
WSA	5	2	7	Lexington
Total	40	25**	65***	

Quarter 1

Review Begin Date 2/1/2019
 Sample Period 2/1/2018 to 7/31/2018
 Period Under Review 2/1/2018 to Review Date

Service Area	Out of Home	In Home	Total	Primary Office
ESA	17	13	30	Omaha
SESA	8	6	14	Entire Service Area
CSA	5	2	7	Kearney
NSA	5	2	7	Fremont
WSA	5	2	7	North Platte
Total	40	25**	65***	

50% of the cases are re-reviewed by ACF

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Safety Outcome 1

Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

Item 1: *Timeliness of Initiating Investigations*

- State timeframes for Accepted reports of maltreatment are met.
 - Priority 1 – 24 hours; Priority 2- 5 days, and Priority 3 – 10 days.
- Exceptions to meeting timeframes are to be documented in NFOCUS.
- Delays in meeting timeframes are due to circumstances beyond the agency's control
 - Examples include, law enforcement holds, or the child/family not located, despite agency efforts

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Safety Outcome 2

Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Item 2: *Services to Family to Protect Children in home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry*

- Services should be appropriate and relevant to the safety threat and the reason the family came into care.
- If a safety threat exists, safety services should be provided to the family to ensure child safety.
- When an emergency removal is needed to ensure the child's safety, the agency is unable to provide safety services prior to the removal

Item 3: *Risk and Safety Assessment and Management Quality of service provisions*

- Initial and Ongoing Assessments for Risk and Safety are completed on a regular basis.
- Assessments are to be good quality, accurate and comprehensive.
- Safety Plans are evaluated when a safety threat is present for In Home and Alternative Response cases
- Safety is evaluated during visitations, in the foster home, and for any children remaining in the home of the caregiver

Permanency Outcome 1

Children have safety and stability in their living situation

Item 4: *Stability of Foster Care Placement*

- Stability of foster care placement includes whether or not the foster placement is willing to provide permanency, if reunification does not occur, and the ability of the foster parent to meet the specific needs of the child in their home
- Placement changes should be planned, and made to meet the needs of the child's safety, permanency and well-being

Item 5: *Permanency Goal for the Child*

- Timeliness of establishing goal – goal should be created within 60 days of the child entering foster care
- Appropriateness of the permanency goal
- Implementing concurrent permanency goals when necessary to ensure timely permanency for the youth.

Item 6: *Achieving Timely Reunification, Guardianship & Adoption*

- Federal guideline: Reunification -12 months; Guardianship 18 months; Adoption 24 months
- Timeliness/availability of services
- Delays in achieving goals may be court related due to delay in hearings

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Well-Being Outcome 1

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Item 12: *Demonstrate concerted efforts to assess needs, and provide services to children, parents & foster parents*

- Adequately assess the needs and provide appropriate services to all parties (child, mother, father and foster parents).
- Services should adequately address the identified issues
- Assessments are to be good quality, accurate and comprehensive
- Locating and/or engaging a father and service availability in rural areas or specialized services can be a barrier

Item 13: *Child and Family Involved in Case Planning*

- “Actively involved” means the agency consulted with the child (as developmentally appropriate) and involved the mother and father to create case plan goals, identify strengths, identify services, and evaluate progress, etc.
- Children and families should be included in the case planning process initially and on an ongoing basis
- Family Team Meetings, monthly contacts and interviews with families, and caseworkers are used to determine this outcome

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Well-Being Outcome 1

continued

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Item 14: Caseworker visits with Child

- Frequency and Quality of visits is assessed
 - Visits should be private at least part of the time, if child is over 18 months old
 - Length of visit should be sufficient to discuss case plan progress
 - Key issues should be addressed in a way child would understand
 - Location of visit conducive to open and honest conversations such as a private home
 - Discuss case plan goals, needs, services and permanency

Item 15: Caseworker visits with Parents

- Frequency and Quality of visits is assessed
 - Length of visit should be sufficient to discuss case plan progress
 - Key issues should be addressed
 - Location of visit conducive to open and honest conversations such as a private home
 - Discuss case plan goals, needs, services and permanency

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CFSR Items Requiring - Statewide	PIP Baseline	PIP Quarter 1	PIP Quarter 2	PIP Target Goals (State must achieve these goals before the end of the 2 year PIP period)
Review Months	Nov – Dec 2018	Feb – Mar 2019	July – Sept 2019	
Period Under Review:	Nov 2017 – Dec 2018	Feb 2019 – Mar 2019	July 2018 – Sept 2019	
Number of Cases	75	73	79	
Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations	73%	86%	89%	84.6%
Item 2: Services to Family to Protect Children in home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry	70%	70%	97%	85.6%
Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management	69%	64%	75%	80.8%
Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement	73%	60%	72%	83.8%
Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child	52%	59%	51%	66.6%
Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanency Living Arrangement	43%	38%	40%	52.5%
Item 12: Needs and Services	44%	44%	57%	55.6%
Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning	67%	71%	65%	83.1%
Item 14: Caseworker Visits With Child	73%	74%	76%	85%
Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents	54%	62%	60%	68.7%

Sampling of PIP Strategies & Activities

- Implementing Safety Organized Practice (SOP)
- Triage staffing at removal
- Training for Supervisors
- Researching the feasibility to modify SDM assessments/safety plans (substance abuse, DV, Safety Threat 12 “Other”)
- QA continually performing CFSR & Targeted reviews with service area CQI meetings/training
- Mandatory supervisor case reviews for safety and well-being based on CFSR guidelines
- Joint project with CIP in Lancaster, Madison & Dawson CIP joint pilot using 90 day review hearings and PHPR
- Joint project with CIP on SDM, Concurrent Goals, TPR & Permanency
- Six Sigma daily huddles on areas needing improvement (victim contacts/exceptions, parental contacts)
- QIC-WD Research project utilizing Resilience Alliance

PIP Related Systemic Factors

Ensure the case review system is functioning to ensure timely permanency.

Item 20: *Each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parents and includes the required provisions*

Item 21 and Item 22: *Periodic Reviews should occur less than every 6 months, and Permanency Hearings occur at least every 12 months by a qualified court.*

Item 23: *Filings of termination of parental rights proceedings occur in accordance with required provisions.*

Item 24: *Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers are all included in the PIP Items for the Case Review System.*

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Enhance the current service array to ensure appropriate and individualized services are accessible.

Item 29: Array of Services - Challenges in accessing needed services in more rural areas of the state.

Item 30: Individualization of Services - Lack of individualized services in some areas of the state. Lack of placement resources that are individualized to meet the needs of each youth.

Enhance Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention practices

Item 35: *Ensure the diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive homes reflect the cultural/ethnicity/language etc. of the youth being served.*

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