

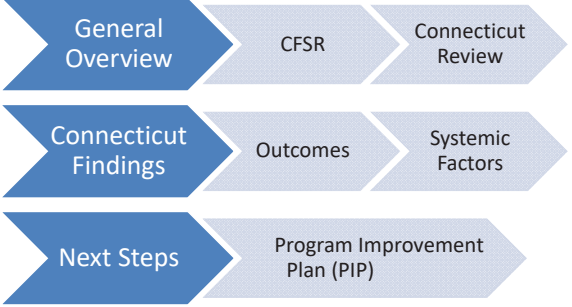


Child and Family Services Reviews
Results Meeting
Connecticut CFSR 2016



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Agenda



General Overview → CFSR → Connecticut Review

Connecticut Findings → Outcomes → Systemic Factors


Next Steps → Program Improvement Plan (PIP)



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Overview

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW



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Child and Family Services Reviews

- Collaborative effort between federal and state governments
- Promote continuous quality improvement in child welfare systems nationally
- Evaluate state performance relative to federal requirements and the state's Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)



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Child and Family Services Reviews

- Identify the strengths and areas needing improvement in state child welfare programs
- States that do not meet standards develop an action-oriented 2 year program improvement plan (PIP)
- CB works to assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes through ongoing technical assistance support



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CFSR Process

CFSRs assess child welfare outcomes and systemic functioning using:

- Statewide Assessment
- Case-level reviews
 - Case record and interviews
- Interviews with key state stakeholders and partners



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CFSR Outcomes

Safety

- **Safety Outcome 1:** Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- **Safety Outcome 2:** Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.



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CFSR Outcome

Permanency

- **Permanency Outcome 1:** Children have permanency and stability in their living situations
- **Permanency Outcome 2:** The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children



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CFSR Outcomes

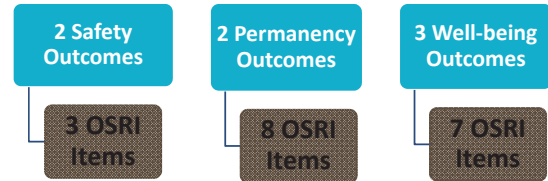
Well-Being

- **Well-Being Outcome 1:** Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.
- **Well-Being Outcome 2:** Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- **Well-Being Outcome 3:** Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.



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Determining Substantial Conformity with 7 Child and Family Outcomes



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CFSR Systemic Factors

- Statewide Information System
- Case Review System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Service Array and Resource Development
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention



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Determining Substantial Conformity with 7 Systemic Factors



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Round 3 CFSR Review Paths

- Traditional review
 - 1-week, onsite review during which a federal and state team reviews a sample of cases at three sites
- State Conducted Case Review (SCCR)
 - States meeting CB criteria may conduct their own case reviews using a revised federal CFSR onsite review instrument and submit the results to CB



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State Conducted Case Review

- Connecticut was approved to conduct their own case review
- Federal Onsite Review Instrument (OSRI) was used
- 82 cases were reviewed
 - 35 traditional in-home cases
 - 5 in-home alternative/differential response cases
 - 42 foster care cases



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State Conducted Case Review

- Case reviews were conducted between April and September of 2016
- Cases were reviewed by the 4 Core Reviewers who were selected from the Administrative Review Team and a group of trained volunteers that included the Court Monitor's staff. DCF also had 3 levels of Quality Control.
- Federal staff completed secondary oversight of a sample of completed cases and mentored DCF staff to help them build that capacity going forward



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CFSR Round 3 Findings

Connecticut



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Connecticut Outcomes

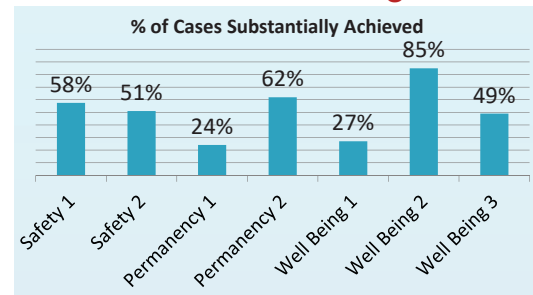
- Safety, Permanency and Well-being Outcomes
 - 95% of the cases must be Substantially Achieved for an outcome to be found in substantial conformity

- None of the 7 outcomes was found to be in substantial conformity



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Connecticut CFSR Findings



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Systemic Factors

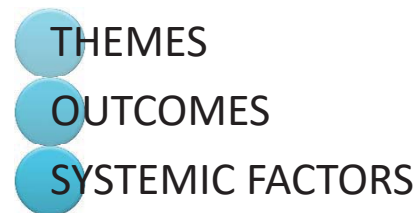
- Connecticut completed a statewide assessment which included relevant data for many items that helped in assessing functioning

- Interviews were held with 25 key state stakeholder groups, tribal representatives and partners, to gain additional insight



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Closer Look at Findings



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Themes - Strengths

- A foundational commitment to Continuous Quality Improvement
- The use of Relative Placements and the positive impact that has on Placement Stability and the Placement of Sibling together.
- A timely establishment of appropriate goals for children in care, and the use of effective use of concurrent goals.
- Positive work in promoting continuity in the parent child relationship through Visitation Practices.
- Strong Collaboration with Schools to ensure children received the educational services they needed.



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Themes – Areas Needing Improvement

- Face-to-face contact with alleged victims during investigations
- Risk/safety assessment and monitoring
- Foster parent recruitment, training, matching, and support
- Case worker visits with children and parents
- Concerted efforts by agency and court toward timely achievement of appropriate permanency goals
- Engagement in case planning
- Service provision and oversight related to physical and mental health needs of children
- Consistent availability and implementation of services across the state that match the needs of the children and families.



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Safety Outcome 1

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

58% Safety Outcome 1

OSRI Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment

- 58% of 41 cases rated as a Strength
- Primary concerns with both 24 hour and 72 hour face to face contact with all alleged victims



Safety Outcome 2

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

51% Safety Outcome 2

OSRI Item 2: Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

- 57% of 21 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 3: Risk Assessment and Safety Management

- 51% of all 82 cases rated as a Strength



Item 2

Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care

- In 57% of applicable cases, either appropriate services were provided to protect the children and prevent their entry or reentry into foster care; or their removal was necessary to ensure their safety.
- In 7 of the 9 cases rated as needing improvement, substance abuse was present. Domestic violence and mental health issues were each present in 3 cases.



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Item 3

Risk assessment and safety management

- Accurate initial assessment – 55%
- Accurate ongoing assessment – 52%
- Lack of comprehensive risk and safety assessments at critical case junctures
- Appropriate safety plans developed and monitored in 45% of cases



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Item 3

- Case Type Comparison – Strength Ratings
 - 67% of the 42 applicable foster care cases
 - 31% of the 35 applicable in-home services cases
 - 60% of the 5 applicable in-home services alternative/differential response cases.
- Related Practice Concerns: Items 14 and 15 Worker Visits
 - Insufficient quality of caseworker visits was the primary reason for ANI ratings with both children and parents



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National Data Indicators - Safety

Contextual information for considering the findings




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Maltreatment in Foster Care - Rate of victimization of all children in foster care in FY2014

- 12.29 victimizations per 100,000 days in care
- Not as strong as national performance

Maltreatment Recurrence - Percentage of children who were victims of substantiated maltreatment in FY2013-2014 and then were victims again within 12 months

- 11.2% of children
- Not as strong as national performance



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Permanency Outcome 1

Children have safety and stability in their living situations.

24% Permanency Outcome 1

OSRI Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement


- 86% of 42 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

- 75% of 41 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

- 31% of 42 cases rated as a Strength




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Item 4

Stability of foster care placement

- In 54% of cases placement changes were planned in an effort to achieve case goals or meet the needs of the child
- Child's current placement at the time of review was considered stable in 98% of cases
- Placements with relatives positively impacted placement stability
- A lack of placement resources contributed to poor placement matches or temporary placements, which contributed to unnecessary placement moves.
- Foster parent's needs were adequately assessed in 66% of cases assessed in Item 12C, with appropriate services provided in 47% of those cases.




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Item 5

Permanency goal for child

- Permanency goals were established timely in 85% of cases
- Permanency goals were appropriate to the child's needs and circumstances in 88% of cases
- Agency filed a termination of parental rights in a timely manner or an exception applied in 96% of cases



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Item 5

Permanency goal for child - Practice Concerns

- Goals remaining in place too long-
- Related practice: Items 12A and 12B - comprehensive assessments and service provision for children and parents –71% and 30%, respectively for foster care cases.
- Related systemic factor – TPRs are not filed timely & compelling reasons not consistently documented



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Item 6

Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or other planned permanent living arrangement

- Concerted efforts towards timely achievement were seen in
 - 27% of cases with a plan of reunification
 - 36% of cases with a plan of guardianship
 - 22% of cases with a plan of adoption
- 100% of the children with a goal of OPPLA were placed in a permanent arrangement



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Item 6

- Of the 29 cases rated an ANI:
 - In 72% of the cases rated ANI, reviewers noted administrative delays as a reason contributing to the ANI rating.
 - Court delays were identified in 6 cases.
 - Issues with service delivery appeared in 9 of the ANI cases
- Related practice concerns:
 - Well-Being Item 12 B assessment and services to parents:
 - 30% Strength in foster care cases
 - Item 13 – engagement
 - 49% Strength in foster care cases



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Permanency Outcome 2

The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

62% Permanency Outcome 2

OSRI Item 7: Placement With Siblings

- 76% of 21 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 8: Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

- 75% of 28 cases rated as a Strength



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Permanency Outcome 2 Cont.

OSRI Item 9: Preserving Connections

- 50% of 42 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 10: Relative Placement

- 62% of 42 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 11: Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

- 67% of 24 cases rated as a Strength



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Item 7 Placement with siblings

- Child was placed with all siblings in 52% of the applicable cases
 - In 7 cases all siblings were placed together with relatives.
- A valid reason for sibling separation existed in 50% of the 10 cases
- Only 5 cases where siblings not placed together.
- Related Practice Concern: Item 8 Visitation
 - Usual pattern of visits between child and siblings:
 - At least 1X/week or more – 50%
 - At least 2X/month – 20%
 - Less than 1X/month – 30%



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Item 8

Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care (Definition of mother/father revised this round)

- Concerted efforts made to ensure frequency and quality of visits sufficient to maintain and promote continuity of the relationship

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Quality</u>
With the mother in 74% of cases	81% of cases
With the father in 56% of cases	67% of cases
With siblings in 80% of cases	80% of cases

- Frequency at least weekly:
 - With Mothers in 65% of cases
 - With Fathers in 66% of cases
 - With Siblings in 50% of cases



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Item 9

Preserving connections

- Efforts to maintain identified connections were made in 50% of applicable cases
- Sufficient inquiry to determine whether a child may be a member of, or eligible for membership in, a federally recognized Indian Tribe was seen in 100% of applicable cases.
- Connections with maternal and paternal relatives, & siblings not in foster care contributed to ANI ratings.



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Item 10 Relative placement

- Child's current or most recent placement was with relatives in 31% of applicable cases
- In 100% of those cases the child's placement was considered stable and appropriate to his/her needs.
- The agency made concerted efforts to identify, locate and inform relative resources
 - Maternal relatives in approximately 50% of cases
 - Paternal relatives in approximately 43% of cases
- Evaluation of both maternal and paternal relatives was the primary driver of ANI ratings



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Item 11

Relationship of child in care with parents

- Concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive, nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her
 - Mother: 74%
 - Father: 44%



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National Data Indicators – *Permanency*

Contextual information for
considering the findings



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Permanency in 12 months for children entering care

- Couldn't be calculated due to data quality issues

Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months

- Of all children in care on the first day of 12-month period (AFCARS 2014B-2015A) who had been in care between 12 and 23 months, **31%** discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day.
- **Not as strong as the national performance**




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Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more

- Of all children in care on the first day of a 12-month period (AFCARS 2014B-2015A) who had been in care (in that episode) for 24 months or more, **23.9%** discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day
- Not as strong as the national performance**

Re-entry in 12 months


- Couldn't be calculated due to data quality issues



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Placement stability

- Of all children who entered care in a 12-month period (AFCARS 2014B-2015A), the rate of placement moves per 1000 days in care was 2.92
- No different than national performance**



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Well-Being Outcome 1

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


27% Well-Being Outcome 1

OSRI Item 12: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents

- 27% of 82 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

- 41% of 81 cases rated as a Strength



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Well-Being Outcome 1


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

OSRI Item 14: Caseworker Visits with Child

- 55% of 82 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 15: Caseworker Visits with Parents

- 33% of 72 cases rated as a Strength



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Item 12A

Needs assessments and services to children

- Comprehensive assessment of children's needs other than educational, physical and mental health needs:
 - Includes social/emotional development needs, attachment and caregiver relationships, social skills, self-esteem, coping skills, independent living skills for older youth
 - Must consider the impact of abuse/neglect, family dynamics, length of time in care, case circumstances, etc. when identifying needs



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Item 12A

- Accurately assessed in 58.5% of 82 cases
 - Foster Care: 81% of 42 cases
 - In-Home: 49% of 35 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential: 60% of 5 cases
- Appropriate services were provided to meet needs in 44% of 59 cases
 - Foster Care: 61% of 28 cases
 - In-Home: 26% of 27 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential: 50% of 4 cases



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Item 12B

Needs assessment and services to parents

- Comprehensive assessment of parent's needs

In-depth understanding of the what the parent needs to provide appropriate care and supervision and to ensure the well-being of his/her children. Includes:

 - Mental and physical health needs that impact parenting capacity.
 - Needs related to developing biological parent's relationship with child if established relationship did not exist prior to foster care entry.
 - Parent's role in the case plan and achievement of permanency goals



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Item 12B

- Parent's needs were appropriately assessed and addressed through services 27% of 81 cases
 - Foster Care: 30% of 33 cases
 - In-Home: 23% of 35 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential: 40% of 5 cases
- Variation between concerted efforts to assess and address the needs of mothers and those efforts for fathers



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Item 12C

Needs assessment and services to foster Parents

- Adequate assessment of foster parent's needs include identifying whatever is needed to enhance their capacity to provide appropriate care and supervision to the child(ren) in their home.
- Needs of foster parents were appropriately assessed in 66% of applicable cases, and appropriately addressed through services in 47% of applicable cases



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Item 13

Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

- Child(ren) actively engaged in 51% of 51 cases
- Parent engagement:
 - Mothers in 58% of 71 cases
 - Fathers 28% of 58 cases
- Case Type Comparison
 - Foster Care 49% of 41 cases
 - In-Home 31% of 35 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential Response 40% of 5 cases



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Item 14

Caseworker visits with child

- Adequate frequency and quality: 55%
 - Foster Care 67% of 42 cases
 - In-Home 40% of 35 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential Response 60% of 5 cases
- Frequency – sufficient 80%
 - 90% at least 1 time per month
 - 10% less than 1 time per month
- Sufficient Quality
 - 57%



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Item 15

Caseworker visits with parents

- Adequate frequency and quality: 33%
 - Foster Care 41% of 32 cases
 - In-Home 26% of 35 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential Response 40% of 5 cases



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Item 15

Frequency

- At least 1 time per month
 - Mother 70%
 - Father 34%
- Less than 1 time per month
 - Mother 27%
 - Father 38% - 28% Not seen at all

Sufficient Frequency

- Mother 68%
- Father 33%

Sufficient Quality

- Mother 49%
- Father 31%



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Well-Being Outcome 2

Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs

85% Well-Being Outcome 2

OSRI Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child

- 85% of 53 cases rated as a Strength



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Item 16

Educational needs of the child

- Adequate assessment in 90% of cases
- Concerted efforts to provide appropriate services in 83% of cases
- Case Type Comparison
 - Foster Care 91% of 33 cases
 - In-Home 71% of 17 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential Response 100% of 3 cases.



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Well-Being Outcome 3

Children Receive Adequate Services to Meet Their Physical and Mental Health Needs

49% Well-Being Outcome 3

OSRI Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

- 62% of 58 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

- 45% of 49 cases rated as a Strength



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Item 17

Physical health of the child

- Adequate assessment
 - Health 84%
 - Dental 96%
- Appropriate services provided
 - Health 65%
 - Dental 82%
- Appropriate oversight of prescription medications 55% of 11 cases



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Item 17

- Case Type Comparison
 - Foster Care 69% of 42 cases
 - In-Home 44% of 16 cases
 - None of the in-Home Alternative/Differential Response cases were applicable



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Item 18

Mental/behavioral health of the child

- Adequate assessment 67% of 48 cases
- Appropriate services provided 55% of 47 cases
- Appropriate oversight of prescription medications 43% of 14 cases
- Case Type Comparison
 - Foster Care 69% of 23 cases
 - In-Home 41% of 22 cases
 - In-Home Alternative/Differential Response 50% of 4 cases



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Systemic Factors



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Statewide Information System

- **Item 19 Statewide Information System**
 - Applies to children who are or have been in foster care during the last 12 months.
 - Identify the status of the child
 - Identify demographic characteristics
 - Identify the child's location
 - Identify the placement goals for the child.



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Case Review System

- Item 20: Written Case Plan**
- Item 21: Periodic Reviews**
- Item 22: Permanency Hearings**
- Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights**
- Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers**



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Quality Assurance System

- Item 25: Quality Assurance System**
 - Multifaceted & integrated QA system
 - Variety of Activities
 - Multitude of Data Sources
 - Case review process operating statewide
 - Mirrors CFSSR



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Staff and Provider Training

- Item 26: Initial Staff Training**
- Item 27: Ongoing Staff Training**
- Item 28: Foster and Adoptive Parent Training**



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Service Array and Resource Development

Item 29: Array of Services

- Connecticut demonstrated a rich array of services.
- Stakeholders reported significant gaps in the service array for the Northeast and Northwest sections of the state.
- Stakeholders also reported significant waitlists across the state for services, particularly mental health and substance abuse services.



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Service Array and Resource Development

Item 30: Individualizing Services

- Connecticut asserted that within resources available they individualize services to meet child and family needs.
- Stakeholders described
 - restrictions on the funds
 - and limitations on the providers available
 - lack of linguistic & culturally sensitive services
 - significant turnover in therapeutic service providers



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Agency Responsiveness to Community

Item 31 – Agency Responsiveness to Community Stakeholders

- DCF does collaborate with a wide range of partners.
- However, Tribal Stakeholders reported they are not engaged in CFSP or APSR activities

Item 32 – Coordination with other Federal Programs

- DCF effectively coordinates CFSP services with other federally funded or assisted Programs



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Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes


Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements



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Program Improvement Plan


NEXT STEPS



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Program Improvement Plan

- PIP due to CB within 90 days of receiving final report and determination of nonconformity
- Continued collaborative effort between the state and Children's Bureau to develop and monitor Connecticut's PIP
- Continued collaboration with partners and families in development of PIP



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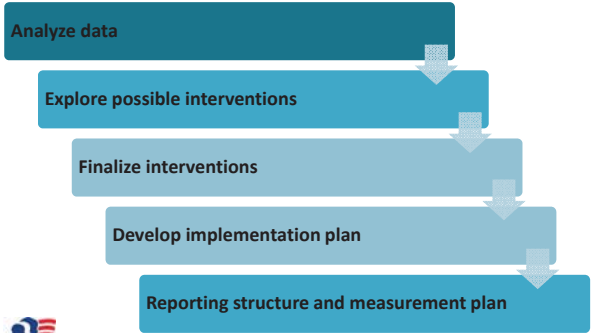
Program Improvement Plan

- Implement plan over 2 years with additional year to monitor data measures
- Safety interventions must be prioritized and addressed in less than 2 years
- State must include and complete key activities to benchmark progress
- State must include and achieve measurable progress on certain items




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Stages of PIP Development



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graph TD; A[Analyze data] --> B[Explore possible interventions]; B --> C[Finalize interventions]; C --> D[Develop implementation plan]; D --> E[Reporting structure and measurement plan];
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Questions?

For more general CFSR
information:

www.cfsrportal.org

