

What does the Child and Family Services Review Measure? (*handout 2*)

SAFETY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PROTECTED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Item 1

- Determine whether responses to all accepted child maltreatment reports received were initiated, and face-to-face contact with the child made, within the timeframes established by agency policies or State statute.

Item 2

- Determine if any child in the family experienced repeat maltreatment within a 6-month period.

SAFETY OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE

Item 3

- Determine whether the agency made concerted efforts to provide services to the family to prevent children's entry into foster care or re-entry after a reunification.

Item 4

- Determine whether the agency made concerted efforts to assess and address the risk and safety concerns relating to the child(ren) in their own homes or while in foster care.

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS.

Item 5

- Assess whether children who entered foster care during the period under review were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.

Item 6

- Determine if the child in foster care is in a stable placement at the time of the onsite review and that any changes in placement that occurred during the period under review were in the best interest of the child and consistent with achieving the child's permanency goal(s).

Item 7

- Determine whether appropriate permanency goals were established for the child in a timely manner.

Item 8

- Determine whether concerted efforts were made, or are being made to achieve reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives in a timely manner.

Item 9

- Determine whether concerted efforts were made, or are being made, to achieve a finalized adoption in a timely manner.

Item 10

- Determine whether the agency made concerted efforts to ensure:
 - That the child is adequately prepared to make the transition from foster care to independent living (if it is expected that the child will remain in foster care until he or she reaches the age of majority or is emancipated).
 - That the child, even though remaining in foster care, is in a "permanent" living arrangement with a foster parent or relative caregiver and that there is a commitment on the part of all parties involved that the child remain in that placement until he or she reaches the age of majority or is emancipated.
 - That the child is in a long-term care facility and will remain in that facility until transition to an adult care facility.

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2: THE CONTINUITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS
IS PRESERVED FOR CHILDREN.

Item 11

- Determine whether concerted efforts were made to ensure that the child's foster care placement was close enough to the parent(s) to facilitate face-to-face contact between the child and the parent(s) while the child was in foster care.

Item 12

- Determine if concerted efforts were made to ensure that siblings in foster care are placed together unless a separation was necessary to meet the needs of one of the siblings.

Item 13

- Determine if concerted efforts were made to ensure that visitation between a child in foster care and his or her mother, father, and siblings is of sufficient frequency and quality to promote continuity in the child's relationship with these close family members.

Item 14

- Determine whether concerted efforts were made to maintain the child's connections to his or her neighborhood, community, faith, extended family, tribe, school, and friends.

Item 15

- Determine whether concerted efforts were made to place the child with relatives when appropriate.

Item 16

- Determine whether concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and/or maintain positive relationships between the child in foster care and his or her mother and father or other primary caregiver(s) from whom the child had been removed through activities other than just arranging for visitation.

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1: FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

Item 17

- Determine whether the agency made concerted efforts to assess (and continue to assess) the needs of children, parents, and foster parents to identify the services necessary to achieve case goals and adequately address the issues relevant to the agency's involvement with the family, and provided the appropriate services.

Item 18

- Determine whether concerted efforts were made (or are being made) to involve parents and children (if developmentally appropriate) in the case planning process on an ongoing basis.

Item 19

- Determine whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the children in the case are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals.

Item 20

- Determine whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the mothers and fathers of the children are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the children and promote achievement of case goals.

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Item 21

- Assess whether the agency made concerted efforts to assess children's educational needs at the initial contact with the child or on an ongoing basis, and whether identified needs were appropriately addressed in case planning and case management activities.

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

Item 22

- Determine whether the agency addressed the physical health needs of the child, including dental health needs.

Item 23

- Determine whether the agency addressed the mental/behavioral health needs of the children.

SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Statewide Information System

Item 24

- The State is operating a statewide information system that, at a minimum, can readily identify the legal status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.

Case Review System

Item 25

- The State provides a process that ensures that each child has a written case plan to be developed jointly with the child's parent(s) that includes the required provisions.

Item 26

- The State provides a process for the periodic review of the status of each child, no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.

Item 27

- The State provides a process that ensures that each child in foster care under the supervision of the State has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative

body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

Item 28

- The State provides a process for termination of parental rights proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Item 29

- The State provides a process for foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

Quality Assurance System

Item 30

- The State has developed and implemented standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children.

Item 31

- The State is operating an identifiable quality assurance system that is in place in the jurisdictions where the services included in the Child and Family Services Plan are provided, evaluates the quality of services, identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provides relevant reports, and evaluates implemented program improvement measures.

Staff and Provider Training

Item 32

- The State is operating a staff development and training program that supports the goals and objectives in the Child and Family Services Plan, addresses services provided under titles IV-B and IV-E, and provides initial training for all staff who deliver these services.

Item 33

- The State provides for ongoing training for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the Child and Family Services Plan.

Item 34

- The State provides training for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of State licensed or approved facilities that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

Service Array and Resource Development

Item 35

- The State has in place an array of services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

Item 36

- The services in item 35 are accessible to families and children in all political jurisdictions covered in the State's Child and Family Services Plan.

Item 37

- The services in item 35 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Item 38

- In implementing the provisions of the Child and Family Services Plan, the State engages in ongoing consultation with tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster

care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals and objectives of the Child and Family Services Plan.

Item 39

- The agency develops, in consultation with these representatives, Annual Progress and Services Reports pursuant to the Child and Family Services Plan.

Item 40

- The State's services under the Child and Family Services Plan are coordinated with services or benefits of other Federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

Item 41

- The State has implemented standards for foster family homes and child care institutions that are reasonably in accord with recommended national standards.

Item 42

- The standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-E or IV-B funds.

Item 43

- The State complies with Federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

Item 44

- The State has in place a process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed.

Item 45

- The State has in place a process for the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children.