

What does the Child and Family Services Review do?

Where are there opportunities to learn, collaborate and influence?

The National Summit on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare

CFSR OVERVIEW

- 1st round of reviews 2000-2004; 2nd round of reviews underway since spring 2007
- Carried out in all 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico
- Ensures conformity with Federal requirements for child welfare
- Determines what is actually happening to children and families regarding child welfare services
- Assists states in enhancing their capacity

CFSR OVERVIEW

- Process consists of:
 - A statewide assessment: examining data and getting input from stakeholders on programming objectives
 - In-person inspection of 65 cases, in-home and placement, across 3 sites in state
 - Interviews at all 3 sites and central state office of children, parents, foster parents, all levels of child welfare personnel, collaborating agency personnel, service providers, court personnel and attorneys
 - A report with findings from the review

CFSR OVERVIEW

- After the issuance of the Report, the state develops a Program Improvement Plan: a roadmap of strategies aimed at improving practice
 - The PIP must be approved by Federal staff
 - The PIP is a 2 year plan, with an emphasis on systemic changes
 - Not achieving PIP tasks/benchmarks carry financial risks/penalties
 - Expectation is achieving PIP strategies will not automatically achieve the outcomes but will be a logical, continual roadmap to get there.

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What should child welfare be doing? (handout)



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What is the CFSR measuring? (handout)

- Four issues concerned with aspects of Safety
- Twelve issues concerned with aspects of Permanency
- Seven issues concerned with aspects of Well-Being
- Seven systemic factors deemed influential in achieving good outcomes:
 - State wide automation
 - Case review system
 - Quality assurance
 - Training
 - Service array
 - Agency response to community
 - Licensing, recruitment, retention of homes

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Points in the CFSR Process to Learn, Collaborate, and Influence

- Findings in the Report may be a reality check on the current status of the relationship between DV coalitions and child welfare
- Findings from round 1 and round 2 hard to compare: many changes were made in the CFSR process for round 2
- Think about how these results reflect your relationship with child welfare and begin/continue to build relationships: this is a perfect entry point

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Points in the CFSR Process to Learn, Collaborate, and Influence

- In the year before the on-site case review, child welfare must complete a state-wide assessment of its data, its programs' strengths and needs.
 - *"States must include broad representation from within and outside the child welfare agency in forming a team to conduct the Statewide Assessment."* instruction from Children's Bureau
- This is a perfect entry point

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Points in the CFSR Process to Learn, Collaborate, and Influence

- The on-site review consists of a team of Federal and state case reviewers.
 - This is a perfect entry point: become a reviewer
- The on-site review is across 3 geographical sites and is logistically a challenge for the state to coordinate
 - This is a perfect entry point: volunteer to help
- The on-site review includes interviews with key stakeholders
 - This is a perfect entry point: become an interviewee

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Points in the CFSR Process to
Learn, Collaborate, and Influence

- The PIP development is under a 60 day time-clock, subject to Federal staff approval, aiming for systemic reform
- Good, collaborative thinkers are very much needed. Many child welfare agencies feel very much alone during this process even when they are surrounded by “key stakeholders.”
- This is a perfect entry point!

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Points in the CFSR Process to
Learn, Collaborate, and Influence

- Once the PIP is approved and finalized, a 2 year period of work begins. Child welfare must formally report to Federal staff quarterly on progress in meeting benchmarks.
- As the work rolls out, strategies initially thought to be great, unravel or become more complicated. Rethinking, re-analyzing what steps were left out, need to be thrown out, etc. become necessary.
- This is a perfect entry point!

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