Nevada Round 4 AH4EC Program Improvement Plan

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Division of Child and Family Services
Nevada Department of Human Services, Administrator

Nevada TB14 Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

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Introduction

On June 4th, Nevada elected to participate in the "A Home for Every Child Program Improvement Plan (PIP) Pilot." The goals and strategies in this PIP align with the approach outlined through Technical Bulletin 14 (TB14), which focuses on ensuring every child in foster care has access to a safe, stable home. Nevada's PIP focuses on three statewide priorities: preventing unnecessary foster care entry, strengthening the availability and stability of family-based foster homes, and promoting timely permanency for children already in care. These priorities reflect Nevada's commitment to improving support services, engagement, and permanency for children and families.

The Division of Child and Family Services met with stakeholders, including Clark County Family Services (CCFS), Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA), the Nevada Health Authority's Office of Analytics (OOA), and the Court Improvement Program (CIP), and identified several statewide factors that influence the priorities outlined in this PIP. These include gaps in early intervention and preventative support for families, challenges in licensing and retaining family-based and kinship caregivers, and barriers within permanency processes that delay timely exits. Stakeholders emphasized the need for stronger prevention referral pathways, clearer and more streamlined kinship licensing practices, and data-informed recruitment efforts. Collaboration with CIP identified needs for improvements to documentation and monitoring through a new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) as essential supports for achieving timely permanency for children already in care.

Nevada's chosen lead actions reflect the steps jurisdictions will take to influence the federal chaser measures and the eleven TB14-aligned lead measures that will be tracked across all statewide jurisdictions, including Clark County, Washoe County, and the Rural Regions.

Goal 1: Prevent Unnecessary Foster Care Entry

Objective	Strategies	Federal Chaser Measures	Nevada Lead Measures
Strengthening Prevention and Family Preservation	• Improve referral pathways and eligibility criteria for prevention supports including clarifying how Differential Response and FFPSA referrals are made and determine next steps. • Provide clear guidance through a reference guide on available prevention supports statewide • Use safety/risk assessments to identify when prevention supports should be offered • Standardized documentation of prevention referrals statewide through new CCWIS • Review trends regarding re-entry within 6 months to identify statewide patterns and contributing factors relevant to prevention and inform the development of clearer referral pathways	• Recent Maltreatment History • Maintaining Family Connections	• % of eligible children and families referred to prevention services • % of children entering foster care after a documented prevention referral from a child welfare agency within 6 prior months • % of children re-entering foster care within 6 months of a prior episode in care. • % of opened investigations that did not result in out of home placement

Goal 2: Strengthen the Availability and Stability of Family-Based and Relative/Fictive Kin Foster Homes

Objective	Strategies	Federal Chaser Measures	Nevada Lead Measures
Strengthening Recruitment, Retention, and Support of Foster Families	• Implement statewide Kinship Licensing Standards to expand and streamline the approval of relative and kinship caregivers • Strengthen agency processes for identification, engagement, and support of relatives and kin throughout the life of a case via diligent search and onboarding materials • Use foster parent recruitment plans to identify recruitment needs and target outreach to communities with the greatest placement gaps • Identify statewide barriers to foster family recruitment and retention by conducting a root cause analysis and implementing improvement strategies based on the findings • Provide ongoing coaching, training, and support to foster families caring for children and youth with higher or specialized needs	• Maintaining Family Connections • Home Disruptions • Use of Congregate Care	• # of days from application to licensure • % of licensed non-relative foster home closures with documented reasons • % of children that are placed in family-based licensed placements vs. congregate care • % of newly licensed/approved homes that are relative/kin caregivers

Goal 3: Promote Timely Permanency for Children Already in Care

Objective	Strategies	Federal Chaser Measures	Nevada Lead Measures
Identify Gaps and Delays in Achieving Permanency	• Use statewide permanency reports to monitor timeliness to permanency for 6 and 12 month hearings • Coordinate with CIP around the statewide court case management system initiative to support consistency in hearings, permanency timelines, and shared data • Utilize the new CCWIS to strengthen documentation and data surrounding case monitoring, contacts, and engagement activities	• Maintaining Family Connections • Home Disruptions	• % of permanency reviews completed at 6, 12, for the children due for review that month. • % of children achieving permanency within 12 (reunification) months • % of children who achieved permanency within 18 (guardianship), months • % of children who achieved permanency within 24 (Adoption) months

Conclusion

Nevada is committed to advancing the goals of the *A Home for Every Child* initiative through consistent statewide collaboration, strengthened practice alignment, and ongoing monitoring of TB14 lead and chaser measures. By coordinating efforts statewide, Nevada will continue to refine decision making, improve access to support services, and enhance data quality to support better outcomes for children and families. This PIP reflects Nevada's shared commitment to continuous improvement, transparency, and a unified statewide approach to achieving meaningful and sustainable change.