

Child and Family Services Reviews Round 4

Children's Bureau Briefing with State Child Welfare Administrators and Court Improvement Managers

September 21, 2021

WELCOME

- Supporting and strengthening families so that children are raised in safe and nurturing homes is a common goal we share
- Ensuring all children and families are treated equitably and with respect for our differences is a basic right we must all work on
- Families and young people with lived experience, as well as other stakeholders, must drive systems and practice change
- Using data and evidence is what guides us in assessing, focusing, improving, and monitoring

Agenda

- Round 4 General Information
- Engagement of stakeholders and court/agency collaboration
- Statewide Assessment
- Case review criteria for State-Led Reviews
- Technical Bulletin 13 and sampling/measurement
- Next steps and supports in place to assist states

Round 4 General Information

- CFSR Round 4 to kick off with distribution of Data Profiles in August 2022
- Onsite case reviews and interviews would likely start in early 2023
- Year 1 schedule will be finalized this fall
 - States that incurred a penalty will be prioritized for year 1
 - States should not expect Round 4 review schedule to parallel Round 3

Guiding Principles for Round 4

- Encourage states to continue and enhance continuous quality improvement (CQI) processes
- Integrate data indicator metrics into measurement of state performance
- Support use of sound measurement principles using relevant evidence to assess system performance
- Assure meaningful, authentic, and ongoing stakeholder engagement, especially of youth, families, and legal and judicial communities
- Encourage states to consider the experiences of populations within the state that may experience bias, inequities, or underservice—either in their communities or by the systems seeking to serve them

CFSR Round 4 Enhancements

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Statewide Assessment
- Data and Evidence
- Technical Assistance
- Data Indicators
- OSRI
- PIP

Stakeholder Engagement

Foundations

- The child welfare system is broader than the child welfare agency
- Systems change and improvement must be connected to an overall vision for child welfare
- Broad, meaningful involvement of system partners and professionals throughout the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) including persons with lived experience is necessary in order to change systems
- Relevant evidence from multiple systems must be used to assess system functioning and to identify strategies to address underperformance

Round 4

- Continue and expand on the legal and judicial systems integration
 - Round 3 introduced an enhanced expectation of integration with the legal and judicial communities in the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) process
 - All aspects of the CFSR beginning with the Statewide Assessment
 - Including representation and voices of multiple judges and lawyers as well as Court Improvement Program (CIP)
- IM 19-03: Family and youth voice are critical to a well-functioning child welfare system and should be included in program planning and improvement efforts
 - Joint responsibility of agencies, CIPs, and courts

Round 4 Cont'd.

- Stakeholders should include those who experience bias, inequities, and are underserved
- Data from multiple sources included to inform the Statewide Assessment
- Voices from a broad array of individuals within various stakeholder groups to inform CFSR planning efforts, the Statewide Assessment, case-level interviews, stakeholder interviews, PIP development and implementation, and be a part of any exit conferences and other ongoing system improvement efforts

Statewide Assessment (SWA):

Approach and Overview of SWA Template

Revisions to Statewide Assessment Process

- R4 process includes a **framework for a more rigorous Statewide Assessment on the front end of the CFSR process** to facilitate a more timely, targeted, and effective PIP development process
- **Strengthen the analysis regarding performance** on the outcomes and systemic factor functioning by providing specific guiding questions to support states in providing high-quality data and information
- **Meaningful stakeholder engagement** is emphasized throughout the assessment process
- **Specific recommendations about using a broad range of evidence**, including stakeholder data and information, court and CIP data, and qualitative information from focus groups or surveys

Statewide Assessment Template – New Sections

1. **Stakeholder Involvement** – Offers additional detail and recommendations on *which stakeholders* to involve and *how they might participate* in the process
2. **Capacity to Complete a Quality Statewide Assessment** – Offers a series of self-assessment questions to support states in preparing and enhancing their capacity for the SWA process
3. **Availability and Use of Quality Data and Information** – New section provides information on how to think about relevant evidence to inform the state’s assessment of outcome and systemic factor functioning

State-Led Case Review Criteria

Case Review Criteria

- Appendix A of the *Procedures Manual* sent with the letter
- Major change to criteria relates to timing when states must show case review is in place and functioning
- Only federal Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) can be used – must have consistency across states how federal requirements and practices are being assessed
- CB continues to encourage states to be a State-Led Review – allowing State-Led Reviews was in response to states' input after Round 2 CFSR
- State-Led Reviews have built enormous capacity in our field for states to be self-assessing, have your own knowledge of practice with families, and establish functioning CQI systems

CFSR Measurement

What Stays the Same for CFSR Case Reviews

- Sites and samples reflective of state case population and practice
- Minimum 65-case sample (40 FC and 25 IHS cases)
- State-Led Reviews and option for larger sample size
- Measurement and Sampling Committee (MASC) validation of example sampling frames and selection of random samples for Children's Bureau (CB)-Led Reviews
- MASC consultation/endorsement of sampling plans
- Individuality of state plans

Changes for CFSR Case Reviews

- Foster care population: Same as Round 3
- In-home services population: Open 45+ days
 - Cases opened for services and/or case management
 - Trial Home Visit cases 45+ days from start of sample period **as the only placement setting**
 - Non-foster care cases specified in Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) (federally funded programs)

* IHS case population will not include families that only received a child protective services (CPS) investigation/assessment response

Use of Data Profiles in Round 4

Use of the Statewide Data Indicators

- Statewide Data Indicators (SWDIs) will be used in addition to case review performance to determine substantial conformity for Safety Outcome 1 and Permanency Outcome 1
- National performance values will be established prior to, and remain fixed throughout, Round 4

Changes to Statewide Data Indicators

- New measure for “Re-entry to foster care”
 - *Of all children who exit foster care in a 12-month period to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship, what percent re-entered care within 12 months of their discharge?*

PIP Measurement

(7) Statewide Data Indicators (SWDI)	(7) Case Review Measures	Aggregate Measure
<p>Safety Outcome 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maltreatment in foster care • Recurrence of maltreatment <p>Permanency Outcome 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care • Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12 to 23 months • Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more • Re-entry to foster care in 12 months • Placement stability 	<p>Safety Outcomes 1 and 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1 Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment • Item 2 Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care • Item 3 Risk and Safety Assessment and Management <p>Well-Being Outcome 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 12 Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents • Item 13 Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning • Item 14 Caseworker Visits With Child • Item 15 Caseworker Visits With Parents 	<p><i>Optional for Item 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>

SWDI Required Amount of Improvement

- Baselines and goals set using observed performance; national caps/floors will be set and fixed for each indicator
- Two pathways to achieve required amount of improvement:
 - Pathway 1: Observed performance meets or exceeds the improvement goal
 - Pathway 2: Risk-Standardized Performance is better or no different than National Performance

Case Review Required Amount of Improvement

- Adjusted based on the state's baseline performance
- Two simultaneous pathways to achieve required amount of improvement:
 - *Sustained Improvement Goal*: Meet or exceed using any three PIP measurement periods
 - *High-Performance Value*: Set above the sustained improvement goal; meet in any one PIP measurement period

* Calculation steps detailed in CFSR Technical Bulletin 13

Item 1 Aggregate Data Measure

- Encourage states required to measure Item 1 to use statewide aggregate data
- Adjust required amount of improvement based on state's baseline performance
- Goal achievement: Meet or exceed the goal in any single measurement period (same as Round 3)

Timeframes for PIP Measurement

- Minimum 3.5 years for PIP measurement:
 - 2-year PIP Implementation Period
 - 18-month Post-PIP Evaluation Period (previously referred to as non-overlapping evaluation period)
 - States that receive only one data profile with new safety performance during the Post-PIP Evaluation Period will receive updated safety performance data during the following 6 months to make a final determination that the required amount of improvement was achieved

Next Steps and Supports to States

- Procedures Manual
- Statewide Assessment Documents
 - Systemic Factor Briefs
 - Stakeholder Interview Guide
- OSRI Reviewer Briefs
- Updates to Training Opportunities
- Technical Assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States and for Courts