

## 2007 Child and Family Services Review

### *Safety, Permanency and Well-Being*

#### Overview Briefing September 2006

#### **What Is A Child and Family Service Review?**

The Child and Family Service Review is the method of evaluating states' performance on federal requirements associated with Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. There are three phases of the review: Statewide Assessment, On-Site Review and Program Improvement Planning. This review process replaces a 'paper review' system and is more comprehensive using a multi-dimensional approach.

#### Background:

- ❖ 1994 Amendments to Social Security Act authorized US DHHS to conduct reviews
- ❖ Delaware was the first state to be reviewed
- ❖ 14 factors or outcomes to evaluate state's strengths and needs:
  - **7 Systemic factors:**
    - Statewide information system
    - Case review system
    - Quality assurance system
    - Staff training
    - Service array
    - Agency responsiveness to community
    - Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment and retention
  - **7 Outcomes: (Safety-2, Permanency-2, Well-Being-3)**
    - Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
    - Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate
    - Children have permanency and stability in their living situations

- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children
- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs

Delaware's first review was March 2001. Five of six of the data standards were in compliance with time to adoption being the sole failure. All 7 systemic factors and the physical/mental health outcome were in compliance. Thirty-nine case reviews, stakeholder comments, data standard scores and the statewide assessment lead to a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) 2002-2004 with 17 separate action plans addressing 6 outcomes determined to be in need of improvement.

Major items addressed in the PIP:

- Case review revisions to measure federal performance indicators
- Revised family case planning model
- Safety planning for foster homes prior to placement
- Directed supervisory case conferencing
- Improved permanency programming
- Upgraded FACTS and management reports
- Domestic violence programming
- Training

**The 2007 CFSR – What’s New:**

On-site review is set for week of March 5, 2007. Timeframes for all tasks leading to the on-site review are determined from this date:

<b>CFSR Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Initial ACF Conference Call	June 29, 2006
Statewide Assessment Planning	August 2006
State Data Profile	September 2006
Statewide Assessment	September – November 2006
Draft Statewide Assessment Report Due	December 5, 2006
Statewide Assessment Due	January 5, 2007
Review Team Training	February 2007
On-Site Review	March 5-9, 2007
Final Report	April 9, 2007
PIP	July 9, 2007
PIP Completion	July 2009

The CFSR has been updated and revised since the first round. A new manual will be issued soon. Revisions have been made to the process, review instrument and collaboration requirements. While reforming the child welfare system remains the overall goal, this review presents new opportunities and challenges compared to the first round.

The state assessment is a review of the child and family services outcomes, performance indicators and systemic factors conducted by the state’s child welfare agency in collaboration with stakeholders. Building on the 2002 Program Improvement Plan, completed September 2004, this assessment focuses on evaluating progress and performance during recent years. The data profile covers FFY2003-2005.

Length of the report is limited to about 75 pages.

Stronger collaboration with Family Court, stakeholders, youth and tribes is expected in this round.

Two judges have been added to the federal team to support collaboration with Family Courts across the nation. JBS, a federal contractor, has been selected to support the CFSR with reviewers and management of the process.

Delaware's Data Profile is FFY2005 (October 1, 2004 to September 31, 2005). This report, based on NCANDS and AFCARS submissions, provides the foundation for performance on national standards and performance indicators. The national standards are unchanged for safety outcomes. Permanency and Well-Being measures are now composite scores, combining component items to build a composite score. Data will be available on a county level to aid states in evaluating strengths and weaknesses.

The on-site review cases have been increased from 50 to 65. 40 cases will be foster care cases and 25 cases will be intact families. Foster care cases have been stratified to provide a minimum number of pre-adoption (10) and older youth (10) cases. Foster care cases are randomly drawn from the period October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. Intact family cases are drawn from the period October 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006.

Standard has been raised from 90% to 95% of case reviews to achieve substantial conformity.

New technology has been applied to the revised review instrument allowing teams to enter data electronically, enhancing the exit conference content and speeding case analysis for the final report.