



Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign 2011

DHS Programs & Services

Source: DHS

Date Created: September 12, 2011

Child and Family Service review (CFSR) and Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

Purpose

Iowa's PIP contains strategies, action steps, and benchmarks to improve the child welfare system's performance for the seven outcomes related to safety, permanency, and well-being and for two of the seven systemic factors, Quality Assurance System and Service Array and Resource Development. These outcomes and systemic factors were not in substantial conformity with the CFSR requirements, as shown in the two tables below.

7 OUTCOMES		
Outcome	In Substantial Conformity	Percentage Substantially Achieved
Safety 1*	No	77.8%
Safety 2	No	63.1%
Permanency 1**	No	37.5%
Permanency 2	No	75.0%
Well-Being 1	No	40.0%
Well-Being 2	No	93.0%
Well-Being 3	No	88.1%

7 SYSTEMIC FACTORS	
Systemic Factor	In Substantial Conformity
Statewide Information System	Yes
Case Review System	Yes
Quality Assurance System	No
Staff and Provider Training	Yes
Service Array and Resource Development	No
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Yes
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Yes

National Data Indicators (National Standard -NS):

- *Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence – 91.9% (NS=96.1%+)
- *Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care by Foster Parents or Facility Staff – 99.71% (NS=99.68%+)
- **Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification – 115.9 (NS=122.6+)
- **Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions – 141.6 (NS=106.4+)
- **Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Extended Time Periods – 132.6 (NS=121.7+)
- **Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability – 94.0 (NS=101.5+)

SCOPE OF WORK

The strategies and action steps, identified under four themes in the PIP, are:

- 1) Family Engagement:
 - a) Caseworker Visits: Increase quality and frequency of caseworker visits with parents and children.
 - b) Collaboration and Partnership with External Stakeholders: Expand Responsible Fatherhood and Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) initiative; Expand Parent Partners.
- 2) Permanency Planning:
 - a) Family Team Decision-Making Meetings (FTDM): Increase effective use and facilitation of FTDMs to improve family's engagement in case planning.
 - b) Collaboration and Partnership with External Stakeholders: Improve permanency for youth; expand foster care and foster care alumni youth involvement.
 - c) Family Interaction (FI): Improve integration of FI practice and increase identification, location, and engagement of relatives and other supports in FI practice.
- 3) Services Provision:
 - a) Collaboration and Partnership with External Stakeholders: Strengthen Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC); align services with safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes; support development of an array of children's mental health services to improve capacity and access; enhance ability to address educational needs of children; and improve cultural competency and responsiveness of the child welfare system.
- 4) Quality Assurance (QA) System: Implement a reliable and valid QA system for case reviews to effectively monitor progress and make changes in strategy based on case reading data.
 - a) Quality Assurance and Improvement (QA&I) system
 - b) Supervision – Support supervisors in practice to enhance frontline practice around safety, permanency and well-being outcomes.

INFORMATION IN PIP SPECIFIC TO JUVENILE COURT

The CFSR Final Report identified differences in court permanency practices as a concern. To promote consistency, quality and effectiveness of court permanency practices, Iowa Children's Justice identified multiple strategies, including but not limited to:

- 1) Developing consistent standards for attorneys representing parents and the agency to impact the quality of representation.
- 2) Providing attorney and judges training to promote quality practices that contribute to permanency.
- 3) Collaborating with child welfare partners to implement a common vision and practice model for child permanency in Iowa.

Iowa Children's Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) will review and modify the standards for attorneys representing parents prior to sending them to the Iowa Supreme Court for consideration of adoption by October 30, 2011.

Training:

- 1) Attorney training for quality representation of parents
- 2) May 2011 Permanency Summit: The Blueprint for Forever Families 2011
- 3) Judges Conference in Fall 2011
- 4) Father/Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) engagement
- 5) Family Interaction:
 - a) Understanding how the roles of all the stakeholders can lead to timely, stable permanency for kids.
 - b) Primary vehicles that lead to permanency include early and often family interaction, family team decision-making meetings, improved quality of representation and better collaboration.

Foster Group Care

Purpose/Scope of Work

Foster group care offers a structured living environment for eligible foster care children who are considered unable to live in a family situation due to social, emotional, or physical disabilities but are able to interact in a community environment with varying degrees of supervision. Children are adjudicated either as having committed a delinquent act or as a child in need of assistance (CINA) and court-ordered to care that is provided in licensed facilities 24 hours a day and seven days per week.

Foster group care:

- Provides a stable living environment.
- Engages families to help eliminate conditions that may have led to a child's removal from the home.
- Maintains connections to home and community (in collaboration with the referral entities).
- Provides for children's and rehabilitation needs.

Community Care Program

Purpose/Scope of Work

Community Care is a voluntary service that provides child and family focused services and supports to families referred from the Department of Human Services. These services and supports are geared to keeping the children in the family safe from abuse and neglect, keeping the family intact, preventing the need for further and future intervention by the Department (including removal of the child from the home), and to build ongoing linkages to community-based resources that improve the safety, health, stability, and well being of those served.

Iowa Foster Care Youth Council

Purpose/Scope of Work

This Contract is to implement, facilitate, and maintain a council for adolescents currently in, or who were formerly in a foster care placement who are age 13-20.

The Iowa Foster Care Youth Council Contractor is responsible for the following:

- I. Establish and Maintain 10 existing Local Councils
- II. Utilize Positive Youth Development Practices
- III. Youth Engagement in Child Welfare
- IV. Reporting of Services Delivered and Outcomes
- V. Quality Assurance and Program Improvement Activities
- VI. Evidence Based and Promising Practices

Safety Plan Services

Purpose/Scope of Work

Safety Plan Services provide oversight of children who are assessed by the Agency (DHS) worker to be conditionally safe and in need of interventions (services and activities) to move them from conditionally safe to safe status during a time-limited Child Protective or CINA Assessment by providing culturally sensitive assessment and interventions. Services assure that the child (ren) will be safe and that without such services the removal of the child (ren) from the home or current placement will occur. These services will be provided in the family's home and/or other designated locations as determined by the Safety Plan. This service remediates the circumstances that brought the child to the attention of the Agency (DHS).

Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP)

Purpose/Scope of Work

The Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) is the Department of Human Service's foremost approach to the prevention of child maltreatment. The fundamental theory behind the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) is that each community is unique and has its own distinct strengths and challenges in assuring the safety and well-being of children, depending upon the resources available. Therefore, the program is structured in such a way that it allows for community-based volunteer coalitions or councils to apply for program funds to implement local child abuse prevention projects throughout the state, based on the specific needs of their respective communities.

In this year's service procurement, funds were made available to these local community-based groups for the following types of services:

- ❖ Community Development
 - public awareness, community needs assessments, and community engagement
- ❖ Parent Development
 - parent support, education, and leadership
- ❖ Outreach and Follow-up Services
 - voluntary home-visiting and resource/referral programs
- ❖ Respite/Crisis Care Services
 - short term child care services for families at risk
- ❖ Sexual Abuse Prevention
 - media safety, healthy sexual development, and adult/child focused instruction

In addition to providing funding to these local volunteer councils, the Iowa Department of Human Services has also contracted with a single statewide organization to provide administrative support services for the program, including: assistance in the ICAPP RFP process, monitoring of service contracts, research and evaluation, and ongoing teaching and technical assistance to those community based coalitions and councils receiving ICAPP funds.

Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES)

Purpose/Scope of Work

CWES are short term and temporary child welfare interventions provided through the child welfare system that are intended to immediately respond to the needs of the eligible target population and range from the least restrictive “crisis interventions” that can be used to divert a child from shelter placement -- e.g., family conflict mediations or in-home services provided before children require removal from their home -- to more restrictive “emergency” services including out-of-home placements with relatives, foster families, or emergency juvenile shelter care (as permitted by the Iowa Code). Eligible children are referred by DHS, JCS, and law enforcement. For SFY 2012, CWES projects cover all of Iowa and include the array of services noted above. Additionally, outcome measures related to safety, permanency, and well-being are incorporated into all contracts.

Decategorization

Purpose/Scope of Work

Decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding is an initiative intended to establish systems of delivering human services based upon client needs to replace systems based upon a multitude of categorical funding programs and funding sources, each with different service definitions and eligibility requirements. Decategorization is designed to redirect child welfare and juvenile justice funding to services which are more preventive, family centered and community-based in order to reduce use of restrictive approaches that rely on institutional, out-of-home, and out-of-community care.

Family Safety, Risk & Permanency (FSRP) Services

Purpose/Scope of Work

Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency (FSRP) Services are designed to deliver a flexible array of culturally sensitive interventions and supports to achieve safety and permanency for children in the family’s home and/or other designated locations as determined by the Family Case Plan. FSRP Services is the primary family centered intervention funded through the Agency (DHS) and promote the following:

- Achievement of child safety.
- Preservation of the family unit.
- Strengthening the protective capacities of the children’s parents or caretakers.
- Reduction of threats of maltreatment to the children.
- Placement prevention.
- Achievement of permanency for children in placement through safe reunification with their family, permanent placement with a relative, placement in an adoptive or guardianship arrangement, or movement toward Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA).

Contract for the Recruitment & Retention of Resource Families

Purpose/Scope of Work

The purpose of this contract is to build and maintain a sufficient number of foster/adoptive (resource) families who have the skills, training and ability to care for children who need out of home care so the child's first placement is their only placement. The contractor is expected to collaborate with communities, other agencies, and interested stakeholders to ensure children and families receive the supports and services they need. The contract has five major components:

- To recruit and retain resource families.
- To perform foster home licensing and adoption approval activities including pre-service training and home studies.
- To match children in need of care with the most appropriate family.
- To provide support to foster families and pre-adoptive families.
- To provide support to adoptive families who have children receiving or eligible to receive adoption subsidy.

Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care Placement (SAL)

Purpose/Scope of Work

SAL was designed for the child who has the capacity and desire to live independently in a community with less supervision than is provided in a family foster care or group foster care setting. SAL should not be considered for a child who can live successfully in a family home. Children in SAL are expected to attend school, shop for and prepare their own meals, do their laundry and cleaning, and engage within the community.

Iowa Aftercare Services to Former Foster Care Youth

Purpose/Scope of Work

The purpose of aftercare services is to provide services and supports to youth aged 18, 19 or 20 who were formerly in foster care. The primary goal of the program is for participants to achieve self-sufficiency and to recognize and accept their personal responsibility for the transition from adolescence to adulthood.