



**IOWA'S PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP)
NON-OVERLAPPING YEAR
PIP QUARTERS 9-11 (OCTOBER 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2014)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction:

The DHS' vision is that all children grow up safe from abuse and with permanent family connections. To achieve this vision, the DHS aligns child welfare resources through utilizing a customer focus and a dedication to excellence, accountability, and teamwork.

Iowa's child welfare system focuses on the three federal Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) domains of safety, permanency, and well-being:

- **Safety**
 - Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
 - Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.
- **Permanency**
 - Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
 - The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.
- **Child and family well-being**
 - 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.

Progress:

Iowa completed the PIP implementation period on September 30, 2013. By the end of the implementation period, we completed 7 out of 10 negotiated improvement goals.

Item	Negotiated Improvement Goal	Iowa Performance	PIP Quarter When Item Completed
3: Services to Prevent Removal	88.4%	89.9%	Q7
4: Risk and Safety Assessment	83.9%	86.2%	Q8
7: Permanency Goal for Child	89.8%	90.6%	Q6
10: Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	86.4%	87.0%	Q7
17: Needs and Services for Child, Parents, and Foster Parents	58.7%	66.2%	Q5

Item	Negotiated Improvement Goal	Iowa Performance	PIP Quarter When Item Completed
18: Child and Parent Involvement in Case Planning	56.8%	57.3%	Q8
20: Caseworker Visits with Parents	18.7%	18.9%	Q8

The remaining negotiated improvements goals were:

- Item 1: Timeliness of Investigations – 91.8%
- Item 19: Caseworker Visits with Child – 35.6%
- Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability – 96.1

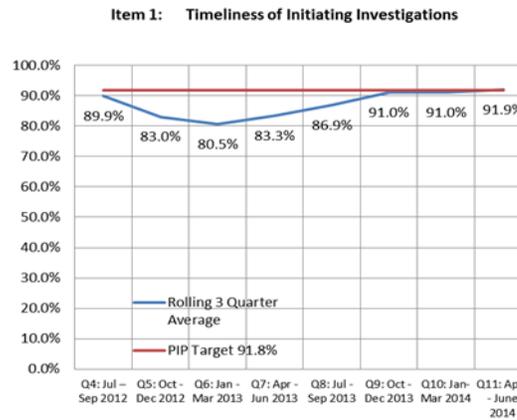
Since not all of the negotiated improvement goals were met during the implementation period, Iowa had to utilize the non-overlapping period, October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, to try and meet these goals.

From October 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, Iowa experienced incremental improvement in the rolling three quarter average performance for Items 1 and 19. With PIP quarter 11, Iowa successfully completed these items as shown in the Quality Assurance (QA) case reading data on the next page.

Item 1: Timeliness of Investigations

Actual Quarterly Data Prior to Recalculation

Item 1	Total # Met	Total # Cases	State Perf	Rolling 3 Quarter Average
Q2: Jan - Mar 2012	30	32	93.8%	
Q3: Apr - Jun 2012	25	30	83.3%	
Q4: Jul - Sep 2012	34	37	91.9%	89.9%
Q5: Oct - Dec 2012	29	39	74.4%	83.0%
Q6: Jan - Mar 2013	28	37	75.7%	80.5%
Q7: Apr - Jun 2013	58	62	93.5%	83.3%
Q8: Jul - Sep 2013	39	43	90.7%	86.9%
Q9: Oct - Dec 2013	33	38	86.8%	91.0%
Q10: Jan - Mar 2014	90	97	92.8%	91.0%
Q11: April - June 2014	82	88	93.2%	91.9%



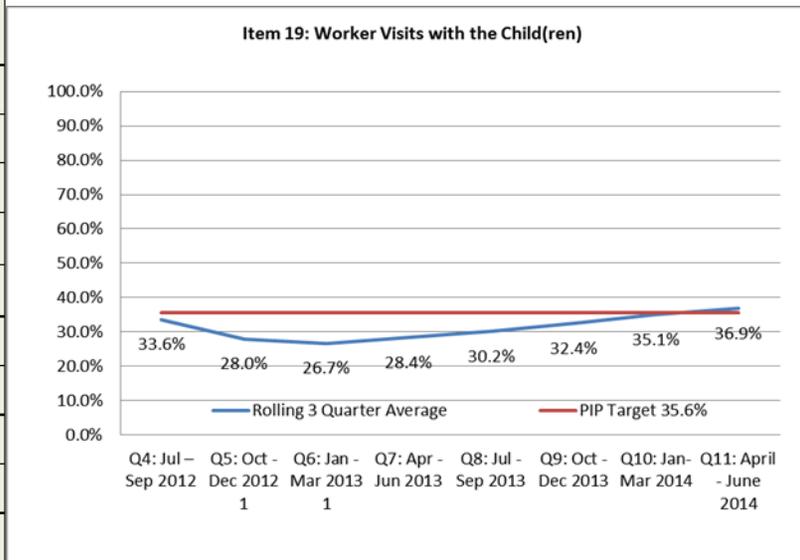
Item 1	Total # Met	Total # Cases
Q2: Jan - Mar 2012	30	32
Q3: Apr - Jun 2012	25	30
Q4: Jul - Sep 2012	34	37
Q5: Oct - Dec 2012	29	39
Q6: Jan - Mar 2013	28	37
Q7: Apr - Jun 2013	19	19
Q8: Jul - Sep 2013	39	43
Q9: Oct - Dec 2013	33	38
Q10: Jan - Mar 2014	90	97
Q11: April - June 2014	82	88

In Quarter 11, six cases did not meet the criteria to be rated as Strength: 3 cases involved multiple identified child victims and all were not observed or efforts made to observe within the assigned timeframe; 1 report involved a delayed request for a courtesy interview which then did not occur for a significant period after the request; 2 cases involved delayed contact due to circumstances within the department's control. Iowa's performance on this item has continued to show steady improvement since Quarter 9. In Quarters 10 and 11, the sample for item 1 was expanded in order to be more representative of department performance. Through efforts to increase documentation of supervisory approval for extension of timeframes and concerted efforts, performance on timeliness exceeded the target of 91.8% set in Iowa's PIP. This item appears to have been met.

Explanation of Recalculation of Quarter 7 Data: The baseline period for item #1 included 99 cases; the Quarter 7 rolling three month period included 95 cases (q5=39,q6=37,q7=19). Since this is fewer cases than the baseline, Iowa is adding the Quarter 8 cases (q8=43) to the original 95 for a total N of 138 cases for the corrected Quarter 7 report. As future rolling 3-month periods were calculated, the original total for Quarter 7 (19) was used rather than the adjusted N.

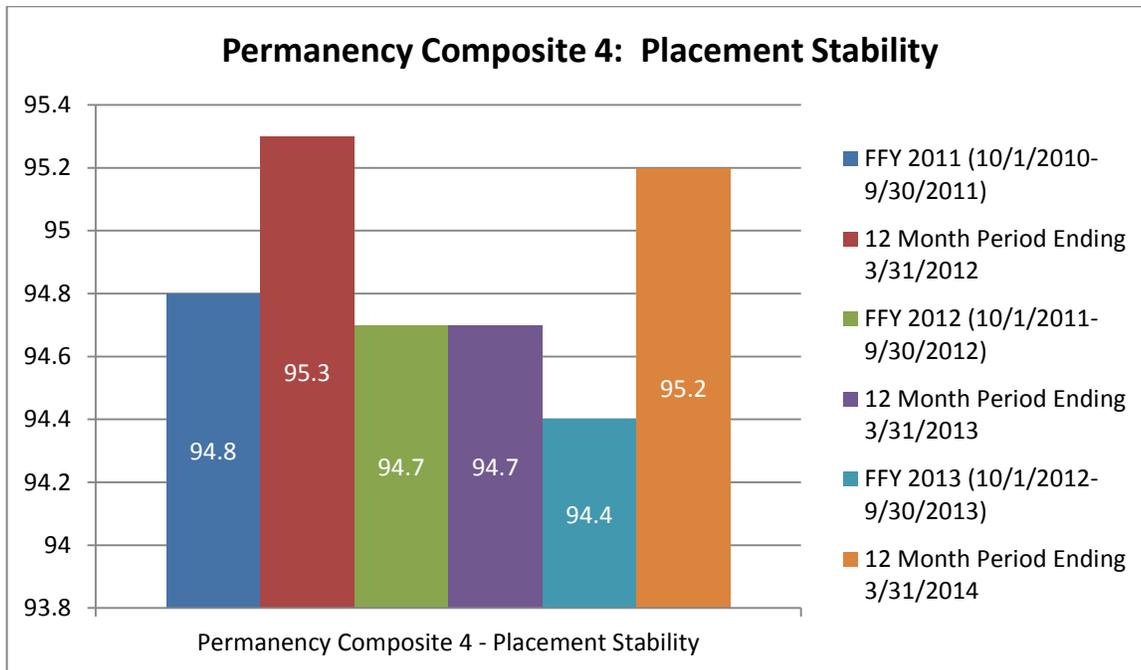
Item 19: Caseworker Visits with Child

Item 19	Total # Met	Total # Cases	State Perf	Rolling 3 Quarter Average
Q2: Jan - Mar 2012	31	76	40.8%	
Q3: Apr - Jun 2012	25	75	33.3%	
Q4: Jul - Sep 2012	20	75	26.7%	33.6%
Q5: Oct - Dec 2012 ¹	18	75	24.0%	28.0%
Q6: Jan - Mar 2013 ¹	22	75	29.3%	26.7%
Q7: Apr - Jun 2013	24	75	32.0%	28.4%
Q8: Jul - Sep 2013	22	75	29.3%	30.2%
Q9: Oct - Dec 2013	27	75	36.0%	32.4%
Q10: Jan - Mar 2014	30	75	40.0%	35.1%
Q11: April - June 2014	26	75	34.7%	36.9%



Although Quarter 11 performance shows a slight decline, the rolling three quarter performance continues to show the steady improvement. This positive trend began in Quarter 6 and performance is now 36.9%, which exceeds the PIP target of 35.6%; it appears this PIP item has been successfully met. Performance changes are believed to be due to several factors including: the 12/2012 completion of training on quality visits and documentation which would just now be having an impact across the entire PUR; the 9/2013 strategy to reinforce the use of a template for visit documentation in order to guide the content based on quality standards; and 9/2013 implementation of performance monitoring of recent months to determine if strategies were making a difference which provides time for adjustment of strategies and follow up.

Iowa continues to be challenged with meeting the negotiated improvement goal for placement stability, as shown in the chart below.



Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth & Families, Children's Bureau – Iowa State Data Profiles

The Iowa DHS will continue to work with stakeholders to improve placement stability for children in foster care. A workgroup chartered by DHS' Service Business Team (SBT) will conduct targeted case reviews to identify casework and systemic factors contributing to placement instability. Identification of factors contributing to placement instability will assist in developing more effective strategies to improve placement stability.

For more information regarding the CFSR and the PIP, please contact Kara Lynn H. Regula at (515) 281-8977 or kregula@dhs.state.ia.us.