

Washington's Program Improvement Plan



Our Shared Accomplishments

What is the CFSR and PIP?

- Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) program is mandated by federal legislation.
- The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families is responsible for conducting these reviews and monitoring the implementation of Program Improvement Plans (PIP)
- Each State is required to participate in a CFSR.
- The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) has seven outcomes measures related to:
 - Safety (2 areas)
 - Permanence (2 areas)
 - Well-being (3 areas)
- Seven systemic factors also measured included:
 - Statewide Information System
 - Case Review System
 - Quality Assurance System
 - Training
 - Service Array
 - Community Responsiveness
 - Adoption - Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention
- If a state does not meet the federal performance measures and standards – a two year Program Improvement Plan designed to improve performance is required.
- *No state met all of the federal performance measures. All states were required to implement program improvement plans*
- The Washington State CFSR was conducted in November 2003 and the report finalized in February 2004.
- The Washington State PIP period was October 2004 – September 2006.

Background

The Child Family Services Review (CFSR) has seven national outcomes standards related to the safety, permanence and well-being of children, and seven (7) related to systemic factors.

In February 2004 the CFSR review determined that Washington State had met none of the seven (7) outcome standards related to safety, permanence and well-being of children, and only four (4) of the seven related to systemic factors.

Overall Accomplishments

By September 30, 2006, the end of the PIP period, **Washington State met six (6) out of the seven (7) outcome areas** related to the safety, permanence and well-being and **seven (7) out of seven (7) related to systemic areas**. Washington was 1% short on the 7th outcome measure but has until September 2007 to meet this target.

In the process, **CA and its partners completed over 100 action steps** – strategies designed to achieve our performance targets.

Children's Administration, with the help and support of its partners, made remarkable improvements to the child welfare system and forged stronger working relationships.

Safety - Major Accomplishments

- Implemented the **24 hour and 72 hour response time** to provide a more immediate response to CPS reports.
- Provided **refresher training** on Safety and Risk assessments for all CA staff and supervisors.
- Implemented **Family Team Decision Making** meetings to engage families, relatives and providers to make the best decisions and plans to keep children safe.
- Developed the **CPS/CWS Redesign** model (which will be implemented January 1, 2007) to support child safety and the earlier engagement of families in services.

Children's Administration's Program Improvement Plan Accomplishments



Permanency - Major Accomplishments

- Implemented the ***Kinship Care Framework*** (Initial License, Relative Home Study, Relative Search, Respite, etc.) laying down the foundation for working more effectively with relatives.
- Developed the ***Visitation Guide*** to support parent /child and sibling visits.
- Implemented the ***Shared Planning*** policy which emphasizes the inclusion of parents, children and foster parents in the decision making process. Strengthened policies to ***improve engagement with fathers and absent parents***.

Well-Being - Major Accomplishment

- Implemented ***30-day visits*** for children whose case is established as an in-home dependency.
- Implemented the ***Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET)*** policy and guide to improve health care and education outcomes for children.
- Improved ***education support*** for children by implementing protocols with 98 school districts to improve communication, collaboration and coordination. Also implemented the Educational Advocacy program to provide assistance and advocacy for school age children and youth.
- Developed a ***video for adolescents*** in the foster care system to explain their rights, how the system works and how their voice can be heard.

Additional Systemic Accomplishments

- Established ***Chemical Dependency Counselors in local CA offices*** to help screen and support families through the substance abuse assessment and treatment process.
- Introduced ***Evidence Based Practices*** including Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care and Functional Family Therapy.
- Conducted a formal ***contract review process*** to help maximize resources and support better outcomes.