

# 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 13A 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

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

# 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