

Round 4 Child and Family Services Review National Call Series

**ONSITE REVIEW INSTRUMENT AND
INSTRUCTIONS (OSRI) REVISIONS
APRIL 13, 2022**



Children's Bureau Presenters

- *Linda Mitchell*, Team Leader, CF SR Unit
- *Allison McDowell*, CF SR Unit, JBS International

Agenda

- Objectives of Revisions to the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI)
- Overarching Revisions
- Face Sheet
- Items
 - Applicability
 - Questions
 - Definitions
 - Instructions
- Next Steps

Objectives of OSRI Revisions

Objectives of OSRI Revisions

The Children's Bureau's goals for the revision to the OSRI:

- Minimize changes
- Promote ease of use by clarifying Item-specific instructions and incorporating previously issued Frequently Asked Questions
- Continue to reinforce quality practices to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families

Overarching Revisions



Overarching Revisions

- Removed the optional nature of the rating narrative fields throughout the OSRI
- Replaced “caretaker” with “caregiver” throughout
- Replaced “Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement” with “Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement”
- Incorporated current guidance from the Face Sheet and Round 3 FAQs into the Introduction for:
 - The definition of the Period Under Review (PUR):
The PUR begins with the sampling period start date and ends with the date the case review is completed or the case is closed, whichever comes first.
 - What activity reviewers must consider during the PUR.

Face Sheet

Face Sheet Revisions

- Replaced “county” and “local area” with “site”
- Added the federal regulation definition of “foster care”
- Added the question:
“What is the date the target child was physically returned home from a foster care placement to live with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian?”
- Added the definition of “Open for Services”

Face Sheet Revisions (cont'd)

- Added/revise questions to preserve the actual date of physical removal while establishing the date of entry into foster care per regulations for the purposes of calculating the 15-out-of-22-month requirement in Item 5
- Revised definition of “entry into foster care”:
 - “...either the date of a judicial finding that the child had been subjected to child abuse or neglect (often the adjudicatory hearing), or 60 days after the date on which the child was removed from the home, whichever is earlier.”
- Added an Optional Case Summary field

Safety Outcome 1

Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Item 1

Timeliness of Initiating Investigations and Reports of Child Maltreatment

Added to Question 1A and B instructions:

- “Requirements refer to any provisions, beyond timeframes, that are noted in state policies or statutes related to initial face-to-face contact with the children in accepted maltreatment reports.”

AND

- “Concerns that delays to initiation or face-to-face contact affected risk/safety should be considered in Item 3.”

Safety Outcome 2

Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Item 2—Applicability

Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

In Round 3:

- Varying definitions and understandings of safety vs. risk have driven applicability of this item.
- Risk was not to be considered in Item 2, only safety.
- Item 2 was often Not Applicable
 - Missed opportunity to assess response for at-risk children and families
 - Affected CB's ability to capture services to prevent foster care entry and re-entry
 - When only a safety plan was needed



Item 2—Applicability

Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

In Round 4:

- Item 2 now considers the risk of abuse and/or neglect in addition to “safety concerns.”
- Cases will be applicable to this item even if only a safety plan is required to keep a child safe.
- The applicability of Item 2 will be driven by the need for services to prevent foster care entry/re-entry in response to any safety and/or risk of child abuse and neglect concerns.
 - This includes circumstances when children are in alternative caregiving arrangements and services are needed by the
 - (1) alternative caregiver and/or
 - (2) parents to whom the children are to return—to address risk/safety concerns and thereby prevent foster care entry/re-entry.

Item 2—Definitions

Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

- Item 2 Definitions were revised or added:
 - Appropriate Services (revised)
 - Concerted Efforts (revised)
 - Safety Plan (new)
 - Alternative Caregiver Arrangement (new)
 - Safety (new)
 - Risk (new)

Item 3

Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

- Revised the definition of “safety plan” to include verbal evidence of a safety plan
- Incorporated Round 3 FAQ guidance and added instructions pertaining to where and how to consider how a youth’s behavior affects visitation
- Added instructions to clarify that unsafe placements can include any safety concerns when a child is staying temporarily in a hotel, agency office, or other setting

Permanency Outcome 1

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Item 4

Stability of Foster Care Placement

- Replaced references to “entry into foster care” with “latest removal”
 - The date of **latest removal** refers to a child’s removal from his or her normal place of residence and placement in a substitute care setting under the placement and care responsibility of the state or local title IV-B/IV-E agency.

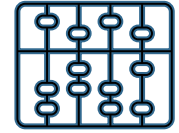
Item 5

Permanency Goal for Child

- Revised the applicability criteria to incorporate Round 3 guidance that all foster care cases are applicable for assessment of this item, unless the child has been in foster care for less than 60 days and a permanency goal has not been established
- Added new instructions for Table A1 about how to capture dates concurrent goals are established

Item 5

Permanency Goal for Child



Revised and clarified instructions for:

- Calculating 15/22 months (Question 5D)
- Determining timeliness of TPR filings (Question F)
 - How to consider TPR petitions filed prior to the PUR.
 - When to answer Question F as Yes.
 - Defining criteria to answer Question F as No.
- Identifying exceptions to the TPR requirement (Question G1)
 - Added that documentation of the child being cared for by a relative is not required.

Item 6

Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

- Clarified how to assess the untimely achievement of a concurrent permanency goal that is paired with “achieved” APPLA
 - Assessing the efforts of the agency and court in Question B is answered Not Applicable, and Question C, which assesses agency and court efforts related to APPLA, is answered accordingly.

Permanency Outcome 2

The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Item 8

Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

- Revised definitions:
 - Relationship between child and parent.
 - Which case participants are considered in Items 8 & 11.
- Edited applicability criteria to:
 - Clarify that the same criterion does not have to apply to BOTH parents—a different criterion can apply to each parent.
 - Capture efforts to both identify and locate parents.
- Aligned applicability criteria with Item 11
- Clarified expectations regarding frequency of parent/child and sibling visits

Item 9

Preserving Connections

- Removed questions pertaining to ICWA compliance
- Modified instructions to ensure that reviewers are fully assessing efforts to preserve Tribal connections
- Added “kin” to the list of examples of important connections to reinforce that kin is an important connection to preserve
- Incorporated Round 3 FAQ guidance that an infant removed from his or her parents at birth would typically have connections to the birth family that should be preserved
- Added instructions regarding connections developed after entry into care

Item 10

Relative Placement

- Deleted “stable” from Question A2, which focuses the question solely on the appropriateness of the relative placement

Item 11

Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

- Revised definitions to clarify:
 - Relationship between child and parent.
 - Which case participants are considered in Items 8 & 11.
- Edited applicability criteria to:
 - Clarify that the same criterion does not have to apply to BOTH parents—a different criterion can apply to each parent.
 - Capture efforts to both identify and locate parents.
- Added examples of activities that also can be considered in this item, such as engaging in hobbies, helping with homework, sharing meals, and participating in bedtime routines

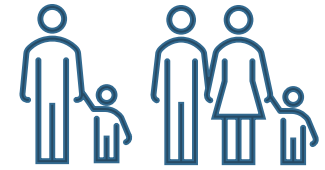


Well-Being Outcome 1

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Item 12

Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents



- Incorporated existing guidance about the appropriateness of services into Item 12 as well as Items 16, 17, and 18:
 - Tailored to the specific needs of the child(ren)/parent;
 - Culturally appropriate, with providers who can speak the language of the child/parent;
 - Accessible to the child/parent (considering waitlists, transportation, and hours available);
 - Provided in a setting that is the most effective and responsive to needs; and
 - Monitored and adjusted, as needed, to ensure that treatment goals are being achieved and progress is made.



Sub-Item 12A

Needs Assessment and Services to Children



- Added “including kin” as an example of children's needs that should be assessed in this item
- Incorporated Round 3 FAQ guidance about assessing and addressing alternative caregivers’ needs related to their ability to meet the identified needs of the children living with them

Sub-Item 12B

Needs Assessment and Services to Parents



- Revised the Item applicability guidance for Sub-Item 12B and Item 13 to replace “either” and “all parents” with a **“specific parent.”**

Questions in Sub-Item 12B should be answered Not Applicable for a **specific parent** if any of the following applies to that parent (check Yes for any that apply and No for any that do not apply):

- Parental rights remained terminated during the entire PUR. Yes No
- Parent’s identity or whereabouts were not known during the entire PUR despite agency efforts to identify or locate the parent. Yes No
- Parent was deceased during the entire PUR. Yes No
- During the entire PUR, it was documented in the case file that it was not in the child’s best interests to involve the parent in case planning. Yes No
- During the entire PUR, the parent indicated that he or she did not want to be involved in the child’s life and this was documented in the case file. Yes No

Item 14

Caseworker Visits With Child

- Provided additional guidance on how reviewers should rate this item if a child is older than an infant but has not reached the stage in development where they may be comfortable away from the parent

Well-Being Outcome 2

Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Item 16

Educational Needs of the Child



- Clarified Question B Instructions to ensure that reviewers consider only the target child when a foster care case is opened for both in-home services and foster care during the period under review

Well-Being Outcome 3

Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Item 17

Physical Health of the Child



- Incorporated the same Round 3 guidance into Question A1/A2 Instructions about considering only the target child when a foster care case is opened for both in-home services and foster care during the period under review
- Added guidance in Question A1/A2 Instructions to clarify that well-child examinations should occur according to the guidelines established by agency policies and/or protocols or, if none exist, the schedule established by the EPSDT, unless otherwise recommended by the child's physician



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Reviewer Briefs
 - Item 2
 - Item 5
 - Item 12
- Other CB-issued OSRI guidance—e.g., Quality Assurance Guide
- The OSRI and the Online Monitoring System (OMS)
- Additional OSRI Training Opportunities

Questions?
