

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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Advancing Equity and Inclusion in the CFSRs—Framework, National Calls

A new document now available on the CFSR Information Portal, “Advancing Equity and Inclusion Through the Child and Family Services Reviews,” provides a framework for advancing the essential work of the Children’s Bureau in “ensuring that child welfare is serving all people equitably, and with respect for all individuals.”

Associate Commissioner Aysha Schomburg spoke with states about this topic on a national call held February 23, 2022. Associate Commissioner Schomburg’s speech kicked off a new Children’s Bureau national call series. The portal includes materials related to this series of calls, which the Children’s Bureau is hosting in preparation for Round 4 of the CFSRs. In addition to providing information on the Children’s Bureau’s vision for advancing equity and inclusion in the CFSRs, the calls provide an overview of what states can expect for each of the components of the CFSR. Materials being posted on the portal include PDFs of the presentations as they become available, videos, and a transcript of Associate Commissioner Schomburg’s speech.

The national calls include:

- February 23: **Conversation With the Associate Commissioner:** Advancing equity and inclusion in the CFSR and overview of the CFSR Round 4 process
- March 2 and March 9: **Measurement and Sampling:** Overview of the use of statewide data indicators, case review, and measurement in the CFSRs and Program Improvement Plans
- March 16: **Stakeholder Engagement:** Guidance to states about meaningful engagement strategies and expectations for stakeholders
- March 23: **Statewide Assessment:** Overview of the statewide assessment approach and template as well as guidance on how states can use it most effectively
- April 6: **Systemic Factors/Stakeholder Interview Guide:** Information about the systemic factors and stakeholder interviews
- April 13: **Onsite Review Instrument:** Overview of the changes to the Round 4 OSRI

The framework document is available at <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-process>. For more on the national calls, see <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-process/round-4-cfsr-national-call-series>.

Engaging Young People in the CFSTRs: Focus Groups Completed

The data collection for the “Engaging Young People in the CFSTRs” focus groups was complete at the end of February. The Child Welfare Reviews Project hosted a total of eight focus groups with young people with lived experience who were recruited from JBS International (National Youth in Transition Database), ICF (Young Adult Consultants), and national organizations. These sessions modeled meaningful involvement throughout the process by involving four young persons with lived experience in the development and implementation of the focus groups:

- Group 1 consisted of young persons with lived experience and experience in working alongside federal staff to provide assistance to states and evaluate state programs.
- Group 2 consisted of young persons with lived experience recruited from national organizations to provide alternative perspectives that are not informed by experiences partnering with federal staff on monitoring efforts.

Areas covered during the focus groups included the Statewide Data Indicators, Statewide Assessment, Onsite Review (including case reviews/interviews and stakeholder interviews), Program Improvement Plan (PIP) development and monitoring, and a wrap-up and debriefing session.

The focus groups were discussed during National Call #4, held March 16, 2022. See <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-process/round-4-cfsr-national-call-series>.

Fact Sheet for Legal and Judicial Communities Now Available

The new Fact Sheet for Legal and Judicial Communities is now available on the portal. This fact sheet provides information on the CFSTR and discusses how legal and judicial professionals can participate in all phases of the CFSTR, PIP, and continuous quality improvement (CQI) processes.

As noted in our last issue, the Children’s Bureau believes it is essential that courts and agencies share responsibility for understanding their systems’ level of effectiveness and that they work collaboratively to make improvements where needed. In CFSTR Round 3, in states where there was broader involvement from the legal and judicial communities, the Children’s Bureau saw improvements in decision-making. As the Round 4 reviews approach, the Children’s Bureau will be working with state child welfare agencies, state Court Improvement Programs (CIPs), and state legal and judicial communities to further build the breadth and depth of their engagement. In Round 4, as in past reviews, the state CIP will be responsible for coordinating legal and judicial system involvement in the CFSTR in fulfillment of the state CIP grant requirement to engage in meaningful and ongoing collaboration with the state child welfare agency.

Other fact sheets are in the works. The Fact Sheet for Legal and Judicial Communities is available at <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-process>.

OSRI Item 2 Reviewer Brief Now Available

The new OSRI Item 2 Reviewer Brief provides guidance for applying Item 2 of the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) in CFSR Round 4. Emphasis is placed on the applicability criteria, key questions that inform the rating determination, and making distinctions between appropriate services that should be addressed under Item 2 and those relevant to the Well-Being items in the OSRI. See <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/resources/round-4-resources/cfsr-round-4-instruments-tools-and-guides> (under “Onsite Review Instrument [OSRI] and Guidance”).

New Data Profiles Released

Data profiles display a state’s Risk-Standardized Performance, Observed Performance, and data quality check results. Profiles are released every 6 months, in February and August. The August 2022 data profiles will initiate the start of Round 4.

For more information about data profiles, see <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/cfsr-data-profile-quick-reference-publication>.

OMS/Training Update

The Online Monitoring System (OMS) for CFSR Round 4 is under development and expected to be available for state use this summer. States will receive more information on accessing the new Round 4 OMS over the coming months.

Trainings are also under development and will be announced when available. The CFSR E-Learning Academy (ELA) is an online training resource designed to provide Federal and State Review Team members with the information and skills needed to successfully participate in the CFSRs as well as in state reviews related to a PIP or to CQI efforts that use the federal OSRI and the OMS.

For more on the ELA, see <https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/e-learning>.

OMS Case Review Source Data Report is Launched

New for OMS users: the OMS Case Review Source Data Report is launched. The report displays OSRI answers, narratives, and ratings for each case. The report includes cases with a status of Approved and Final that have been de-identified and generates directly from the OMS into an Excel spreadsheet. It is intended for data analysis within Excel or other statistical analysis software. Additionally, there are XML export functionality, guidance, and support materials intended for the same purpose (analysis of OMS data conducted outside of the OMS).