

Division of Children and Family Services Provider Meeting

December 11, 2013



Providers Topics for Discussion

Parenting Skills / Visitation Staff training: what does evidenced based and family focused skills look like and specific expectations for that?

- This will be addressed in the January contract meeting

Struggles with how long it takes to get a therapist on board between Medicaid and Magellan

Magellan dropping its outpatient rates by 8% on individual services for mental health

- Both of these issues will need to be addressed with Medicaid

Significant wait time for CPS/APS checks – currently 23 days. How can this be sped up?

- Nebraska monitors daily – currently at a 10 day turnaround

Provider template for IV-E reporting

DHHS form to share for ASFC providers reporting mileage

Process for placing probation youth in homes with HHS wards – what are the expectations of ASFC providers?

- These will be addressed and the next ASFC meeting

Linking all state and city departments, public and private providers through a mega computer link that refers folks for prevention services

- Great Idea! Nebraska's Children's Commission has a technology workgroup

How do we improve the welfare of our families through prevention and preventative services as first responders?

- Building an AR pathway with supportive services is the IV-E approved plan

Title IV-E Waiver



- In October 2013, Nebraska was notified that our Title IV-E waiver demonstration project was approved
- The demonstration project is authorized to implement:
 - An Alternative Response model as an alternate pathway for families to the traditional Child Protection Investigations
 - Results Based Accountability included in contracts for contracted child welfare service providers in order to measure outcomes achieved through services provided to children and families

Alternative Response



- A staged implementation of Alternative Response will be piloted in five counties across the state and move toward statewide implementation over the course of the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project through 2018
- The five counties will represent various geographic, economic and demographic characteristics. Specifically, DCFS is considering county size; child abuse and neglect rates; child abuse and neglect case types; poverty; child poverty; race; re-referrals; number of children in care; and community-level service provision availability by county
 - The pilot sites will be reported out to the Children's Commission on December 17, 2013
- DCFS proposes adding a statutory definition of "investigation" in the Nebraska Child Protection Act to clarify that Alternative Response cases are not considered an investigation
- For the pilot to be initiated, a statute authorizing a non-investigatory track would need to be enacted. The statute must include authority for the group charged to review Alternative Response specific cases

Results Based Accountability



- Scorecard introduction and development training will be held via webinars in **February**. There will be a demonstration of the web portal at the January CAFCON meeting.
- Registration will be available on-line before Christmas on the CFS home page
- The initial registration will include the date and time of the webinar
 - Registrants will receive a confirmation and another note closer to the webinar with the access information
- RBA performance measures continue to be refined with final versions to providers by mid-February

Contracts

- Current contract extensions expire March 31, 2014
 - A reminder was sent to providers December 2nd to get those signed and returned for signature
- New contracts will be issued no later than Monday, March 3, 2014
 - Including the agreed upon service definitions and RBA performance measures

New Contracts 4-1-14

- Contract discussions:
 - January 9th (Kearney)
 - January 30th (Lincoln)
 - February 12th, if needed
- Meetings will be held 9:00 to 4:00
 - Meeting Rooms TBD
- Webinar will be an option
- Limited capacity (limit 1-2 persons per agency)

New Contracts 4-1-14 (Continued)

- Meetings will be held 9:00 to 4:00

In-Home Services 9:00 to 12:00

- Reporting Center
- Drug Testing and Lab Confirmation
- Electronic Monitor / Tracker
- Family Functional Preservation
- Intensive Family Preservation
- In-Home Safety
- Tracker
- Family Support

Out-of-Home Services 1:00 to 4:00

- Agency Supported Foster Care
- Agency Supported Emergency Foster Care
- Family Group Conferencing
- Group Home (A, B and M)
- Parenting Skills and Visitation
- Shelter
- Transitional Living
- Unification

- Draft contracts mailed to providers by March 3rd , 2014

Foster Care Reimbursement

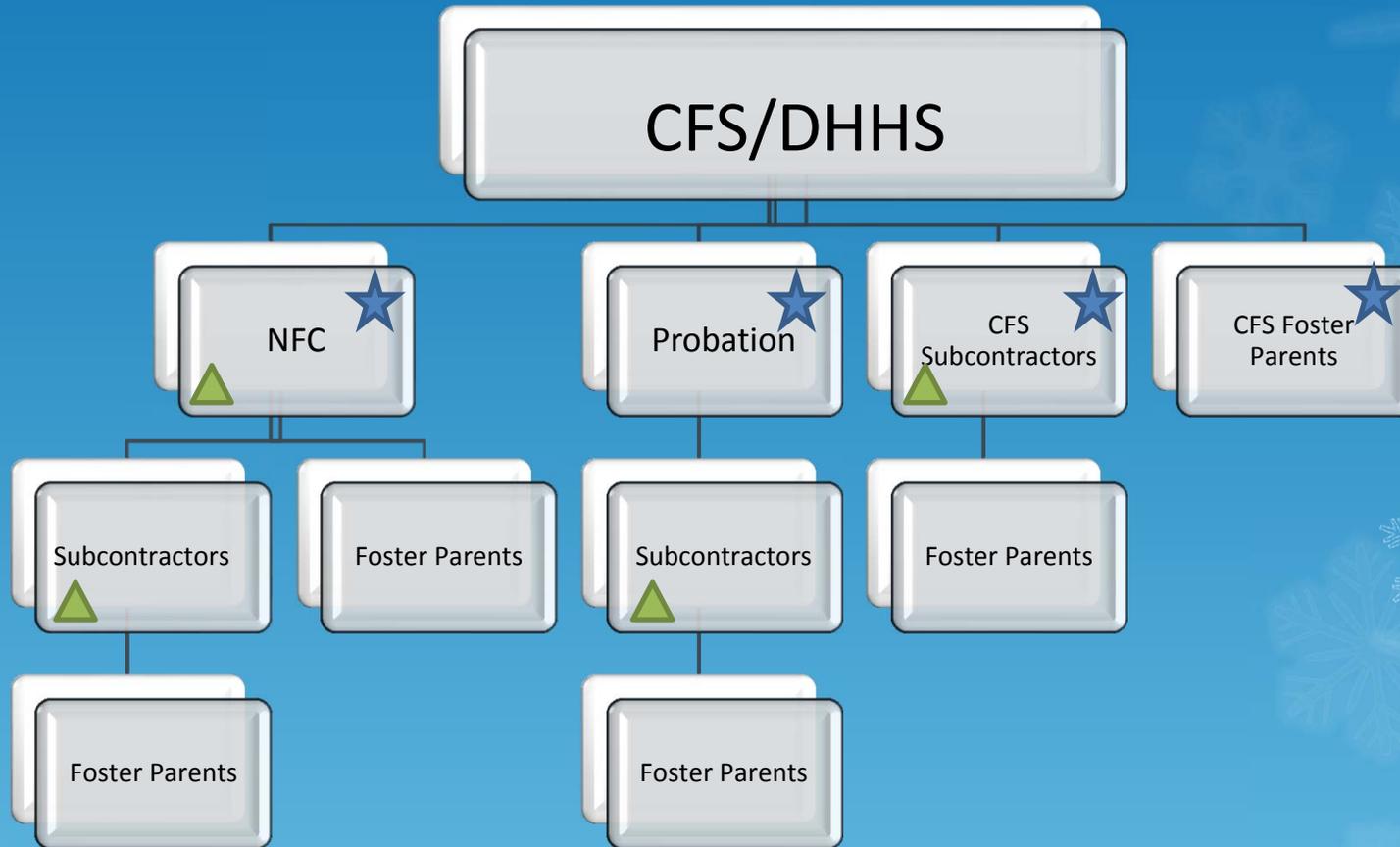
Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Recommendations effective July 1, 2014

Age	Daily	Monthly	Annual
0-5	\$ 20.00	\$608.33	\$7,300.00
6-11	\$ 23.00	\$699.58	\$8,395.00
12-18	\$ 25.00	\$760.42	\$9,125.00

Level of Care Assessment Tool Recommendations:

- Child Needs Assessment: Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Comprehensive (CANS)
- Caregiver Responsibilities: Nebraska Caregiver Responsibilities (NCR)

FEDERAL TITLE IV-E STRUCTURE AND MONITORING



★ Denotes Fiscal Monitoring – Including Desk Audits by DHHS to confirm source documentation through to Foster Parents

▲ Denotes Fiscal Monitoring – Approved Cost Allocation Plan through ACF includes Audits by DHHS to confirm correct allocation

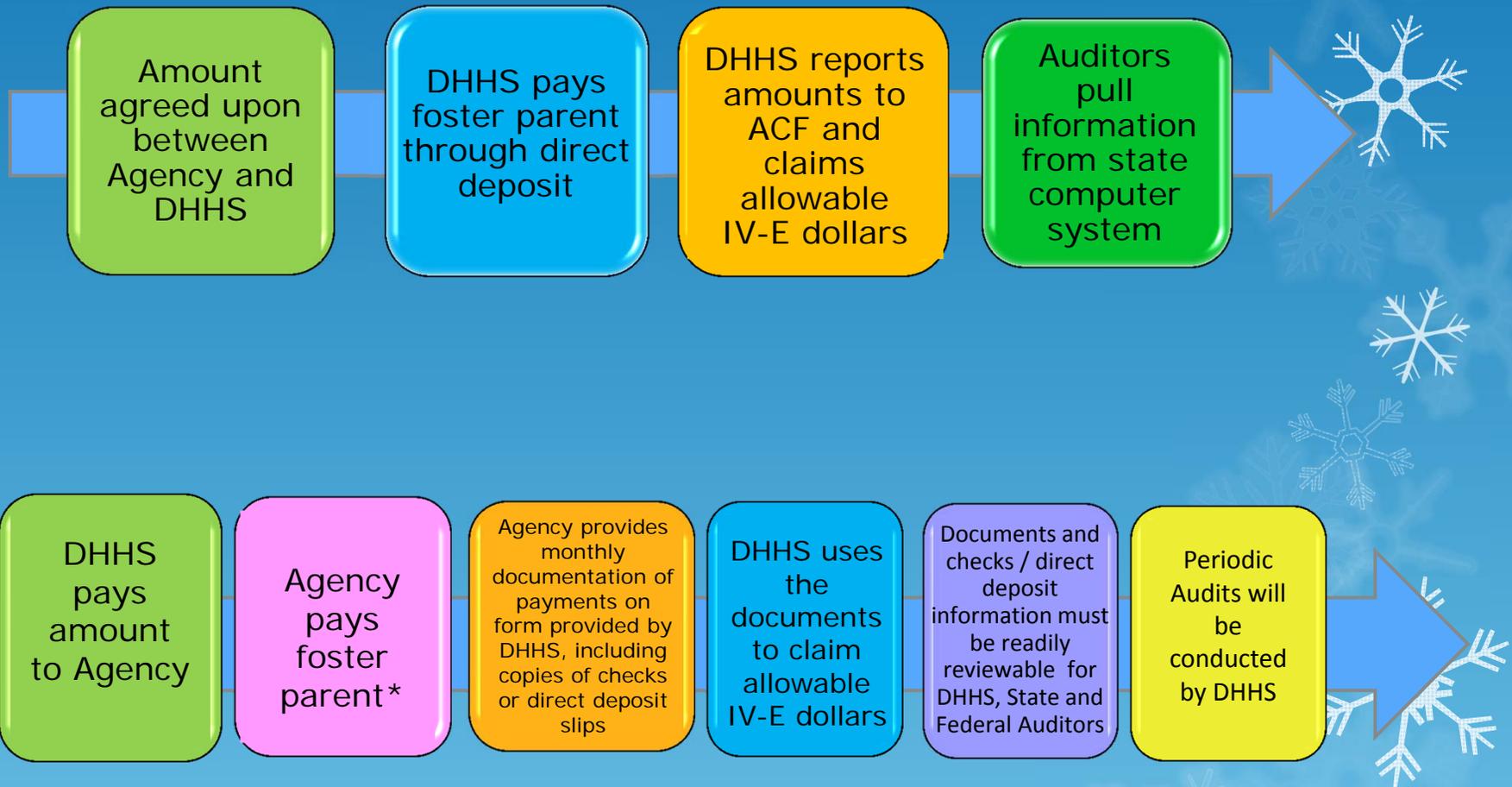
Maintenance Options

- There are two options:
 - DHHS pays the foster parent directly for maintenance

OR

- DHHS gives the money to the ASFC provider as a pass through for maintenance

Options



*No additional funding is provided to administer payment

Allowable IV-E Administrative Costs (most common)

- Pre-placement activities:
 - Determination of eligibility
 - Preparation for placement
 - Placement and referral cost
- Cost of conducting criminal background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents
- Materials to assist foster parents meet licensing standards. Such as:
 - Beds
 - Cribs
 - Smoke detectors
 - Medical Exams necessary for prospective foster parent to obtain / retain foster family home license
- Completing a out-of-state home study from another state
- Case Assessments
- Judicial Determinations
 - Preparation of reports for court
 - Participation in court proceedings
- Liability Insurance with respect to a child is allowable as a administrative or maintenance cost
- Expense for external partners in the development of the State's Child and Family Services Plan

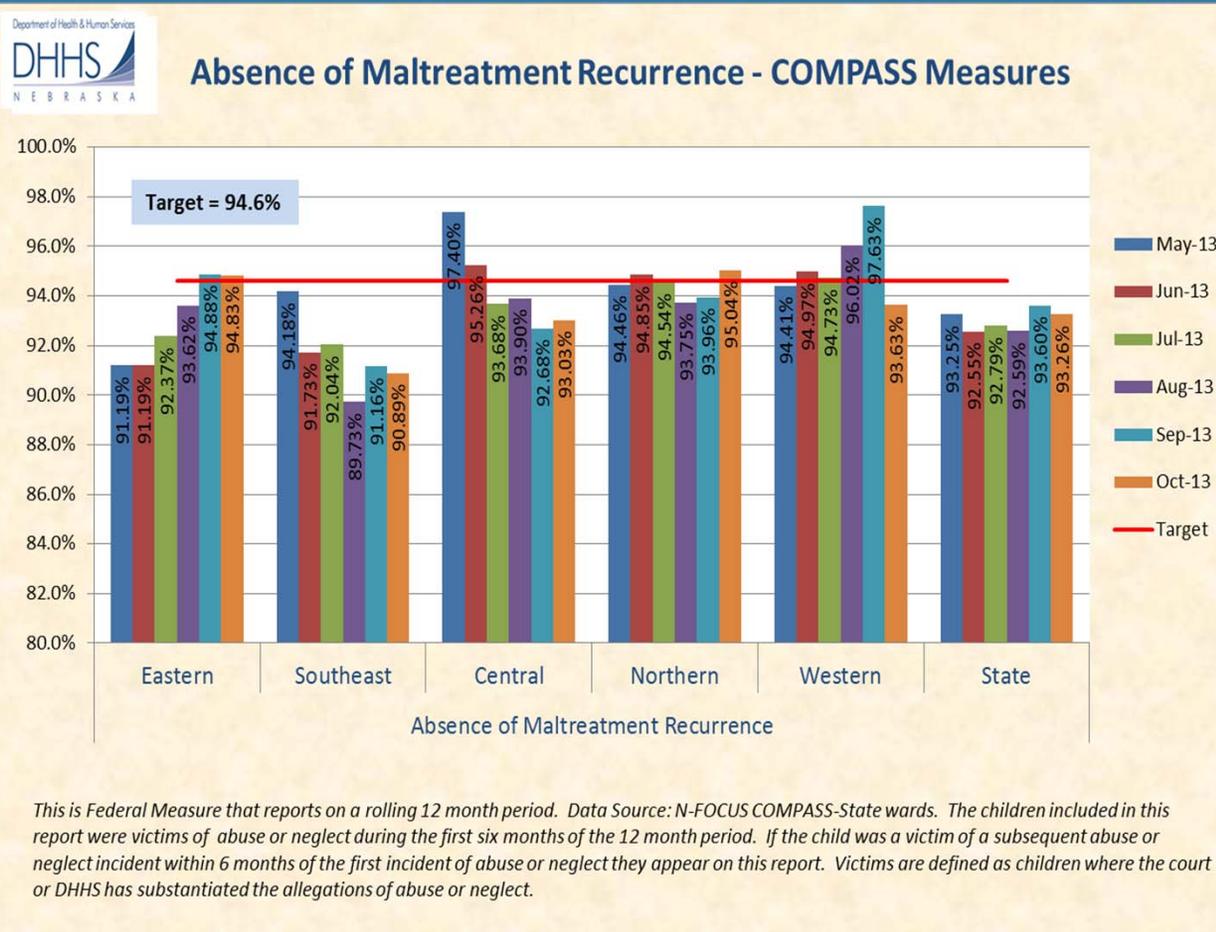
Non-Allowable IV-E Administrative Costs (most common)

- Services related to the prevention of placement
- Counseling
- Any indirect administrative costs (rent, utilities, etc)
- Specialized assessments, such as:
 - Psychiatric
 - Medical
 - Educational
- Homemaker of housing services
- Costs for processing and management of health case services for foster children
- Court activities on behalf of the court
- Legal services of a child in foster care or his/ her parents, such as a child's legal' representation in court hearings
- Title IV-E eligible children who are placed in a public child care institution that accommodates more than 25 children

Billing

- DHHS Financial Services is moving toward having all N-FOCUS claims submitted electronically
- A pilot is being planned with Child Welfare Service Providers early next year.
 - This process has already been successfully implemented for Child Care Providers statewide
- In preparation for this change, providers were notified that effective November 1, 2013 all N-FOCUS billing documents without a barcode on the front will be returned to providers for proper submission before processing
- DHHS Billing and Payment staff will continue to work with providers during this transition to make ensure providers have the pre-printed billing documents with the bar codes needed to submit claims
- Strategies continue to be identified that will carry out these processes in a more uniform and standardize manner statewide

Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence



Barriers:

- Duplicate Reports for the same incidents are creating instances of repeat maltreatment.

Action Items:

*Completed:

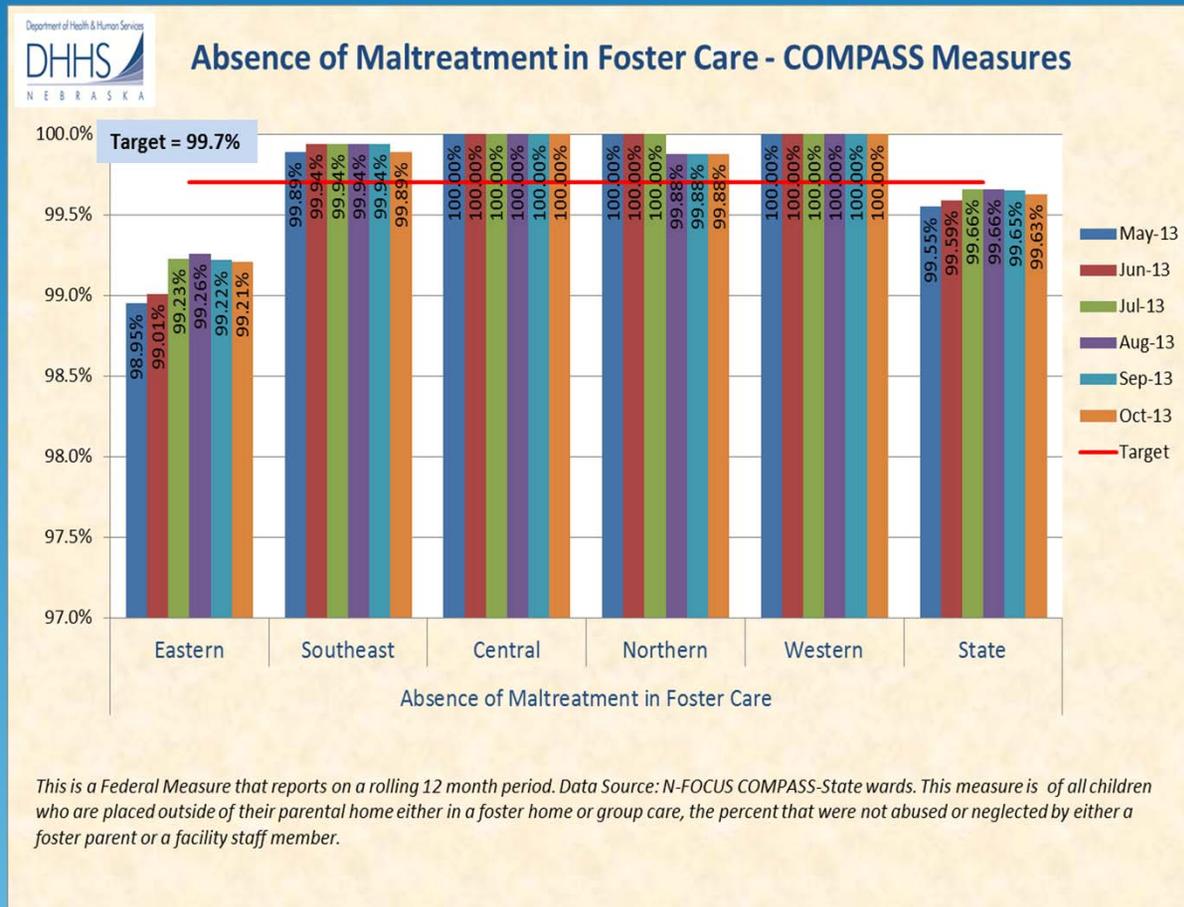
- Policy changes were implemented in October 2012 to eliminate duplicate reports/substantiation of intakes that are received within 6 months for the same allegations

*Planned:

- A workgroup will convene to look at reason for case involvement and put instructions together on how to document reason for case involvement to better capture information about substance abuse and other reasons for case opening/involvement.
- COI team will complete additional breakdown of repeat maltreatment data to help the team identify areas needing improvement.



Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care



Barriers:

- Duplicate Reports for the same incidents are creating instances of repeat maltreatment.

Action Items:

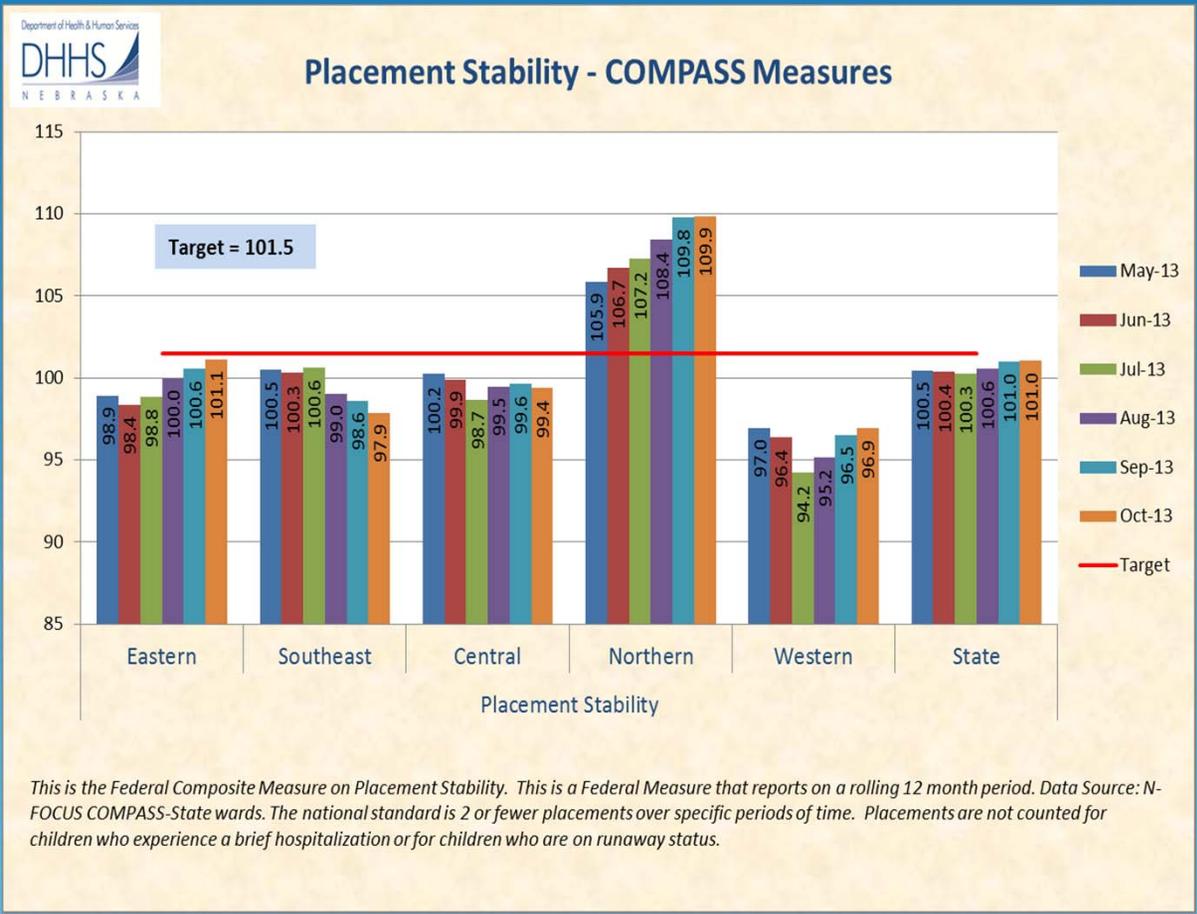
*Completed:

- Southeast Service Area Administrator and the Foster Care Review Office Director met and created a process to staff and address barriers for repeat maltreatment in foster care cases in Southeast Service Area.
- Policy changes were implemented in October 2012 to eliminate duplicate reports/substantiation of intakes that are received within 6 months for the same allegations

*Planned:

- A workgroup will convene to look at reason for case involvement and put instructions together on how to document reason for case involvement to better capture information about substance abuse and other reasons for case opening/involvement.
- CQI team will complete additional breakdown of repeat maltreatment data to help the team identify areas needing improvement.

Placement Stability



Strengths/Opportunities:

- Sept 2013: Northern Service Area continues to exceed the target goal performance continues to increase each month. Eastern, Central and Western show an increase in performance since July while Southeast is showing a decrease in performance.

Barriers:

- Placement disruptions due to child behaviors
 - Shortage of foster placements for older youth with behavior needs.

Action Items:

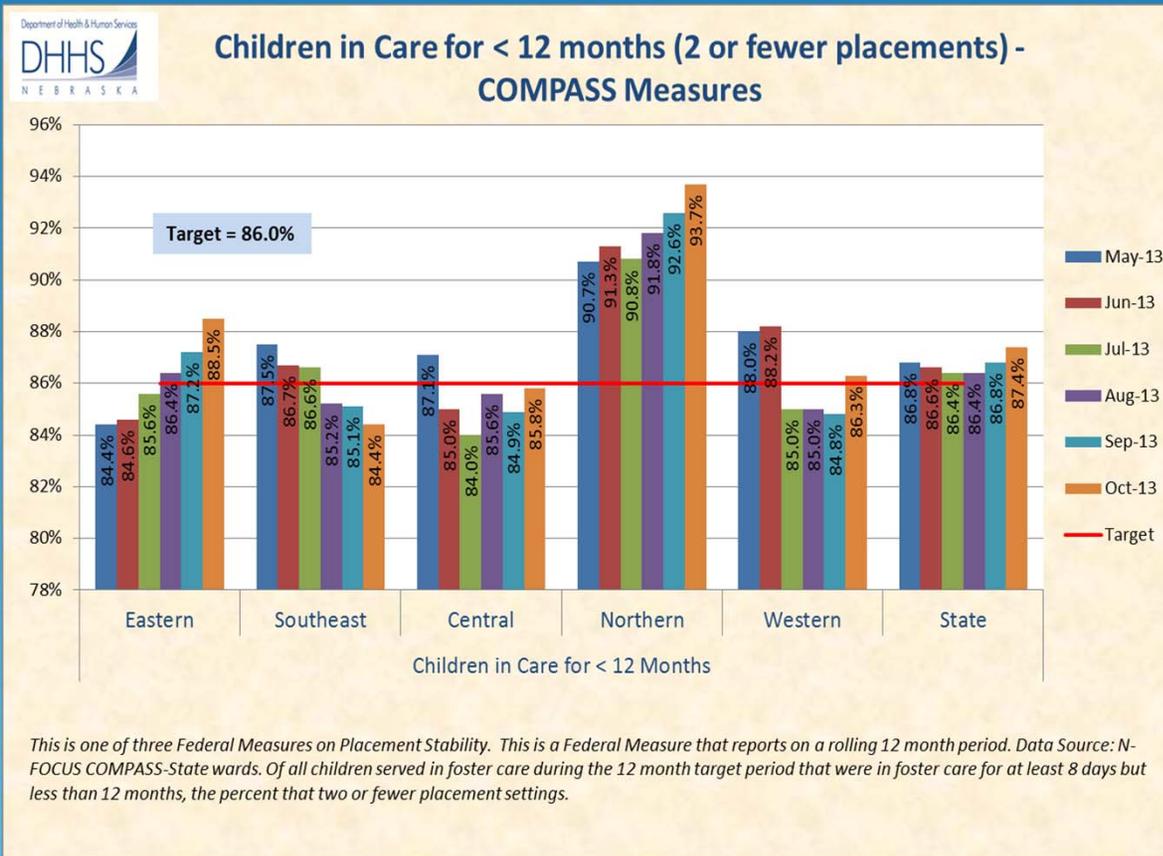
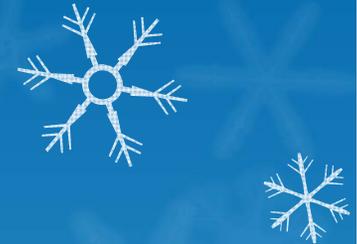
*Completed:

- Southeast and Western Service Areas are utilizing Denials and Disruption Tracking/Database to address placement stability issues/needs. Other Service Areas will be implementing this tracking method in the future. Data from this system is shared with foster care agency providers.
- CQI Team provided additional data to each Service Area regarding placement changes in N-FOCUS.

*Planned:

- CQI Team will provide additional data breakdown to adjudication, judge, and other variables to assist with identification of areas needing improvement

2 or Fewer Placements (less than 12 months)



Barriers:

- Placement disruptions due to child behaviors
- Shortage of foster placements for older youth with behavior needs.

Action Items:

**Completed:*

- Southeast and Western Service Areas are utilizing Denials and Disruption Tracking/Database to address placement stability issues/needs. Other Service Areas will be implementing this tracking method in the future. Data from this system is shared with foster care agency providers.
- COI Team provided additional data to each Service Area regarding placement changes in N-FOCUS.

**Planned:*

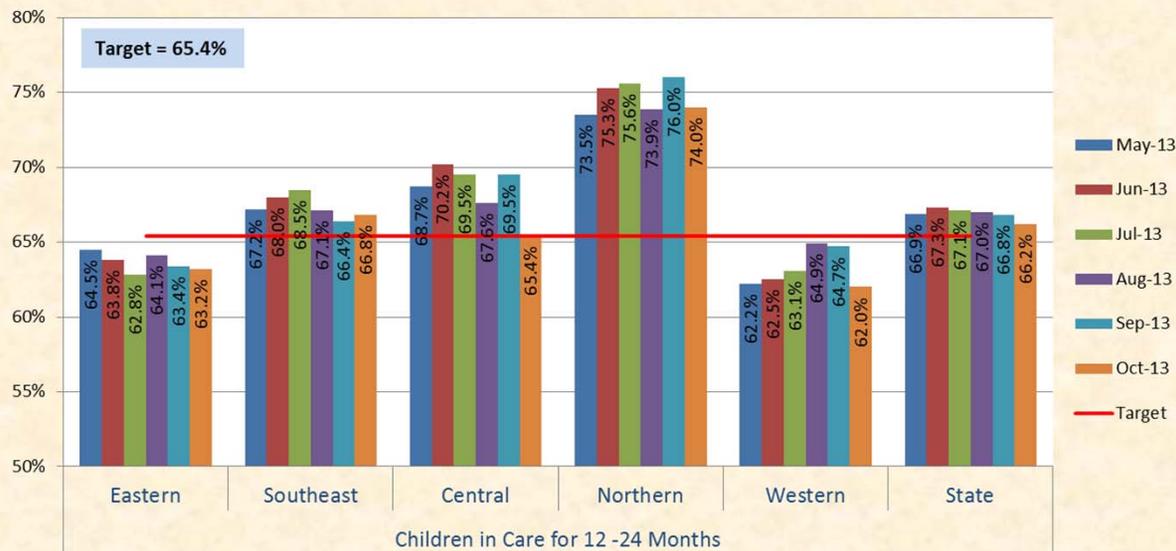
- -COI Team will provide additional data breakdown by adjudication, judge, and other variables to assist with identification of areas needing improvement



2 or Fewer Placements (12 – 24 months)



Children in Care for 12 - 24 months (2 or fewer placements) - COMPASS Measures



This is one of three Federal Measures on Placement Stability. This is a Federal Measure that reports on a rolling 12 month period. Data Source: N-FOCUS COMPASS-State wards. Of all children served in foster care during the 12 month target period that were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, the percent that had two or fewer placement settings.

Barriers:

- Placement disruptions due to child behaviors
- Shortage of foster placements for older youth with behavior needs.

Action Items:

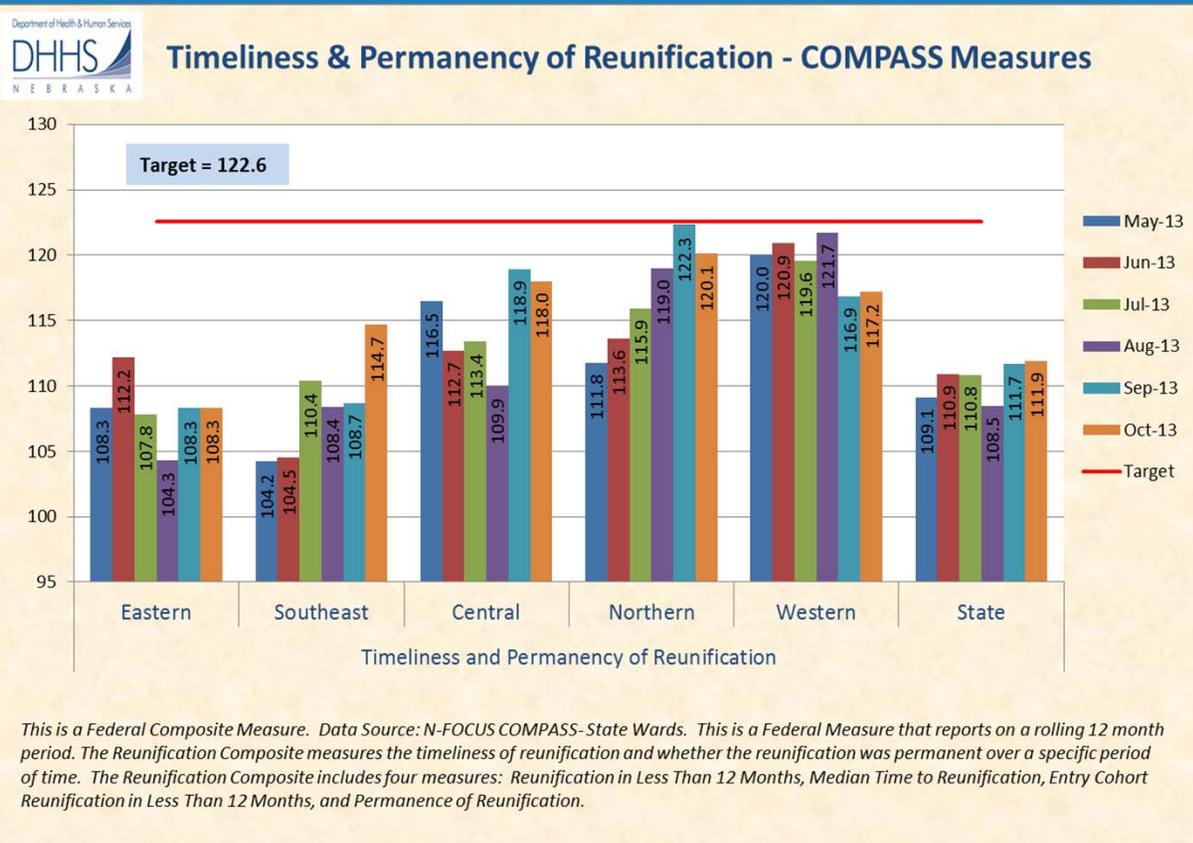
*Completed:

- Southeast and Western Service Areas are utilizing Denials and Disruption Tracking/Database to address placement stability issues/needs. Other Service Areas will be implementing this tracking method in the future. Data from this system is shared with foster care agency providers.
- COI Team provided additional data to each Service Area regarding placement changes in N-FOCUS.

*Planned:

- COI Team will provide additional data breakdown by adjudication, judge, and other variables to assist with identification of areas needing improvement

Timeliness & Permanency of Reunification



○ Action Items:

*Completed:

- CFS Staff are utilizing Average Number of Out of Home Report to look at length of time and address barriers for youth who are in Out of Home Care for an extended period of time.
- 40 Day Focus Initiatives
 - A.) All wards in out of home care over 180 days. 123 wards achieved permanency as a result of this initiative.
 - B.) OJS & 3B Youth. 228 wards achieved permanency as a result of this initiative.



*Planned:

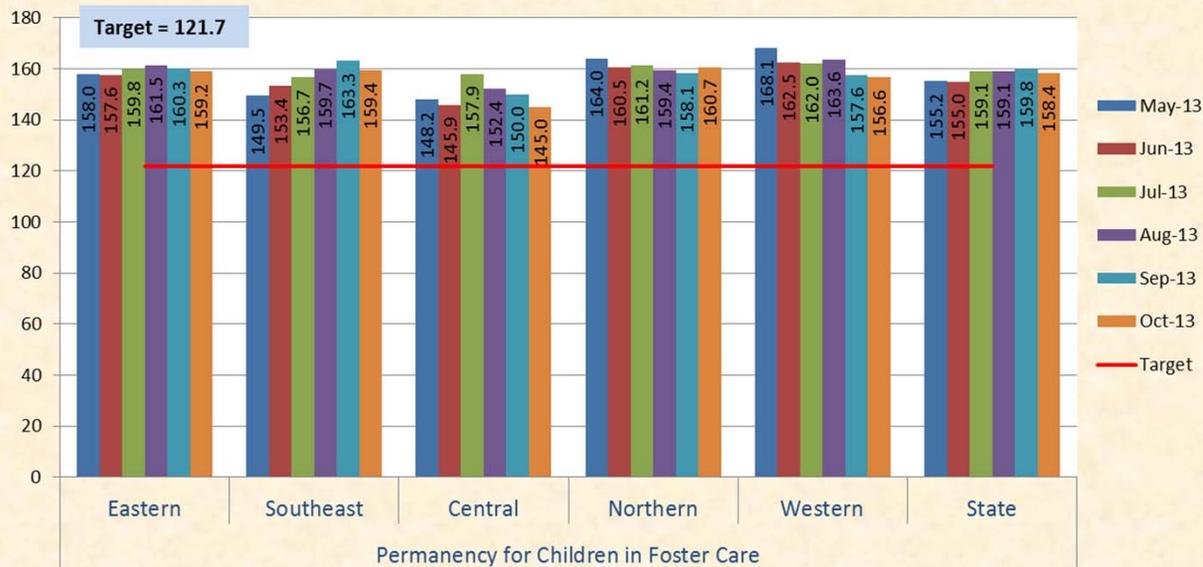
- COI Team will provide additional data breakdown by adjudication, judge, and other variables to assist with identification of areas needing improvement.
- Service Area COI teams need to drill down and identify barriers to reunification.
- Service Areas should track how many requests for early hearings are denied.
- Policy & Training will work together to develop quick tip or training materials to remind staff of their role as advocates and experts and to use assessments and tools available to them to request and promote achievement of reunification.



Permanency for Children in Foster Care



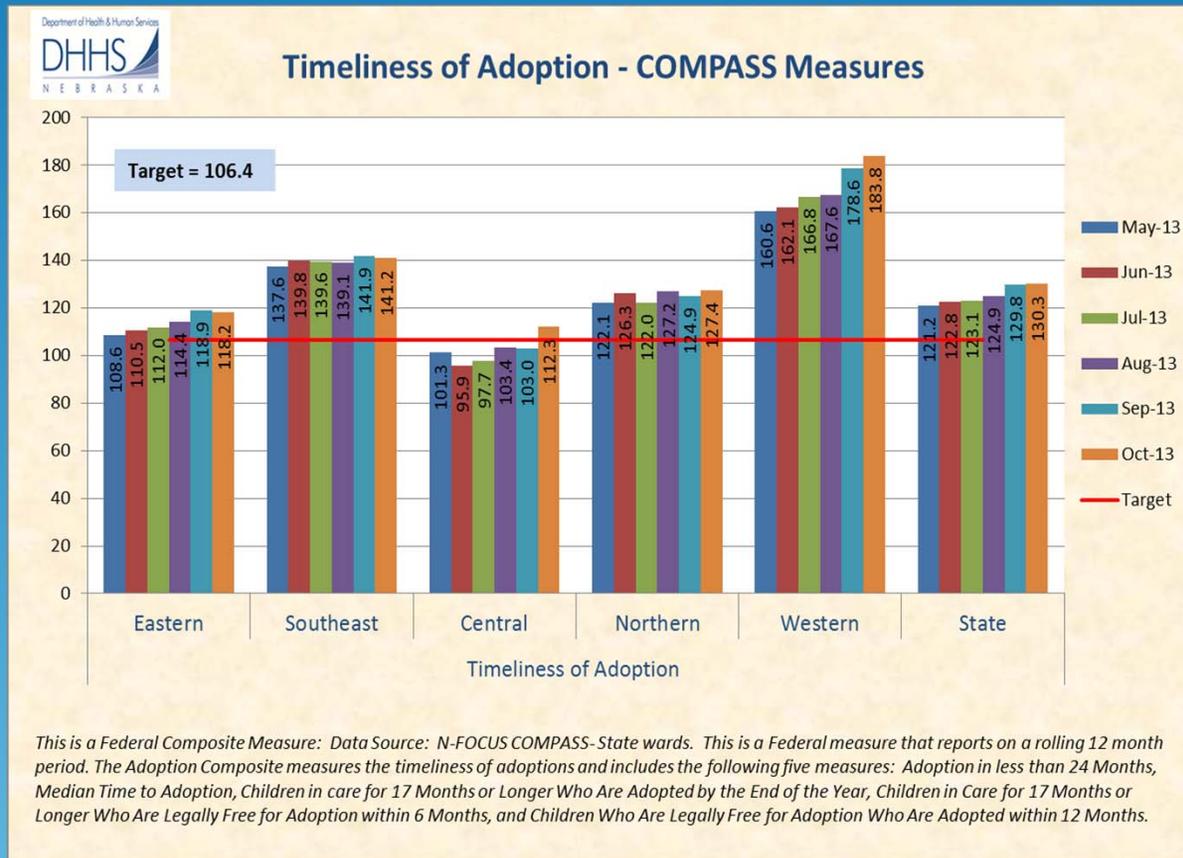
Permanency for Children in Foster Care - COMPASS Measures



Currently Exceeding the Standard

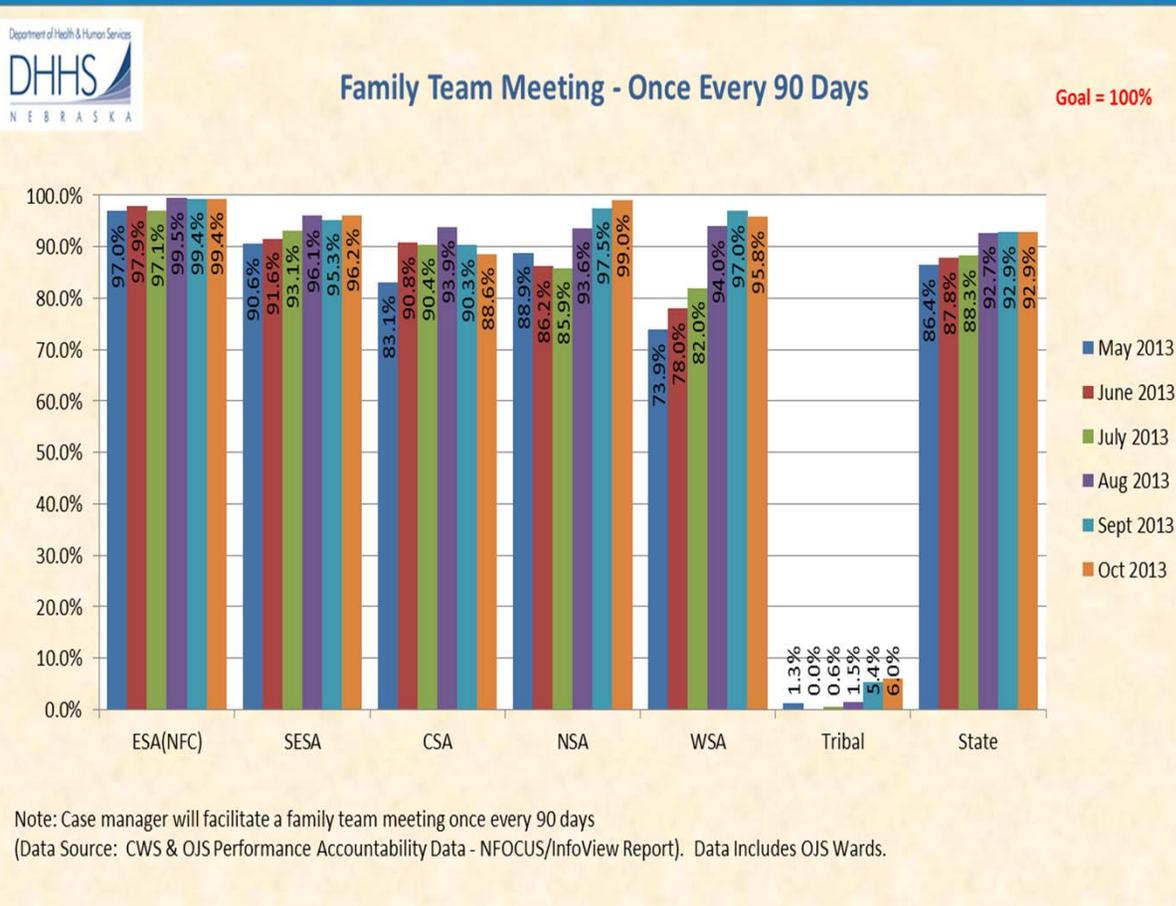
This is a Federal Composite Measure that reports on a rolling 12 month period. Data Source: N-FOCUS COMPASS-State Wards The Permanency Composite measures the frequency that permanency is achieved for children and youth who have been in care for longer periods of time. Permanency is defined as exiting care to reunification, adoption or guardianship. The Composite includes three measures: 1. Exits to Permanency Prior to the Child's 18th Birthday for Children in Care for 24 More Months or More; 2. Exits to Permanency for Children Who are Free for Adoption; and 3. Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care for 3 Years or More.

Timeliness of Adoption



Currently Exceeding the Standard

Family Team Meetings



Strengths/Opportunities:

- Oct 2013: Maintained at 92.9% statewide performance. ESA remained at 99.4%; SESA an NSA increased performance and CSA and WSA saw slight decreases in performance.
 - Note: The State performance was at 76.2% in May 2012.

Action Items:

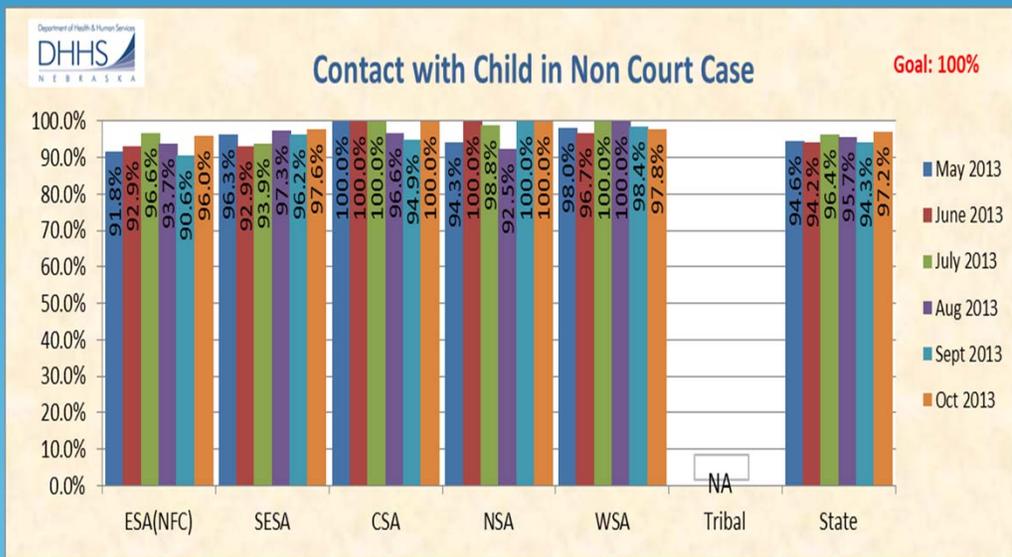
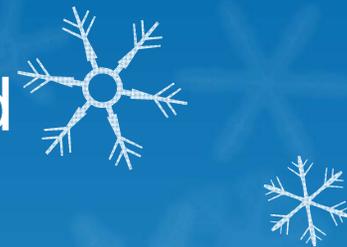
*Completed:

- Service Area Admin/Staff sent FTM templates to the Training Administrator, to put together a common guide/template for new worker and current worker training.
- Case management due date report includes Family Team Meetings.
- Procedure Update #15-2013 regarding Family Team Meetings was issued on 4/19/13.

*Planned:

- Central Office Staff will review and make necessary changes to FTM report on Performance Accountability Report.
- Deputy Director and Training Administrator will put together a plan to address Family Team Meeting Quality

Monthly Contact with State Wards and Non-Court Involved Child



Strengths/Opportunities:

- Oct 2013: Non Court Case -- Measure reached an all time high of 97.2% *Note: In May 2012, the state performance was at 53.4% for this measure.*
- Oct 2013: State wards – performance remains around 93%. Performance is over 97% for all Service Areas but less than 6% for Tribal Cases.

Barriers:

- Lack of documentation in tribal cases

Action Items:

*Completed:

- Case Management Due Date Report includes Monthly Child Contact.
- Sherri Haber and Sherri Eveleth will work with Vicki Maca to identify and provide support to the tribes
- SAA/CFS Admin have been submitting a list and reasons for all missed worker visits with the child to the Deputy Director for review.
- SAA/CFS Admin have been coordinating visits with all youth placed out of state to ensure visits are taking place every month.

*Planned:

- Some Service areas are planning to implement quality reviews and training with their staff on the quality of face to face contact



Happy Holidays

