



Child and Family Services Reviews

Nebraska 2017

**Hall County (Grand Island)
Exit Conference**



Agenda

- Overview of Child and Family Services Reviews
 - Process
 - CFSR Outcomes
 - Systemic Factors
 - Data Indicators
- Preliminary Case Review Findings
- Next Steps



Child and Family Services Reviews

- Collaborative effort between federal and state governments
- Promote continuous quality improvement in child welfare systems nationally
- Evaluate state performance relative to federal requirements and state Child and Family Services Plan
- Identify both the strengths and areas needing improvement in state child welfare programs



Child and Family Services Reviews

- States that do not meet initial standards develop an action-oriented 2-year Program Improvement Plan
- The Children's Bureau works to assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes through ongoing technical assistance support



CFSR Process

CFSRs assess child welfare outcomes and systemic functioning using:

- Statewide Assessment
- Case-level reviews
 - Case record and interviews
- Interviews with key state stakeholders and partners



CFSR Outcomes

- Two Safety Outcomes
- Two Permanency Outcomes
- Three Well-Being Outcomes



CFSR Outcomes

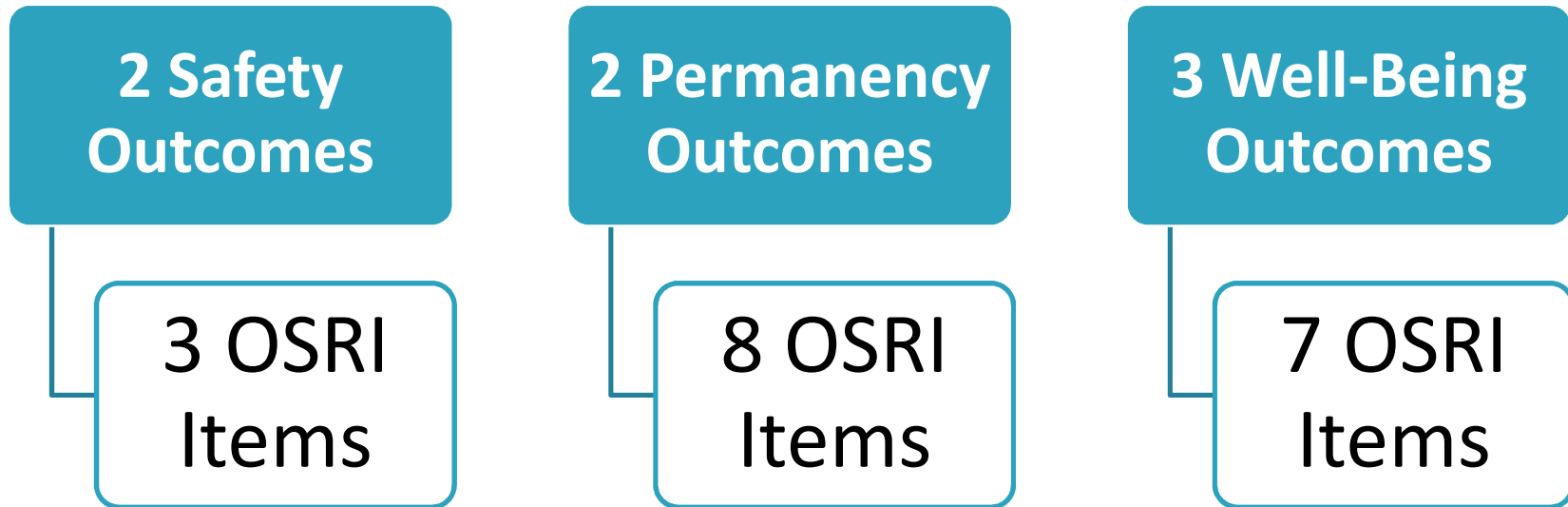
- **Safety Outcome 1:** Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- **Safety Outcome 2:** Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.
- **Permanency Outcome 1:** Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- **Permanency Outcome 2:** The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

CFSR Outcomes

- **Well-Being Outcome 1:** Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- **Well-Being Outcome 2:** Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- **Well-Being Outcome 3:** Children receive adequate services to meet their physical health needs.

Determining Substantial Conformity

Seven Child and Family Outcomes



CFSR Systemic Factors

- Statewide Information System
- Case Review System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Service Array and Resource Development
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

Determining Substantial Conformity Seven Systemic Factors



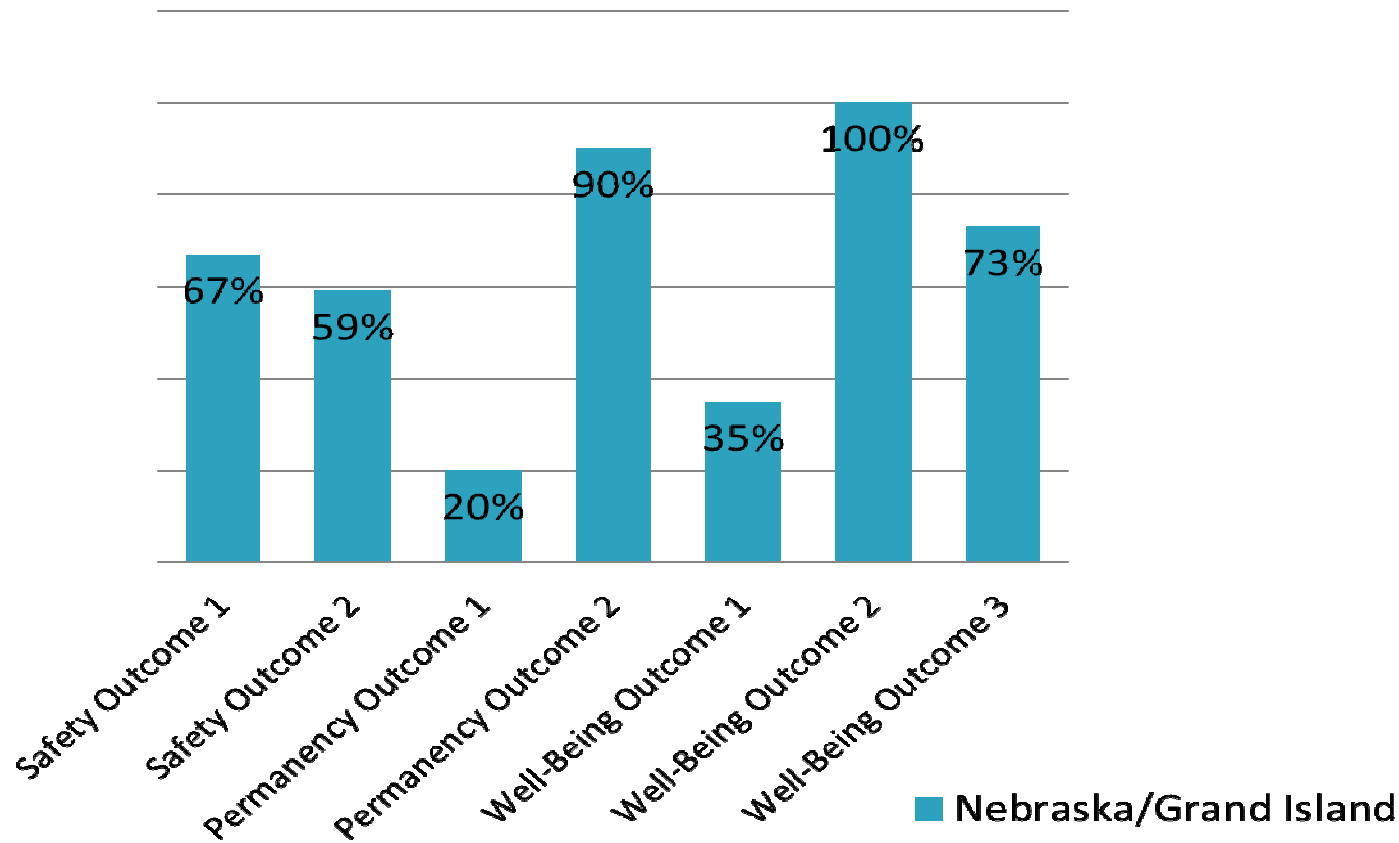
CFSR Case Review

- 65 cases were reviewed using the federal Onsite Review Instrument (OSRI)
 - 25 in-home cases
 - 40 foster care cases
- Cases reviewed in four sites/teams
- Grand Island: 17 cases were reviewed
 - 7 in-home cases (4 AR)
 - 10 foster care cases

Preliminary Case Review Findings

Preliminary Case Review Findings

% of Cases Substantially Achieved



Closer Look at Findings

- Outcome and Item Ratings
- Themes
 - Strengths
 - Areas Needing Improvement

Safety Outcome 1

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

OSRI Item 1: *Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment*

- 6 of 9 (67%) applicable cases rated as a Strength

Safety Outcome 1

Key Strengths

- Prompt in making face-to-face contact
- Same day investigations

Safety Outcome 1

Areas for Improvement

- Longer delays for AR priority 3 cases (should be 10 days)

Safety Outcome 2

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

OSRI Item 2: *Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care*

- 2 of 5 (40%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 2 (50%) applicable Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 1 (0%) applicable In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 2 (50%) applicable In-home DR/AR cases rated as a Strength

Safety Outcome 2 cont.

OSRI Item 3: *Risk Assessment and Safety Management*

- 10 of 17 (59%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 9 of 10 (90%) applicable Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) applicable In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 4 (0%) applicable In-home DR/AR cases rated as a Strength

Safety Outcome 2

Key Strengths

- Filled in gaps during wait times for services
- Clear communication of expectations and ongoing monitoring
- Use of relatives as part of safety plan
- Appropriate use SDM (structured decision-making)
- Comprehensive informal assessments with strong documentation



Safety Outcome 2

Areas for Improvement

- Safety services did not address issues properly
- Investigation/initial assessments not as strong as ongoing
- Safety plan not effective, not clearly implemented nor monitored

Permanency Outcome 1

Children have safety and stability in their living situations.

OSRI Item 4: *Stability of Foster Care Placement*

- 7 of 10 (70%) cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 5: *Permanency Goal for Child*

- 6 of 10 (60%) cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 6: *Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement*

- 6 of 10 (60%) cases rated as a Strength

Permanency Outcome 1

Key Strengths

- Use of relative/familiar placements for stability even for subsequent FC episodes
- Clear communication of goal during Family Team Meetings (FTM)
- Timeliness of goals
- Once goal established, timeliness in achieving

Permanency Outcome 1

Areas for Improvement

- Relative placement not adequately assessed/supported
- Adoption not established timely even when clear reunification was not option
- Lengthy time between relinquishment and goal change

Permanency Outcome 2

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

OSRI Item 7: *Placement With Siblings*

- 100% of 9 cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 8: *Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care*

- 6 of 7 (86%) cases rated as a Strength

Permanency Outcome 2 Cont.

OSRI Item 9: *Preserving Connections*

- 9 of 10 (90%) cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 10: *Relative Placement*

- 8 of 10 (80%) cases rated as a Strength

OSRI Item 11: *Relationship of Child in Care With Parents*

- 100% of 6 cases rated as a Strength

Item 11

- 100% of the 6 applicable cases concerted efforts were made to promote and support the relationship with the **mother**
- 100% of the 4 applicable cases concerted efforts were made to promote and support the relationship with the **father**

Permanency Outcome 2

Key Strengths

- Siblings placed together (relatives and FHs)
- Use of Family Finding to locate relatives
- Family support program facilitated parent child visits
- Agency funding devoted to helping parents with transportation

Permanency Outcome 2

Key Strengths

- Efforts to keep kids connected to relatives, community activities, and ICWA
- Parents supported and involved in children's lives outside of visits including medical appointments, school activities, etc.

Permanency Outcome 2

Areas for Improvement

- No major trends were seen

Well-Being Outcome 1

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

OSRI Item 12: *Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents*

- 6 of 17 (35%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 5 of 10 (50%) Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) In-home Cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 4 (0%) In-home DR/AR rated as a Strength

Item 12

OSRI Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children

- 12 of 17 (71%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 9 of 10 (90%) Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 2 of 4 (50%) In-home DR/AR cases rated as a Strength

Item 12

OSRI Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents

- 7 of 14 (50%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 6 of 7 (86%) applicable Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 4 (0%) In-home DR/AR cases rated as a Strength

Item 12B

- In 78.57% of 14 applicable cases concerted efforts were made to assess and address the needs of **mothers**
- In 46.15% of 13 applicable cases concerted efforts both to assess and address the needs of **fathers**

Item 12

OSRI Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents

- 7 of 10 (70%) applicable Foster Care cases rated as a Strength

Well-Being Outcome 1 cont.

OSRI Item 13: *Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning*

- 11 of 17 (65%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 10 of 10 (100%) applicable Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 4 (0%) In-home DR/AR rated as a Strength

Item 13

- In 60% of 10 applicable cases – **children** were involved in case planning
- In 92.86% of 14 applicable cases – **mothers** were involved in case planning
- In 61.54% of 13 applicable cases – **fathers** were involved in case planning

Well-Being Outcome 1 Cont.

OSRI Item 14: *Caseworker Visits With Child*

- 13 of 17 (76%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 10 of 10 (100%) foster care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) in-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 2 of 4 (50%) in-home DR/AR rated as a Strength

Well-Being Outcome 1 Cont.

OSRI Item 15: Caseworker Visits With Parents

- 7 of 14 (50%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 6 of 7 (86%) applicable foster care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) in-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 4 (0%) in-home DR/AR rated as a Strength

Item 15

- 71.43% of 14 applicable cases both the frequency and quality of visits with **mother** were sufficient
- 46.15% of 13 applicable cases both the frequency and quality of visits with **father** were sufficient

Well-Being Outcome 1

Key Strengths

- Use of FTM every month to assess needs and involvement of parents in case planning
- Inclusion of informal supports at FTM
- Efforts made to engage dads when involved or absent
- Frequency of visits between caseworker and parents and children

Well-Being Outcome 1

Key Strengths

- Workers are connected and engaged with children
- Workers documented observations of and interactions with and developmental milestones for younger kids

Well-Being Outcome 1

Areas for Improvement

- Lack of efforts to assess dads when known and resistant
- Surface level assessments did not address more complex issues
- Foster parents not supported with needed services
- Practice around assessing and involving paramours

Well-Being Outcome 1

Areas for Improvement

- Lack of efforts to adequately engage and connect families with appropriate services such as domestic violence and substance abuse treatment
- Waitlists for substance abuse and mental health for parents

Well-Being Outcome 2

Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

OSRI Item 16: *Educational Needs of the Child*

- 10 of 10 (100%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 7 of 7 (100%) applicable Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 1 (100%) applicable In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 2 of 2 (100%) applicable in-home DR/AR rated as a Strength

Well-Being Outcome 2

Key Strengths

- Use of Early Intervention
- Good focus on educational needs even in IH cases

Well-Being Outcome 3

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

OSRI Item 17: *Physical Health of the Child*

- 10 of 10 (100%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 10 of 10 (100%) Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 0 (0%) applicable In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 0 of 0 (0%) applicable In-home DR/AR rated as a Strength

Well-Being Outcome 3 cont.

OSRI Item 18: *Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child*

- 4 of 8 (50%) cases rated as a Strength
 - 2 of 3 (67%) applicable Foster Care cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 2 (50%) applicable In-home cases rated as a Strength
 - 1 of 3 (33%) applicable In-home DR/AR cases rated as a Strength

Well-Being Outcome 3

Key Strengths

- Routine physical and dental
- Extraordinary needs are met with recommended services
- Timely and appropriate counseling services for child, parent and family

Well-Being Outcome 3

Areas for Improvement

- Challenge of waitlists
- Providers that accept Medicaid

Next Steps



Next Steps: Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

- Final Report is issued to the State
- PIP due to Children's Bureau within 90 days of receiving Final Report and determination of nonconformity
- Continued collaborative effort between the State and Children's Bureau to develop and monitor Nebraska's PIP
- Continued collaboration with partners and families in development of PIP



Stages of PIP development

1. Analyze data
2. Explore possible interventions
3. Finalize interventions
4. Map out implementation plan for interventions
5. Measurement Plan
6. Reporting Structure

Program Improvement Plan

- Implement plan over 2 years with additional year to monitor data measures
- Safety interventions must be prioritized and addressed in less than 2 years
- State must include & complete key activities to benchmark progress (most significant action steps)
- State must include and achieve measurable progress on certain items

Thank you!

