Right Home Right Time

Permanency Focus Group - 9/25/26

Right Home Right Time
NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Federal “A Home for Every Child” Overview
- RHRT Updates, Current & Planned Activities
- RHRT Data Snapshot
- Breakout Session
- Large Group Report Out & Recommendation
- Closing Reflections & Next Steps

Introductions

Please introduce yourself in the chat. List your name, agency (if applicable), and your role in the child welfare system.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Federal “A Home for Every Child Framework”



“Our mission is straightforward: homes waiting for kids, not kids waiting for home. Every child grows best in family, and our A Home for Every Child initiative will ensure we are doubling down on prevention to keep families intact whenever it’s safe to do so, while ensuring there are enough loving foster homes available for any child who needs one.”

- Administration for Children and Families Assistant Secretary Alex Adams.

Right Home Right Time (RHRT) Overview

Our Central Goal: Right Home, Right Time

This means all youth receive safety and stability as quickly as possible. All strategies for CFS will flow through this one central goal, which aligns federal and state vision, strengthens our practice and family engagement, and ensures families thrive.

Nebraska's Federally Approved Program Improvement Plan:

The federally approved ***Right Home Right Time*** Program Improvement Plan focused improvement efforts around 3 statewide priorities.

Right Home Right Time
NEBRASKA

EBRASKA
od Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RHRT Overview - 3 Priorities



Support at home first

Keeping families together whenever safely possible should remain the priority. By connecting families to prevention services and in-home supports early, we can reduce unnecessary foster care entry and strengthen long-term family stability.

Place in family settings with relatives or kin



When out-of-home placement is necessary, keeping children connected to family and supportive adults should remain the priority. Prioritizing relative and kinship placements helps maintain important relationships, minimize trauma, and support long-term stability for children.



Attain safe and timely permanency

When out-of-home care is necessary, achieving safe and timely permanency for children should remain the priority. Reducing delays in permanency supports stability, strengthens long-term well-being, and helps children build lasting connections.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Measuring Progress & Sharing Updates

CORE MEASURE

Foster Home to Child Ratio

(# of homes approved for placement/
#of children who require placement)

LEAD (PIP) MEASURES

Prevention:

- # of eligible families referred to prevention (FFPSA) services
- Rate of Foster Care Entry

Placement with Relatives or Kin:

- Time from removal to relative/kin placement

Safe/Timely Permanency:

- % of children attaining permanency in 12 months
- % of children attaining timely reunification, guardianship, or adoption

CHASER MEASURES

Maintaining Family Connections: % of children in care at the end of the month who are placed with relatives or kin.

Congregate Care: % of days children are placed in group homes/settings instead of living with a family

Recent Maltreatment History: % of children harmed after child welfare agency has already confirmed abuse or neglect

Home Disruptions: % of homes where foster placement ends unexpectedly and children must move

Monthly Data Reporting

(Starting: July/Aug 2026)



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Safe and Timely Permanency



RHRT – Current & Planned Activities

- ❑ STAR – Safe and Timely Accelerated Results (STAR) process.

- ❑IA Court, Cost & Capacity Pilot

- ❑ TRACK – Timely Review, Analytics, and Coordination for Kids Predictive Analytics Grant.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Permanency Data Snapshot

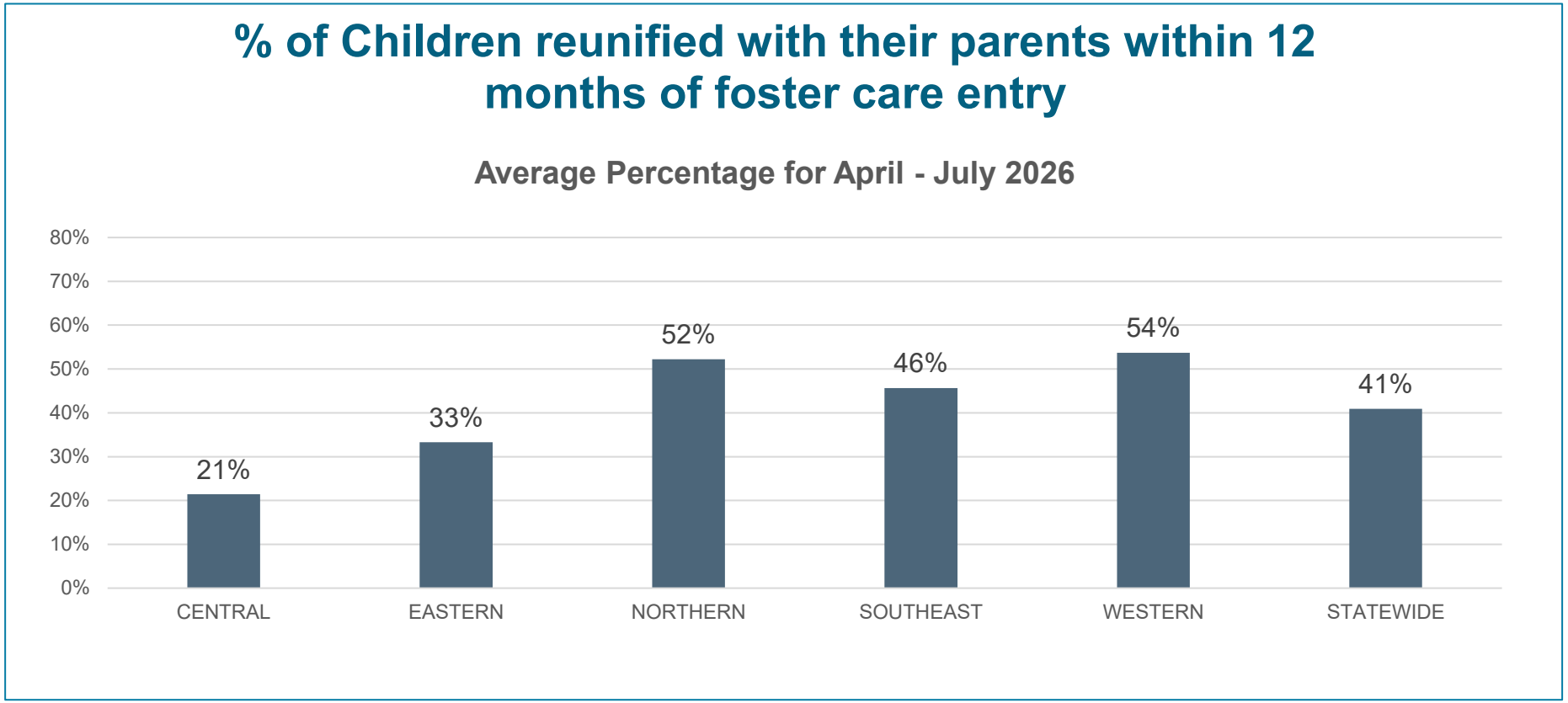
CORE MEASURE: Foster Home to Child Ratio

Achieve a foster home-to-child ratio greater than 1:1 statewide, ensuring homes wait for children instead of children waiting for homes.

Month	Numerator: Number of foster homes	Denominator: Number of children in foster care	Home-to-child ratio
Apr-26	2,399	2,848	2,399/2,848 (0.842)
May-26	2,372	2,817	2,372/2,817 (0.842)
Jun-26	2,370	2,803	2,370/2,803 (0.846)
Jul-26	2,374	2,760	2374/2760 (0.860)

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Permanency Data Snapshot



Federal Timeframes for Permanency:

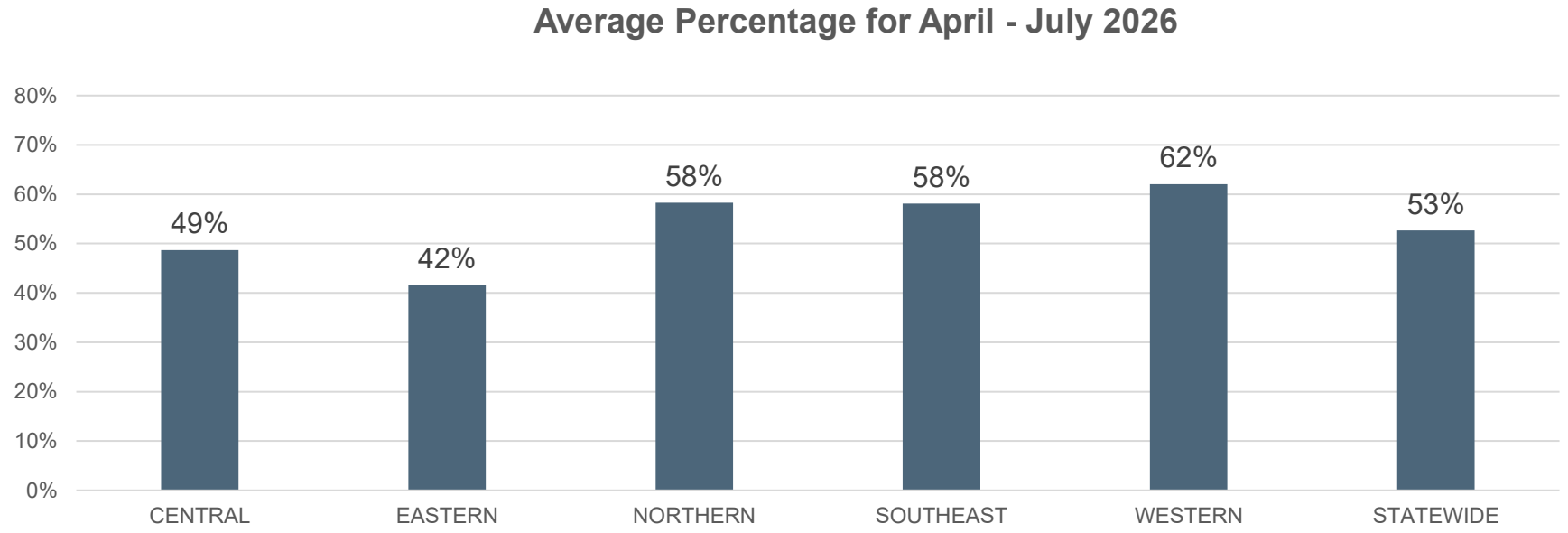
- Reunification (12 Months)
- Guardianship (18 months)
- Adoption (24 Months)

The data looks at children who entered foster care from **April 2025 to July 2025** and the number of those youth who were reunified with their parents within 12 months.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Permanency Data Snapshot

% of Children attaining permanency (reunification, guardianship or adoption) within 18 months from foster care entry



Federal Timeframes for Permanency:

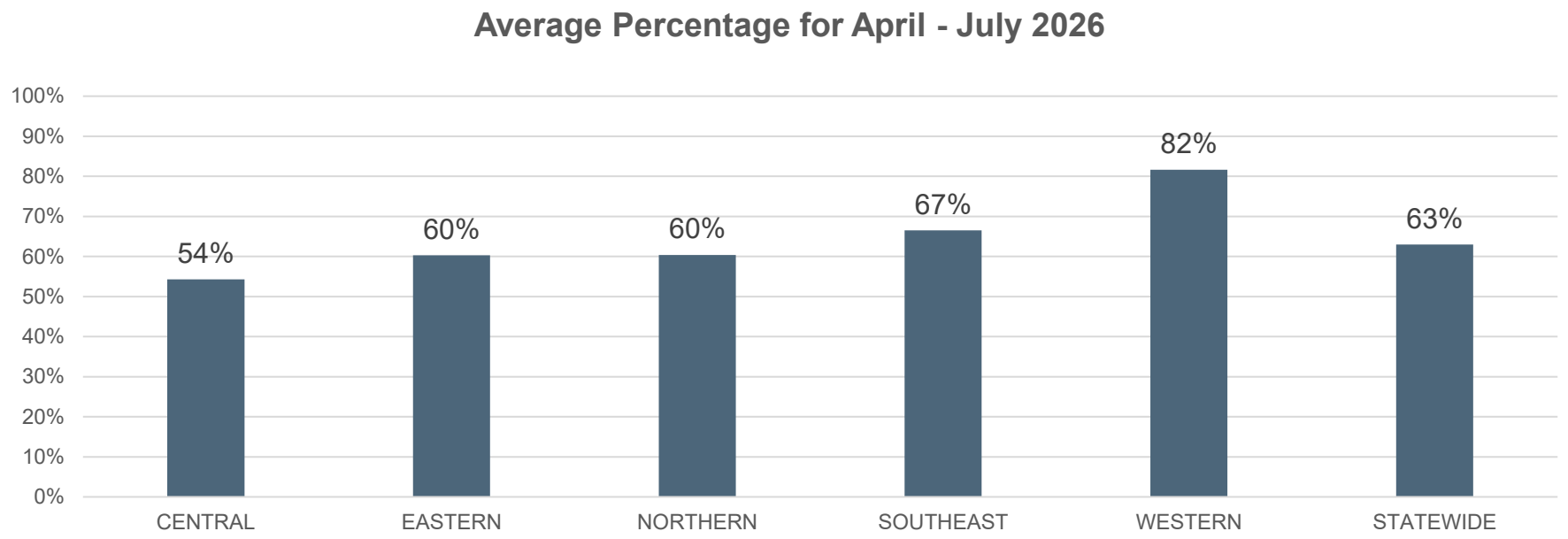
- Reunification (12 Months)
- Guardianship (18 months)
- Adoption (24 Months)

The data looks at children who entered foster care from **October 2024 to January 2025** and the number of those youth who attained permanency through reunification, guardianship or adoption within 18 months.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Permanency Data Snapshot

% of Children attaining permanency (reunification, guardianship or adoption) within 24 months from foster care entry



Federal Timeframes for Permanency:

- Reunification (12 Months)
- Guardianship (18 months)
- Adoption (24 Months)

The data looks at children who entered foster care from **April 2023 to July 2024** and the number of those youth who attained permanency through reunification, guardianship, or adoption within 24 months.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Case Review Findings: Permanency

Case Review Findings indicate the following needs:

- Strengthen permanency-focused case practice and identification of barriers earlier.
- Strengthen coordination with legal and community partners to improve access to services and address other barriers to timely permanency
- Strengthen concurrent planning practice
- Address barriers to timely TPR filing

Breakout Sessions Instructions

- Participants will be assigned to 1 of 3 breakout groups.
- Groups will discuss the same topics/questions. *The breakout sessions are being used to divide the participants into smaller groups for the discussion.*
- The breakout sessions will last approximately 35 minutes
- At the end of the breakout session, you will return to the large group for discussion, wrap up, and next steps



Breakout Sessions Questions

- 1. What Stood Out? - “What was the most important thing you noticed in the data?”
- 2. What Are the Biggest Barriers? “What are the two or three most significant reasons for delay with permanency?”
- 3. What Could Change? “What are the one or two strategies or changes that could make the greatest difference?”
- 4. What Should CFS Learn? “What is one question you believe CFS should continue to examine, monitor, or evaluate?”

Group Report Out & Recommendations

Each group will report the following:

“Our group noticed…”

“We believe the primary barriers are…”

“We recommend considering…”

“One thing we think CFS should continue to examine is…”

Closing Reflections & Next Steps

- Stakeholder feedback informed RHRT goals and strategies
- Collaboration remains essential
- Shared priorities helped guide improvement efforts



- Visit Right Home Right Time Website for Updates:
  https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Right- Home-Right-Time.aspx
- Questions/Contact: DHHS.CQI@nebraska.gov

RHRT Website

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Thank You

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to achieving positive outcomes for Nebraska's children and families!

