Right Home Right Time

Relative/Kinship Placements
Focus Group - 9/24/26

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Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- A Home for Every Child & RHRT 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.

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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.

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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.

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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



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Place Children with Relatives & Kin



RHRT – Current & Planned Activities

- ❑ Surveying Relative Kin Homes
- ❑ Grant for 8 Additional LIVE SCAN Machines
- ❑ KNP Model
- ❑ Changing Process of Background Checks for Suitability
- ❑ Respite Network
- ❑ Regular Support Groups for Relative/Kin Homes
- ❑ 8 Week Expedited Licensure Process

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Relative/Kin 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)

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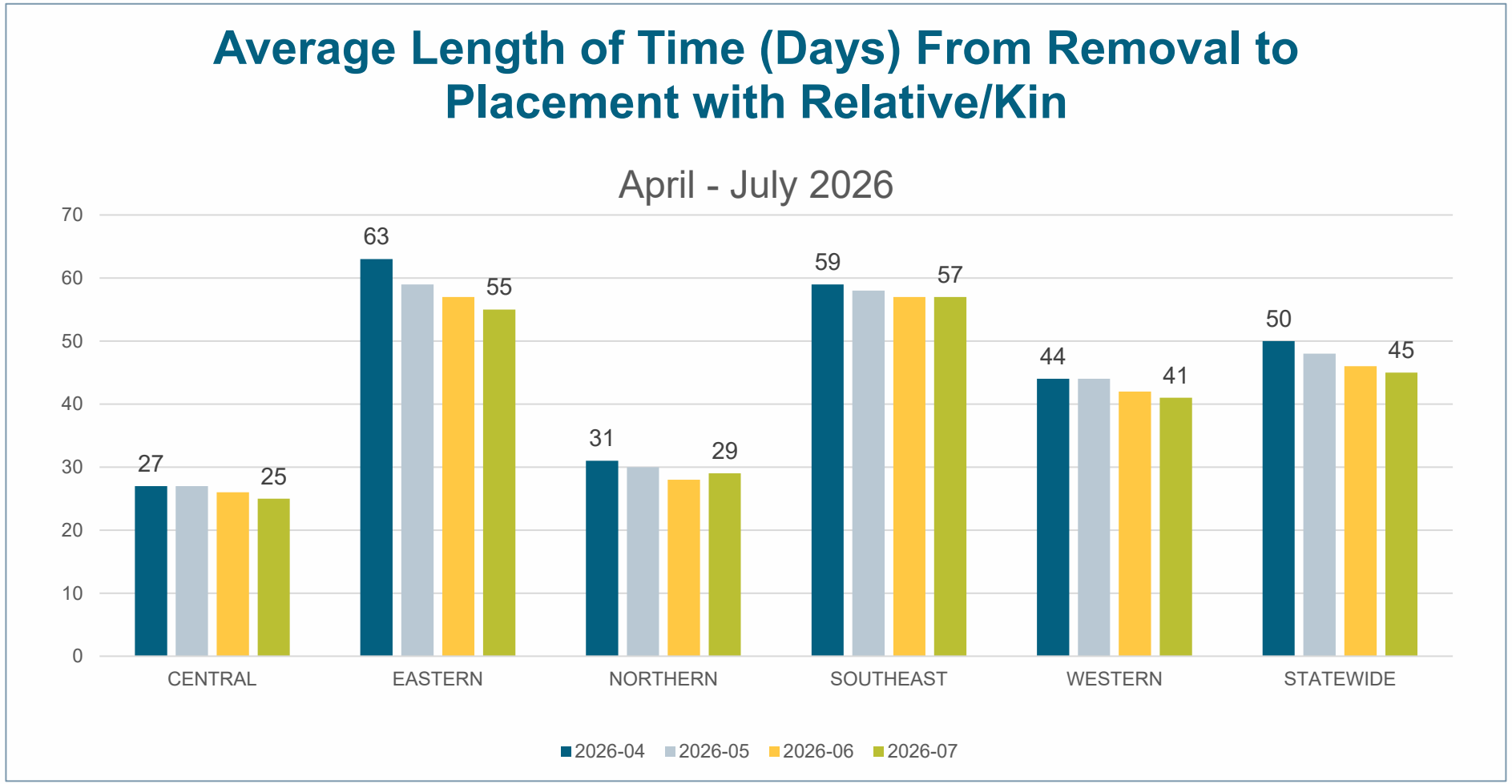
Relative/Kin Data Snapshot



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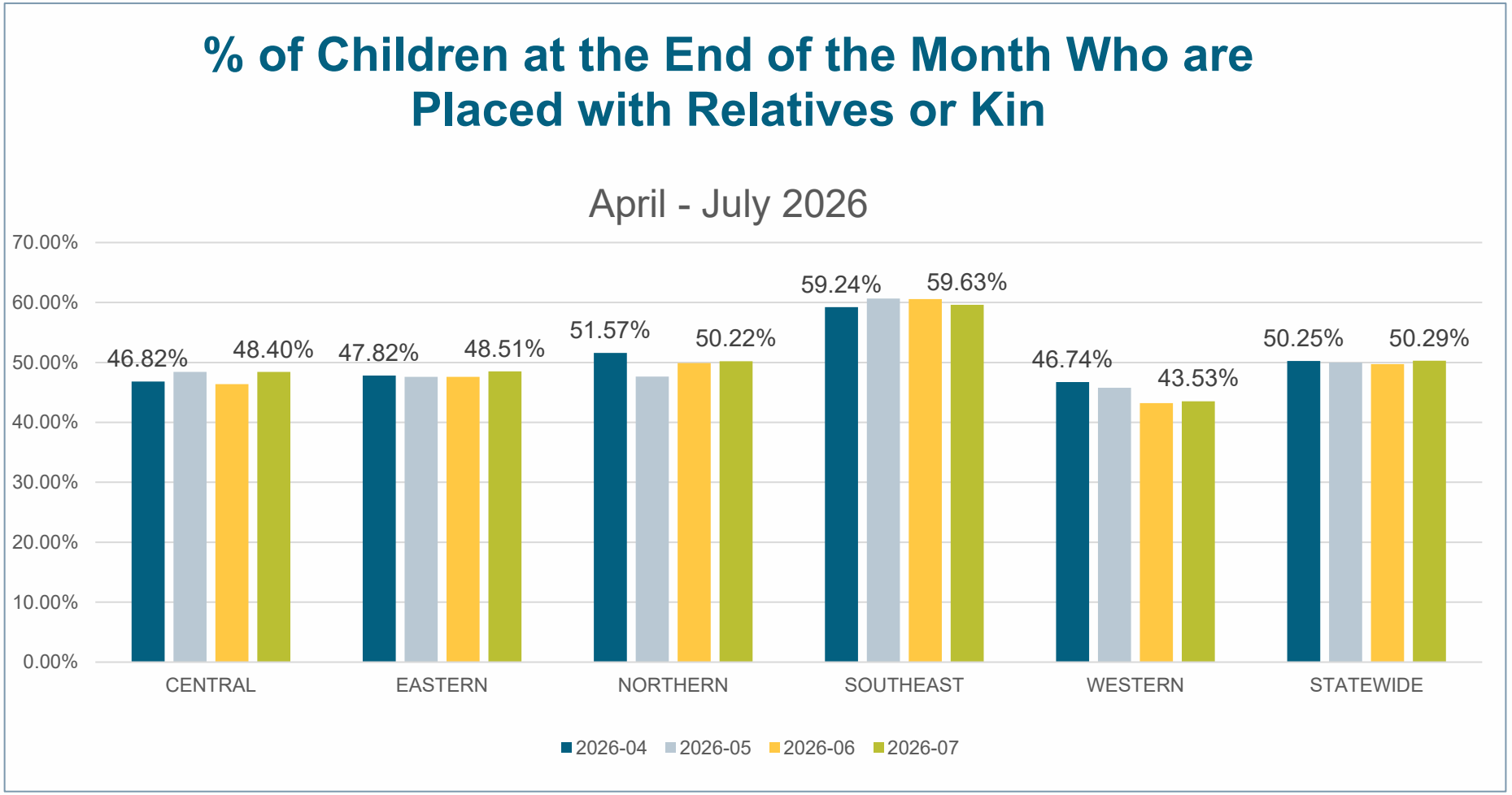
Relative/Kin Data Snapshot



Numerator: # of children in foster care on the last day of the month.

Denominator: Of all children in foster care on the last day of the month, the number that were

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Relative/Kin Data Snapshot

CHASER MEASURE: Home Disruptions

% of homes with a child in care who experienced an unexpected disruption within the month.

Month	% of Home Disruptions	Numerator	Denominator
Apr-26	8.20%	147	1793
May-26	7.90%	142	1797
Jun-26	8.80%	156	1774
Jul-26	7.80%	137	1749

Numerator: Of all homes with a child in foster care placed in the home for at least one day during this month, how many homes had a foster care child moved out for reasons other than an exit or trial home visit (reunified with parent)?

Denominator: During this month, how many homes had a child in foster care placed in a home for at least one day?

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Case Review Findings: Relative & Kin Placement

Case Review Findings Indicate the Following Needs

- Improve timely identification of relatives (particularly paternal relatives) – for initial placement and ongoing throughout the case.
- Strengthen relative/kin engagement practices – locating relatives; re-evaluating relatives to determine if circumstances have changed; reconsidering relatives/kin when the child's placement changes.
- Providing support to help relatives/kin successfully maintain placement and reduce disruption.

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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 a child is not placed with relatives or kin?”
- 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

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Thank You

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

