

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Alaska

Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

| No. | Requirement | Rating Factor | Findings | Task | Estimated Completion Date | Notes |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------|---|---|---------------------------|-------|
| Foster Care Population | | | | | | |
| 5 | Includes all children who have been in foster care at least 24 hours (Appendix A - SECTION II). | 3 | The program code incorrectly includes 24-hour removals if the child has subsequent removal episodes. Also, if the State does a subsequent submittal, the program code will incorrectly count removal episodes that are less than 24 hours. | The State needs to ensure that this data is correctly handled by the program code when extracting elements #18 - 20. The Children's Bureau will assess the accuracy of this data once the technical changes are made to the data elements. | | |
| 8 | Includes youth over the age of 18 if a payment is being made on behalf of the child (Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1, AFCARS). | 3 | The State's age of legal majority is 18. The State does claim title IV-E funds for youth over 18 up to their 19 th birthday, or graduation from high school, whichever comes first. The State incorrectly includes youth over the age of 19. | Develop a method to ensure that youth at age 18 (or age 19) are entered as discharged for AFCARS reporting purposes with a discharge reason of "emancipation." See elements #56 and #58 in the foster care matrix. | | |
| Adoption Population | | | | | | |
| 10 | Report on all children adopted in the State during the reporting period and in whose adoption the State title IV-B/IV-E agency has had any involvement. All adoptions after 10/1/94 that meet the criteria below must be reported. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All special needs children, whether or not they were in the public | 2 | The State does have adoption agreements with families that adopt through private agencies. However, they are not reporting these records in AFCARS. | Add functionality that will allow the recording of these records in ORCA. Revise the extraction code to report them to AFCARS. | | |

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Alaska

Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

| No. | Requirement | Rating Factor | Findings | Task | Estimated Completion Date | Notes |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|--|---|---------------------------|-------|
| | foster care system prior to their adoption and for whom non-recurring expenses were reimbursed. • Children adopted for whom an adoption assistance payment or service is being provided based on arrangements with the State agency. (Appendix B – Section II, paragraphs (b) and (c)). | | | | | |
| Technical Requirements | | | | | | |
| 45 CFR 1355.40(b)(1) | | | | | | |
| 15 | The data must be in record layouts as delineated in Appendix D. | 2 | The State's foster care submissions often have inconsistent summary files for all ages. The State and Federal team discussed options for the cause of the file inconsistency and ways to correct the problem. One solution may be to have the summary file executed after the detail file. | Review the extraction logic and make modifications to ensure that the file is submitted correctly. | | |
| 45 CFR 1355.40(b)(3) | | | | | | |
| 17 | Adoption data are to be reported during the reporting period in which the adoption is legalized or, at the State's option, in the following reporting period if the | 2 | The State's current extraction process may result in adoptions not being reported. | The State needs to develop a method to ensure that records previously submitted are not re-submitted and to ensure that an adoption is not missed during an extraction. | | |

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Alaska

Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

| No. | Requirement | Rating Factor | Findings | Task | Estimated Completion Date | Notes |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|---|--|---------------------------|-------|
| | adoption is legalized within the last 60 days of the reporting period. | | | | | |
| Data Quality - Conversion | | | | | | |
| 27 | State transferred historical information on open cases. Specifically, it included information on: date of first removal, total number of removals, and whether the child's mother was married at the time of the child's birth. If the case was open at the time of conversion, information on the number of placement settings was included. | 3 | <p>The State's initial process for data conversion was not complete. The State has identified a process to convert the data from the legacy database to ORCA. This will include ensuring that all discharges from care and placement are included, and placements such as detention.</p> <p>Findings from the SACWIS review and the AFCARS case file review indicate there are several records missing information on all prior removal episodes. The State has been adding the removal information to open and closed cases as indicated by the decrease in the number of cases reported with missing dates of latest removal. Also, there are placements for the current removal episode, which was open when the State converted, that were not entered into ORCA.</p> <p><u>Foster care element #18 Case File Review Findings: 14</u></p> | <p>Implement the process to insert the data from the legacy database to ORCA.</p> <p>Conduct quality assurance to check that all older dates related to AFCARS elements have been entered into ORCA.</p> | | |

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Alaska

Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

| No. | Requirement | Rating Factor | Findings | Task | Estimated Completion Date | Notes |
|-----|-------------|---------------|--|------|---------------------------|-------|
| | | | <p>(28%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of the error cases, the reviewers found earlier dates than what was reported in AFCARS. In four of these cases, the child actually had multiple removals that were not reported to AFCARS. In each case the AFCARS data indicated the child only had one removal.</p> <p><u>Foster care element #24 Case File Review Findings:</u> 8 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In six of the error cases, the reviewers found more placements than what was reported in AFCARS. All were placements that occurred prior to the implementation of ORCA.</p> <p><u>Foster care elements #47 and #48 Case File Review Findings:</u> The significant issue found in the case file review was that this element was reported as blank, but the reviewers found a TPR or a deceased date.</p> | | | |

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Alaska

Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

| No. | Requirement | Rating Factor | Findings | Task | Estimated Completion Date | Notes |
|-----|--|---------------|---|--|---------------------------|-------|
| 28 | The information system has the capability of recording historical information. This should apply to both open cases in which historical information must be entered, and for closed cases that re-open after conversion and must be entered into the system. | 2 | <p>The system will not allow entry of historical data.</p> <p>Findings from the SACWIS review: <i>Alaska has developed screens so that workers may manually enter missing historical information into ORCA, but the system lacks edit checks and other controls to ensure this historical data is entered.</i></p> <p>The State's initial process for data conversion was not complete. The State has identified a process to convert the data from the legacy database to ORCA. This will include ensuring that all discharges from care and placement are included, and placements such as detention.</p> <p><u>Foster care element #18 Case File Review Findings:</u> 14 (28%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of the error cases, the reviewers found earlier dates than what was reported in AFCARS. In four of these cases, the child actually had multiple removals that were</p> | <p>Develop and/or implement a method that will allow the entry of historical data into the system on cases that were closed at the time of conversion that later re-open.</p> <p><u>Data Quality</u> Conduct quality assurance to check that all older dates related to AFCARS elements have been entered into ORCA.</p> | | |

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: General Requirements

State: Alaska

Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

| No. | Requirement | Rating Factor | Findings | Task | Estimated Completion Date | Notes |
|-----|-------------|---------------|--|------|---------------------------|-------|
| | | | <p>not reported to AFCARS. In each case the AFCARS data indicated the child only had one removal.</p> <p><u>Foster care element #24 Case File Review Findings:</u> 8 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In six of the error cases, the reviewers found more placements than what was reported in AFCARS. All were placements that occurred prior to the implementation of ORCA.</p> <p><u>Foster care elements #47 and #48 Case File Review Findings:</u> The significant issue found in the case file review was that this element was reported as blank, but the reviewers found a TPR or a deceased date.</p> | | | |