

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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Modifications to the Use of CFSR Statewide Data Indicators

On October 11, 2016, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued Technical Bulletin #9 (TB#9), which outlined changes to the use of CFSR statewide data indicators in Round 3. As discussed in TB#9, the changes are due in part to issues discovered last spring regarding technical errors in the syntax of the data indicators. Consequently, ACF has suspended the use of data indicators as a factor in calculating substantial conformity on outcomes. All other aspects of the CFSR review process, including relying on case review findings, remain in place. National standards and state performance on the indicators will still be published and used with all states in Round 3 for contextual information.

The Children's Bureau (CB) continues to value the indicators as a helpful way to draw public attention to and foster state accountability for important indicators of safety and permanency for children and families who are served by state child welfare systems.

For states reviewed in FY 2015, the CB will revise and reissue Final Reports to reflect changes to the use of CFSR data indicators. No conformity determinations will change due to these revisions. The CB will also request changes to Program Improvement Plan measurement plans as appropriate.

For states reviewed in FY 2016, Final Reports will reflect these changes.

States do not need to revise any other CB-requested documents or plans in progress to reflect these changes. Revised syntax, national standards, state-by-state performance, and related materials will be published by the end of 2016.

TB#9 and its associated transmittal letter (which includes the "List of CFSR Round 3 Data Indicators Issues as of Publication") are available at <https://training.cfsrportal.org/resources/3105> (scroll down to "CFSR Technical Bulletins and Related Information").

Online Monitoring System: Modifications

The CB modified the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) Online Monitoring System (OMS) to include a pop-up message when users create a new case. The message helps users

verify that the case is being created in the intended OMS site (CQI or CFSR). The pop-up message appears only for users who have access to both the CQI and CFSR OMS sites for the same state. The CB also redesigned the homepage for users who have OMS access to CFSR and CQI reviews. When they open the homepage, they will see two boxes: one containing CFSR reviews, the other containing CQI reviews.

Another modification of note involves functionality related to Program Improvement Plan monitoring. The first modification involves the “PIP Monitored” checkbox on the Case Setup page. Any Reviewer, Site Leader, or OMS State Administrator who creates a case can check the box, but the box is clickable only at case creation. The second modification, to the “PIP Monitored Cases Only” checkbox filter on the OSRI landing page, created a “PIP Monitored” dropdown filter that enables users to view all cases, only PIP Monitored cases, or only non-PIP Monitored cases.

A new report, “Narratives for ‘No’ Responses,” was created to capture narratives from text fields when questions are answered “No” and to identify the practices or issues that contribute to Area Needing Improvement (ANI) ratings. Question 6A2 was also updated to pre-fill the number of months in care at the time of the onsite review.

Year 3 CFSR News: Six States Request Traditional Reviews

States undergoing Traditional Reviews in FY 2017 include Alaska, Nebraska, New Jersey, Missouri, Montana, and Colorado. The dates of their reviews are:

FY 2017 Traditional Reviews

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|--------------|------------------|
| • Alaska | May 22–26 |
| • Nebraska | June 5–9 |
| • New Jersey | July 10–14 |
| • Missouri | July 24–28 |
| • Montana | July 31–August 4 |
| • Colorado | September 18–22 |

NEW on the CFSR Portal: Round 3 Local Site Coordinator Toolkit

The Local Site Coordinator Toolkit, new on the CFSR Information Portal, is designed to help Local Site Coordinators understand their roles and responsibilities in preparing their review sites for participation in Round 3 of the CFSRs. The toolkit provides concrete “next steps” in preparing for and conducting Traditional Reviews. Seven checklists, covering the period from 6 months before the onsite review through the end of the review, provide an overview of review activities and the time frames for completing them. Links to useful CFSR-related materials are incorporated in the toolkit. Appendices include a CFSR Review Site Checklist to assist with facilitating logistics for the review week, a CFSR Site Interview Schedule, and Case Elimination Worksheets for in-home and foster care cases.

The Local Site Coordinator Toolkit is on the CFSR Information Portal on the CFSR Round 3 Resources page under the header, “Logistics, Recruitment, and State Planning,” available at <https://training.cfsrportal.org/resources/3105>.

Overview of the CFSR Unit

The CFSR Unit is one of eight CB divisions/teams that work collaboratively to support its mission. The CFSR Unit works closely with the federal CB Regional Offices and the states to administer the CFSRs.

The CFSR Unit supervisor, Miranda Lynch Thomas, is resigning from the Children's Bureau at the end of October. Upon Ms. Thomas's departure, Linda Mitchell will assume responsibility for the unit on an acting basis.

Members of the unit include:

- Misty Carlyle
- James Gregory
- Sylvia Kim
- Danielle McConaga
- Richard Longoria
- Linda Mitchell
- Esther Sherrard
- Heather Swope

The CFSR Unit is supported in its work by JBS's Child Welfare Reviews Project and a team of Child Welfare Specialists that includes:

- Angela Adams, JBS
- Don Adams, ICF International (ICF)
- Robert Baptista, ICF
- Elizabeth Jones-Ferguson, ICF
- Myrri McBride, ICF
- Allison McDowell, JBS