

“Systemic Factors “ 2007 Child and Family Service Review: Report on Findings

Last Revised: September 2008

Systemic factors ratings are based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews. Systemic factors are scored on a 1 – 4 scale based on the number of items rated as strengths. If the systemic factor score is **1 or 2** it does not meet the federal standard. If the systemic factor score is **3 or 4** it meets the federal standard.

Systemic factor ‘items’ are rated either a strength (**S**) or area needing improvement (**ANI**).

| Systemic Factor ‘Item’ Ratings | | | Systemic Factor Ratings |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| Statewide Information System | | | 4 |
| S | Identify status, demographics, characteristics, location and goals for children in foster care. | SACWIS compliant. Stakeholders confirmed system capacity, access to training, management reports, online assistance. | |
| Case Review System | | | 2 |
| ANI | Process to ensure child/family participation in case planning | Process is in place according to MN statutes/rules, but there is evidence that parents and children aren’t consistently involved in case planning. | |
| S | Periodic review of child status every 6 months | Foster care cases are reviewed in court every 90 days. CJI acknowledged for improving the timeliness and quality of hearings. | |
| S | Permanency hearing – 12 months | Permanency hearings are typically held within 12 months. | |
| S | Process for TPR | Process for TPR is in place. TPR’s or compelling reasons to the contrary are typically part of the case record. | |
| ANI | Notification of hearings to foster parent, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers | The process for notification is in place, court administrators are responsible for sending notice. Stakeholder comments that notification is not required, that there are no procedures for notification, or receipt of notice is inconsistent. | |
| Quality Assurance System | | | 4 |
| S | Quality of services to children in foster care | This item applies to child care licensing standards and all federal requirements are met or exceeded. MN did not meet the national standard for CAN in foster care. | |

| Systemic Factor 'Item' Ratings | | | Systemic Factor Ratings |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| S | Quality assurance system | The state's quality assurance system met all federal standards. | |
| Training System | | | 3 |
| S | Training to support CFSP and initial training | Reasons for ANI as contained in the CFSR report are contradictory and inconsistent with the state's assessment. ANI - inconsistent completion of required initial training, no process for tracking completion of initial training, timely access to training. Contrary to the findings, stakeholders in all counties reported that, "CORE training is received by staff within 6 months of hire," and all staff training records are available through the Department's Pathlore system. | |
| ANI | Ongoing training | Reasons for ANI were inconsistent practices of tracking training hours and difficulties accessing training. Contrary to the findings, all staff training records are available through the Pathlore system, and access to training is a function of the regionalization of the training system. Numerous related and specialized trainings are held throughout the state, throughout the year based on a local assessment of training needs. | |
| S | Foster and adoptive parent training | Positive findings from statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews. | |
| Service Array | | | 1 |
| ANI | Service array to prevent placement and achieve permanency | Gaps and shortages for some services across counties; specific shortages for mental health, child psychiatry, substance abuse treatment, therapeutic foster care, domestic violence, and respite care. Funding cuts seen as an overarching barrier. | |
| ANI | Services are accessible in all jurisdictions | Much of the rating for this item was in regard to stakeholder comments about waiting lists, transportation and service location. Urban vs. rural service array, culturally appropriate CD tx, transportation and waiting lists for MH. Contrary to findings, services are available in all jurisdictions based on assessment of local need. Counties provide, contract for, or form regional alliances to make services accessible. | |

| Systemic Factor 'Item' Ratings | | | Systemic Factor Ratings |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| ANI | Services can be individualized | Reasons for ANI were fragmented services and inconsistencies in individualized plans. Barriers with non-English speaking families. | |
| Agency Responsiveness to the Community | | | 4 |
| S | Develop CFSP in consultation with counties, tribes, providers, etc. | The state met all federal requirements for agency responsiveness items. | |
| S | Develop annual reports in consultation with counties, tribes, providers, etc. | Same as above. | |
| S | Services are coordinated with other federal programs | Same as above. | |
| Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention | | | 3 |
| S | Licensing standards for foster homes and child care institutions in accord with national standards | The state met all federal requirements for this item. | |
| S | Standards are applied to all licensed homes and facilities that receive IV-E or IV-B funds | Same as above. | |
| S | Meets federal requirements for background checks | The state met all federal requirements for this item. Acknowledged the implementation of Adam Walsh Act. | |
| ANI | Process for ensuring diligent recruitment to reflect ethnic and racial diversity | Numerous examples of diligent efforts: state requirements that all counties and child placing agencies have a plan to recruit ethnic and racially diverse providers; practice guides that provide culturally specific guidance for recruitment; PPAI requirements of child specific recruitment, breakthrough series collaborative on recruitment/retention; KSTP-TV adoption exchange partner; recruitment grants. Hennepin Co. stakeholders had many positive comments and noted lack of day care assistance for foster parents as the only barrier. Carlton Co. is not actively recruiting but has access to 35 tribally licensed homes. | |
| S | Process for use of cross jurisdictional resources | The state met all federal requirements for this item. | |

