Foster Care Re-entry

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CJI/Child Protection Conference

Connections Matter
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What is Re-Entry

A child enters foster care within 12 months of a previous discharge from an out-of-home placement.
Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSR)

- Federal CFSR in Minnesota 2001
  - Outcome based review
    - Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations
      - Re-entry evaluated by:
        » Case Review Data
        » Aggregate State Data compared to the National Standards
CFSR

- National Standards
  - 6 Standards
  - Based on 75 percentile of all states performance
  - Re-entry National Standard = 8.6% or less
# MN National Standards Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>National Standard</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repeat Maltreatment</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse/Neglect in Foster Care</td>
<td>.57%</td>
<td>.2%</td>
<td>.41%</td>
<td>.28%</td>
<td>.37%</td>
<td>.4%</td>
<td>.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care Re-Entry</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement Stability</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
<td>89.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely Reunification</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely Adoption</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## MN Re-Entry & Reunification National Standard Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Re-entry</th>
<th>Reunification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>90.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>91.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>91.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>90.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>91.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>91.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CFSR 1st Round
Re-entry Performance

- Performance at the time of Federal CFSR
- 2001-2005
- ½ states met re-entry national standard
- MN was #50/52
# CFSR 1st Round Re-entry Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range of Foster Care Re-entry Exceeding the National Standard (8.6%)</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.7% to 12%</td>
<td>IL, HI, TN, AR, AZ, CA, KY, ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1% to 16%</td>
<td>NH, OH, IN, SD, WA, UT, OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.1% to 20%</td>
<td>ND, RI, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.1% to 24%</td>
<td>PA, MT, OR, DC, MA, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.1% to 25.5%</td>
<td>IA, WI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Efforts to Reduce Re-Entry

■ 2003
  – Foster Care Re-Entry Introduced as part of the CCSA Plan
  – County performance provided

■ 2004
  – Individual County Re-Entry Plans
    • Define placements
    • Clean up data entry practices
    • Case analysis of re-entry circumstances
    • Strategies developed
Efforts to Reduce Re-Entry

- **2006/2007**
  - CCSA Plans
    - Counties set goal and develop strategies to reduce foster care re-entries.

- **2003 to Today**
  - Minnesota County Child and Family Service Reviews
    - National Standard performance
    - Case Reviews
  - County Program Improvement Plans (PIP)
Item 5: Foster care re-entries

- Focus: Whether children who entered foster care during the period under review were re-entering within 12 months of a prior discharge

- Failed Trial home visits do NOT count as a re-entry
- Agency efforts to prevent re-entry are considered
## Case Review Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFSR- MN 2001</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fed.CFSR 01-04</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnCFSR 2003</td>
<td>75.93%</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnCFSR 2004</td>
<td>84.48%</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnCFSR 2005</td>
<td>68.97%</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnCFSR 2006</td>
<td>80.43%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnCFSR 03-06</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What contributes to Re-entry in your county?
Re-entry Research

Most research is focused on factors associated with re-entry (Bronson 2005)

- Parental ambivalence
- Parent’s mental health
- Parent’s chemical health
- Poverty
- Placement instability
- Family coherence
- Non-relative plcmt
- # of service goals and tasks for the family
- Children with health/behavior difficulties
- Lack of reunification services and case management
Promising Approaches

Assessment
Case Planning
Planning post-placement
Corrections
Re-entry case review
Assessment
Agency use of short stays

- Profile of the child
- Case Planning conferences – Group family conference
- Safety plans
- Crisis plans with drills
Case Planning

- Relationship between the foster parent and parents
- Social worker visits
- Chemical health treatment
- Visitation
  - Setting/frequency
  - Trial home visits
  - Shared family care
Trial Home Visits
Mn Statute 260C.201

- County maintains custody of the child, parent has physical custody of the child
- County agency can remove the child from the parent’s care prior to court authorization
- THV should not exceed 6 months
- Permanency clock continues during THV
Planning post placement services

- Foster parent recommendations
- Assessing needs / case plan
- Formal and informal services
- Crisis plans with drills
Formal and Informal Support Systems

- **Formal**
  - Respite care
  - Child Care
  - Transportation
  - Mentor
  - Training
  - In-home counseling
  - PCA
  - Parenting supports
  - Financial programs

- **Informal**
  - Extended family
  - Babysitting
  - Transportation
  - Laundry
  - Meals
  - Shopping
  - Homework
  - Activities
  - Family assistance
Re-entry Case review