

To: DMCPs/DCF Administrators
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove 
Administrator

Re: Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Child and Family Services Review Webinar Series

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform counties and partner agencies about an opportunity to learn about Wisconsin's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process that will be scheduled in Federal Fiscal Year 2018 which goes from October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018. A date within this period has not yet been established for Wisconsin's review. An essential part of the review process is to engage stakeholders in identifying strengths and challenges as part of the state's self- assessment that is submitted prior to the federal review.

BACKGROUND

As a condition of federal funding for services provided through Titles IV-E and IV-B funding, states must conduct a comprehensive review of their child welfare system every 5-10 years. This review is called the Child and Family Services Review or CFSR. This memo provides information about this process so that key partners and stakeholder agencies have a basic understanding of the CFSR process and background to provide meaningful input into the review process.

Federal reviews require a comprehensive examination of key areas of state functioning. Areas measured include:

- State performance on nationally developed outcome measures in the area of safety and permanence.
- Analysis of a sample of child welfare cases using the federal case review process to determine if 18 practice outcomes relating to safety, permanence and well-being are achieved and,
- Assessment of state system functioning of seven systemic factors.

DCF must submit its statewide assessment to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Children's Bureau 90 days prior to the federal on-site review. Based on its review of the state self-assessment and its findings during the federal site visit, the federal government issues its report to the state. The federal report typically results in the need for a state to develop a Program Improvement Plan or PIP to address shortcomings identified in any of the 3 major areas of the CFSR. States have 90 days to develop their PIP, which is also an effort that involves key stakeholder engagement to identify how to address challenges identified in the state's child welfare system. Once a PIP is approved, states have two years to execute the plan.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

The webinars are intended to provide basic information to stakeholders about the CFSR process. As DCF works with stakeholder groups to provide input on the statewide assessment, we are encouraging stakeholder agencies and other interested parties to view the webinars to become familiar with the process. The first webinar provides background information and a summary of the overall CFSR process. The second webinar of the series introduces the 7 child welfare performance metrics and Wisconsin's historical and current performance compared to both the current national standard and several comparison states. Part 3 provides an overview of the case review process. .The fourth webinar examines the seven systemic factors that are analyzed as part of the CFSR. DCF is also developing a webinar that will provide a more detailed review of the methodology for each of the 7 national performance standards.

Next Steps

DCF intends to use existing stakeholder meetings to provide opportunities for input over the next several months. Examples of these meetings include the Secretary's Child Welfare Council, the Out-of-Home Care Committee, the Foster Parent Advisory Council, the Youth Advisory Council, ICW Directors meetings, the Wisconsin County Human Services Association Policy Advisory Committee, and the Judicial Committee on Child Welfare.

Webinars and background information are available at the following link - <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cfsr>

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