

Child and Family Services Reviews Update

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2015 and 2016 Reviews

States undergoing Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) in 2015 include Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Vermont. Vermont and Massachusetts are participating in Traditional Reviews: The Vermont review is scheduled for the week of June 15, 2015, and the Massachusetts review is scheduled for the week of September 21, 2015. The Children's Bureau has approved the remaining states to conduct their own case reviews for CFSR purposes. For these states, case review activities began in April. Kansas will complete its case review within the first 2 months of the case review period while Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, New Mexico, and North Carolina will continue reviewing cases across the entire 6-month case review period, completing reviews by September 30, 2015. The Children's Bureau is working closely with each of the 2015 states through September to review statewide assessments, observe case review and quality assurance processes, and schedule and conduct stakeholder interviews.

South Dakota, Indiana, Oregon, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Florida, Arkansas, California, Texas, Idaho, Kentucky, New York, District of Columbia, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Connecticut are scheduled for review in 2016. Each of these states has been asked to submit a letter of intent, indicating whether the state would like to conduct its own case review for CFSR purposes, to the state's Children's Bureau Regional Program Manager by July 15, 2015. The Children's Bureau will consider a state's request to conduct its own case review if the state can demonstrate that it can meet the following requirements by April 1, 2016, and throughout the 6-month review period:

- An internal case review process that at least annually assesses statewide practice performance for the key child welfare areas using a uniform sampling process and methodology
- A process for ensuring accurate and consistent case review ratings
- Application of the federal Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) using the uniform sample process and method established by the agency for the initial determination of conformity

The Children's Bureau works closely with the state to review the state's capacity to meet each of these requirements and will notify the state of a decision by October 1, 2015. Currently, Indiana and North Dakota have indicated that they will seek a Traditional Review. Florida, Texas, Idaho, Kentucky, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Oklahoma are pursuing approval for State Conducted Case Reviews.

Integrating the CFSR With the CFSP/APSR

The CFSR process is intended to be coordinated with other federal child welfare requirements, including the planning and monitoring of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). In Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-15-03, issued March 31, 2015, the Children's Bureau reiterated its commitment to joint planning with states to build on the steps taken to integrate these processes in the 2015–2019 CFSP. To this end, states must use the most recent information about the state's performance on statewide data indicators to complete their 2016 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). States are to review and revise their goals and objectives as needed to focus performance improvement on the CFSR statewide data indicators, the systemic factors, and the current OSRI items. States also must assess performance on the systemic factors using data and information that demonstrates the functioning of the revised items for each systemic factor.

To further integrate the CFSR with the CFSP/APSR, the Children's Bureau allows states to cite performance information previously reported in the CFSR statewide assessment in the 2016 APSR rather than repeating the information. States preparing statewide assessments for the 2016 CFSRs may cite performance information in their 2016 APSRs.

For more information on the integration of the CFSR with the CFSP/APSR, see the *CFSR Procedures Manual*, available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/round3-cfsr-procedures-manual>, and PI ACYF-CB-PI-15-03 at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pi1503.pdf>

Round 3 Resources

The Children's Bureau offers a number of resources for Round 3 of the CFSRs for states. The *CFSR Procedures Manual*, instruments and guides, Technical Bulletins, and topical fact sheets relating to the CFSRs may be found on the Children's Bureau website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews/round3> or on the CFSR Information Portal at <https://training.cfsrportal.org/resources/3105>. As always, states may also contact their Children's Bureau Regional Office Program Specialist for assistance.

Online Monitoring System

The CFSR Online Monitoring System (OMS) is a Web-based application consisting of the automated OSRI and Stakeholder Interview Guide (SIG), and reporting tools. The OMS assists the efforts of state and federal CFSR participants in conducting CFSR activities consistently. The OMS is used both when states conduct Traditional Reviews and when states conduct their own case reviews. In addition, states can use the OMS for continuous quality improvement (CQI) and training purposes. Fourteen states are currently using OMS for CQI purposes.

The capacity of the OMS was expanded in April 2015 with the addition of two new user roles. The Observer role allows a user to view information entered into the OMS and run reports. The State Administrator role allows states more autonomy in maintaining their OMS sites and managing site users.

Round 3 CFSR Consultants

JBS International, Inc. (JBS)'s Child Welfare Reviews Project provides trained consultants to participate in the CFSRs. Consultants who have signed a contract with JBS may be identified to serve as QA/Note-Taking Consultants or CFSR Consultant Reviewers. QA/Note-Taking Consultants are part of the Quality Assurance team and are responsible for observing and providing feedback on the state's case review and quality assurance processes during State Conducted Case Reviews and for conducting quality assurance activities during Traditional

Reviews. QA/Note-Taking Consultants may also be called upon to take notes during stakeholder interviews in both kinds of reviews. The CFSR Consultant Reviewers conduct case reviews in a Traditional Review.

The CFSR Unit

The CFSR Unit is one of eight divisions/teams within the Children’s Bureau that work collaboratively to support the mission of the Children's Bureau. Miranda Lynch Thomas supervises the Unit. Members of the unit include:

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

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

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

The CFSR Unit works closely with the federal Children’s Bureau Regional Offices and the states to administer the CFSRs. Current state assignments for the Unit are:

Name	State
Angela Adams	AZ, MO, HI, NV
Don Adams	DE, KS, DC, PA, WV, MD
Robert Baptista	VT, MN, IN, ME, MI
Misty Carlyle	NC, CO, NH, RI
James Gregory	DE, FL, VA, AL
Sylvia Kim	GA, KS, SD, AR, SC, IA, UT
Richard Longoria	AZ, ND, WY, NE, MT, PR, IL
Miranda Lynch Thomas	NM
Myrri McBride	NC, TX, CA, OH, WI
Allison McDowell	MA, CT, ID, OR, AK
Linda Mitchell	VT, MA, OK, CT, MS
Esther Sherrard	GA, NY, KY, NJ, TN, WA
Heather Swope	NM, OK, LA, MS

Statewide Data Indicators

The Children’s Bureau has issued revisions to the statewide data indicators in a Federal Register notice with updated national standards and program improvement goal ranges, as well as an amended CFSR Technical Bulletin (TB) #8A, which provides additional technical information and discussion relevant to the statewide data indicators, national standards, and states’ performance on them. The original CFSR TB #8 was issued concurrent with the October Federal Register notice but has been superseded by the amended TB#8A. Additionally, CB has

published the syntax that provides technical details on CB's calculation methodology, a revised workbook of all states' performance as of July 2014, a compilation of the two Federal Register documents, and a revised executive summary. All of these documents are posted on the CFSR Information Portal at <https://training.cfsrportal.org/resources/3105>. The Federal Register notice is published at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-11515> as well.