

# **Is the Third Time a Charm? Improved CFSR3 Measures and Opportunities for Innovation**

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# CFSR3 Data Overview

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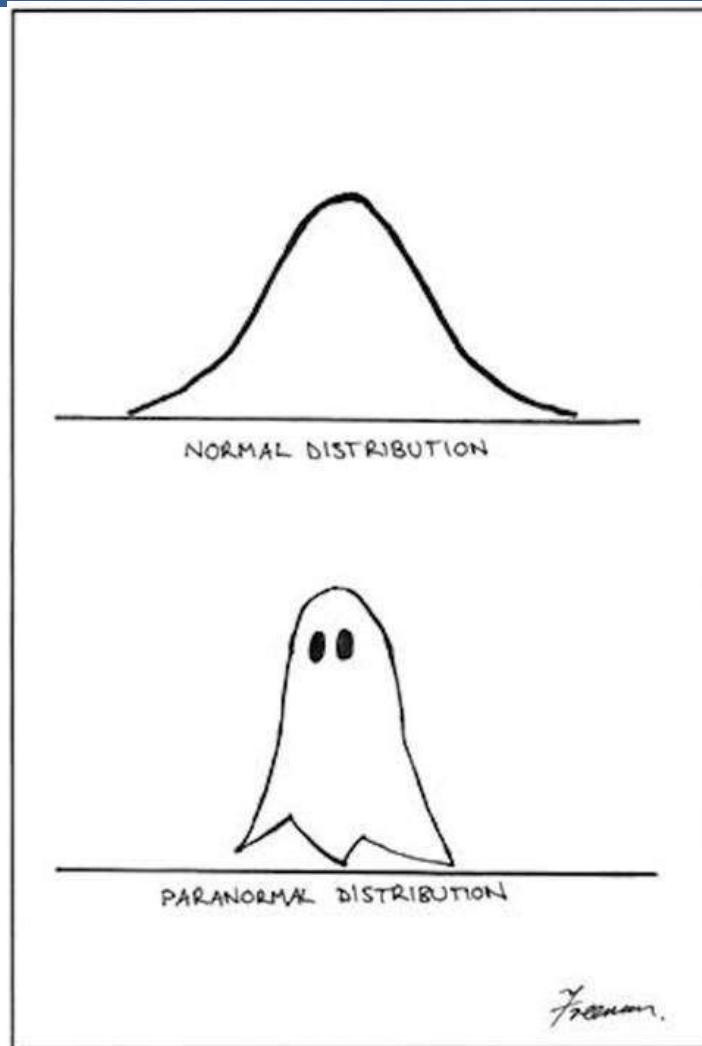
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# Season's Greetings!



# CFSR: Overall Goals

- Ensure conformity with title IV-B and IV-E child welfare requirements
- Determine what is happening to children and families who have contact with the child welfare system
- Support states to enhance their capacity to improve outcomes and systems for children and families

# CFSR3: What Has NOT Changed

- The process:
  1. Data profile (3 years data trends and national standards)
  2. Statewide assessment
  3. Onsite review
- Assessment based on the same 7 outcomes and 7 systemic factors using national standards and measures of expected performance
- States found to be “not in compliance” will continue to have the opportunity to improve their programs before facing the possibility of financial penalties

# Seven Outcomes

## **Safety**

1. Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
2. Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

## **Permanency**

3. Children have permanency and stability in their living arrangements.
4. The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

## **Child and Family Well-Being**

5. Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
6. Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
7. Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

# Seven Systemic Factors

1. Statewide Information System
2. Service Array
3. Case Review System
4. Staff Training
5. Quality Assurance System
6. Agency Responsiveness to the Community
7. Foster & Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, & Retention

# CFSR3: What Has Changed

- Statewide data indicators and national standards
- The statewide assessment and integration with the Child and Family Services Plans (CFSPs) and Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSRs)
- Onsite reviews
  - Stakeholder interviews
  - Case reviews



# Statewide Data Indicators: CFSR2 vs. CFSR3

- No composites!
- Fewer and simpler measures
- Greater reliance on entry cohorts
- Increased utility for jurisdictions
- More opportunity for CQI innovation

# CFSR3 Indicators

- Safety
  - S1: Maltreatment in foster care
  - S2: Re-report of maltreatment (?)
- Permanence
  - P1: Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care
  - P2: Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care for 2 years or more
  - P3: Re-entry to foster care
  - P4: Placement stability

# S1: Maltreatment in Foster Care

**Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization per day of foster care?**

- What's changed?
  - Rate of maltreatment per child days in foster care vs. percentage of children not maltreated in foster care
  - Includes all maltreatment types by any perpetrator vs. just maltreatment by foster parents/facility staff
- Includes all days in foster care during the year (across episodes)
- Multiple incidents of substantiated maltreatment for the same child are included in the numerator

# S2: Re-Report of Maltreatment

**Of all children who received a screened-in report of maltreatment during a 12-month period, what percent were reported again within 12 months from the date of initial report?**

- What's changed?
  - Window is 12 months vs. 6 months
  - There was much comment and this measure is not final!

# P1: Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Care

**Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care?**

- What's changed?
  - Expanded definition of permanence includes reunification, adoption, or guardianship (vs. reunification only)
  - Includes all children entering foster care during the year vs. just those who were removed for the first time
  - Entry cohort window is 12 months vs. 6 months

## P2: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care for 2+ Years

**Of all children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month period, who had been in foster care (in that episode) for 2 or more years, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?**

- What's changed?
  - Nothing yet
  - Much comment about longer stayers, so there may be changes/additions

# P3: Re-entry to Foster Care

**Of all children who enter foster care in a 12- month period and are discharged within 12 months to reunification or guardianship, what percent re-entered foster care within 12 months of their date of discharge?**

- What's changed?
  - Entry cohort (denominator includes all children who enter care during the year and exit within 12 months) vs. all children who exit during the year
  - Includes exits to reunification and guardianship vs. reunification only

# P4: Placement Stability

**Of all children who enter foster care in a 12- month period, what is the rate of placement moves per day of foster care?**

- What's changed?
  - Entry cohort vs. all children in care for less than 12 months
  - Controls for time in care by constructing a moves/placement day vs. the number of moves per child
  - Accurately accounts for actual number of moves vs. the prior “2 or more” indicator



# Measuring States' Performance

- National standard for each indicator will be set at the national observed performance for that particular indicator (similar to national average)
- Each state's performance will be measured using a multi-level statistical model, risk-adjusted for select child- and state-level characteristics (variables TBD)
- The goal is to minimize variation in outcomes due to factors over which states have little control (e.g., the average age of children in foster care in the state)
- Each state's risk-adjusted performance will be used to assess state's performance

# Meeting the National Standard

- States that fail to meet the National Standard will be required to include that indicator in their PIP
- Methodology for specifying state improvement goals is yet to be announced
- Baseline is the state's *observed* (rather than risk-adjusted) performance on the indicator for the most recent year of data available before the beginning of PIP implementation
- Performance goals and thresholds will be based on state's observed performance in the three most recent years of data
- The concept of “companion measures” will be addressed

# Statewide Assessment and Onsite Review

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# Statewide Assessment and Integration with the CFSP

- The CFSP (and APSRs) will be integrated with the statewide assessment process
- States can refer to their CFSP/APSR and update information only as needed
- The statewide assessment instrument will only focus on the specific questions needed for substantial conformity decisions and other regulatory requirements

# Onsite Review: Stakeholder Interviews

- Reserved for systemic factors where level of conformity is unclear from the statewide assessment (or CFSP/APSR)
- The scope of stakeholder interviews conducted will vary based on demonstrated level of functioning on each of the systemic factors in the statewide assessment
- Additional stakeholder interviews for a systemic factor may not be required (with the exception of service array)
- Where statewide assessment data is insufficient to determine substantial conformity, the joint federal-state team will determine which stakeholder interviews are necessary to gather additional information during the onsite review

# Onsite Review: Case Reviews

- States meeting specific criteria are encouraged to conduct their own case reviews using the revised federal CFSR onsite review instrument
- State policies, procedures, and other materials will be reviewed as needed to make a determination of whether a state's case review process can be used
- If approved, state must provide information so CB can participate in state's case review process
- The alternative is a more traditional week-long case review conducted jointly by the state and CB

# Criteria for Using State Case Review Process

- The state must:
  - Conduct annual (at least) internal case review process assessing statewide performance using a uniform sampling methodology
    - Minimum of 65 cases served during the sample period (40 foster care cases and 25 in-home cases)
  - Have a process in place for ensuring accurate and consistent case review ratings
  - Use the federal instrument, rating guidance, and instructions

# Conclusion

- Caveat: we don't have the final rule yet!
- We finally may have a CFSR process that will be helpful to CDSS and the counties, and can be PART of an ongoing CQI system



# Sources

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