

DCF - Family Services

Child and Family Services Review: Round 3

Program Improvement Plan

October 17th, 2019

Child and Family Services Review

1994

Federal legislation established the authority for the review process

2000

Vermont CFSR, Round 1

2007

Vermont CFSR, Round 2

Spring- 2015

Vermont CFSR, Round 3

Online Services Review Instrument (OSRI)

3

7 outcome areas

Measures 18 items

Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.2. Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.
Permanency	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.4. The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for families.
Family and Child Well-being	<ol style="list-style-type: none">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.

Spring 2015 Child and Family Services Review

- Vermont was the first state to be reviewed for Round 3
- A total of 65 cases were reviewed in Burlington, St. Johnsbury, and Bennington

- The bar is set VERY high during the CFSR
 - Many states only pass 1 or 2 items
 - Need to achieve 90% or higher to pass an item
 - Vermont passed 2 items:
 - item 2: services to protect children
 - Item 7: placement with siblings

Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

- In collaboration with the Feds, 9 items were identified to focus on during our PIP
- Goals ➡ Strategies ➡ Action Steps
- FSD's PIP was approved in July of 2016

Vermont's PIP

CFSR Items	Item Description
Item 1	Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment
Item 3	Risk and Safety Assessment and Management
Item 4	Stability of Foster Care Placement
Item 5	Permanency Goal for Child
Item 6	Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
Item 12	Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents
Item 13	Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning
Item 14	Caseworker Visits With Child
Item 15	Caseworker Visits With Parents

Vermont's Qualitative Case Reviews (QCRs)

PIP QCRs (started fall 2016-spring 2019)

- Every spring and fall
- 4 districts (always includes Burlington)
- 3- day reviews
- 65 randomly selected cases
- Designed similarly to the CFSR
- Stakeholders were trained and participated as reviewers

Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment

Safety

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- ▶ Timely CSI commencement according to policy
- ▶ Waivers issued according to policy
- ▶ Face-to-face contact with children according to policy

What is needed for strength rating:

- ▶ Documentation of commencement in accordance to policy
- ▶ Waivers are documented and follow up occurring as directed by policy
- ▶ Face-to-face contact with identified children occurs within policy guidelines

PIP Improvement Goal

86.9% PASSED!

Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Safety

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- ▶ Initial risk and safety assessments done and address concerns
- ▶ Ongoing risk and safety assessments regarding removal home
- ▶ Ongoing risk and safety assessments regarding foster placement
- ▶ Ongoing risk and safety assessments regarding visitation

What is needed for strength rating:

- ▶ Initial safety and risk assessments completed and documented in file
- ▶ Documentation of ongoing assessment of safety and risk in the removal home, foster placement and during visitation
- ▶ Informal safety and risk assessments (as documented in case notes) are considered as well as information gathered during interviews
- ▶ Safety incidents and concerns are addressed in a safety plan with the family as appropriate and being monitored throughout the case

PIP Improvement Goal

66.2% Did Not Pass

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Permanency

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- ▶ Placement changes planned and appropriate to reach goals and/or meet child's needs
- ▶ Current or most recent placement stable
 - ▶ Not a temporary setting
 - ▶ Not able to provide long term care
 - ▶ Issues threatening stability
 - ▶ Child has run away multiple times

What is needed for strength rating:

- ▶ Placement changes are planned and in accordance with achievement of case plan goals
- ▶ Placements are stable and are in alignment with achieving permanency for children and youth

PIP Improvement Goal

77.3% PASSED

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

Permanency

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- ▶ Permanency goals established timely and specified in file
- ▶ Permanency goals in effect during the PUR appropriate to the child's needs for permanency
- ▶ Timely TPR filing, if appropriate

What is needed for strength rating:

- ▶ Initial case plans are completed within 60 days
- ▶ Permanency goals are established timely and are appropriate to meet the child's needs
- ▶ Concurrent goals are addressed as appropriate throughout the case
- ▶ APPLA goals considered after other permanency goals have been appropriately addressed

PIP Improvement Goal

53.0% Did Not Pass

Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Permanency

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- ▶ Agency **and** court made concerted efforts to achieve permanency timely
- ▶ APPLA goal appropriate and efforts made to achieve timely

What is needed for strength rating:

- ▶ Concurrent planning efforts occurring for both goals throughout the case, as appropriate
- ▶ Permanency is achieved within federal timeframes (reunification within 12 months, adoption within 24 months)
- ▶ Timely TPR filing as appropriate

PIP Improvement Goal

53.0% PASSED

Item 12: Needs Assessment and Services to Children, Parents and Foster Parents

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- Initial and/or ongoing formal or informal comprehensive assessments conducted that accurately assessed the child's, parents' and foster parents' needs related to social/emotional development (ie, social competencies, attachment and caregiver relationships, social skills, coping skills)
- For children, needs assessment does not include education, medical/dental and mental health which are addressed in Items 16, 17, 18

What is needed for strength rating:

- Documentation of initial and ongoing assessments to determine needs and appropriate services for children, parents and foster parents, if applicable
- Assessments can be informal and documented within case notes
- Services provided are appropriate to meet the identified needs of children, parents and foster parents

PIP Improvement Goal

41.4% PASSED

Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Well-Being

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- ▶ Agency made concerted efforts to actively involve child (if developmentally appropriate) in case planning process
- ▶ Agency made concerted efforts to actively involve parents in case planning process

What is needed for strength rating:

- ▶ Documentation that child and family involved in case planning throughout the case
- ▶ Evidence supports that the child and family understand the case plan and what is required
- ▶ Information gathered through interviews is also considered to determine child and family involvement

PIP Improvement Goal

57.1% PASSED

Item 14: Caseworker Visits with Child

Well-Being

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- Frequency and quality of visits between caseworker and child sufficient to address issues pertaining to the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals
- Location of caseworker visit (in the child's placement setting)
- Time spent alone with the child during the visit

What is needed for strength rating:

- Visit frequency occurs monthly throughout the case
- Visit quality includes whether the agency was able to have private discussions with the child to discuss the goal and progress and assess and amend services if needed

PIP Improvement Goal

64.7% PASSED

Item 15: Caseworker Visits with Parents

Well-Being

Some factors considered in Item rating:

- Frequency and quality of visits between caseworker and parents sufficient to address issues pertaining to the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals
- Location of caseworker visit (for example, in a place conducive to open and honest conversation)
- Whether there was a focus on issues pertinent to case planning, service delivery and goal achievement

What is needed for strength rating:

- Visits occur regularly throughout the case
- Engagement with non-custodial parents including making ongoing concerted efforts to identify, locate and/or engage
- Visit quality includes whether the agency was able to have discussions about the goal progress and assess and amend services if needed

PIP Improvement Goal

50.8% Did Not Pass

PIP action steps: **Implemented**

- Pre-caseload training requirements for new hires
- SDM safety and risk tools
- Substance abuse screening capacity across districts
- Continued focus on the implementation of the Staff Safety policy and the role of the new Staff Safety Coordinator position
- Policy for CCO cases
- Expansion of the Beckett SxS program
- Qualitative Case Review process

PIP action steps: **Implemented**

- Reunification tool
- Case plans revisions
- Consistent statewide process for assessing potential caregivers
- Statewide FH recruitment and retention plan
- Method to track training records

- ▶ PIP ended on September 30th, 2019
- ▶ Vermont is the first state to complete Round 3
- ▶ The Children's Bureau will issue a letter soon regarding their final determination on FSDs achievement of goals