Child and Family Services Reviews

Rhode Island

Final Report

2018

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

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Final Report: Rhode Island Child and Family Services Review

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for the state of Rhode Island. The CFSRs enable the Children's Bureau to: (1) ensure conformity with certain federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is actually happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and (3) assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes. Federal law and regulations authorize the Children's Bureau, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, to administer the review of child and family services programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The CFSRs are structured to help states identify strengths and areas needing improvement in their child welfare practices and programs as well as institute systemic changes that will improve child and family outcomes.

The findings for Rhode Island are based on:

- The statewide assessment prepared by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families, and submitted to the Children's Bureau on April 9, 2018. The statewide assessment is the state's analysis of its performance on outcomes and the functioning of systemic factors in relation to title IV-B and IV-E requirements and the Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan.
- The results of case reviews of 65 cases (40 foster care and 25 in-home cases) from Bristol, Northern Rhode Island, and Providence, Rhode Island conducted via a Traditional Review process during the week of June 4, 2018.
- Interviews and focus groups with state stakeholders and partners, which included:
  - Administrative Review Unit
  - Adoption exchange
  - Attorneys for the agency and parents
  - Child welfare agency caseworkers and supervisors
  - Child welfare agency director and senior managers
  - Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) staff
  - Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
  - Court system and Court Improvement Program (CIP)
  - Foster, adoptive, and child care facility licensing staff
  - Foster and adoptive parents
  - Foster parent association
  - Judges

- Parents
- Service providers
- Staff of the Child Advocate Office
- Statewide information system staff
- Training staff
- Tribal representatives
- Youth served by the agency

In Round 3, the Children's Bureau suspended the use of the state's performance on the national standards for the 7 statewide data indicators in conformity decisions. For contextual information, Appendix A of this report shows the state's performance on the 7 data indicators. Moving forward, the Children's Bureau will refer to the national standards as "national performance." This national performance represents the performance of the nation on the statewide data indicators for an earlier point in time. For the time periods used to calculate the national performance for each indicator, see 80 Fed. Reg. 27263 (May 13, 2015).[1]

Background Information

The Round 3 CFSR assesses state performance with regard to substantial conformity with 7 child and family outcomes and 7 systemic factors. Each outcome incorporates 1 or more of the 18 items included in the case review, and each item is rated as a Strength or Area Needing Improvement based on an evaluation of certain child welfare practices and processes in the cases reviewed in the state. With two exceptions, an item is assigned an overall rating of Strength if 90% or more of the applicable cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies to those items. For a state to be in substantial conformity with a particular outcome, 95% or more of the cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome.

Eighteen items are considered in assessing the state's substantial conformity with the 7 systemic factors. Each item reflects a key federal program requirement relevant to the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) for that systemic factor. An item is rated as a Strength or an Area Needing Improvement based on how well the item-specific requirement is functioning. A determination of the rating is based on information provided by the state to demonstrate the functioning of the systemic factor in the statewide assessment and, as needed, from interviews with stakeholders and partners. For a state to be in substantial conformity with the systemic factors, no more than 1 of the items associated with the systemic factor can be rated as an Area Needing Improvement. For systemic factors that have only 1 item associated with them, that item must be rated as a Strength for a determination of substantial conformity.

The Children's Bureau made several changes to the CFSR process and items and indicators relevant for performance based on lessons learned during the second round of reviews and in response to feedback from the child welfare field. As such, a state's

[1] May 2017 revised syntax (pending final verification) uses 2 years of NCANDS data to calculate performance for the Maltreatment in Foster Care indicator. National performance is based on FY 2013–2014 and 2013AB files. All other indicators use the same time periods identified in the May 2015 Federal Register notice.

performance in the third round of the CFSRs is not directly comparable to its performance in the second round. Appendix A provides tables presenting Rhode Island's overall performance in Round 3. Appendix B provides information about Rhode Island's performance in Round 2.

I. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

Rhode Island 2018 CFSR Assessment of Substantial Conformity for Outcomes and Systemic Factors

None of the 7 outcomes was found to be in substantial conformity.

The following 2 of the 7 systemic factors were found to be in substantial conformity:

- Statewide Information System
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Children's Bureau Comments on Rhode Island Performance

The following are the Children's Bureau's observations about cross-cutting issues and Rhode Island's overall performance:

The CFSR identified several cross-cutting practice areas that affect the state's ability to meet safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. The Children's Bureau strongly encourages Rhode Island to focus its Program Improvement Plan on the following key issues: developing appropriate safety plans; conducting ongoing quality safety and risk assessments; achieving timely permanency for children in foster care; enhancing practice for children remaining in the home; engaging with parents; and ensuring appropriate assessment of, and service delivery to, children and families. The state is in substantial conformity with two systemic factors, which can provide a foundation on which to move forward with improvement efforts.

The CFSR identified significant challenges with assessing and managing risk and safety concerns for children in placement and particularly for children remaining in their own homes. Assessments were incomplete, not conducted, not completed at critical points in the case, or conducted but failed to consider all children and other adults in the home. In the majority of applicable cases, safety plans were either inadequate, not developed when needed, or lacked consistent monitoring. DCYF's ability to meet its own policy on investigation time frames for face-to-face contact with children within shift or within 24 hours was inconsistent.

A lack of urgency was seen in achieving permanency goals, particularly with the state's ability to finalize timely adoptions. Agency-related concerns affecting permanency included delays in establishing, revising, or pursuing goals; delays in licensing adoptive resources; and delays in filing timely termination of parental rights (TPR) petitions. Court-related barriers included multiple court continuances and a lengthy appeal process. In addition, in some instances the review identified an unwillingness by the agency and the court to move forward with the goal of adoption without an identified adoptive resource.

The CFSR found that Rhode Island was better able to meet the well-being needs of children in foster care than those remaining in their homes. Concerted efforts were made to comprehensively assess the needs of children in foster care, engage them in case planning, and visit with them at least monthly. The same was not true for children remaining in the home. The state's strongest area of practice was found in meeting the educational needs of children in placement. DCYF assessed educational needs and ensured appropriate services were provided, such as developmental supports, occupational and speech therapy, and special education services.

DCYF's failure to engage parents was a concern in both in-home and foster care cases. Case reviews found that parents were not being assessed for or provided appropriate services to meet their needs. Parents were also not involved in case planning and caseworkers were not visiting parents often enough to engage them and promote achievement of case goals. While performance in these areas was poor for both mothers and fathers, it was slightly worse for fathers.

The identification and involvement of relatives was a positive factor in many cases reviewed. Relatives supported efforts to mitigate safety concerns, provide stable placements, maintain significant connections for children removed from home, and achieve permanency. DCYF successfully placed siblings together when possible and maintained contact between siblings when placed separately. However, the CFSR found significant delays in licensing kinship homes, and that training for kinship providers does not effectively prepare them for their role. Resource families, including kinship providers, are not consistently provided the support they need. There are also insufficient non-kinship placement resources to meet the needs of children requiring placement in Rhode Island, including foster family homes for teens and therapeutic homes. DCYF's recent re-procurement of its service array was generally viewed as a positive shift by stakeholders. However, the effect of this recent re-procurement on the quality of casework practice was not seen during the period under review.

The CFSR observed a child welfare system in which the high volume of cases, in addition to broader systemic challenges, affects caseworkers, attorneys, and the courts, and compromises the state's ability to achieve positive outcomes. Caseworkers struggle to consistently engage in fundamental practice, and agency attorneys are challenged in their ability to provide timely legal support to caseworkers or effectively advocate DCYF's recommendations to the court. The state also lacks a fully functional training system that ensures workers have the knowledge and skills they need to work effectively with families. Collectively, this undermines confidence in DCYF's capacity and decision-making, which hinders the ability of the agency and court to work constructively together to ensure children have safe permanent families. Further exploration by the state is needed to identify contributing factors preventing the system from working in concert to effectively move children to permanency in a timely manner.

The Children's Bureau notes that two systemic factors in which the state is in substantial conformity could be further leveraged to address some areas that need improvement. Rhode Island's statewide information system captures accurate data on the status, demographics, location, and goals for the placement of children in foster care and has the capacity to provide numerous performance reports. In addition, stakeholders consistently reported that since the most recent change in DCYF leadership, there has been a positive shift in the level of communication and collaboration from the agency with the court and larger child welfare community. Stakeholders also noted that DCYF partners with a number of other state agencies to coordinate benefits and services for families.

Furthermore, DCYF has many components of a continuous quality improvement (CQI) system. This includes data and program evaluation and active contract management. However, a key component of CQI is the development of feedback loops, and DCYF would benefit from stronger engagement with the larger child welfare community, including consumers, workers and supervisors; service providers; and judges. Hearing directly from those "on the ground" would lend valuable perspective to management reports and provide the additional expertise to further define systemic challenges and refine improvement efforts. In addition, DCYF needs to develop a fully functional case review process capable of regularly gathering timely and accurate data on outcomes for children and families.

II. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO OUTCOMES

For each outcome, we provide performance summaries from the case review findings. The CFSR relies upon a case review of an approved sample of foster care cases and in-home services cases. Where relevant, we provide performance summaries that are differentiated between foster care and in-home services cases.

This report provides an overview. Results have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Details on each case rating are available to DCYF. The state is encouraged to conduct additional item-specific analysis of the case review findings to better understand areas of practice that are associated with positive outcomes and those that need improvement.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

The Children's Bureau calculates the state's performance on Safety Outcome 1 using the state's performance on Item 1.

State Outcome Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 60% of the 30 applicable cases reviewed.

Safety Outcome 1 Item Performance

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

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether responses to all accepted child maltreatment reports received during the period under review were initiated, and face-to-face contact with the child(ren) made, within the time frames established by agency policies or state statutes.

State policy requires that all reports of child abuse and neglect are received through the centralized Child Abuse Hot Line and screened in accordance with the criteria for a CPS investigation as defined in Rhode Island General Law. Prior to May 15, 2018, reports were prioritized into three categories: Emergency, Immediate, and Routine. Emergency response reports required that a child protective investigator respond to the report within 10 minutes of assignment. Immediate response reports required that a child

protective investigator respond to the report within the shift in which the call was received. Routine response reports required that a child protective investigator respond to the report within 24 hours of assignment. Rhode Island promulgated new policy regarding the response times of child protective investigations effective May 15, 2018. However, none of the reports reviewed occurred after this date.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 1 because 60% of the 30 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.

For performance on the Safety statewide data indicators, see Appendix A.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

The Children's Bureau calculates the state's performance on Safety Outcome 2 using the state's performance on Items 2 and 3.

State Outcome Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 2.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 43% of the 65 cases reviewed.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 58% of the 40 foster care cases and 20% of the 25 in-home services cases.

Safety Outcome 2 Item Performance

Item 2. Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry Into Foster Care

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to provide services to the family to prevent children's entry into foster care or re-entry after a reunification.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 2 because 59% of the 17 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 2 was rated as a Strength in 82% of the 11 applicable foster care cases and 17% of the 6 applicable in-home services cases.

Item 3. Risk and Safety Assessment and Management

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to assess and address the risk and safety concerns relating to the child(ren) in their own homes or while in foster care.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 3 because 43% of the 65 cases were rated as a Strength.

- Item 3 was rated as a Strength in 58% of the 40 foster care cases and 20% of the 25 in-home services cases.

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

The Children's Bureau calculates the state's performance on Permanency Outcome 1 using the state's performance on Items 4, 5, and 6

State Outcome Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 1.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 13% of the 40 applicable cases reviewed.

Permanency Outcome 1 Item Performance

Item 4. Stability of Foster Care Placement

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether the child in foster care is in a stable placement at the time of the onsite review and that any changes in placement that occurred during the period under review were in the best interests of the child and consistent with achieving the child's permanency goal(s).

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 4 because 78% of the 40 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.

Item 5. Permanency Goal for Child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether appropriate permanency goals were established for the child in a timely manner.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 5 because 33% of the 40 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.

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

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether concerted efforts were made, or are being made, during the period under review to achieve reunification, guardianship, adoption, or other planned permanent living arrangement.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 6 because 25% of the 40 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.

For performance on the Permanency statewide data indicators, see Appendix A.

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

The Children's Bureau calculates the state's performance on Permanency Outcome 2 using the state's performance on Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

State Outcome Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with Permanency Outcome 2.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 68% of the 40 applicable cases reviewed.

Permanency Outcome 2 Item Performance

Item 7. Placement With Siblings

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to ensure that siblings in foster care are placed together unless a separation was necessary to meet the needs of one of the siblings.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 7 because 83% of the 24 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.

Item 8. Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to ensure that visitation between a child in foster care and his or her mother, father,[2] and siblings is of sufficient frequency and quality to promote continuity in the child's relationship with these close family members.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 8 because 69% of the 36 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- In 75% of the 16 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to ensure that both the frequency and quality of visitation with a sibling(s) in foster care who is/was in a different placement setting was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.

[2] For Item 8, "Mother" and "Father" are typically defined as the parents/caregivers from whom the child was removed and with whom the agency is working toward reunification. The persons identified in these roles for the purposes of the review may include individuals who do not meet the legal definitions or conventional meanings of a mother and father.

- In 76% of the 29 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to ensure that both the frequency and quality of visitation between the child in foster care and his or her mother was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.
- In 76% of the 17 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to ensure that both the frequency and quality of visitation between the child in foster care and his or her father was sufficient to maintain and promote the continuity of the relationship.

Item 9. Preserving Connections

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to maintain the child's connections to his or her neighborhood, community, faith, extended family, Tribe, school, and friends.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 9 because 70% of the 40 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.

Item 10. Relative Placement

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to place the child with relatives when appropriate.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 10 because 74% of the 35 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.

Item 11. Relationship of Child in Care With Parents

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and/or maintain positive relationships between the child in foster care and his or her mother and father[3] or other primary caregiver(s) from whom the child had been removed through activities other than just arranging for visitation.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 11 because 61% of the 33 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- In 66% of the 29 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive and nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother.
- In 59% of the 17 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to promote, support, and otherwise maintain a positive and nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her father.

[3] For Item 11, "Mother" and "Father" are typically defined as the parents/caregivers from whom the child was removed and with whom the agency is working toward reunification.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

The Children's Bureau calculates the state's performance on Well-Being Outcome 1 using the state's performance on Items 12, 13, 14, and 15.

State Outcome Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 1.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 26% of the 65 cases reviewed.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 35% of the 40 foster care cases and 12% of the 25 in-home services cases.

Well-Being Outcome 1 Item Performance

Item 12. Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency (1) made concerted efforts to assess the needs of children, parents,[4] and foster parents (both initially, if the child entered foster care or the case was opened during the period under review, and on an ongoing basis) to identify the services necessary to achieve case goals and adequately address the issues relevant to the agency's involvement with the family, and (2) provided the appropriate services.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 12 because 32% of the 65 cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 12 was rated as Strength in 45% of the 40 foster care cases and 12% of the 25 in-home services cases.

Item 12 is divided into three sub-items:

Sub-Item 12A. Needs Assessment and Services to Children

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Sub-Item 12A because 57% of the 65 cases were rated as a Strength.
- Sub-Item 12A was rated as a Strength in 73% of the 40 foster care cases and 32% of the 25 in-home services cases.

[4] For Sub-Item 12B, in the in-home cases, "Mother" and "Father" are typically defined as the parents/caregivers with whom the children were living when the agency became involved with the family and with whom the children will remain (for example, biological parents, relatives, guardians, adoptive parents). In the foster care cases, "Mother" and "Father" are typically defined as the parents/caregivers from whom the child was removed and with whom the agency is working toward reunification; however, biological parents who were not the parents from whom the child was removed may also be included, as may adoptive parents if the adoption was finalized during the period under review. A rating could consider the agency's work with multiple applicable "mothers" and "fathers" for the period under review in the case.

Sub-Item 12B. Needs Assessment and Services to Parents

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Sub-Item 12B because 32% of the 60 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- Sub-Item 12B was rated as a Strength in 43% of the 35 applicable foster care cases and 16% of the 25 applicable in-home services cases.
- In 38% of the 58 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts both to assess and address the needs of mothers.
- In 23% of the 43 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts both to assess and address the needs of fathers.

Sub-Item 12C. Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Sub-Item 12C because 68% of the 31 applicable foster care cases were rated as a Strength.

Item 13. Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made (or are being made) to involve parents[5] and children (if developmentally appropriate) in the case planning process on an ongoing basis.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 13 because 29% of the 65 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 13 was rated as a Strength in 40% of the 40 applicable foster care cases and 12% of the 25 applicable in-home services cases.
- In 56% of the 41 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to involve child(ren) in case planning.
- In 31% of the 58 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to involve mothers in case planning.
- In 21% of the 38 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to involve fathers in case planning.

[5] For Item 13, in the in-home cases, “Mother” and “Father” are typically defined as the parents/caregivers with whom the children were living when the agency became involved with the family and with whom the children will remain (for example, biological parents, relatives, guardians, adoptive parents). In the foster care cases, “mother” and “father” are typically defined as the parents/caregivers from whom the child was removed and with whom the agency is working toward reunification; however, biological parents who were not the parents from whom the child was removed may also be included, as may adoptive parents if the adoption was finalized during the period under review. A rating could consider the agency’s work with multiple applicable “mothers” and “fathers” for the period under review in the case.

Item 14. Caseworker Visits With Child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the child(ren) in the case are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child(ren) and promote achievement of case goals.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 14 because 52% of the 65 cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 14 was rated as a Strength in 68% of the 40 foster care cases and 28% of the 25 in-home services cases.

Item 15. Caseworker Visits With Parents

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the mothers and fathers[6] of the child(ren) are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child(ren) and promote achievement of case goals.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 15 because 20% of the 60 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 15 was rated as a Strength in 26% of the 35 applicable foster care cases and 12% of the 25 applicable in-home services cases.
- In 24% of the 58 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to ensure that both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with mothers were sufficient.
- In 16% of the 38 applicable cases, the agency made concerted efforts to ensure that both the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with fathers were sufficient.

[6] For Item 15, in the in-home cases, “Mother” and “Father” are typically defined as the parents/caregivers with whom the children were living when the agency became involved with the family and with whom the children will remain (for example, biological parents, relatives, guardians, adoptive parents). In the foster care cases, “Mother” and “Father” is typically defined as the parents/caregivers from whom the child was removed and with whom the agency is working toward reunification; however, biological parents who were not the parents from whom the child was removed may also be included, as may adoptive parents if the adoption was finalized during the period under review. A rating could consider the agency’s work with multiple applicable mother and fathers for the period under review in the case.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

The Children's Bureau calculates the state's performance on Well-Being Outcome 2 using the state's performance on Item 16.

State Outcome Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 2.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 80% of the 46 applicable cases reviewed.

Well-Being Outcome 2 Item Performance

Item 16. Educational Needs of the Child

Purpose of Assessment: To assess whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to assess children's educational needs at the initial contact with the child (if the case was opened during the period under review) or on an ongoing basis (if the case was opened before the period under review), and whether identified needs were appropriately addressed in case planning and case management activities.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 16 because 80% of the 46 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 16 was rated as a Strength in 88% of the 34 applicable foster care cases and 58% of the 12 applicable in-home services cases.

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

The Children's Bureau calculates the state's performance on Well-Being Outcome 3 using the state's performance on Items 17 and 18.

State Outcome Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with Well-Being Outcome 3.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 54% of the 59 applicable cases reviewed.

The outcome was substantially achieved in 60% of the 40 applicable foster care cases and 42% of the applicable 19 in-home services cases.

Well-Being Outcome 3 Item Performance

Item 17. Physical Health of the Child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency addressed the physical health needs of the children, including dental health needs.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 17 because 69% of the 45 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 17 was rated as a Strength in 73% of the 40 foster care cases and 40% of the 5 applicable in-home services cases.

Item 18. Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency addressed the mental/behavioral health needs of the children.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 18 because 59% of the 41 applicable cases were rated as a Strength.
- Item 18 was rated as a Strength in 74% of the 23 applicable foster care cases and 39% of the 18 applicable in-home services cases.

III. KEY FINDINGS RELATED TO SYSTEMIC FACTORS

For each systemic factor below, we provide performance summaries and a determination of whether the state is in substantial conformity with that systemic factor. In addition, we provide ratings for each item and a description of how the rating was determined.

The CFSR relies upon a review of information contained in the statewide assessment to assess each item. If an item rating cannot be determined from the information contained in the statewide assessment, the Children's Bureau conducts stakeholder interviews and considers information gathered through the interviews in determining ratings for each item.

Statewide Information System

The Children's Bureau assesses the state's performance on this systemic factor using the state's performance on Item 19.

State Systemic Factor Performance

Rhode Island is in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Statewide Information System. The one item in this systemic factor was rated as a Strength.

Statewide Information System Item Performance

Item 19. Statewide Information System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The statewide information system is functioning statewide to ensure that, at a minimum, the state can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child who is (or, within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Strength for Item 19 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information in the statewide assessment and collected during interviews with stakeholders showed that Rhode Island is operating a statewide information system that readily identifies the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for placement of every child in foster care and that processes are in place to ensure data accuracy.

Case Review System

The Children's Bureau assesses the state's performance on this systemic factor using the state's performance on Items 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

State Systemic Factor Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Case Review System. None of the 5 items in this systemic factor was rated as a Strength.

Case Review System Item Performance

Item 20. Written Case Plan

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parent(s) and includes the required provisions.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 20 based on information from the statewide assessment. Rhode Island agreed with this rating and felt that additional information collected during stakeholder interviews would not affect the rating.
- Information in the statewide assessment showed that DCYF consistently engages one, but not both, parents in the development of the case plan. In addition, information in the statewide assessment reported that case plans do not routinely address required provisions. For example, while the state reports that permanency goals and updated health records were consistently included in the case plan, transition planning for older youth was not. The state reported that high caseloads, worker turnover, and a lack of support staff to document service planning negatively affected performance.

Item 21. Periodic Reviews

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that a periodic review for each child occurs no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 21 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information in the statewide assessment and collected during interviews with stakeholders showed that although periodic reviews addressed the required provisions, the reviews were not occurring timely. In the statewide assessment, Rhode Island provided cumulative data showing that a little more than half of the children in foster care in a recent period had a timely periodic review at the 6-month mark, with less than half having a timely subsequent periodic review at the 12-month mark. Stakeholders attributed the lack of timely periodic reviews in part to the reduced workforce within the Administrative Review Unit.

Item 22. Permanency Hearings

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that each child has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body that occurs no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 22 based on information from the statewide assessment. Rhode Island agreed with this rating and felt that additional information collected during stakeholder interviews would not affect the rating.
- In the statewide assessment, Rhode Island presented information showing that permanency hearings for juvenile probation cases were not routinely scheduled. In addition, the state did not provide sufficient contextual information to ascertain whether the state was holding the initial permanency hearing timely within 12 months of a child entering foster care. Data presented in the statewide assessment showed that most children entering care had initial permanency hearings within 13 months of removal.

Item 23. Termination of Parental Rights

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning statewide to ensure that the filing of termination of parental rights proceedings occurs in accordance with required provisions.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 23 based on information from the statewide assessment. Rhode Island agreed with this rating and felt that additional information collected during stakeholder interviews would not affect the rating.
- Data in the statewide assessment showed that a termination of parental rights (TPR) petition had not been filed timely for a significant number of children in care for 15 months or more. Rhode Island identified several factors affecting performance on this item, including workload, service availability, and unwillingness to move forward with the TPR process when a child is not in a pre-adoptive home. In addition, the state said there was a need to better document compelling reasons not to file a TPR and reported that a review of records found that approximately one-fifth of the applicable cases did not have a compelling reason documented.

Item 24. Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The case review system is functioning to ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care are notified of, and have a right to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 24 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information in the statewide assessment and confirmed during interviews with stakeholders showed that Rhode Island does not have a consistent practice across the state for notifying foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of

any reviews or hearings held with respect to children in foster care. Rhode Island does have a system-generated notification process; however, notices of scheduling changes are not consistently sent to caregivers. Stakeholders also reported a lack of consistency throughout the state in providing caregivers an opportunity to be heard when present at court hearings.

Quality Assurance System

The Children's Bureau assesses the state's performance on this systemic factor using the state's performance on Item 25.

State Systemic Factor Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Quality Assurance System. The one item in this systemic factor was rated as an Area Needing Improvement.

Quality Assurance System Item Performance

Item 25. Quality Assurance System

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The quality assurance system is functioning statewide to ensure that it (1) operating in the jurisdictions where the services included in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) are provided, (2) has standards to evaluate the quality of services (including standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect their health and safety), (3) identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, (4) provides relevant reports, and (5) evaluates implemented program improvement measures.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 25 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Data and information in the statewide assessment and collected during interviews with stakeholders provided evidence of many key aspects of a CQI system, specifically program and data evaluation processes. However, Rhode Island lacks a fully functional case review process that provides quality case review feedback on both in-home and out-of-home cases. The statewide assessment notes that in-home case reviews are either not consistently completed or lack sufficient documentation to support the ratings, which stakeholders connected to a lack of feedback that can be used to meaningfully affect practice. Reviews of in-home cases are completed by the supervisor of the caseworker assigned case management responsibility, rather than a neutral party. In addition, information in the statewide assessment raised concerns about the accuracy of the ratings for out-of-home cases.

Staff and Provider Training

The Children's Bureau assesses the state's performance on this systemic factor using the state's performance on Items 26, 27, and 28.

State Systemic Factor Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Staff and Provider Training. None of the items in this systemic factor was rated as a Strength.

Staff and Provider Training Item Performance

Item 26. Initial Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that initial training is provided to all staff who deliver services pursuant to the CFSP that includes the basic skills and knowledge required for their positions.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 26 based on information from the statewide assessment. Rhode Island agreed with this rating and felt that additional information collected during stakeholder interviews would not affect the rating.
- In the statewide assessment, Rhode Island provided information describing the established pre-service training protocol for Family Service Unit (FSU) social workers, child support technicians, and child protective staff and investigators. The content and structure of training varied based on the requirements of each position. There is no formalized pre-service training for Juvenile Probation officers. The state reported that the training unit responsible for providing new worker training is understaffed and does not have the capacity to meet the state's need for pre-service training. According to Rhode Island, trainers are unable to provide the level of attention previously afforded new hires, such as individualized support and weekly communication with supervisors. Although data are collected, Rhode Island is unable to analyze these data to determine the effectiveness of pre-service training.

Item 27. Ongoing Staff Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that ongoing training is provided for staff[7] that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 27 based on information from the statewide assessment. Rhode Island agreed with this rating and felt that additional information collected during stakeholder interviews would not affect the rating.
- In the statewide assessment, Rhode Island acknowledged a need for improvement and identified several barriers affecting performance. These barriers include a lack of training infrastructure, which has resulted in a dearth of available trainings, and a lack of adherence to the requirement that staff complete a minimum of 20 hours of training annually. Rhode Island reports being unable to determine to what degree the requirement for ongoing training is being met and noted that there is currently no consequence for staff failing to meet the requirement. In addition, information in the statewide assessment reported that while staff in various positions attend many in-service trainings, there is no specific in-service curriculum offered for particular positions, including supervisors.

Item 28. Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The staff and provider training system is functioning statewide to ensure that training is occurring statewide for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities (that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E) that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 28 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information in the statewide assessment and collected during interviews with stakeholders showed that the Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety and Permanence—Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (TIPS-MAPP) initial training for foster parents is effective and that the state has a process for measuring outcomes and conducting evaluation assessments. However, information in the statewide assessment and from stakeholders confirmed that the required modified TIPS-MAPP training for kinship families is not effective and that the state has difficulty ensuring that kinship families complete it. Rhode Island reported in the statewide assessment that there are no ongoing training requirements for foster and adoptive parents.

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[7] "Staff," for purposes of assessing this item, includes all contracted and non-contracted staff who have case management responsibilities in the areas of child protection services, family preservation and support services, foster care services, adoption services, and independent living services pursuant to the state's CFSP. "Staff" also includes direct supervisors of all contracted and non-contracted staff who have case management responsibilities in the areas of child protection services, family preservation and support services, foster care services, adoption services, and independent living services pursuant to the state's CFSP.

Stakeholders confirmed this and said caregivers must find their own training to meet the needs of children in their care as they do not receive the assistance they need with this.

Service Array and Resource Development

The Children's Bureau assesses the state's performance on this systemic factor using the state's performance on Items 29 and 30.

State Systemic Factor Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Service Array and Resource Development. None of the items in this systemic factor was rated as a Strength.

Service Array and Resource Development Item Performance

Item 29. Array of Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning to ensure that the following array of services is accessible in all political jurisdictions covered by the CFSP: (1) services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, (2) services that address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, (3) services that enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and (4) services that help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 29 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information in the statewide assessment and collected during interviews with stakeholders described a relatively new service array structure resulting in a positive shift in the availability of services. However, information in the statewide assessment and from stakeholders also reported definite gaps in the service array and the existence of waiting lists for some services. Services for which delays existed included parent-child evaluations, supervised visitation, and substance abuse services for youth. A shortage of options to step down children to less restrictive placements and a lack of treatment foster homes were also noted. Results of stakeholder interviews also revealed a gap between the reported current service array and the field's awareness of these services.

Item 30. Individualizing Services

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The service array and resource development system is functioning statewide to ensure that the services in Item 29 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 30 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.

- In the statewide assessment, Rhode Island described its ability to determine the individualized needs of clients. However, stakeholders reported that the process for accessing individualized services is not always clear to staff. Many stakeholders described difficulties in obtaining services and placements that are culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

The Children's Bureau assesses the state's performance on this systemic factor using the state's performance on Items 31 and 32.

State Systemic Factor Performance

Rhode Island is in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Agency Responsiveness to the Community. One of the items in this systemic factor was rated as a Strength.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community Item Performance

Item 31. State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that, in implementing the provisions of the CFSP and developing related APSRs, the state engages in ongoing consultation with Tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies and includes the major concerns of these representatives in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the CFSP.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 31 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- In the statewide assessment, Rhode Island provided information on the state's efforts to engage in ongoing consultation with several key stakeholders. Some stakeholders reported that recently DCYF has been more inclusive and collaborative with them on many levels ranging from policy and practice issues to individual cases. However, some stakeholders noted that opportunities to provide input to DCYF are limited. In addition, stakeholders also reported significant gaps in parental voice, and a lack of engagement with the Narragansett Tribe.

Item 32. Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The agency responsiveness to the community system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state's services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Strength for Item 32 based on information from the statewide assessment.
- Information in the statewide assessment demonstrated that DCYF coordinates with a variety of other agencies that provide federal or federally assisted services and benefits serving the same population. DCYF works collaboratively with agencies within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services on federally funded services for early childhood development and

behavioral health and on efforts to improve access to Medicaid for youth exiting care, in addition to the federally funded State Innovation Model Test Grant focused on enhancing the delivery and funding of health care services. Collaborative efforts with the Department of Education focus on enhancing educational stability and sharing data to ensure that the educational needs of foster children are being met. DCYF also participates in a number of other initiatives to improve coordination, such as the Children's Cabinet and the Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

The Children's Bureau assesses the state's performance on this systemic factor using the state's performance on Items 33, 34, 35, and 36.

State Systemic Factor Performance

Rhode Island is not in substantial conformity with the systemic factor of Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. One of the four items in this systemic factor was rated as a Strength.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention Item Performance

Item 33. Standards Applied Equally

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that state standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-B or IV-E funds.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 33 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information in the statewide assessment and collected during interviews with stakeholders showed that although the standards for kinship and non-kinship homes are the same, the application of these standards is inconsistent. Stakeholders reported that the standards are more stringently applied for licensing a non-kinship foster home. Stakeholders also said they receive inconsistent information on applying some of the standards; for example, the need to make significant repairs that were later determined to be unnecessary, or not learning about additional requirements until after the completion of initial training. Stakeholders said that DCYF appeared to be flexible on standards when it suited the agency's needs to make a placement. Stakeholders reported that standards established in regulation and monitored regularly by DCYF are applied equally to child care institutions statewide.

Item 34. Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning statewide to ensure that the state complies with federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or

approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements for children.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Strength for Item 34 based on information from the statewide assessment and stakeholder interviews.
- Information in the statewide assessment and collected during interviews with stakeholders showed that Rhode Island requires criminal background clearances for foster and adoptive families prior to placement and obtains fingerprint clearances prior to licensure.

Item 35. Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed is occurring statewide.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 35 based on information from the statewide assessment. Rhode Island agreed with this rating and felt that additional information collected during stakeholder interviews would not affect the rating.
- In the statewide assessment, Rhode Island identified gaps in its recruitment efforts and its ability to locate appropriate placements for children in care. Information in the statewide assessment also reported challenges with recruiting foster families in the communities where there are the most placements. Rhode Island has been making gains in the recruitment and retention of families but recognizes that more needs to be done.

Item 36. State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

Description of Systemic Factor Item: The foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system is functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide.

- Rhode Island received an overall rating of Area Needing Improvement for Item 36 based on information from the statewide assessment. Rhode Island agreed with this rating and felt that additional information collected during stakeholder interviews would not affect the rating.
- Information in the statewide assessment showed that although Rhode Island has made improvements with the timely completion of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) process using resources and technology, such as the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) and the Family Court Information Portal, internal stakeholders reported that caseworkers' high caseloads can often result in delays in preparing ICPC referrals for children. Rhode Island was not able to provide data on its ability to complete ICPC home studies within the 60-day federal guideline.

Appendix A
Summary of Rhode Island 2018 Child and Family Services Review Performance

I. Ratings for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes and Items

Outcome Achievement: Outcomes may be rated as in substantial conformity or not in substantial conformity. 95% of the applicable cases reviewed must be rated as having substantially achieved the outcome for the state to be in substantial conformity with the outcome.

Item Achievement: Items may be rated as a Strength or as an Area Needing Improvement. For an overall rating of Strength, 90% of the cases reviewed for the item (with the exception of Item 1 and Item 16) must be rated as a Strength. Because Item 1 is the only item for Safety Outcome 1 and Item 16 is the only item for Well-Being Outcome 2, the requirement of a 95% Strength rating applies.

SAFETY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PROTECTED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 1 Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect	Not in Substantial Conformity	60% Substantially Achieved
Item 1 Timeliness of investigations	Area Needing Improvement	60% Strength

SAFETY OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Safety Outcome 2 Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate	Not in Substantial Conformity	43% Substantially Achieved
Item 2 Services to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	Area Needing Improvement	59% Strength
Item 3 Risk and safety assessment and management	Area Needing Improvement	43% Strength

Appendix A: Summary of Rhode Island 2018 CFSR Performance

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 1 Children have permanency and stability in their living situations	Not in Substantial Conformity	13% Substantially Achieved
Item 4 Stability of foster care placement	Area Needing Improvement	78% Strength
Item 5 Permanency goal for child	Area Needing Improvement	33% Strength
Item 6 Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or other planned permanent living arrangement	Area Needing Improvement	25% Strength

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2: THE CONTINUITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS IS PRESERVED FOR CHILDREN.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Permanency Outcome 2 The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children	Not in Substantial Conformity	68% Substantially Achieved
Item 7 Placement with siblings	Area Needing Improvement	83% Strength
Item 8 Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	Area Needing Improvement	69% Strength
Item 9 Preserving connections	Area Needing Improvement	70% Strength
Item 10 Relative placement	Area Needing Improvement	74% Strength
Item 11 Relationship of child in care with parents	Area Needing Improvement	61% Strength

Appendix A: Summary of Rhode Island 2018 CFSR Performance

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1: FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 1 Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs	Not in Substantial Conformity	26% Substantially Achieved
Item 12 Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	32% Strength
Sub-Item 12A Needs assessment and services to children	Area Needing Improvement	57% Strength
Sub-Item 12B Needs assessment and services to parents	Area Needing Improvement	32% Strength
Sub-Item 12C Needs assessment and services to foster parents	Area Needing Improvement	68% Strength
Item 13 Child and family involvement in case planning	Area Needing Improvement	29% Strength
Item 14 Caseworker visits with child	Area Needing Improvement	52% Strength
Item 15 Caseworker visits with parents	Area Needing Improvement	20% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 2 Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs	Not in Substantial Conformity	80% Substantially Achieved
Item 16 Educational needs of the child	Area Needing Improvement	80% Strength

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

Data Element	Overall Determination	State Performance
Well-Being Outcome 3 Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs	Not in Substantial Conformity	54% Substantially Achieved
Item 17 Physical health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	69% Strength
Item 18 Mental/behavioral health of the child	Area Needing Improvement	59% Strength

II. Ratings for Systemic Factors

The Children's Bureau determines whether a state is in substantial conformity with federal requirements for the 7 systemic factors based on the level of functioning of each systemic factor across the state. The Children's Bureau determines substantial conformity with the systemic factors based on ratings for the item or items within each factor. Performance on 5 of the 7 systemic factors is determined on the basis of ratings for multiple items or plan requirements. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with these systemic factors, the Children's Bureau must find that no more than 1 of the required items for that systemic factor fails to function as required. For a state to be found in substantial conformity with the 2 systemic factors that are determined based on the rating of a single item, the Children's Bureau must find that the item is functioning as required.

STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 19 Statewide Information System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength

Appendix A: Summary of Rhode Island 2018 CFSR Performance

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Case Review System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 20 Written Case Plan	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 21 Periodic Reviews	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 22 Permanency Hearings	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 23 Termination of Parental Rights	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 24 Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 25 Quality Assurance System	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

STAFF AND PROVIDER TRAINING

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Staff and Provider Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 26 Initial Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Item 27 Ongoing Staff Training	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 28 Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

SERVICE ARRAY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Service Array and Resource Development	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 29 Array of Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 30 Individualizing Services	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement

AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Substantial Conformity
Item 31 State Engagement and Consultation With Stakeholders Pursuant to CFSP and APSR	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 32 Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Statewide Assessment	Strength

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

Data Element	Source of Data and Information	State Performance
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Not in Substantial Conformity
Item 33 Standards Applied Equally	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Area Needing Improvement
Item 34 Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews	Strength
Item 35 Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement
Item 36 State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Statewide Assessment	Area Needing Improvement

III. Performance on Statewide Data Indicators[8]

The state's performance is considered against the national performance for each statewide data indicator and provides contextual information for considering the findings. This information is not used in conformity decisions. State performance may be statistically above, below, or no different than the national performance. If a state did not provide the required data or did not meet the applicable item data quality limits, the Children's Bureau did not calculate the state's performance for the statewide data indicator.

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP*	95% Confidence Interval**	Data Period(s) Used for State Performance***
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.5%	Lower	13.4%	12.1%–14.9%	FY15–16
Maltreatment in foster care (victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	9.67	Lower	14.72	11.7–18.52	15A–15B, FY15–16

[8] In October 2016, the Children's Bureau issued Technical Bulletin #9 (http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/cfsr-technical-bulletin-9), which alerted states to the fact that there were technical errors in the syntax used to calculate the national and state performance for the statewide data indicators. Performance shown in this table reflects performance based on May 2017 revised syntax that is pending final verification.

Appendix A: Summary of Rhode Island 2018 CFSR Performance

Statewide Data Indicator	National Performance	Direction of Desired Performance	RSP*	95% Confidence Interval**	Data Period(s) Used for State Performance***
Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care	42.7%	Higher	38.5%	35.9%–41.2%	14B–17A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12-23 months	45.9%	Higher	48.4%	44.2%–52.6%	16B–17A
Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more	31.8%	Higher	32.5%	28.8%–36.4%	16B–17A
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months	8.1%	Lower	11.4%	9.1%–14.2%	14B–17A
Placement stability (moves per 1,000 days in care)	4.44	Lower	2.83	2.6–3.08	16B–17A

* Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) is derived from a multi-level statistical model and reflects the state's performance relative to states with similar children and takes into account the number of children the state served, the age distribution of these children and, for some indicators, the state's entry rate. It uses risk-adjustment to minimize differences in outcomes due to factors over which the state has little control and provides a more fair comparison of state performance against national performance.

** 95% Confidence Interval is the 95% confidence interval estimate for the state's RSP. The values shown are the lower RSP and upper RSP of the interval estimate. The interval accounts for the amount of uncertainty associated with the RSP. For example, the CB is 95% confident that the true value of the RSP is between the lower and upper limit of the interval.

*** Data Period(s) Used for State Performance: Refers to the initial 12-month period and the period(s) of data needed to follow the children to observe their outcomes. The FY or federal fiscal year refers to NCANDS data, which spans the 12-month period October 1–September 30. All other periods refer to AFCARS data. "A" refers to the 6-month period October 1–March 31. "B" refers to the 6-month period April 1–September 30. The 2-digit year refers to the calendar year in which the period ends.

Appendix B
Summary of CFSR Round 2 Rhode Island 2010 Key Findings

The Children's Bureau conducted a CFSR in Rhode Island in 2010. Key findings from that review are presented below. Because the Children's Bureau made several changes to the CFSR process and items and indicators relevant for performance based on lessons learned during the second round and in response to feedback from the child welfare field, a state's performance in the third round of the CFSR is not directly comparable to its performance in the second round.

Identifying Information and Review Dates

General Information
Children's Bureau Region: 1
Date of Onsite Review: April 26–30, 2010
Period Under Review: April 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010
Date Courtesy Copy of Final Report Issued: August 10, 2010
Date Program Improvement Plan Due: November 8, 2010
Date Program Improvement Plan Approved: June 1, 2011

Highlights of Findings

Performance Measurements
A. The state met the national standards for **two** of the **six** standards.
B. The state achieved substantial conformity with **none** of the **seven** outcomes.
C. The state achieved substantial conformity with **five** of the **seven** systemic factors.

Appendix B: Rhode Island 2010 CFSR Key Findings

State's Conformance With the National Standards

Data Indicator or Composite	National Standard	State's Score	Meets or Does Not Meet Standard
Absence of maltreatment recurrence (data indicator)	94.6 or higher	91.5	Does Not Meet Standard
Absence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care (data indicator)	99.68 or higher	98.78	Does Not Meet Standard
Timeliness and permanency of reunifications (Permanency Composite 1)	122.6 or higher	96.1	Does Not Meet Standard
Timeliness of adoptions (Permanency Composite 2)	106.4 or higher	141.7	Meets Standard
Permanency for children and youth in foster care for long periods of time (Permanency Composite 3)	121.7 or higher	123.6	Meets Standard
Placement stability (Permanency Composite 4)	101.5 or higher	97.4	Does Not Meet Standard

State's Conformance With the Outcomes

Outcome	Achieved or Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity

Appendix B: Rhode Island 2010 CFSR Key Findings

Outcome	Achieved or Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity

State's Conformance With the Systemic Factors

Systemic Factor	Achieved or Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Statewide Information System	Achieved Substantial Conformity
Case Review System	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Quality Assurance System	Achieved Substantial Conformity
Staff and Provider Training	Achieved Substantial Conformity
Service Array and Resource Development	Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	Achieved Substantial Conformity
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	Achieved Substantial Conformity

Key Findings by Item

Outcomes

Item	Strength or Area Needing Improvement
1. Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment	Strength
2. Repeat Maltreatment	Strength
3. Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-entry Into Foster Care	Area Needing Improvement
4. Risk Assessment and Safety Management	Area Needing Improvement
5. Foster Care Re-entries	Area Needing Improvement
6. Stability of Foster Care Placement	Area Needing Improvement
7. Permanency Goal for Child	Area Needing Improvement
8. Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement With Relatives	Area Needing Improvement
9. Adoption	Area Needing Improvement
10. Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	Area Needing Improvement
11. Proximity of Foster Care Placement	Strength
12. Placement With Siblings	Area Needing Improvement
13. Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care	Area Needing Improvement
14. Preserving Connections	Area Needing Improvement
15. Relative Placement	Area Needing Improvement
16. Relationship of Child in Care With Parents	Area Needing Improvement
17. Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents	Area Needing Improvement
18. Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning	Area Needing Improvement
19. Caseworker Visits With Child	Area Needing Improvement
20. Caseworker Visits With Parents	Area Needing Improvement

Appendix B: Rhode Island 2010 CFSR Key Findings

Item	Strength or Area Needing Improvement
21. Educational Needs of the Child	Area Needing Improvement
22. Physical Health of the Child	Strength
23. Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child	Area Needing Improvement

Systemic Factors

Item	Strength or Area Needing Improvement
24. Statewide Information System	Strength
25. Written Case Plan	Area Needing Improvement
26. Periodic Reviews	Strength
27. Permanency Hearings	Area Needing Improvement
28. Termination of Parental Rights	Area Needing Improvement
29. Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers	Area Needing Improvement
30. Standards Ensuring Quality Services	Strength
31. Quality Assurance System	Strength
32. Initial Staff Training	Strength
33. Ongoing Staff Training	Area Needing Improvement
34. Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	Strength
35. Array of Services	Strength
36. Service Accessibility	Area Needing Improvement
37. Individualizing Services	Area Needing Improvement
38. Engagement in Consultation With Stakeholders	Strength
39. Agency Annual Reports Pursuant to CFSP	Strength
40. Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	Strength

Appendix B: Rhode Island 2010 CFSR Key Findings

Item	Strength or Area Needing Improvement
41. Standards for Foster Homes and Institutions	Strength
42. Standards Applied Equally	Strength
43. Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	Strength
44. Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes	Area Needing Improvement
45. State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	Strength