

CBC Name: _____ Date: _____

Introduction: The overall goal of this project is to increase the percentage of children who are served in appropriate resource homes that are able to meet their needs. As a practical matter, this requires an increase in the number of resource families that can meet the needs of children in our care as well as improvement in the overall quality of care these families can and do provide. There are several negative effects that result from a lack of homes including, extended stays in shelter, separation of siblings, excessive use of group care, use of “overcap” homes and unnecessary placement moves. An analysis of these effects provides a way to target development of new resources, or reduction in attrition of existing resources.

We are asking that you identify and measure the extent to which your system is experiencing these problems. Using your current data, select the one or more of these problems that you will seek to reduce or eliminate. There are three ways that you can do this, you can: 1) reduce the number of children who come into care which reduces demand for resources, 2) add new resource families and 3) can reduce attrition of resource homes. So, for example, if your agency has too many sibling groups that separated, you can target services on large families to reduce their entry into care, you can recruit homes that can house sibling groups or you can seek to reduce the number of foster families that leave the system.

All of these are big tasks, so you should focus on one segment of the population. For example, rather than address separation of all sibling groups, you might seek to reduce the number of sibling groups of three or less that are separated. In that case, situation, you could take several actions (which are reported in the example below. For example, you could target recruitment on homes that have the capacity to take in 2 or 3 children. You could identify existing homes with this capacity and reserve those homes for sibling groups only, you could analyze approval requirements that reduce the availability of homes, you could strengthen efforts to locate kin, or you could recruit families that live near each other so that when children are separated they still have extensive contact.

Following this principle, identify ONE or more of the outcomes listed below that your agency will target for change over the next year. Each agency is expected to target up to three areas for improvement. Additionally each agency is expected to make a plan to “Improve quality of care in foster homes.”

For the outcome on improving the quality of care in foster homes, each CBC must define how this will be measured. Measures might include exit interviews that ask children who are leaving a home about their experiences in a home, interviews with caseworkers, assessment of data on unnecessary moves, interviews with children and bio-parents, etc. For each outcome that you select, complete the chart below using the directions provided.

Table 1: Outcomes

Child-level outcomes (select one or more)

1. Decrease the use of shelter placements that last more than 24-hours
2. Increase siblings placed together in family settings
3. Decrease the use of group care for children *without* documented therapeutic rationale
4. Decrease the *number* of child-days in over cap homes
5. Increase placement stability for children in out of home care

Resource home outcomes

6. Improve quality of care in foster homes (each CBC must select this outcome)
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Directions: Complete one table below for each selected outcome. You may add lines to the table as needed to accommodate all your action steps.

1. At the top of the form, specify the outcome that you are seeking to change, select the measure that you will use to assess changes over the year, record current status on this outcome and where you hope to be in one year.
2. Enter the measure that you will use to assess progress towards finding homes for the target populations you selected, enter your current status on this measure. Set a 6-month and 1-year benchmark that you hope to achieve.
3. There are three general ways in which an agency might work towards objective 1 (i.e. increase the ratio of usable homes to children). These include decrease the number of children in care, decrease the loss of homes and add new homes. A CBC may choose to work in one or in all of these areas, provided that the CBC addresses at either adding homes or decreasing the loss of homes as one of the areas.
4. For each strategy area that you choose, specify the measure(s) that you will use to assess your progress. Record your agency's current status on your selected measure(s) using the most current data available. Record where you hope to be in 12 months for the selected measure(s).
5. Next, for each strategy area that you selected, specify the specific action steps that your agency will take to achieve your objective(s). Specify how you will measure your progress for each action step by specifying a 6-month and 1-year benchmark for each.

Table 2: Sample target populations to improve outcomes

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Sample target populations</i>
Decrease the use of group shelter placement that last more than 24-hours	- all children entering a group shelter; - children less than 6 years old entering a group shelter
Increase siblings placed together	- all sibling groups entering placement on the same day; - sibling groups of 2 or 3 (entering placement together) - all sibling groups in care today; - sibling groups that are placed in foster homes - children who have a sibling in placement
Decrease the use of group care for children without a therapeutic rationale	- children less than 12 years old entering care - children less than 12 years old in care today - teens in group care - all children
Increase placement stability for children in out of home care	- teens - all children - children with more than 4 placements

	What measure will you use to assess progress?	Current status (i.e. baseline measure)	Where we hope to be in 6-months (6-month benchmark)	Where we hope to be in 12 months
<p>SPECIFY OUTCOME(S) THAT YOU SEEK TO CHANGE AND TARGET POPULATION(S) FOR EACH OUTCOME:</p> <p>See Table 1 and Table 2 on the instructions</p>				
<p>Strategy 1. Reduce number of children in care</p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p>Strategy 2. Decrease loss of foster homes</p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p>Strategy 3: Add new foster homes</p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p>OBJECTIVE 2: LIST ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES AS NEEDED.</p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p><i>Action step</i></p>				
<p>What assistance do you need from DCF?</p>				