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Federal and State Outcomes

Handout
Federal and State Outcomes

Accountability and Day to Day Work

Objectives - Display PPT 69

- Review top ten ASFA requirements.
- Explain the impact of ASFA on case practice.
- Review the requirements of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR).
- Explain child welfare goals, outcomes and measures as defined by federal and state requirements.
- Identify the relationship between these measures and day to day practice.
- Use the data from reports to monitor the performance in your agency.

Presentation ~ ASFA

Display PPT 70-74

ASFA
The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) establishes unequivocally that our national outcome goals for children in the child welfare system are safety, permanency and well-being.

Safety
- S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- S2: Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible.

Permanency
- P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections are preserved for children.

Well-Being
- W B1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.
- W B2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- W B3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.
Supervising for Excellence Training
Part One/Module Five

Supervisor’s Role

Supervisors play a crucial role in ensuring that the goals of ASFA are met. By using a results-oriented approach, managers and supervisors can determine and communicate to staff how well the organization is performing in each specific outcome area (safety, permanency and well-being).

- ASFA states three main goals for child welfare: safety, permanence and well-being.
- ASFA is more than compliance. ASFA is about the needs of children and families in our system and what is good for them.
- ASFA is about good social work practice and supervisors are critical in meeting these goals.

Activity ~ The Top Ten

1. Refer participants to PG 7-9, Top Ten ASFA Requirements
2. Instruct participants to prioritize the requirements based on their own values as a child welfare worker. What is the most important? Least important?
3. Emphasize that there are no wrong answers. This is an exercise to help the supervisors see the direct relationship between ASFA requirements and their own values as child welfare workers.
4. Ask for volunteers to share their first priority, second, third, etc... and list these on a flipchart.
5. The items at the top of each participant’s list are probably the requirements they are already good at meeting. The requirements at the bottom of their lists are probably the ones the participant needs to focus on meeting most.
Activity ~ The Rogers Family

1. Refer participants to PG 10-11, *The Rogers Family*

2. Instruct small groups to apply ASFA and answer one of the following questions: *(Assign each group a question.)*

   ? Is the judicial finding of *contrary to the welfare*, timely? Sufficient?

   ? Is the judicial finding of *reasonable efforts to prevent removal*, timely? Sufficient?

   ? Is the judicial finding of *reasonable efforts to carry out the provisions of the permanency plan*, timely? Sufficient?

3. Review each groups’ answers to each question and add any information from the correct answers given below if not provided by the groups.

   *Activity Question Answers:*

   Is the judicial finding of contrary to the welfare:

   ? Timely? Technically, Yes. The first court order is the dispositional order if no Temporary Physical Custody Order is generated. However, the intent of ASFA is that this judicial review and finding occur as close to the removal as possible, recognizing the severity of removing a child, even temporarily, from the home.

   ? Sufficient? No. Although the court order does include the words “contrary to the welfare,” it does not include detailed, child-specific information as the basis for the finding. If a more detailed finding was made in the hearing, but was not documented on the court order, then the only documentation that is sufficient is a transcript.

   Is the judicial finding of reasonable efforts to prevent removal:

   ? Timely? No. This finding must be made no later than 60 days from removal with no exceptions. In this scenario, the
removal was on March 30th, the finding was due on July 29th, but the actual finding wasn’t made until August 25th. A common mistake is to simply count two months from date of removal (May 30th). In that instance, the finding would be late by one day.

? Sufficient? Yes. The finding provides detail about the efforts and activities of the agency specific to this child and family to prevent the removal. The more detail provided for all judicial findings the better. The intent is for the court to provide an important procedural safeguard against inappropriate agency action by providing individualized oversight, not “rubber-stamping.” This requires that the worker provide detailed information to the court to serve as the basis for any finding of fact. The importance of communication with the court, district attorney and/or corporation counsel about the ASFA timeline, the content of judicial findings, and the administrative impact of needing to have more information in court orders.

Is the judicial finding of reasonable efforts to carry out the provisions of the Permanency Plan:

? Timely? No. The finding is required no later than 12 months from the date of removal and every 12 months thereafter. The removal date is March 30, 2005, the finding is due no later than March 30, 2006, but it was made late on June 5, 2006.

? Sufficient? Probably yes. If the court report has a discrete section that provides a detailed description of the agency’s efforts to carry out the provisions of the permanency plan, then a reference to the attached court report is sufficient. If the court report does not specifically address the actions of the agency to support this particular judicial finding, then the finding is not sufficient.
The child and family services reviews are a collaborative effort between the Federal and State governments. A review team composed of both State and Federal and State staff conducts the reviews and evaluates State performance.

The review teams collect information from a variety of sources to make decisions about a State’s performance. The sources of information include a Statewide Assessment, completed by State members of the review team; statewide aggregate data; onsite reviews of a sample of case records and case-related interviews with children, parents, foster parents, and case managers and other professionals working with a child; and interviews with State and community stakeholders.

The reviews examine State programs from two perspectives. First, the reviews look at outcomes of services provided to children and families served by the State agency. Second, they examine sys-
temic factors that have an effect on the agency’s ability to help children and families achieve positive outcomes.

♦ The reviews will focus on how all the State's child welfare programming affects positive outcomes for children and families.

♦ The reviews are designed to capture both the strengths and the needs of State programs. With a strong emphasis on using the reviews to drive program improvements, the reviews identify the strengths of State programs that can be used to make improvements in other program areas, where needed.

♦ The reviews promote practice principles believed to support improved outcomes for children and families, such as family-centered practice, community-based services, strengthening parental capacity to protect and provide for children, and individualizing services that respond to the unique needs of children and families.

♦ The reviews emphasize accountability. While the review process includes opportunities for States to make program improvements before having Federal funds withheld because of nonconformity, there are significant penalties associated with the failure to make the improvements needed to attain substantial conformity.

♦ Following the reviews, State Child Welfare agencies, with the support of their Federal ACF Regional Office partners developed Performance Improvement Plans for strengthening their system’s capacity to create positive outcomes for children and families.

♦ Through conducting the Statewide Assessment and participating in the onsite review, States have become familiar with the process of examining outcomes for children and families and systemic factors that affect those outcomes. They can adapt this process for use in the ongoing evaluation of their systems and programs.
Activity ~ Outcomes and Indicators

1. Refer participants to PG 12-13.

2. Instruct the participants to match the Indicator Items with the correct category of Safety, Permanency, or Well-Being.

3. Allow 10 minutes. Review as a class.

4. Distribute the Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being handout and review the correct answers below:

   ♦ Safety Outcome 1:
     ⇒ B. Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment
     ⇒ D. Repeat maltreatment

   ♦ Safety Outcome 2:
     ⇒ E. Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal
     ⇒ H. Risk of harm to child(ren)

   ♦ Permanency Outcome 1:
     ⇒ K. Foster care re-entries
     ⇒ N. Stability of foster care placement
     ⇒ O. Permanency goal for child
     ⇒ Q. Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives
     ⇒ G. Adoption
     ⇒ R. Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement

   ♦ Permanency Outcome 2:
     ⇒ T. Proximity of foster care placement
     ⇒ U. Placement with siblings
     ⇒ V. Visits with parents and siblings in foster care
     ⇒ W. Preservation of connections
     ⇒ J. Relative placement
C. Relationship of child in care with parents

- Well-Being 1:
  - A. Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents
  - F. Child and family involvement in case planning
  - P. Worker visits with child
  - M. Worker visits with parent(s)

- Well-Being 2:
  - I. Educational needs of the child

- Well-Being 3:
  - S. Physical health of the child
  - L. Mental health of the child

Presentation ~ Relationship to Casework

Display PPT 79-82

| Relationship of Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Outcomes in 2002 Cases |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A “Strength” rating for Item 19 (Caseworker Visits with Child) was significantly associated with “Substantially Achieved” ratings for 5 of 7 outcomes. |

| Relationship Between Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Indicator Ratings in 2002 Cases |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Δ Providing services to protect children in the home and prevent removal |
| Δ Managing the risk of harm to children |
| Δ Establishing permanency goals |
| Δ Achieving reunification, guardianship and permanent placement with relatives |

| Relationship Between Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Indicator Ratings in 2002 Cases (2) |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Δ Achieving goal of other planned living arrangement |
| Δ Placement with siblings |
| Δ Preserving children's connections while in foster care |
| Δ Maintaining the child's relationship with parents |
| Δ Assessing needs and providing services to children and families |

| Relationship Between Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Indicator Ratings in 2002 Cases (3) |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Δ Involving children and parents in case planning |
| Δ Caseworker visits with parents |
| Δ Meeting the educational needs of children |
| Δ Meeting the physical health needs of children |
| Δ Meeting the mental health needs of children |
Safety

Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

B: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.
D: Repeat maltreatment

Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

E: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal
H: Risk of harm to child(ren)

Permanency

Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

K: Foster Care re-entries
N: Stability of foster care placement
O: Permanency goal for child
Q: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives
G: Adoption
R: Permanency goal or other planned permanent living arrangement

Outcome P2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

T: Proximity of foster care placement
U: Placement with siblings
V: Visits with parents and siblings in foster care
W: Preservation of connection
J: Relative placement
C: Relationship of child in care with parents

Well-Being

Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.

A: Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents
F: Child and family involvement in case planning
P: Worker visits with child
M: Worker visits with parent(s)

Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs

I: Educational needs of the child

Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

S: Physical health of the child
L: Mental health of the child