

9.1.26
DCF Dashboard Working Group Meeting
Minutes

- Continuation of priorities discussion
 - How legislators can support the work of DCF
 - Transparency
 - Group homes/congregate care
 - DCF has different categories to present at the next meeting, large umbrella of categories and programs
 - Info about access to supportive services and beds
 - What are the standards that are expected for therapy? Are we meeting our goals?
 - Hamilton will provide what they already have available, and would it be suited for the dashboard?
 - SOLNIT tracking and outcome data, Frank can come to next meeting to answer questions
 - Number of children getting services in different settings, severity of needs
 - Trends over time
 - 10 years so that there's no lag
 - Clear definitions for each measure
 - Breaking down the acronyms
 - Having the measurement of what we are looking at in terms of progress/goal
 - Ability to compare current performance
 - DCF explains difference between the state goals and the national benchmark
 - Many of the federal measures we match, as well as barometer of performance
 - DCF can share what metrics they use
 - Systemic factors and case-related factors, they factor that into consideration when making a report
 - They do additional reviews related to things they want to improve
 - Safety, permanency, and wellbeing
 - DCF identifies their own measures/processes for evaluating if they are complying
 - They've enhanced the federal standards
 - Where do we go above and where are we the same as the feds?
 - Better understanding of the federal measures would be helpful

- How standards were different under the consent decree: they were process-oriented, over time they negotiated an outcome-based format, that was the final part of the exit plan
- Core outcomes in those categories, driven by the same goals
- There's lots of alignment between the feds and the state level
- The story of each case
 - What are good measures to show this?
 - Are we reducing unnecessary reentries into care?
 - Repeat maltreatment data
 - Synopsis can be under 'service array'
 - DCF has data for at-risk children, and if a safety plan was put in place
 - Consent decree predates some of the data they have
 - Will flesh this more out later
- Strengths and weaknesses of agency
 - Reports or reviews that can be shared
 - Children's report card
- Screen in, screen out numbers on CPS reports
 - Already track it
- In home vs. out of home care
 - Already track it
 - Would we need to separate CSFR measures?
 - DCF has a set structure for this data under CFSR
 - We can include other data separately
- Federal reporting
 - Their reporting happens at a certain cadence
 - Results Oriented Management reports would be good for point-in-time data
 - Useful info that we can use, DCF can make a list of ROM reports, some metrics overlap with CFSR
 - Permanency cohorts in ROM
 - Hyperlinks to the year-end reports, list of reports in ROM
 - What reports does DCF use most often for decision-making?
 - What would be most useful? → see if the group can land on core high-cut outcomes (permanency, repeat maltreatment, etc.)
 - DCF combines quantitative and qualitative data
 - DCF can bring more info on ROM reports for the next meeting → can we make it digestible for the dashboard?
 - Qualitative can help for the story of the case
- Permanency timeliness

- They track it within 12-23 months
 - Transfer of guardianship, how many reach permanency, etc.
 - CFSR requirements and what they send to the Children's Bureau
- Outcomes for youth aging out
 - What DCF tracks: how they are exiting, NYTD survey, number of kids in college, how many remain in care, and what the state provides post-care such as supports like housing, education, wraparound supports, etc.
 - How many kids graduate? How many receive services?
 - What are the legal supports for kids?
 - Transitional support unit has data that can help
 - How many kids are connected with a permanent living arrangement/connection with an adult that can help them?
 - Community supports for young adults transitioning out
 - National Youth in Transition Database survey → effectiveness of DCF support services with school, housing, etc.
- What do real time updates mean?
 - Quarterly data refreshes
- Access to services
 - Behavioral health
 - In-patient and out-of-patient
 - Already tracking, pairs with waitlists and treatment engagement, etc.
 - DCF has utilization data that they can provide along with qualitative data that can help
 - Timelines of cases
 - Various points on the timeframe/timeliness → completion of investigations, response time, how many cases proceed into investigations, etc.
 - DCF already tracks these
 - How many children have been referred to placement and/or residential treatment? Any gap in placements?
 - Merging quantitative with qualitative data to create a whole picture
 - DCF is tracking kinship placement to elevate it
 - Service continuum data → hard part is determining kids in higher levels of care that could be in lower levels of care that are less restrictive
 - Housing, food, childcare, etc.
 - If someone is thinking about foster care, what supports exist for them? Is it easy to access?

- Did they do a timely referral for a support service?
 - How often are people getting supports? Is DCF tracking in-home and out-of-home care?
 - Housing is a big area of need along with transportation
 - They contract with providers for support services
 - Where are there gaps in the system for accessing these support services?
 - How do we know what the needs are?
- Equity
 - What does DCF track? How could we get better information?
 - DCF collects race, age, and ethnicity data, but has less on disability (IDD/autism population)
 - They are working on evaluating if their resources are helping to address disparities
 - DCF is in a working group for decisions that happen in court to address disproportionality/disparity data
 - Challenge with breaking the numbers down into smaller cohort sizes
 - Do we want it by county/DCF region? → need to discuss at the next meeting that would lead to the best numbers assessment for people interacting with the website
 - Rose and Fred will give breakdown on equity data
- Report
 - Make the report on Oct 1st
 - We can reconvene later on to make adjustments if needed
 - DCF needs to determine what will populate
 - Is there a way to break it into phases, with the first being the high cut measures?
 - IT can share how long it would take, they have some existing reports
 - DCF already made a map based on region, and they are working on the technical side as the meetings progress