

## Child and Family Services Review Systemic Factors

As a part of the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process there are seven Systemic Factors assessed to determine the child welfare agency's ability to achieve positive outcomes for children. DFPS is seeking stakeholder input on four of the seven factors: Case Review System, Service Array, Agency Responsiveness to the Community, and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention, which will include a review of training requirements and standards currently in place for foster and adoptive parents.

A facilitated stakeholder meeting to discuss **Case Review System** will be held on the following date and time:

**Date: November 14, 2014**

**Location: Thompson Conference Center, Room 2.102, Austin, TX**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Systemic Factor	Case Review System Performance Indicators	DFPS Process
<p>Case Review System: When children are removed and placed in substitute care, CPS must develop a case plan that consists of both a child and a family plan of service. These plans are developed in partnership with the child and parent(s) and must identify the permanency and concurrent goal for the case as well as the services needed to address or ameliorate the need for substitute care. The plan of service must be periodically reviewed by the child welfare agency and the courts.</p> <p>The CFSR audit focuses on five performance indicators to determine whether the Texas case</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provides a process that assures that each child has a written case plan that is developed jointly with the child's parents that includes the required provisions.</li> <li>2. Provides a process for the periodic review of the status of each child no less frequently than once every six months by either a court or by administrative review.</li> <li>3. Provides a process that assures that each child in foster care under the supervision of the state has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.</li> <li>4. Provides a process for termination of parental rights in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.</li> <li>5. Provides a process for foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care with notice of and opportunity to be heard in any review or hearing held with respect to the child.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When children are removed from their parents (by order of the court) and placed in substitute care, CPS develops a Case Plan consisting of a Family Service Plan and a Child Service Plan for each child. The case plan identifies the reason for involvement, family strengths, weaknesses, goals (personal, permanency and service), needs, tasks and services to bring about a successful outcome for them. The parents and age-appropriate children are given the opportunity to participate in the development of the case plan through formal meetings (Family Group Conferences, Permanency Conferences, and Circles of Support) or informal contacts (face to face visits and phone calls). DFPS policy and the Texas Family Code require the joint participation of the parents, child and others with information and interest in the family in the development of the plan. It also requires that the plans are reviewed regularly and updated on an as needed basis.</li> <li>2. Texas Family Code Chapter 263 requires case review 60 days from the date the child enters substitute care and a Permanency Review within six months of that date.</li> <li>3. Pursuant to Texas Family Code Chapter 263, Permanency Hearings are held 180 days from the date the child enters substitute care, and requires a subsequent Permanency Review occur no more than 120 days from the date of the first Permanency Review.</li> <li>4. Texas files an original petition for termination of parental</li> </ol>

review system is in substantial compliance or is in need of improvement.

rights and in the alternative for conservatorship of the child. Once the Court grants Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC) of the child to the state, the state has 12 to 18 months to reunify or execute another permanency plan for the child. Texas attempts reunification at the beginning of each case, and once reunification fails, Texas can proceed immediately with termination without the need to file a subsequent termination petition.

5. DFPS is responsible for providing notice of several matters in accordance with Texas Family Code Sections 261.307, 262.109, and 102.009 as well as DFPS Handbook Section 2663. The Texas Family Code mandates that written notice of case review hearings be provided pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 21a, which states that notice shall be provided "in person or by agent or by courier receipt delivery or by certified or registered mail, to the party's last known address, or by [fax] . . . or by such other manner as the court in its discretion may direct. Texas Family Code Sections 263.301 and 263.501 requires DFPS to provide notice to certain persons who are entitled to present evidence and be heard at Permanency and Placement Hearings.