

Transformation Design Committee

Draft Outcome Domains and Potential Measures for Implementing 2SHB 2106

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This document provides an initial list of potential measures to be used to gauge the performance of public and private agencies providing services to Washington children and families in the context of the implementation of SSB 2106. It provides measures in the domains of child safety, permanency and stability, and well-being. Certain principles were used in developing these measures. The measures reflect an appreciation of the fact that children's experience of the child welfare system is dynamic; children enter care, move from placement to placement within care, exit, and there is wide variation in the timing of these events. This dynamism calls for measures that allow us to follow children from the beginning of their encounter with the child welfare system while also acknowledging that some important outcomes often take many months or years to occur. In some cases the measures take into account statutory criteria, for example, the 15-month standard for expediting permanency found in the Adoption and Safe Families Act. The measures listed here are defined in terms of broad child populations, but all of them are most informative when broken down by such factors as child age, race/ethnicity, and tribal affiliation.

Safety Outcomes: Children involved in child welfare services in Washington will not be subjected to further maltreatment.

Measures/Indicators:

- Of all children with a *substantiated* maltreatment report and who do not enter out-of-home care, what percentage is the subject of another substantiated report within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months)?
- Of all children with an *unsubstantiated* maltreatment report and who do not enter out-of-home care, what percentage is the subject of a substantiated report within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months)?
- For all children in out-of-home care during the reporting period (e.g., calendar year), what is the number of substantiated child abuse reports, by type of perpetrator (out-of-home care provider; parent or other relative not providing care; others in care setting; other), per care year (i.e., total # of substantiated reports/total number of years in care experienced by all children in care during the reporting period)?
- Of all children experiencing an exit from out-of-home care to permanency, what percentage is the subject of a later substantiated child maltreatment report within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months), by permanency type? Permanent exits include reunification with parent(s), discharge to a relative, legal guardianship, and adoption.

Permanency and Stability Outcomes: Children placed in out-of-home care in Washington will experience stability in their care arrangements and will be found permanent homes in a timely manner.

- Of all children entering out-of-home care, what percentage experiences an exit to permanency within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months), by permanency type? Permanent exits include reunification with parent(s), discharge to a relative, legal guardianship, and adoption.
- Of all children in out-of-home care for at least 15 months, what percentage experiences an exit to permanency within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months), by exit type?
- Of all children entering out-of-home care, what percentage experiences a non-permanent exit within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months), by non-permanent exit type? Non-permanent exits include running away from care and not returning, emancipation and aging out of care, incarceration leading to exit, hospitalization leading to exit, and death.
- Of all children in out-of-home care for at least 15 months, what percentage experiences a non-permanent exit within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months), by non-permanent exit type?
- Of all children experiencing an exit from out-of-home care to permanency, what percentage reenters out-of-home care within a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months), by permanency type?
- Of all children in out-of-home care for whom parental rights have been terminated, what percentage experience a finalized adoption within a specified period of time after termination of parental rights (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24 months)?
- What percentage of children entering out-of-home care experiences two or more placements within six months of entering care, by the nature of the move (e.g. to moves from nonkin care to kinship care; from family-based care to group care)?
- For children in out-of-home care over six months and/or year, what is the average number of placement moves per care year?
- For what percentage of children in out-of-home care who are tribal members are all the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act being met?

Well-Being Outcomes: Children placed in out-of-home care will receive care that meets their physical health, mental health, educations, and social/emotional needs.

Measures/Indicators

- What percentage of children entering out-of-home care is *initially* placed in a family setting (i.e., with a relative, “suitable person”, or in family foster care)?
- What percentage of children in out-of-home care is currently placed in a family setting (i.e., with a relative, “suitable person”, or in family foster care), by time spent in care?
- Of all children in out-of-home care with at least one sibling in care, what percentage is living with 1) none of their siblings in care, 2) some but not all of their siblings in care; or 3) all of their siblings in care?

- Of children in out-of-home care not living with their siblings, what percent have regular visits?
- For youth 12 years and older in out-of-home care, what is the number of 1) psychiatric hospitalizations; 2) episodes of incarceration, and 3) episodes of running away from care, per care year?
- For what percentage of children entering out-of-home care are required health, developmental, and educational assessments completed on a timely basis?
- For outcomes monitored through the National Youth in Transition Database (financial self-sufficiency, experience with homelessness, educational attainment, positive connections with adults, high-risk behavior, and access to health insurance) for youth in out-of-home care at age 17, what are outcomes achieved at ages 17, 19, and 21?
- For what percentage of children in out-of-home care who are tribal members are all the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act being met?

Notes on issues identified by the committee that should be taken into account as measure are further developed:

- Outcomes should take into account the distinction between cases in dependency status as opposed to voluntary placement agreements.
- Members expressed concern that many tribal children are not identified within 6 months, so outcomes may need to allow for longer time frames for tribal children.
- There is some interest in considering some measure(s) of culturally competent service provision under well-being outcomes.
- Would like to be an innovator in well-being outcomes as no state is doing a good job of measuring well-being.