

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN: FOSTER CARE

State: Texas

AFCARS Element	Rating Factor	Task	Date Completed	Comments/Notes
#5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date	2	<p>Add a date parameter that prevents dates of review from a prior removal episode from being extracted.</p> <p>Develop, and implement, a plan to ensure accurate and timely entry of this information, including TYC cases.</p>		
<p>Race: #8 Child, #52 1st Foster Caretaker, #54 2nd Foster Caretaker</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine</p> <p>Hispanic or Latino Origin : #9 Child, #53 1st Foster Caretaker, #55 2nd Foster Caretaker</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p>Remove the link between “race” and “Hispanic/Latino Origin” for “unable to determine.”</p> <p>Add the option “unable to determine” to the screen for Hispanic/Latino origin.</p> <p>Review and revise the method used to enter private agency providers’ foster parent information, due to the high level of missing data on foster parents. Also, ensure that information on both foster parents (when applicable) is entered.</p>		
#10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability? 1=Yes 2=No	2	<p>State is adding an edit to check for a diagnosed disability.</p> <p>Revise the screen by adding “yes, no, or not yet determined” as options for</p>		

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3=Not yet Determined		<p>workers to select.</p> <p>Review the type of information that is recorded in the medical history Word document. If relevant information pertaining to diagnosed conditions is being recorded in the Word documents, implement a method that transfers that information to the database.</p> <p>Re-evaluate the design of the screen capturing disability information. There are several options the State can consider. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify the “category selection list” by adding a category “medically diagnosed conditions.” Under this category, list only the diagnosed conditions. • At the time of the six-month case review, add a tickler/alert for the caseworker to verify that this information is accurate and up-to date. Or, add a field for the worker to note the last up-date to this information, and if the information has not be reviewed in six months, then a task alert could be sent to the worker. This option would best be combined with the first option. • Add a “health” or “medical history” screen to record all information pertaining to the health of the child. 		

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<p>#11 Mental Retardation #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired #13 Physically Disabled #14 Emotionally Disturbed #15 Other Diagnosed Condition</p> <p>0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>Add “diagnosed” after “Downs Syndrome” on the selection list and map to element #11.</p> <p>Add additional conditions to replace “emotional disturbed.”</p> <p>Map the following to element #14: ADD/ADHD and eating disorder (anorexia, bulimia).</p> <p>Remove the extraction of “24, enuresis” and do not include in AFCARS.</p> <p>Map the following to element #15: “learning disabled” and “fetal alcohol syndrome.”</p> <p>Remove the option “34, health disabled” and replace with more accurate diagnosed conditions and map accordingly.</p> <p>Since the disability information is carried forward to the adoption screens (if applicable) ensure that this data is up-to date and accurate.</p>		
<p>#16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>This should be made a specific question on the screen for workers to answer in order to ensure the collection of non-agency adoptions, and the response “unable to determine.”</p> <p>Add a reminder for the Federal</p>		

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		<p>definition of “unable to determine.”</p> <p>Remove the program code initialization of “2, no.”</p>		
<p>#17 Age at Previous Adoption</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6-12 years old 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p>Revise the screen and program code in order to record the age of the child when he or she was adopted.</p>		
<p>#19 Total Number of Removals from Home</p>	2	<p>Have workers correct and/or update the information on the title IV-E TYC youth in order to have the correct number of removals extracted for the AFCARS file.</p> <p>Evaluate the program code and explain why the number of removals is not being accurately reported when there are different dates of first and latest removal. Correct the program code.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that multiple case records for one child are merged to accurately collect the historical information pertaining to the number of removals.</p> <p>Assess the accuracy of the data for this element due to children entering or re-entering care after a “trial home visit.” If</p>		

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		<p>a child returns to foster care from a trial home visit during a specified period of time, or for non-specified periods before six months, then the number of removals remains the same. Have workers correct and/or update this information accordingly.</p>		
<p>#20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Correct the program code to extract dates of discharge from a previous removal episode for all discharge reasons.</p> <p>Ensure that the discharge date from a previous episode is accurately reported on the TYC cases. The program code should be treating these cases the same for extraction of this information.</p> <p>Review and modify code based on findings in element #19 and to ensure that dates of discharge are being accurately recorded on all cases.</p> <p>State may want to remove the unused (not applicable) codes from the program code.</p> <p>The accuracy of the data for this element may be affected by the State showing children as discharged, if home for more than six months while still under the care, placement or supervision of the State.</p>		

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#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date	2	Add a non-modifiable system generated transaction date to the system.		
#23 Date of Placement in Current Setting	2	<p>Correct program code to not extract the date a foster family moves or changes agencies if the child remains with the family.</p> <p>Note: As of October 1, 2002 the State must enter the date when a child enters a “trial home visit” or runs away. The Children’s Bureau added this policy to the Child Welfare Policy Manual on July 5, 2002 (see section 1.2B.4).</p>		
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	2	<p>Map missing placement information to “blank.”</p> <p>Correct the program code to not count returns to the same foster home from “brief” stays as multiple placements.</p> <p>Correct the program code to not count placements from a previous removal episode.</p> <p>Correct the program code to not increment the placement count if a foster family changes child-placing agencies or if the foster family moves, if the child remains with the family.</p> <p>Have supervisors ensure that all placements are entered into the electronic case record.</p>		

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		For situations where the agency receives placement, care or supervision of a child while the child is in the hospital, and the stay is for more than a "brief" time, include this in the count of placement settings.		
#26 Physical Abuse #27 Sexual Abuse #28 Neglect #29 Parent Alcohol Abuse #30 Parent Drug Abuse #31 Child Alcohol Abuse #32 Child Drug Abuse #33 Child Disability #34 Child's Behavior Problem #35 Death of Parent #36 Incarceration of Parent #37 Caretaker Inability to Cope #38 Abandonment #40 Inadequate Housing	2	Modify the system in order to allow this information to be entered on TYC youth. Add program code for the extraction of information for element #33. Map "emotional abuse" to "neglect," element #28.		
#42 Out of State Placement 1=Yes(Out of State placement) 2=No (In-State placement)	2	Have supervisors ensure that all placements are entered into the electronic case record. Remove the default "no" and map missing information to blank.		
#43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal 1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live with Other Relative(s)	2	Map missing information to blank. Add program code that will map "not yet established" to blank after 60 days.		

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3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established				
#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	2	Map missing data to blank. Map “separated” to “married.” Include information on adoptive parents if a child enters foster care after having been adopted.		
#45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	2	Dates of birth for caretakers that are “single males” must be mapped to this element.		
#49 Foster Family Structure 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	2	Map “07, separated female” to “married.” Map “09, separated male” to “married.” Modify program code to include the following condition: “If element #41 = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, then element #49 = 0.” Review and revise the method used to enter private agency providers’ foster parent information, due to the high level of missing data on foster parents. Ensure entry of information on both foster parents (when applicable).		

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#56 Date of Discharge	2	<p>Remove the section in the program code enters a discharge date for children in their own homes for more then six months.</p> <p>Include in the AFCARS report children that have been returned home for a specified period of time until the agency no longer has care, placement, or supervision.</p> <p>Ensure that if there is a periodic review date that there is not a discharge date.</p> <p>Ensure that youth up to the age of 19 are not automatically entered as having a discharge date. These youth may still be receiving a title IV-E foster care payment and if so, are to be included in the AFCARS population.</p>		
<p>#58 Reason for Discharge</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway</p>	2	<p>Add the AFCARS values “transfer to other agency” and “guardianship” to the program code and map accordingly.</p>		

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8 = Death of Child		<p>Add an alert when there is a discharge date but no discharge reason, and vice versa.</p> <p>Ensure the accuracy of the data for youth that emancipated and for TYC youth that leave title IV-E eligible placements.</p>		
#59 Title IVE Foster Care	2	Modify program code to extract if a title IV-E payment was made during the six-month report period.		
#61 Title IVA	2	Exclude "emergency assistance."		
#62 Title IVD Child Support	2	Report if "child support funds are being paid to the State agency on behalf of the child by assignment from the receiving parent."		
#63 Title XIX Medicaid	2	Add "Medicaid" to the program code.		
#65 None of the Above	2	<p>Map "emergency assistance" to this element.</p> <p>Modify the program code to check if there are State funds, or other Federal funds or non-Federal funds, which are a source of support for the child. If they are then this element should be coded as applies, otherwise it would be marked as does not apply.</p> <p>Do not include those children for whom there is no financial income.</p>		
#66 Monthly Amount	2	Correct program code to extract this data.		
#18 Date of First Removal	3	Review the collection of the data and		

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from Home		address data quality issues.		
#21 Date of Latest Removal	3	<p>Explain what the condition “null” in the program code and what date is entered for the date of latest removal for converted cases.</p> <p>The accuracy of the data for this element may be affected by the State showing children as discharged, if home for more then six months while still under the care, placement or supervision of the State.</p> <p>Ensure that information on title IV-E juvenile justice youth reflect the date the child entered a title IV-E eligible placement.</p>		
#46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	3	Resubmit data after correction is made to map single male’s dates of birth to element #45.		
#50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3	Ensure that if the family structure is “married” or “unmarried” couple that information is entered for dates of birth.		
#51 2nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year				

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<p>Race: #7 Child, #25 Adoptive Mother, #27 Adoptive Father</p> <p>a = American Indian or Native American b = Asian c = Black or African American d = Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander e = White f = Unable to Determine</p> <p>Hispanic/Latino Origin: #8 Child, #26 Adoptive Mother, #28 Adoptive Father</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>Remove the link between “race” and “Hispanic/Latino Origin” for “unable to determine.” Allow the selection of “Hispanic/Latino” information if a person refuses to provide race information.</p> <p>Add the option “unable to determine” to the screen for Hispanic/Latino origin.</p> <p>Modify the system to prompt caseworkers to enter information on the adoptive parents’ from the home study that is completed by private agencies.</p>	
<p>#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>Add the AFCARS value “other” to the program code and revise mapping. Items that should not be mapped to adoption element #15 may be more appropriately mapped to “other.”</p>	

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<p>#22 Adoptive Family Structure</p> <p>1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male</p>	<p align="center">2</p>	<p>Map “separated” to blank.</p> <p>Modify the system to prompt caseworkers to enter information on the adoptive parents’ from the home study that is completed by private agencies. The web-based application will provide a screen to allow workers to enter adoptive family structure.</p>	

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#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	2	Modify the system to prompt caseworkers to enter information on the adoptive parents' from the home study that is completed by private agencies. The web-based application will provide a screen to allow workers to enter adoptive family structure.	
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	2	Modify the system to prompt caseworkers to enter information on the adoptive parents' from the home study that is completed by private agencies. The web-based application will provide a screen to allow workers to enter adoptive family structure.	
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy 1=Yes 2=No	2	State only reports the cases where a payment is made. Medicaid only subsidy cases are not being reported.	
#37 Adoption Assistance 1=Yes 2=No	2	Modify program code to exclude State code "17, non-recurring subsidy."	
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs? 1 = Yes 2 = No	3	Ensure the accuracy of this information based on information entered into the system for adoption elements #10 -15.	
#17 Father's Birth Year	3	Encourage caseworkers to enter this information.	