AFCARS Assessment Review: Foster Care Data Elements Improvement Plan
State: Rhode Island
Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2002 - September 30, 2002 (2002B)

AFCARS Element	Factor 1,2,3,4	Finding	Task	Estimated/ Completed Date	State's/ACF's Comments/Notes ACF's Sign-off Notes
#9 Child's Hispanic/Latino Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	Screen selections are "yes," "no," and "unknown." There are two screens that the worker can use to enter this information. On one of the screens, the field pre-fills with the response "unknown." State staff believes "yes" responses are underreported. This was identified as a training issue. Workers also need to be made aware of the AFCARS meaning for "unable to determine."	Change the option "unknown" to "unable to determine." Modify the screen to pre-fill to blank. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF. Implement training and supervisory oversight for the correct entry of this data.		
#10 Has the child been clinically diagnosed as having a disability(ies)? 1=Yes 2=No 3=Not yet Determined	2	The screen defaults to "not yet determined." This is not a mandatory field for the workers to complete. The State proposed to default the window to "not yet reported." The State is adding "not yet reported" to the options list.	Modify the screen to pre-fill to blank. State should consider making this a mandatory field. The screen must pre-fill to blank. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF. Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system.		
#11 Mental Retardation #12 Visually/Hearing	2	The screen has limited options for workers to select. The	Review and revise the options for workers to select.		

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Impaired #13 Physically Disabled #14 Emotionally Disturbed #15 Other Diagnosed Condition [0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies		options are the same as the AFCARS categories plus the option "learning disability."	Resources: AFCARS Disability Code List and the NRC-ITCW. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF.		
#16 Has this child ever been adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	The "maintain participant information" screen contains a section "participant NCANDS information." There are both AFCARS and NCANDS information listed. The screen pre-fills to "no." If the worker does not change the information, and saves the screen, the response remains "no." The State staff remarked that the wording of the question on the screen should be changed.	State should separate the "NCANDS" and "AFCARS" collection to make it clearer to the worker. Modify the screen to pre-fill to blank. Modify the question to reflect if the child had ever been adopted prior to the current removal episode. Submit copies of revised screens to ACF. Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system.		
#17 How old was the child	2	If the adoption legalized date is	Modify code to map "unknown" to		

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when the adoption was legalized?		not known, workers select "unknown," which is mapped to "unable to determine."	blank. The State's proposed solution is not correct. The State proposed: "The 'Unknown' checkbox next to the 'Date Adoption Legalized' will be enabled only if the value displayed in the 'Date Adoption Legalized' box is '00/00/0000' and 'Yes' is selected in the 'Is this child adopted?' box. If the worker selects 'Yes' in the 'Is this child adopted?' box, the 'Unknown' checkbox is not checked, and no date has populated the 'Date Adoption Legalized' box from the appropriate hearing record, then a message will be displayed to remind you to properly complete the Hearing record. The message reads: 'The Adoption Hearing record is incomplete. Please complete a Hearing record on the Court Activity window.'" If the date of the adoption is not known, then this element should be left blank. Also, this approach does not account for adoptions that occur outside of the State's child welfare system. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF.		
#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date	2	The program code selects the most recent time stamp of the initial approval. This time stamp	Modify the program code to extract the transaction date associated with the date the worker enters the		

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		reflects the date the supervisor approves the removal from home. This date should reflect the actual date the worker enters the removal date. This is supposed to be a computer generated <u>non-modifiable</u> date.	removal date. This is a "fixed" date. Submit revised program code to ACF.		
#23 Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting	2	The program code does not extract the date that a child runs away from his/her placement setting.	Modify the program code to extract the date a child runs away. Train workers to enter "runaway" as a "placement setting" and enter the date the child ran away. Submit revised program code to ACF. Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system.		
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	2	If a placement is overnight (covering two separate dates), the placement is counted. AFCARS policy clarification indicates that States are to count only those placements that last more than 24 hours.	Modify the program code and remove the "datediff" statement. Submit revised program code to ACF. State will review program code to ensure it matches the new AFCARS policy clarification in the CWPM. The State needs to assess the length		

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			of time for hospitalizations to determine if it should be counted as a placement. Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system.		
#25 Manner of Removal From Home for Current placement Episode 1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined	2	Once a VPA is signed, it should continue to be reported to AFCARS as a VPA, even if the agency obtains a court order at the end of the 180 days.	Modify either the program code or the screen (or both if necessary) so that removals due to a voluntary placement agreement are not changed after 180 days. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF. Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system.		
#33 Child Disability	2	Wording needs to be changed on the screen. If workers do not select the box that indicates this is a removal from home, this information is never entered until the record is corrected.	Modify the way this information is collected. Provide ACF with a screen print indicating the change. Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system. ACF will evaluate re-submitted data.		
#57 Date of Discharge Transaction Date	2	The program code selects the most recent time stamp of the initial approval of when the	This date should reflect the actual date the worker enters the date of the discharge from foster care and be		

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		supervisor approves the end of placement. This is supposed to be a computer generated non-modifiable date.	non-modifiable.		
		Post-site visit analysis: The State removed the program code that selects the most recent time stamp of the initial approval. However, it is not clear when and how the transaction date is created in the "episode" table.	Contact ACF to discuss the proposed changes to this element.		
#3 Local Agency FIPS	3	The program code has been modified to retrieve the appropriate FIPS county code by using the location, the town, and zip code of the worker.	ACF will evaluate re-submitted data.		
#5 Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (if applicable)	3	The State modified the program code to extract dates of periodic review that occur during the removal episode.	Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system. ACF will evaluate re-submitted data.		
#18 Date of First Removal from Home	3	Workers may not be selecting the box that indicates a placement is a removal from home. The frequencies and the case file review indicate that the accuracy of this data needs to be improved.	Develop and implement a method to ensure workers select the "removal" box. Provide information to ACF.		
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	3	Workers may not be selecting the box that indicates a placement is a removal from home.	Develop and implement a method to ensure workers select the "removal" box. Provide information to ACF.		

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		The frequencies and the case file review indicate that the accuracy of this data needs to be improved.			
#20 Date Child was Discharged from last foster care episode (if applicable)	3	See findings in element #56. When workers select a "close placement reason" they are to indicate whether this is a closure of all removals. Workers may not be selecting the box that indicates that this is a discharge from the removal episode. This will affect the accuracy for foster care element #20.	Develop and implement a method to ensure workers select the "discharge" box. Provide information to ACF.		
#21 Date of Latest Removal	3	Workers may not be selecting the box that indicates a placement is a removal from home. The frequencies and the case file review indicate that the accuracy of this data needs to be improved.	Develop and implement a method to ensure workers select the "removal" box. Provide information to ACF.		
Actions or Conditions Associated With Child's Removal (Indicate all that apply with a ``1".) #26 Physical Abuse #27 Sexual Abuse #28 Neglect #29 Parent Alcohol Abuse #30 Parent Drug Abuse #31 Child Alcohol Abuse #32 Child Drug Abuse #34 Child's Behavior Problem	3	If workers do not select the box that indicates this is a removal from home, this information is never entered.	Implement training and supervisory oversight to ensure accurate data entry. ACF will evaluate re-submitted data.		

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#35 Death of Parent #36 Incarceration of Parent #37 Caretaker Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reasons #38 Abandonment #39 Relinquishment #40 Inadequate Housing [0-Does not Apply] 1-Applies					
#41 Current Placement Setting 1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home-Relative 3 = Foster Family Home-Non-Relative 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit	3	Service type codes lists "pre-adoptive home." Staff was not sure if workers select this option. The State modified the program code to extract the most current living arrangement at the time of the last placement. "Runaway," "trial home visit," and RI training school are mapped to the appropriate AFCARS value.	Workers should select the option "pre-adoptive home." Implement training and supervisory oversight to ensure accurate data entry. ACF will evaluate re-submitted data. State to verify whether independent living settings that are mapped to "group home" are supervised.		
#43 Most recent case plan goal 1 = Reunify With Parent(s) Or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live With Relative(s)	3	Case plan goal are established within 60 days of assignment to the Family Services Unit worker. This could be more than 60 days since the removal date.	State must have workers enter a case plan goal within 60 days of a child's removal. If there is no case plan goal after 60 days map "not yet established" to blank.		

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3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established			Implement training and supervisory oversight to ensure accurate data entry.		
#44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	3	State added an option "separated" to the selection list.	Implement a method to ensure that workers are using "separated" appropriately. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	3	Based on the case file findings (see the detailed case file findings), caseworkers are not entering this information into the electronic case file.	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year (if applicable)	3	Based on the case file findings (see the detailed case file findings), caseworkers are not entering this information into the electronic case file.	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#47 Mother's Date of TPR #48 Legal or Putative Father' TPR	3	The program code was changed to include the code "1085, deceased date." If there is no TPR date the program will check for a deceased date and if one is present it will map it to the TPR date.	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#49 Foster Family Structure	3	State added an option "separated" to the selection list.	Implement a method to ensure that workers are using "separated" appropriately. Provide a description		

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0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male			to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#56 Date of Discharge from foster care	3	When a "close placement reason" is selected a pop-up question appears asking if this is a closure of all removals. If so, worker must enter a discharge reason. Workers may not be selecting the box that indicates that this is a discharge from the removal episode.	State needs to add training and supervisory oversight to this area. Caseworkers must not enter the date a child is returned home while he/she is under the responsibility of the agency for care, placement or supervision. See the findings in the General Requirements section.		
#58 Reason for Discharge [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	3	Related to issue for the date of discharge. When a "close placement reason" is selected a pop-up question appears asking if this is a closure of all removals. If so, worker must enter a discharge reason. Workers may not be selecting the box that indicates that this is a discharge from the removal episode.	State needs to add training and supervisory oversight to this area. Caseworkers must not enter an outcome reason when a child is		

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7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child			returned home while he/she is under the responsibility of the agency for care, placement or supervision. See the findings in the General Requirements section.		
#59 Source(s) of Federal financial support/assistance for child - title IV-E (Foster Care) #61 Source(s) of Federal financial support/assistance for child - title IVA (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) #63 Source(s) of Federal financial support/assistance for child - title XIX (Medicaid) #64 Source(s) of Federal financial support/assistance for child - SSI or other Social Security Act Benefits 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	3	The State modified the program code.	Develop and implement a training/oversight plan to ensure correct data is entered into the system.		
#62 Source(s) of Federal financial support/assistance for child - title IVD (Child Support) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	3	At time RICHIST was implemented there was a plan to start collecting child support. It has not yet happened. There is a code for CSE in the program code if data are entered into the system.	Provide ACF with an update on when Rhode Island will collect child support payments on children in its foster care system.		

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#66 Amount Of Monthly Foster Care Payment (regardless of source)	3	The State recently made changes to the program code that was not reflected in the data under review.	ACF will monitor and evaluate these data for two reporting periods.		

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#8 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	Screen selections are "yes," "no," and "unknown." State staff believes "yes" responses are underreported. This was identified as a training issue. Workers also need to be made aware of the AFCARS meaning for "unable to determine." There are two screens that the worker can use to enter this information. On one of the screens, the field pre-fills with the response "unknown."	Change the option "unknown" to "unable to determine." Implement training and supervisory oversight for the correct entry of this data. Modify the screen to pre-fill to blank. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF.		
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs 1 = Yes 2 = No #10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Hispanic Origin Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities	2	There is a checkbox for "certified as special needs." The program does not check for a response in this field. The State will be including "deferred payments" in its adoption agreements. This will likely result in the addition of other State defined codes.	The program should check the "certified as special needs" checkbox and map it to this element. Also, the program code should verify if there is information in the field "primary basis." Review circumstances that meet the "State defined special needs" category to ensure that items are being collected and appropriately mapped to AFCARS. If there are items that meet the definition of one of the AFCARS categories, map it appropriately.		

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5 = Other		Based on the case file review, there were a high number of "age" responses that were not accurate. The State adoption staff believes there is a training need regarding the entry of this information.	Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF. Develop and implement training on the correct use of this field and the information that it is based upon.		
#11 Mental Retardation #12 Visually/ Hearing Impaired #13 Physically Disabled #14 Emotionally Disturbed #15 Other Diagnosed Condition	2	Medical/psychological disability information is not carried forward from foster care to the adoption file. The screen has limited options for workers to select. The options are the same as the AFCARS categories plus the option "learning disability."	Review and revise the options for workers to select. Resources: AFCARS Disability Code List and the NRC-ITCW. Submit copies of revised screen to ACF.		
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	This information is collected on the adoption registration screen. Collecting the data on this screen does not match the flow of how this information would be obtained and entered into the case record. State is considering using the case participant screen to collect the information.	Modify the system and move this information to the "foster care case management" section of RICHIST. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF.		
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child, Stepparent	2	The State modified the screen to include "relative foster parent." It is mapped to "other relative"	Provide ACF with the screen print indicating the changes.		

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#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child, Other Relative #31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child, Foster Parent #32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies		(element 30) and "foster parent" (element 31). "Other" was removed from the program code. Remove "other" from the selection list.			
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	2	Program code extracts the time stamp and not the legalization date.	Modify the program code to extract the actual date of the adoption legalization. The State proposes to pre-fill the "Date Adoption Legalized" box with the "Hearing date" from the "Maintain Hearing" pop-up if the "Hearing Type" is "Adoption Hearing" and the "outcome" associated with that hearing record is "Closed Adoption Granted." Provide ACF with screen prints indicating the changes to the selection lists. Submit the revised program code to ACF.		State Notes: These values are new values on the Maintain Hearing pop-up and are to be used when the associated court hearing is an adoption.
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency	2	Incorrectly hard coded to "1."	The State must add a field for workers to select what agency/individual had responsibility for placing the child.		

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3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent			Modify program code to extract the actual value for the person responsible for placing the child. Submit revised program code and copies of screen prints to ACF. Implement training on the changes to the screen.		
#16 Mother's Birth Year	3	The State removed the program code that used mother's date of birth from "Special Needs" or "ARE Registration." The DOB is now retrieved from the "Person" table. This date also pre-fills the other 2 tables online.	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#17 Father's Birth Year	3	The State removed the program code that used mother's date of birth from "Special Needs" or "ARE Registration." The DOB is now retrieved from the "Person" table. This date also pre-fills the other 2 tables online.	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	3	The program code was changed to include the code "1085, deceased date." If there is no TPR date the program will check for a deceased date and if one is present it will map it to the TPR date.	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#20 Date of Father's TPR	3	The program code was changed to include the code "1085, deceased date." If there is no TPR date the program will check for a deceased date and if one is present it will	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		

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		map it to the TPR date.			
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	3	The State removed the code that mapped gender of unknown or blank to" female." If "parent 1" is not "male" or "female," mother's data will be blank (unless "parent 2" is "female"). If "parent 2" is not "male" or "female," father's data will be blank (unless "parent 1" is "male").	Implement a method to ensure that workers enter this data. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy	3	The program code corrected to check if child is receiving a medical subsidy.	Implement a method to ensure that this data is entered correctly. Provide a description to ACF how the State intends to monitor accuracy.		