

AFCARS Assessment Review: Foster Care Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data In AFCARS Matches Case File | Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Not Verifiable | Comments |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| #5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date | 31 | 16 | | Of the 16 cases that are incorrect, ten of the records were missing data and all of the children had been in care at least six months. There was one record for a child in care six months and the reviewer found a periodic review report. In another record the child had been in care for nine months but the reviewer was unable to find a periodic report in the case file. The remaining records were for children that had been in care for more than a year. Some have been in care for nine years. |
| #6 Child Birth Date | 46 | 1 | | |
| #7 Child Sex | 47 | 0 | | |
| #8 Child Race | 43 | 4 | | In all four cases, additional races were noted by the reviewer than what were reported to AFCARS. |
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | | 2 | | |
| b. Asian | | | | |
| c. Black or African American | | | | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | | | | |
| e. White | | 2 | | |
| f. Unable to Determine | | 1 | | |
| #9 Child Hispanic Origin | 42 | 5 | | The incorrect cases indicated in AFCARS "unable to determine" and the reviewers were able to determine whether the child was of Hispanic origin or not. |
| #10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability? | 21 | 24 | 2 | In every record the response was "no" for the AFCARS report. In 24 cases the reviewers found |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Foster Care Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data In AFCARS Matches Case File | Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Not Verifiable | Comments |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | diagnosed conditions. |
| #11 Mental Retardation | 43 | 4 | | |
| #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired | 46 | 1 | | |
| #13 Physically Disabled | 47 | 0 | | |
| #14 Emotionally Disturbed | 30 | 17 | | |
| #15 Other Diagnosed Condition | 39 | 8 | | |
| #16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted | 45 | 2 | | The incorrect records indicated in AFCARS that the child had never been previously adopted and the reviewers found that the child had been previously adopted. |
| #17 Age at Previous Adoption | 45 | 2 | | |
| #18 Date of First Removal from Home | 43 | 4 | | |
| #19 Total Number of Removals from Home | 45 | 2 | | |
| #20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode | 43 | 4 | | |
| #21 Date of Latest Removal | 39 | 7 | | The majority of errors were data entry. |
| #23 Date of Placement in Current Setting | 38 | 9 | | There were four records that were incorrect due to data entry errors, dates were off by one day. In two records, the actual dates of placement were later than what was reported in AFCARS. Two records had dates reported in AFCARS that occurred after the report period end date. |
| #24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode | 34 | 11 | 2 | There was about an equal distribution between the number of records where the reviewers found fewer placement moves (7) and more placement moves (5) than was reported to AFCARS. The |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Foster Care Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data In AFCARS Matches Case File | Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Not Verifiable | Comments |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | decreases were generally attributed to respite placements being counted in AFCARS when they should not have been included. |
| #25 Manner of Removal From Home for This Episode | 38 | 8 | 1 | There were two records indicating “not yet determined” in the AFCARS file. In one case the child had been in care 24 days, but it was under a voluntary placement agreement. In the other record, the child had been in care since November 1998. The remaining six cases that were incorrect were due to children entering foster care under a voluntary placement agreement and then the agency needing to obtain a court order after the 180 day timeframe to obtain custody of the child. The AFCARS reports reflected a “court order” for manner of removal, not a “voluntary placement agreement.” |
| #26 Physical Abuse | 45 | 2 | | For elements #26 – 40, all but three instances were incorrect because not all applicable conditions were selected by the workers. |
| #27 Sexual Abuse | 43 | 4 | | |
| #28 Neglect | 43 | 4 | | |
| #29 Parent Alcohol Abuse | 37 | 10 | | |
| #30 Parent Drug Abuse | 39 | 8 | | |
| #31 Child Alcohol Abuse | 44 | 3 | | |
| #32 Child Drug Abuse | 46 | 1 | | |
| #33 Child Disability | 46 | 1 | | |
| #34 Child's Behavior Problem | 44 | 3 | | |
| #35 Death of Parent | 47 | 0 | | |
| #36 Incarceration of Parent | 44 | 3 | | |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Foster Care Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data In AFCARS Matches Case File | Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Not Verifiable | Comments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|----------------------|------------------|---------|----------|---|---------|--------------|---|---------|--------------|---|---------|-----------------|---|---------|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|---|--------------|--------------------|---|
| #37 Caretaker Inability to Cope | 39 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #38 Abandonment | 44 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #39 Relinquishment | 47 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #40 Inadequate Housing | 46 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #41 Current Placement Setting | 43 | 4 | | In one case, the reviewer indicated the placement setting should have been a "pre-adoptive home." Another record indicated the child was in a group home, but the child was in a foster family home under an umbrella placing agency. One record should have indicated the child on a "trial home visit" not in a foster home, and another should have indicated the child was on "runaway" status." | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #42 Out of State Placement | 46 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal | 35 | 11 | 1 | <p>The incorrect records reflected case plan goals that had not been updated. The results are:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>AFCARS</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Documentation</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Frequency</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Reunify</td> <td>Adoption</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reunify</td> <td>Guardianship</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reunify</td> <td>Emancipation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reunify</td> <td>Live w/Relative</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reunify</td> <td>Long Term FC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guardianship</td> <td>Long Term FC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Long Term FC</td> <td>Independent Living</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In three of the cases that indicated a goal of reunification in AFCARS also had dates of TPR on the parents.</p> | <u>AFCARS</u> | <u>Documentation</u> | <u>Frequency</u> | Reunify | Adoption | 2 | Reunify | Guardianship | 3 | Reunify | Emancipation | 1 | Reunify | Live w/Relative | 1 | Reunify | Long Term FC | 2 | Guardianship | Long Term FC | 1 | Long Term FC | Independent Living | 1 |
| <u>AFCARS</u> | <u>Documentation</u> | <u>Frequency</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reunify | Adoption | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reunify | Guardianship | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reunify | Emancipation | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reunify | Live w/Relative | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reunify | Long Term FC | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Guardianship | Long Term FC | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long Term FC | Independent Living | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Foster Care Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data In AFCARS Matches Case File | Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Not Verifiable | Comments |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| #44 Caretaker Family Structure | 35 | 11 | 1 | In eight of the incorrect records, the AFCARS data indicates "unable to determine," but the reviewers found the information in the case file. |
| #45 1st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year | 36 | 10 | 1 | See the notes in element #44. There were several records that indicated the caretaker structure was a single female but there was no data reported to AFCARS for the birth year. |
| #46 2nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year | 40 | 6 | 1 | See the notes in element #44. |
| #47 Mother's Date of TPR | 40 | 7 | | |
| #48 Father's Date of TPR | 40 | 7 | | |
| #49 Foster Family Structure | 34 | 6 | 7 | In three instances the AFCARS file indicated a "single male/female" but the reviewer indicated the structure as "married couple." One record was incorrect because the child was on runaway status. Another record was incorrect because the child was actually in a foster home, not a group home, so this data was missing in AFCARS. One record had missing data reported to AFCARS, but the reviewer indicated the foster parents were a "married couple." |
| #50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year | 20 | 6 | 21 | |
| #51 2nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year | 20 | 6 | 21 | |
| #52 1st Foster Caretaker's Race | 19 | 6 | 22 | There was one instance where more than one race applied, but wasn't recorded on the system. |
| #53 1st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin | 20 | 5 | 22 | |
| #54 2nd Foster Caretaker's | 20 | 5 | 22 | |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Foster Care Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data In AFCARS Matches Case File | Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Not Verifiable | Comments |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Race | | | | |
| #55 2nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin | 20 | 5 | 22 | |
| #56 Date of Discharge | 44 | 3 | | Two of the records indicated dates of discharge in the AFCARS file, but the children were still in care. |
| #58 Reason for Discharge | 44 | 3 | | See note in element #56. |
| #59 Title IVE Foster Care | 22 | 2 | 23 | |
| #60 Title IVE Adoption | 22 | | 25 | |
| #61 Title IVA AFDC | 22 | 1 | 24 | |
| #62 Title IVD Child Support | 22 | | 25 | |
| #63 Title XIX Medicaid | 22 | | 25 | |
| #64 SSI | 22 | 3 | 22 | |
| #65 None of the Above | 22 | | 25 | |
| #66 Monthly Amount | | | | This information was not reviewed. |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Adoption Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data in AFCARS Matches Case File | Data in AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Non-verifiable | COMMENTS |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| #4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No | 24 | 0 | | |
| #5 Child Date of Birth | 24 | 0 | | |
| #6 Child Sex | 24 | 0 | | |
| #7 Child Race | | | | |
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | 21 | 3 | | |
| b. Asian | 24 | 0 | | |
| c. Black or African American | 23 | 1 | | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 24 | 0 | | |
| e. White | 22 | 2 | | |
| f. Unable to Determine | 24 | 0 | | |
| #8 Child Hispanic Origin | 20 | 2 | 2 | |
| #9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs | 15 | 3 | 6 | In the three cases that did not match, the AFCARS data indicates “no” and the reviewer indicated the response is “yes.” |
| #10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional | 15 | 3 | 6 | |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Adoption Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data in AFCARS Matches Case File | Data in AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Non-verifiable | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Disabilities 5 = Other | | | | |
| #11 Mental Retardation | 18 | 0 | 6 | |
| #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired | 17 | 1 | 6 | |
| #13 Physically Disabled | 18 | 0 | 6 | |
| #14 Emotionally Disturbed | 16 | 2 | 6 | |
| #15 Other Diagnosed Condition | 18 | 0 | 6 | |
| #16 Mother's Birth Year | 22 | 2 | | |
| #17 Father's Birth Year | 11 | 11 | 2 | Reviewers noted that this information could be found on the child's birth certificate. |
| #18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine | 0 | 9 | 15 | All of the records indicated "unable to determine" to AFCARS. In nine cases the reviewers were able to find the information; the remaining records were marked as "not found in file." |
| #19 Date of Mother's TPR | 21 | 3 | | |
| #20 Date of Father's TPR | 20 | 3 | 1 | In two of the incorrect files, the father was deceased, but this date was not used for a TPR date. |
| #21 Date Adoption Legalized | 22 | 1 | 1 | |
| #22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male | 23 | 1 | | |
| #23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth | 12 | 0 | 12 | |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Adoption Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data in AFCARS Matches Case File | Data in AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Non-verifiable | COMMENTS |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| #24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth | 12 | 2 | 10 | |
| #25 Adoptive Mother's Race | | | | |
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | 10 | 0 | 14 | |
| b. Asian | 10 | 0 | 14 | |
| c. Black or African American | 10 | 0 | 14 | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 10 | 0 | 14 | |
| e. White | 10 | 0 | 14 | |
| f. Unable to Determine | 10 | 0 | 14 | |
| #26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin | 9 | 1 | 14 | |
| #27 Adoptive Father's Race | | | | |
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | 9 | 1 | 14 | In one record the family structure was "unmarried couple," but the responses to the "father's race" was "no" to all items. The reviewer noted this was a same sex couple. The extract should have reported the information on the other parent. |
| b. Asian | 9 | 1 | 14 | |
| c. Black or African American | 9 | 1 | 14 | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 9 | 1 | 14 | |
| e. White | 8 | 2 | 14 | |
| f. Unable to Determine | 9 | 1 | 14 | |
| #28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin | 8 | 2 | 14 | |
| #29 Relationship of Adoptive | 21 | 0 | 3 | |

AFCARS Assessment Review: Adoption Case File Findings
State: Washington
AFCARS Report Period Ending September 30, 2002

| AFCARS Element | Data in AFCARS Matches Case File | Data in AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable/ Non-verifiable | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Parent to Child - Stepparent | | | | |
| #30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative | 17 | 4 | 3 | In four records, the relationship of the adopting parent to the child was a relative. This item was marked as “does not apply” and element #32 marked as “applies.” |
| #31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent | 21 | 0 | 3 | |
| #32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative | 17 | 4 | 3 | |
| #33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country | 21 | 0 | 3 | |
| #34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent | 20 | 1 | 3 | |
| #35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy | 13 | 1 | 10 | |
| #36 Monthly Amount | 5 | 5 | 14 | |
| #37 Adoption Assistance | 15 | 0 | 9 | |