DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Notice of a Meeting of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC)

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is given of a meeting of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission. The Commission will continue addressing (1) the protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects in research involving persons with mental disorders that may affect decisionmaking capacity and (2) a proposed comprehensive human subjects project. Some Commission members may participate by telephone conference. The meeting is open to the public and opportunities for statements by the public will be provided on October 20, 1998 from 11:30 am to 12 Noon.

Dates/Times	Location
October 20, 1998, 8:00 am–5:00 pm.	The Grand Ballroom, Holiday, Inn—National Airport, 1489 Jefferson Davis Highway, U.S. Route 1, Arlington, Virginia.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President established the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) on October 3, 1995 by Executive Order 12975 as amended. The mission of the NBAC is to advise and make recommendations to the National Science and Technology Council, its Chair, the President, and other entities on bioethical issues arising from the research on human biology and behavior, and from the applications of that research.

Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public with attendance limited by the availability of space on a first come, first serve basis. Members of the public who wish to present oral statements should contact Ms. Patricia Norris by telephone, fax machine, or mail as shown below and as soon as possible at least 4 days before the meeting. The Chair will reserve time for presentations by persons requesting to speak and asks that oral statements be limited to five minutes. The order of persons wanting to make a statement will be assigned in the order in which requests are received. Individuals unable to make oral presentations can mail or fax their written comments to the NBAC staff office at least five business days prior to the meeting for distribution to the Commission and inclusion in the public record. The Commission also accepts general comments at its website at bioethics.gov. Persons needing special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other special accommodations, should contact NBAC staff at the address or telephone number listed below as soon as possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Patricia Norris, National Bioethics Advisory Commission, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Suite 5B01, Rockville, Maryland 20892–7508, telephone 301–402–4242, fax number 301–480–6900.

Henrietta D. Hyatt-Knorr,

Deputy Executive Director, National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

[FR Doc. 98–26244 Filed 9–30–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–17–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Disease, Disability, and Injury Prevention and Control Special Emphasis Panel: Notice of Charter Renewal

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463) of October 6, 1972, that the Disease, Disability, and Injury Prevention and Control Special Emphasis Panel, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services, has been renewed for a 2-year period, through September 18, 2000.

Contact Person for Further Information: Burma Burch, Committee Management Officer, CDC, 4 Executive Park Drive, Suite 1117, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, phone 404/639–6389, e-mail bxb1@cdc.gov.

Dated: September 23, 1998.

Carolyn J. Russell,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 98–26259 Filed 9–30–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

Proposed Project

Title: Child and Family Services State plan Reviews (CFS).

OMB No.: New.

Description: The Department is proposing new review procedures for assessing compliance with State Plan requirements under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (the Act).

The collection of information for review of State child and family services programs to determine whether such programs are in substantial conformity with State plan requirements under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act is authorized by section 1123(a) [42 U.S.C. 1320a–1a] of the Act.

The purpose of the NPRM is to reform the existing review process so that the reviews are focused on assisting States to improve services and outcomes for children and families.

We are proposing to review State programs in two areas: (1) Outcomes for children and families in the areas of safety, permanency, and child and family well-being; and (2) systemic factors that directly impact the State's capacity to deliver services leading to improved outcomes.

The process we are proposing includes two stages: a State self-assessment and an on-site review. The State self-assessment will be completed by the State members of the review team, including staff of the State agency and community representatives, in collaboration with ACF Regional Offices. In the second phase, a representative team of Federal, State and community reviewers will review a small ''discovery sample'' of cases selected randomly and stratified by type of cases, based on the findings of the self-assessment. The reviews will examine cases which reflect a wide range of services provided by the State, e.g., child protective services, out-of-home and in-home services, but more emphasis will be placed on those cases reflecting State-specific issues identified in the self-assessment. Information on each case will be gathered from the case records as well as interviews with the children, parents, social worker, foster parent and service providers in the case. Systemic issues will be reviewed on-site, primarily through interviews with

State and community stakeholders from within and outside the State agency.

We are publishing the self-assessment and the two on-site review instruments (''On-site Review Instrument'' and ''Stakeholder Interview Guide'') for public comment to meet Paperwork Reduction Act requirements. Please note—on all instruments, reviewers will be provided space for notation and documentation which was omitted for the purpose of publication in the **Federal Register.** The instruments will not be part of the regulations, however, they will be distributed to the States following publication of a Final Rule. The instruments are however published at the end of this notice.

To review and comment on the Proposed Rule from which this information collection comes, see 63 Federal Regulation 50057 (September 18, 1998).

Respondents: States.

Annual Burden Estimates:

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
State Self-Assessment	17	1	240	4,080
On-Site Review Instruments	17	35	8	4,760

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 8,840.

In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1955, the Administration for Children and Families is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above. Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Information Services, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer.

All requests should be identified by the title of the information collection. The Department specifically requests comments on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Instruments:

BILLING CODE 4184–01–M

OMB Control No: xxxx-xxxx
Expiration date: xx\xx\xx

Draft as of: 09/98

Child and Family Services Review:

State Self-Assessment

Children's Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services

INTRODUCTION

The review strategy proposed by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) moves toward a new Federal/State partnership which has been facilitated by the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994. The goal of the new Federal/State relationship is continuous improvement in State child welfare systems and improved outcomes for children and families. The proposed strategy is designed to achieve this by linking review of State child and family services to joint planning and technical assistance. This strategy is comprised of three broad outcome domains which cover the continuum of child welfare services: ***Safety, Permanency and Child and Family Well-Being***, as well as an examination of State/local agency characteristics.

This instrument, ***Child and Family Services Review: State Self-Assessment***, the first stage fo the review, is completed by the State with ACF Regional and Central Office staff consultation. The second stage is an on-site review that will be conducted by a team comprised of State and Federal representatives, as well as other experts, as needed. A separate instrument, ***Child and Family Services Review: On-Site Review Guide***, is used during the second stage. Based on the analysis of the State self-assessment, the State Plans and the on-site review, the State will develop a plan of action which is either proactive and corrective, when required.

In general, Section I of the self-assessment requests general information; Section II focuses on State child welfare agency characteristics and calls primarily for narrative responses; Section III provides data for the safety and permanency outcome areas, Section IV requires a narrative assessment of the outcome areas by the State's review team and Section V asks the State to assess its strengths and needs in the various outcome areas and identify issues and locations for further examination through the on-site portion of the review. The data requests in Section III are based on AFCARS and NCANDS data elements and Statewide data will be provided to the agency with the self-assessment instrument if the State has submitted the data for the year under review.

The instrument is being provided in both hard copy and on a computer file in WordPerfect 5.1 to facilitate use by the State (if other software formats would be preferable, please request them).

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 240 hours for the initial review and 120 hours for subsequent reviews. This estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, completing the assessment, and reviewing the collection of information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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Outcome (2): The risk of harm to children will be minimized

B. PERMANENCY

Outcome (1): Children will have permanency and stability in their living situations

Outcome (2): The continuity of family relationships and connections will be preserved for children

C. CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Outcome (1): Families will have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs

Outcome (2): Children will receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs

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SECTION V - State Assessment of Strengths and Needs

State Self-Assessment Instrument

SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION

State/Local Agency
Year Under Review
☐ 200__ Calendar Year ☐ 200__ State Fiscal Year ☐ 200__ Federal Fiscal Year
Contact Person
Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
_____
_____
_____
Phone ( ) Fax ( )

SECTION II - STATE/LOCAL AGENCY CHARACTERISTICS

A. Structure and Staffing of the Child Welfare Agency

1. *For which of the agency's child welfare programs does the State agency have uniform administrative authority throughout the State, and which are subject to the administrative authority of the County agency?*

2. *Identify all the categories of child welfare cases carried by the agency, covering all families and children served by the agency, according to the agency's particular system for categorizing cases, e.g., CPS, foster care, adoption, family preservation, etc.*

3. *Describe the caseload standards for child welfare services used by the agency, if any, and how the average actual caseloads compare to the standards.*

4. *How does the agency's use of paraprofessionals, e.g., case aides, homemakers, etc., impact on outcomes for children and families, and what are the barriers to more effective use of paraprofessionals?*

5. *In what ways does staff retention impact outcomes for children and families served by the agency, positively or negatively?*

B. Agency Responsiveness to Community

1. *Describe the strengths and needs of the agency's ability to respond to public expectations in the State about protecting children from maltreatment.*

2. *Describe how the child and family services provided by the agency are coordinated with the services and benefits of other public and private agencies serving the same general populations of children and families.*

3. *What are the strengths and limits of the agency's ability to pool or coordinate funds with those of other public and private service providers to develop or provide services for families and children?*

4. *Describe the agency's effectiveness in serving all relevant populations in the State, e.g., racial and ethnic groups, age groups, rural and urban populations.*

5. *How successful has the agency been in operationalizing its vision in terms of the policies, programs and services of the agency among agency staff, providers and consumers, and what are the barriers to operationalizing the vision?*

6. *Which relationships with other agencies, entities or communities impact positively or negatively on the agency's capacity to provide protective /family preservation services to children and families within the scope of the agency's mission and goals, e.g., law enforcement, schools, courts, advocacy groups and so forth?*

C. Information System Capacity

1. *Describe the capacity of the State's automated information system to determine the status, demographics, location and goals for all children in foster care in the State.*

2. *Describe the strengths and needs of the State's automated information system to provide information needed by workers, supervisors and managers in their daily work.*

3. *Describe the capacity of the State's automated information system to identify and track children and families served in programs other than foster care, e.g., CPS services, in-home services.*

D. Quality Assurance and Supervision

1. *What are the strengths and needs of the agency's process for assessing outcomes and progress in the child welfare programs against the principles and agency vision in the State's CFSP?*

2. *What are the strengths and needs of the agency's provisions for providing stakeholders, with opportunities for input into agency policies and practices?*

3. *Describe the effectiveness of the agency's quality assurance measures in*

helping to assure safety, permanency and well-being for children served by the agency and their families.

4. *Describe the strengths and needs of the supervision that child welfare workers receive at the county level.*

5. *Describe the strengths and needs of the agency's implementation of the standards it has set for foster care placements to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect their health and safety.*

E. Staff and Provider Training

1. *What are the strengths and needs of basic staff competencies, including workers, supervisors and administrators, to perform their work consistent with the agency's mission and goals?*

2. *What are the strengths and needs of the competencies of auxiliary staff and service providers regularly used by the agency, hired either through contract or vendor payments, to perform their work consistent with the agency's goals and mission?*

3. *What are the strengths and needs of the competencies of the agency's foster and adoptive parents to fulfill their roles consistently with the principles and vision of the agency?*

F. Foster and Adoptive Home Licensing\Approval\Recruitment

1. *What are the strengths and needs of the agency's system for licensing and monitoring foster family homes and other out-of-home care providers?*

2. *Describe how the standards for foster family homes, adoptive homes and child care institutions in which children served by the agency are placed reflect the standards of national organizations, e.g., Child welfare League of America.*

3. *Describe the strengths and needs of the agency's efforts to recruit and retain foster and adoptive families that represent the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed.*

4. *How are prospective foster and adoptive parents assessed to determine their capacity to care for particular children?*

5. *Describe the strengths and needs of the agency's plan for making effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to secure adoptive homes as needed.*

6. *Describe the strengths and needs of the agency's protocol for ensuring the safety of potential foster care and adoptive placements.*

G. Case Review System

1. *Describe the strengths and needs of the State's processes for assuring that the status of each child in foster care is reviewed periodically, i.e., at least every six months, by a court or by administrative review.*

2. *Describe how the case plans and case planning process for children in foster care in the State help assure that children's placements are appropriate to their needs, in their best interests and in close proximity to their parents.*

3. *Describe the strengths and needs of the State's provisions for permanency hearings for children in foster care and how these hearings promote permanency for children.*

4. *Describe the strengths and needs of the State's provisions for complying with the requirement at section 475(5)(E) of the Act regarding termination of parental rights.*

5. *Describe the extent to which the State exercises the exceptions to the termination of parental right's provision at section 475(5)(E) of the Act. Identify the number of cases, by exception, for the year under review in which the exception was taken.*

6. *Describe the strengths and needs of the State's provisions for providing foster parents, preadoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care with notice of and an opportunity to be heard in any review or hearing held with respect to the child.*

H. Service Array\Resource Development

1. *How has the agency's appropriations history over the previous three to five years impacted child welfare programs in the State, positively or negatively, particularly family preservation and family support programs?*

2. *Which funding or financing mechanisms at the State and local levels either support or inhibit the agency's ability to achieve the goals and objectives described in its CFSP with the families it serves?*

3. *What are the strengths and limits of the array and intensity of services available to families and children served by the agency to promote permanency for children in foster care, including reunification, post-reunification support, post-adoption support, and other permanency goals?*

4. *What are the strengths and limits of the array and intensity of services available to families served by the agency to protect children in their own homes and preserve intact families, including children who have been reunified with their families?*

5. *Describe how the services, procedures and policies in place in the State enable the agency to expedite permanency decisions for children abandoned at or shortly after birth, particularly where substance abuse of the parent is a contributor to the abandonment.*

I. Family-Focused Child Welfare Practice

1. *Which areas of the agency's casework practice with families are strongest and which areas present the greatest concerns, e.g., assessment, case planning, coordinating services, intervention?*

2. *What successes has the agency had in promoting local casework practices that encourage family participation in identifying their own strengths and needs, determining their own goals, requesting specific services and evaluating progress, and what are the needs in this area?*

3. *What systems are in place that either encourage or inhibit the availability and accessibility of staff to the families and children with whom they are working, e.g., compensatory time policies, travel issues, flexible work schedules, location of offices?*

4. *Are there policies or practices in place that routinely lead to inconsistency between the stated case plan goals for children and families and the actual casework that is occurring in the case?*

J. Cultural Competence

1. *How successful has the agency been in hiring staff at all levels of the agency who are representative of the major cultural groups served by the agency, and what are the barriers, if any, in this area?*

2. *What are the strengths of the agency's efforts to promote or assure service delivery that is culturally competent, and what barriers remain in this area?*

3. *What are the strengths and needs of the agency's practices for: determining whether children are American Indian and assuring compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act?*

4. *How are race and ethnicity considered in making foster and adoptive placement decisions?*

SECTION III -Safety and Permanency Data

In this section, ACF will provide the State the necessary AFCARS and NCANDS data for completing the self- assessment.

SECTION IV - NARRATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES

A. Safety

Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect, and safely maintained in their homes whenever possible.

Outcome S2: The risk of harm to children will be minimized.

Based on examination of the safety data and the State IV9-B Plan (CFSP), please respond to the following questions.

1. *Have there been notable changes in the individual data elements in the safety profile in Section III over the past 3 - 5 years in the State?* Identify any factors considered to have an important impact on the changes noted.

2. *What systemic issues either support or inhibit the agency's ability to respond to reports of child abuse/neglect in a timely and thorough manner? Is there currently a backlog of uninvestigated CA/N reports in the State? If so, describe the extent of the backlog.*

3. *What are the strengths and needs of the agency's risk assessment process(es), used by the agency to screen, prioritize and dispose of CA/N reports?*

4. *Describe the measures the agency has in place to assure that the safety of children is given priority in placment and reunification decsions?*

5. *Discuss any other issues of concern, not covered above or in the data, that impact on the safety outcomes for children and families served by the agency.*

B. Permanency

Outcome P1: Children will have permanency and stability in their living situations.
Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships, culture and connections will be preserved for children.

Based on examination of the foster care data and the State IV-B Plan (CFSP), please respond to the following questions.

1. *Have there been notable changes in the individual data elements in the permanency profile over the past 3 - 5 years in the State? Identify any factors considered to have an important impact on the changes noted.*

2. *What are the strengths and barriers in the agency's ability to help assure that children spend only the amount of time in out-of-home care that is needed for them to move on to more permanent living arrangements?*

3. *Does the agency engage in concurrent planning? If so, describe the strenghts and needs of the agency's concurrent planning program. If not, why not? Does the agency have plans to institute the use of concurrent planning in the future?*

4. *What are the strengths and barriers in the agency's ability to help assure that children for whom they have responsibility for placement are placed in the types of placements that are most appropriate for their individual needs?*

5. *How successful is the agency in promoting local practices that help to minimize the movement of children in foster care and increase the stability of children in permanent placements, in keeping with the needs and goals of the individual child? What are the agency's needs in this area?*

6. *What are the strengths and barriers in the agency's ability to assure that the children who enter foster care in the State are only those children whose needs for protection and care cannot be met in their own homes?*

7. *How successfully is the agency able to promote local practices that preserve the connections of children in foster care to their families, cultural background and community? What barriers exist in this area?*

8. *How adequate is the agency's array and level of placement resources, including foster family homes and adoptive homes, to meet the identified needs of children in out-of-home care, and what are the agency's needs in this area?*

9. *What are the strengths and needs of the agency's capacity to prepare all children who will remain in foster care through emancipation for independent living?*

10. *Discuss any other issues of concern, not covered above or in the data, that impact on the permanency outcomes for children and families served by the agency.*

C. Child and Family Well-Being

Outcome WB1: Families will have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
Outcome WB2: Children will receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
Outcome WB3: Children will receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.
Based on any data the agency has available, please respond to the following questions.

1. *What case planning and service delivery activities does the agency promote that supports individualizing specific strengths and needs of the children and families being served? What are the barriers to greater or more frequent individualization?*

2. *Is there a particular standard or criteria promoted by the agency for determining, at the practice level, when parents are able to provide adequately for the needs of their children, e.g., a minimally adequate parenting standard or other criteria?*

3. *What systems are in place that help to assure that the educational needs of children are identified in assessments and case planning and that those needs are addressed*

through services? What barriers does the agency face in this area?

4. *What systems are in place that help assure that the physical health and medical needs of children are identified in assessments and case planning activities and that those needs are addressed through services? What barriers does the agency face in this area?*

5. *What systems are in place that help assure that the mental health needs of children are identified in assessments and case planning activities and that those needs are addressed through services? What barriers does the agency face in this area?*

6. *Discuss any other issues of concern, not covered above or in the data, that impact on the well-being outcomes for children and families served by the agency.*

SECTION V - STATE ASSESSMENT OF STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

Based on examination of the data in Section III and the narrative responses in Section IV, the State review team should respond to the following questions.

1. *What specific strengths of the agency's programs has the team identified?*

2. *What specific needs has the team identified that warrant further examination through the on-site portion of the review? Note which of these needs are the most critical to the outcomes under safety, permanency and well-being for children and families in the State.*

3. *Which 3 - 4 locations, e.g., counties or regions, in the State are most appropriate for examining the strengths and concerns noted above in the on-site review?*

4. *If the needs noted above were to be addressed through technical assistance, what results is the agency seeking?*

5. *Comment on the self-assessment process itself in terms of its usefulness to the State, involvement of the entire review team membership, recommendations for revision and so forth.*

DRAFT 9/98

ON-SITE REVIEW INSTRUMENT

OMB Control No: xxxx-xxxx
Expiration date: xx\xx\xx

Face Sheet

STATE/COUNTY _____ DATE _____

RECORD TYPE _____ REVIEWER _____

CHILD'S NAME _____ CHILD'S DOB _____

RACE/ETHNICITY _____

Case Data

DATE CASE OPENED _____

DATE OF CURRENT PLACEMENT _____

DATE RETURNED HOME (if applicable) _____

DATE CASE CLOSED (if applicable) _____

What was the cause of the agency's involvement with this family? (Check all that apply and asterisk the primary reason.)

____ Physical abuse
____ Sexual abuse
____ Emotional maltreatment
____ Neglect (not including medical neglect)
____ Medical neglect
____ Abandonment
____ Child behavior
____ Mental/physical health of parent(s)
____ Mental/physical health of child
____ Substance abuse by parent(s)
____ Substance abuse by child
____ Domestic violence in child's home (spouse abuse)
____ Delinquency of child
____ Other (specify) _____

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, reading case files and conducting interviews, and reviewing the collection of information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SECTION I: SAFETY

Outcome S1: Children are protected from abuse and neglect in their homes whenever possible.

Item 1. Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in Home (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENTS, SERVICE PROVIDER - Outcome S1)

In cases of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect, or imminent risk of harm to children in the family, has the agency provided services to the family to protect the child(ren) in his/her own home, including family preservation, family support or other placement prevention services, within the past 12 months or the last 12 months before the child entered foster care (if applicable)? Yes ____ No ____

Exploratory issues:

- types of services provided to protect the child(ren)
- appropriateness of in-home services for the family
- reason services were not provided

Item 2. Current Risk of Harm to Child - Complete only for children in foster care with permanency goal of reunification and for families receiving in-home/CPS services (INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENTS, SERVICE PROVIDER Outcomes S1 & S2)

A. Is there a current risk of harm to the child(ren) in the family that is the basis for the child(ren) remaining in foster care or for the case to be kept open for services?
Yes ____ No ____

B. If yes, are efforts being made to reduce or remove the risk of harm through specific interventions by the agency?
Yes ____ No ____

Exploratory issues:

- nature of the current risk of harm
- what is needed to reduce or remove the risk
- how the risk is being addressed through services or other interventions

DISCUSSION OF SAFETY OUTCOME #1

Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect, and safely maintained in their homes whenever possible.

Check the level of outcome achievement that best describes the extent to which this outcome is being or has been achieved based on the interviews and case record review. In the box, support the level of outcome achievement selected by describing the indicators in the instrument that relate to the outcome.

Level of Outcome Achievement:

Substantially Achieved ____ Partially Achieved ____ Not Achieved ____ N/A ____

Items 1,2

Outcome S2: The risk of harm to children will be minimized.

Item 3. Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEW WITH SOCIAL WORKER - Outcome S2)

A. How many reports of suspected abuse or neglect have been received on children in the family? _____.

B. In how many of the reports were the investigations initiated in accordance with the State's time frame and requirements, for a report of that priority? _____ Missing Information _____

C. When was face-to-face contact with the child made by the investigating worker? _____

Exploratory Issues:

- priority level assigned to each report
- agency requirements for initiating an investigation with this priority level, i.e., time frame, other requirements
- when the investigating worker initiated the investigation
- what activities actually constituted "initiating" the investigation, e.g., face to face contact with the child

Item 4. Repeat Maltreatment (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEW WITH SOCIAL WORKER - Outcome S2)

Where there have been multiple substantiated or indicated reports of abuse or neglect on children in this family, have any of them involved,

	Yes	No	No Multiple Reports
the same perpetrator?	_____	_____	_____
the same general complaint?	_____	_____	_____

Exploratory issues:

- the nature of each report
- relationship of the perpetrator to the child

DISCUSSION OF SAFETY OUTCOME #2

Outcome S2: The risk of harm to children will be minimized.

Check the level of outcome achievement that best describes the extent to which this outcome is being or has been achieved based on the interviews and case record review. In the box, support the level of outcome achievement selected by describing the indicators in the instrument that relate to the outcome.

Level of Outcome Achievement:

Substantially Achieved ____ Partially Achieved ____ Not Achieved ____ N/A ____

Items 2, 3 & 4

SECTION II: PERMANENCY

Outcome P1: Children will have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Item 5. Foster Care Re-entries (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENTS - Outcome P1)

A. Has the child had multiple entries into foster care? Yes ____ No ____
B. Have any of them resulted from the same general reason? Yes ____ No ____

Exploratory issues:

- reason child entered foster care each time

Item 6. Stability of foster care placement (CASE RECORDS/INTERVIEW WITH SOCIAL WORKER, FOSTER PARENTS - Outcome P1)

A. Has the child changed placement settings during the current episode of foster care?
Yes ____ No ____

B. Have any of the placement changes occurred for reasons not directly related to helping the child achieve the goals in his or her case plan? Yes ___ No ___ No Placement Changes ____

C. Is the current placement setting stable, i.e., no apparent threat of disruption?
Yes _____ No _____

Exploratory issues:

- reasons for moves
- efforts to prevent unnecessary moves, if applicable
- correct match of placement setting to child's needs
- how current placement is being supported by agency
- reasons for instability, if applicable

Item 7. Permanency Goal for Child (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEW WITH SOCIAL WORKER - Outcome P1)

A. What is the childs current permanency goal? _____

B. How long has the goal been in place and unachieved? _____

C. Are the services being provided in the case consistent with the stated permanency goal?
Yes ____ No ____

D. If the child has been in foster care 15 or the most recent 22 months, has the agency filed or joined a petition to terminate parental rights?
Yes ____ No ____ Exception noted _____ (specify type)_____

Exploratory issues:

- changes/lack of changes in child's permanency goal

- reasons for changes in goals
- factors considered in decision-making about permanency goal
- barriers to achieving current goal
- how services currently being provided promote achievement of current permanency goal

Item 8. Independent Living Services - Complete only for children age 16 or older (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, CHILD, FOSTER PARENT - Outcome P1)

A. Does the child have a written independent living plan in the record? Yes ____ No ____ child not age 16 or older ____

B. Are independent living services being provided consistent with the child's needs? Yes ____ No ____ child not age 16 or older ____

Exploratory issues:

- services the youth is receiving to prepare for independent living
- extent to which services being provided match the youth's needs
- need for additional independent living services
- how well prepared the youth will be to live independently upon emancipation or achievement of his/her permanency goal

Item 9. Permanency Goal Of Some Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement - (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, FOSTER PARENT, CHILD, PARENT - Outcome P1)

****Complete only for children with permanency goals of some other planned permanent living arrangement or emancipation****

If the child has a permanency goal of some other planned permanent living arrangement, what is it? _____
Have other, more permanent goals been considered and appropriately ruled out for the child? Yes ____ No ____
Child's goal is not some other planned permanent living arrangement ____

Exploratory issues:

- factors that were considered in determining the goal
- reasons this goal was selected rather than legal guardianship or adoption

- reviews of the goal for continuing appropriateness since the goal was initially established

Item 10. Adoption - Complete only for children with a permanency goal of adoption (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER - Outcome P1)

A. For children who are legally free for adoption, has an adoptive family been identified?
Yes ____ No ____ Child not free for adoption ____

B. For children who are legally free for adoption, Are there current delays (more than 60 days' duration) in placing the child in an adoptive family that are within the agency's ability to correct? Yes ____ No noted delays ____
No delays within the agency's ability to correct ____

C. For children who are not legally free for adoption, are there delays (more than 60 days' duration) in freeing the child that are within the agency's ability to correct?
Yes ____ No ____ Child is legally free for adoption ____

Exploratory issues:

- is the child legally free for adoption
- current efforts to identify an adoptive family
- barriers to placing the child for adoption
- current efforts to legally free the child for adoption
- barriers to freeing the child

DISCUSSION OF PERMANENCY OUTCOME #1

Outcome P1: Children will have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Check the level of outcome achievement that best describes the extent to which this outcome is being or has been achieved based on the interviews and case record review. In the box, support the level of outcome achievement selected by describing the indicators in the instrument that relate to the outcome.

Level of Outcome Achievement:

Substantially Achieved ____ Partially Achieved ____ Not Achieved ____ N/A ____

Items 5,6,7,8,9 & 10

Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections will be preserved for children.

Item 11. Proximity of current placement (CASE RECORDS/INTERVIEW WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENT - Outcome P2)

A. What is the proximity of the child's current placement to the parents?
Same community ____ Same county ____ Out of county ____ Out of State ____

B. For children placed outside the community or county of their parents' residence, is the reason for the location of the placement clearly related to helping the child achieve his or her case plan goals? Yes _____ No _____ Child not placed outside community/county of parents residence _____

C. For children placed outside the State, is the child visited at least every 12 months by a social worker of the supervising agency and a report filed to the agency holding custody?
Yes _____ No _____

Exploratory issues:

- which parent is working with agency and most likely to be reunified with child
- reasons for placement settings
- how the placement location supports or inhibits achieving the child's case plan goals
- impact of placement location on maintaining important family and community connections

Item 12. Placement With Siblings (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS - Outcome P2)

A. If the child has siblings who also are in foster care, are they currently placed together?
Yes ____ No ____ No siblings in foster care ____

B. If no, is there clear evidence that separation is necessary to meet the needs of the children? Yes ____ No ____ No siblings in foster care ____

Exploratory issues:

- reasons siblings are not placed together, if applicable
- efforts made to place or keep them together
- history of their placement together, including reasons for prior separations

Item 13. Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENTS - Outcome P2)

A. What is the most typical pattern of visiting frequency between the child and parents? Weekly ____ Bi-weekly ____ Monthly ____ Less than monthly ____

B. What is the most typical pattern of visiting frequency between the child and siblings placed separately in foster care? Weekly ____ Bi-weekly ____ Monthly ____ Less than monthly ____ No siblings placed separately ____

Exploratory issues:

- reasons for restrictions or prohibitions on visits
- barriers to visiting less frequently than weekly
- agency services/supports to encourage more frequent visiting
- custody status of child, including termination of parental rights

Item 14. Preserving Connections (INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENTS, FOSTER PARENTS, CHILD - Outcome P2)

A. Are the primary connections and characteristics of the child being preserved in the foster care placement?

_____ To a large extent
_____ Partially
_____ Not at all

B. Are the interests of Native American children being addressed through,

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Placement with Native American families	___	___	___ (child not Nat. Am.)
Referral to tribal court	___	___	___ (child not Nat. Am.)
Other ICWA provisions (Specify) _____	___	___	___ (child not Nat. Am.)

Exploratory issues:

- primary connections of the child to neighborhood, community, family, friends
- unique characteristics of the family and child, including language, religion, values and beliefs, traditions, background, and so forth
- how they are addressed in the agency's work with the family and child
- how the foster care provider supports these needs for the child in care

Item 15. Relative Placement (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, CHILD'S CARETAKER, PARENTS - Outcome P2)

For children not placed with relatives, were relatives considered for placement of the child? Yes ____ No ____ child placed with relatives ____

Exploratory issues:

- extent to which relatives were sought out and evaluated
- reasons relatives were not evaluated, if applicable
- reasons relatives were not used for placement, if applicable

Item 16. Current Relationship of Child in Care with Parents (INTERVIEWS WITH CHILD, PARENTS, FOSTER PARENT, SERVICE PROVIDER - Outcomes P2 & WB1)

Is there evidence of a strong, emotionally supportive relationship between the child in foster care and the child's parent(s)? Yes ____ No ____

Exploratory issues:

- nature of current relationship from child's and parents' perspectives
- parental participation in activities with child, e.g, school functions, special occasions
- parental decision-making regarding child's needs and activities

DISCUSSION OF PERMANENCY OUTCOME #2

Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections will be preserved for children..

Check the level of outcome achievement that best describes the extent to which this outcome is being or has been achieved based on the interviews and case record review. In the box, support the level of outcome achievement selected by describing the indicators in the instrument that relate to the outcome.

Level of Outcome Achievement:

Substantially Achieved ____ Partially Achieved ____ Not Achieved ____ N/A ____

Items 11,12,13,14,15 & 16

SECTION 3: WELL-BEING

Item 17. Needs and Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, CHILD, PARENTS, FOSTER PARENTS, SERVICE PROVIDERS - Outcome WB1 and others as applicable)

Are the identified needs of the child, parents and foster parents being addressed through appropriate services?

	Yes	No	N/A	
A. The child in foster care	____	____		
B. The childs' parents	____	____	____	(plan does not incl. svs. to parent)
C. The childs' foster parents	____	____	____	(child not in foster care)

Exploratory issues:

- what services are being provided in relation to current needs?
- match of services to needs
- accessibility of services, e.g., location, schedule, cost
- availability of services
- worker accessibility to foster parents
- is child placed in setting most appropriate, most family-like and best suited the child's interests and needs?
- are services intensive enough to meet identified needs?

Item 18. Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning (INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENT(S), CHILD, SERVICE PROVIDER - Outcome WB1)

A. Are the parent(s) and child (when old enough) actively involved in the case planning activities?

	Yes	No	N/A	
Child	____	____	____	(child not old enough or incapacitated)
Parents	____	____	____	(case plan does not include services to parents)

B. Are procedural safeguards in place with respect to parental rights pertaining to the removal of children from home, changes in placements and visiting privileges?

Yes ____ No ____

Exploratory issues:

- level of involvement in identifying needs and services, establishing goals and evaluating progress

- reasons for non-involvement
- notification of parents when child is moved, changes made in visiting arrangements, or changes made in case plans

Item 19. Worker Visits With Child (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, CHILD, FOSTER PARENT - Outcome WB1 and others, as applicable)

A. What has been the most typical pattern of visiting frequency between the social worker and the child during the last six months (or the last six months before the case was closed, if applicable)?
Weekly ____ Bi-weekly ____ Monthly ____ Less than monthly ____

B. Where visits are occurring less frequently than monthly, are there other agency staff, volunteers or service providers, e.g., contract providers, who are visiting the child at least monthly? Yes ____ No ____

Exploratory issues:

- child's needs for contacts with worker
- factors impacting on frequency of visits

Item 20. Worker Visits with Parents (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENTS - Outcome WB1 and others as applicable)

A. What has been the most typical pattern of visiting frequency between the social worker and the parent(s) during the last six months (or the last six months before the case was closed, if applicable)?
Weekly ____ Bi-weekly ____ Monthly ____ Less than monthly ____

B. Where visits are occurring less frequently than monthly, are there other agency staff, volunteers or service providers, e.g., contract providers, who are visiting the parent(s) at least monthly? Yes ____ No ____

Exploratory issues:

- parents' needs for contacts with worker
- factors impacting on frequency of visits
- reasons for infrequent visiting, if applicable

DISCUSSION OF WELL-BEING OUTCOME #1

Outcome WB1: Families will have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Check the level of outcome achievement that best describes the extent to which this outcome is being or has been achieved based on the interviews and case record review. In the box, support the level of outcome achievement selected by describing the indicators in the instrument that relate to the outcome.

Level of Outcome Achievement:

Substantially Achieved ____ Partially Achieved ____ Not Achieved ____ N/A ____

Items 16,17,18,19 & 20

Outcome WB2: Children will receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Item 21. Educational Needs of the Child (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, CHILD, FOSTER PARENTS, PARENTS - Outcome WB2)

A. If the child is in foster care, has the child been enrolled in multiple schools as the result of being placed in foster care? Yes ____ No ____ Child not school age ____
Child not in foster care ____

B. Are the child(ren)'s educational needs being addressed through,

		Yes	No	N/A
Special education classes	___	___	___	(no identified special ed. needs)
Normal grade placement	___	___	___	(child not school age)
Services for identified educational needs	___	___	___	(no unusual ed. needs noted)
Early intervention for pre-school children	___	___	___	(early intervention not needed)
Inclusion of school records in case file	___	___	___	(child not school age)

C. For children who have identified educational needs, is the agency addressing the needs through,

		Yes	No	N/A
Advocacy with the education/school system	___	___	___	(no needs/not school age)
Attention to education in case planning	___	___	___	(no needs/not school age)

Exploratory issues:

- reasons for changing schools, if applicable
- testing/evaluation to determine educational needs of child
- current functioning in school
- identified needs of child related to school performance
- services provided to address educational needs
- match of services to identified needs
- worker activities to address educational needs

DISCUSSION OF WELL-BEING OUTCOME #2

Outcome WB2: Children will receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Check the level of outcome achievement that best describes the extent to which this outcome is being or has been achieved based on the interviews and case record review. In the box, support the level of outcome achievement selected by describing the indicators in the instrument that relate to the outcome.

Level of Outcome Achievement:

Substantially Achieved ____ Partially Achieved ____ Not Achieved ____ N/A ____

Item 21

Outcome WB3: Children will receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Item 22. Physical Health of the Child (CASE RECORD/INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, CHILD, FOSTER PARENTS, PARENTS - Outcome WB3)

A. If the child is in foster care, was an initial health screening (or other comprehensive medical examination) provided within the time frame specified in the State's guidelines?
Yes ____ No ____ Child not in foster care ____

B. Are the child(ren)'s physical health needs being met through,

	Yes	No	N/A
Preventive health care	____	____	

Preventive dental care	____	____	
Immunizations	____	____	
Treatment for identified health needs	____	____	____ (no identified health needs)
Treatment for identified dental needs	____	____	____ (no identified dental needs)
Inclusion of health records in case file	____	____	
Giving health records to foster parents	____	____	

Exploratory issues:

- what are State's guidelines for timing of initial health examinations for children entering foster care
- type and timing of initial screening received by child in foster care
- recency of immunizations
- periodicity of subsequent health screenings and preventive dental care
- current identified health or dental needs
- how health and dental needs are being treated
- how the agency tracks medical needs and services
- does foster parent (provider) have copies of child's health records

Item 23. Mental Health of the Child (INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKER, PARENT, FOSTER PARENT, SERVICE PROVIDER - Outcome WB3)

A. If the child is in foster care, was an initial mental health screening or assessment provided upon entry into foster care (or within the time frame specified in the State's guidelines, if applicable)?
Yes ____ No ____ Child not in foster care ____ No State guidelines ____

B. Are the childs̈ mental health needs being addressed through,

	Yes	No	N/A
Assessment or screening	____	____	
Treatment for identified needs	____	____	____ (no identified health needs)

Exploratory issues:

- assessment for mental health needs at initial agency involvement or upon entering foster care
- current mental health needs
- services provided for mental health needs
- match of services to identified needs

DISCUSSION OF WELL-BEING OUTCOME #3

Outcome WB3: Children will receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Check the level of outcome achievement that best describes the extent to which this outcome is being or has been achieved based on the interviews and case record review. In the box, support the level of outcome achievement selected by describing the indicators in the instrument that relate to the outcome.

Level of Outcome Achievement:

Substantially Achieved ____ Partially Achieved ____ Not Achieved ____ N/A ____

Items 22,23

Draft 9/98

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW GUIDE

OMB Control No: xxxx-xxxx
Expiration date: xx\xx\xx

General Instructions

- Stakeholder interviews will be conducted in the local review sites and at the State level. The following core stakeholders should be interviewed:

State-Level	Local-Level
State child welfare director	Local child welfare agency administrator
State child welfare program specialists	Foster parent
State court system representative	Juvenile court judge
Major tribal representatives	Law enforcement representative
	Social worker(s) from the local agency

- Additional stakeholders at both State and local levels may be interviewed, as needed. The various types of additional stakeholder representatives who may be interviewed are listed in the review procedures manual.

- This interview guide identifies core issues that should be covered in stakeholder interviews in each review site. While each individual stakeholder may not be able to address each core issue, the combination of interviews in each site should cover the core issues. Following each core issue is a list of possible stakeholders who may be able to address the particular issue. *However, reviewers will need to make judgments about which of the issues to be covered should be pursued with each individual stakeholder.*

- Each core issue is followed by a list of exploratory issues that reviewers should pursue, as appropriate, in the interview. As with the core issues, some of the exploratory issues will be more or less applicable to individual stakeholders.

- In addition to the core issues, the Regional Office team leader, in collaboration with the State and the Central Office, will be responsible for identifying any State-specific systemic issues from the self-assessment that need further examination through stakeholder interviews in the on-site review and including those issues in Section II of the Stakeholder Interview Guide.

- Notes from the interviews should be recorded on the Stakeholder Interview Guide forms. Notes from all stakeholder interviewes should be summarized by the reviewer on a single form. The forms will be used by the review team to compile the Summary of Findings and Recommendations at the end of the on-site review. The forms must be submitted to the designated team member at the end of the on-site review.

- Interviews should be kept to around an hour in length.

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13):
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, conducting interviews, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

STAHEHOLDER INTERVIEW GUIDE

Interview Type: **Local Stakeholder** _____ **State Stakeholder** _____
Interviewer:

_____

County: _____ **Date(s) of Interviews:** _____

Person(s) Interviewed	**Title**
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

SECTION I: CORE ISSUES

Item 1. Agency Responsiveness to Community (State and county agency staff, external stakeholders)

Describe the extent of the agency's responsiveness to expectations and needs of this community (or State if interviewing State-level stakeholder) as they relate to the agency's mission.

Exploratory Issues:

- Strengths and needs of the agency's ability to respond to the community's (State's) expectations about protecting children from maltreatment;
- The agency's effectiveness in serving all relevant populations in the community (State), e.g., racial and ethnic groups, age groups, rural vs. urban populations;
- The agency's effectiveness in working with other child and family serving agencies in the community (State);
- How the community views the agency's mission;
- Procedures in place that encourage or inhibit community involvement, e.g., intake procedures, volunteer programs, community-based programs and so forth.

Item 2. Information System Capacity (State and county agency staff)

Describe the capacity of the State (or county) agency's information system to support the work of staff at the local level (State and local levels, if interviewing State-level staff).

Exploratory Issues:

- Adequacy of the information provided through the information system to assist workers, supervisors and managers in their daily work;
- Capacity of the information system to determine status, demographics, location and goals for all children in foster care in the county (or State);
- Capacity to identify/track children and families served in programs other than foster care,

e.g., CPS services, in-home services;
- Major gaps/needs in the information system from both local and State perspectives.

Item 3. Quality Assurance and Supervision (State and county agency staff)

Describe the effectiveness of the agency's provisions for supervision of staff and quality assurance in promoting satisfactory outcomes for children and families.

Exploratory Issues:
- The strengths and needs of the supervision that child welfare workers receive at the county level;
- Effectiveness of the county agency's (or State's) quality assurance measures in:
  - helping assure that children in the county (or State) are protected from maltreatment;
  - helping assure that the services provided to children in foster care meet the quality standards established by the State for such services;
  - helping assure that children in foster care achieve permanency on a timely basis;
  - involving individuals outside the county (or State) agency in evaluating outcomes for children and families, e.g., service recipients, service providers, advocates, etc.
- Reporting and evaluation capacity of the quality assurance system
- Geographical range covered by the quality assurance system in the State

Item 4. Staff and Provider Training (State and county agency staff, local external stakeholders)

Describe the extent to which staff of the agency and service providers, particularly foster families, are trained and prepared to carry out the agency's mission and help families and children achieve satisfactory outcomes.

Exploratory Issues:
- Strengths and needs of the training provided to: agency staff (at all levels) in preparing them to work with families and children or otherwise carry out the agency's mission; foster and adoptive parents in preparing them to work with children and their families and with staff of the agency and to care for children in their homes; other service providers used by the agency in preparing them to work with children and families in a manner that is consistent with the agency's mission and goals;
- Consistency of the training curricula used by the agency with the agency's goals in the community (or State).
- Comparisons between pre-service and in-service training for staff and providers

Item 5. Foster and Adoptive Home Licensing/Approval/Recruitment (State and county agency staff, selected external stakeholders, e.g., foster parents, court, service providers)

Describe the effectiveness of the agency's provisions for licensing or approving and

recruiting foster and adoptive homes to help provide protection and permanency for children in out-of-home care.

Exploratory Issues:

- Sufficiency of the county's (or State's) current pool of foster and adoptive families to meet the placement needs of children in the county (or State), including numbers, locations and capacity to parent the children in need of placement;
- Adequacy of numbers and training of staff who perform licensing and recruitment functions;
- Effects of the agency's (county or State) standards/licensing requirements on protection and permanency for children in out-of-home care;
- Factors that affect, positively or negatively, recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families.
- Efforts to recruit foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State in need of placement
- Extent to which the agency's licensing standards reflect national standards, i.e., CWLA
- Efforts to remove barriers to interjurisdictional adoptions.

Item 6. Case Review System (State and county agency staff, selected local external stakeholders, e.g., foster parents, court, attorneys, advocates, foster care review board members)

Describe the effectiveness of the current provisions in place in the county (or State) for reviewing cases of children in foster care, including relative placements, who are in the agency's custody or supervision.

Exploratory Issues:

- Do all chilren have case plans reflecting most appropriate placements in their best interests and in close proximity to parents?
- Are children placed out-of-State visited at least once each 12 months?
- Strengths and needs of the periodic reviews and permanency hearings in the county (or State) in promoting permanency for children in foster care, including children in related placements;
- Factors that affect the frequency of hearings and reviews;
- Level of participation by children, families, foster families, and preadoptive families including provisions for notifying them of reviews and hearings, changes in placements and visiting arangements;
- The agency's implementation of the termination of parental rights provisions at section 475(5)(E) of the Social Security Act and its use of the exceptions thereto.

Item 7. Service Array (State and county agency staff, external stakeholders)

Describe the capacity of the current array of services in the county (or State) to meet the individual needs of children and families served by the agency.

Exploratory Issues:

- Strengths of the current array of services in the county (or State) to meet the needs of children and families served by the agency;
- Gaps in the capacity of the service array to meet the needs of children and families;
- Effectiveness of the current service array in responding to the *individual* needs of children and families, as opposed to providing the same level and type of service to all;
- Availability of services to families and children in their own homes and in the communities where they live (for County stakeholder interviews).
- Strengths and needs of services designed specifically to assure safety of children
- Strengths and needs of services designed specifically to promote permanency for children

SECTION II. STATE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

The review team may choose to identify additional issues specific to the State or as a result of the self-assessment.

Dated: September 9, 1998.

Bob Sargis,

Acting Reports Clearance Officer.

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