

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT
TANYA KEYS, DEPUTY SECRETARY | 3.31.25

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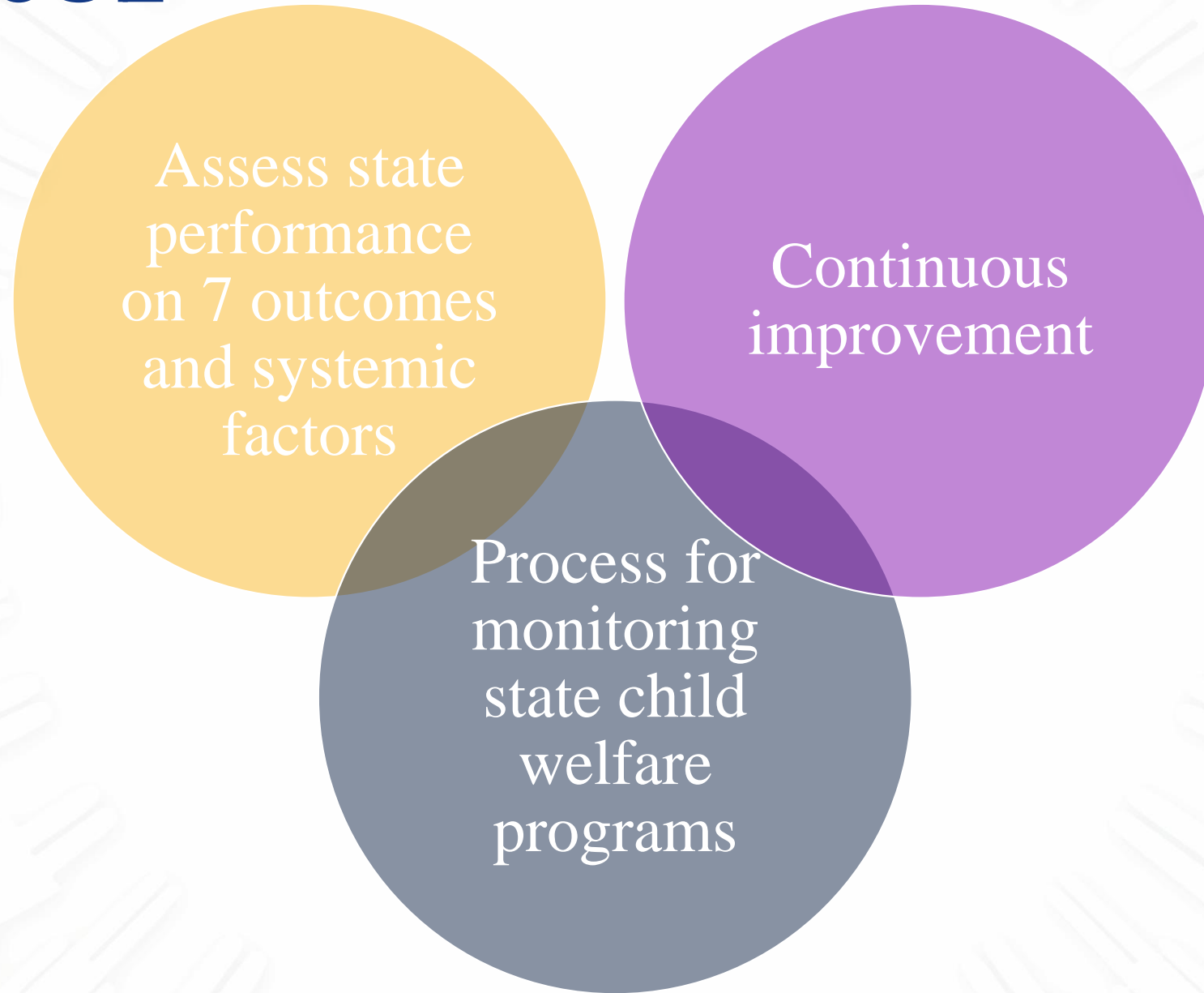
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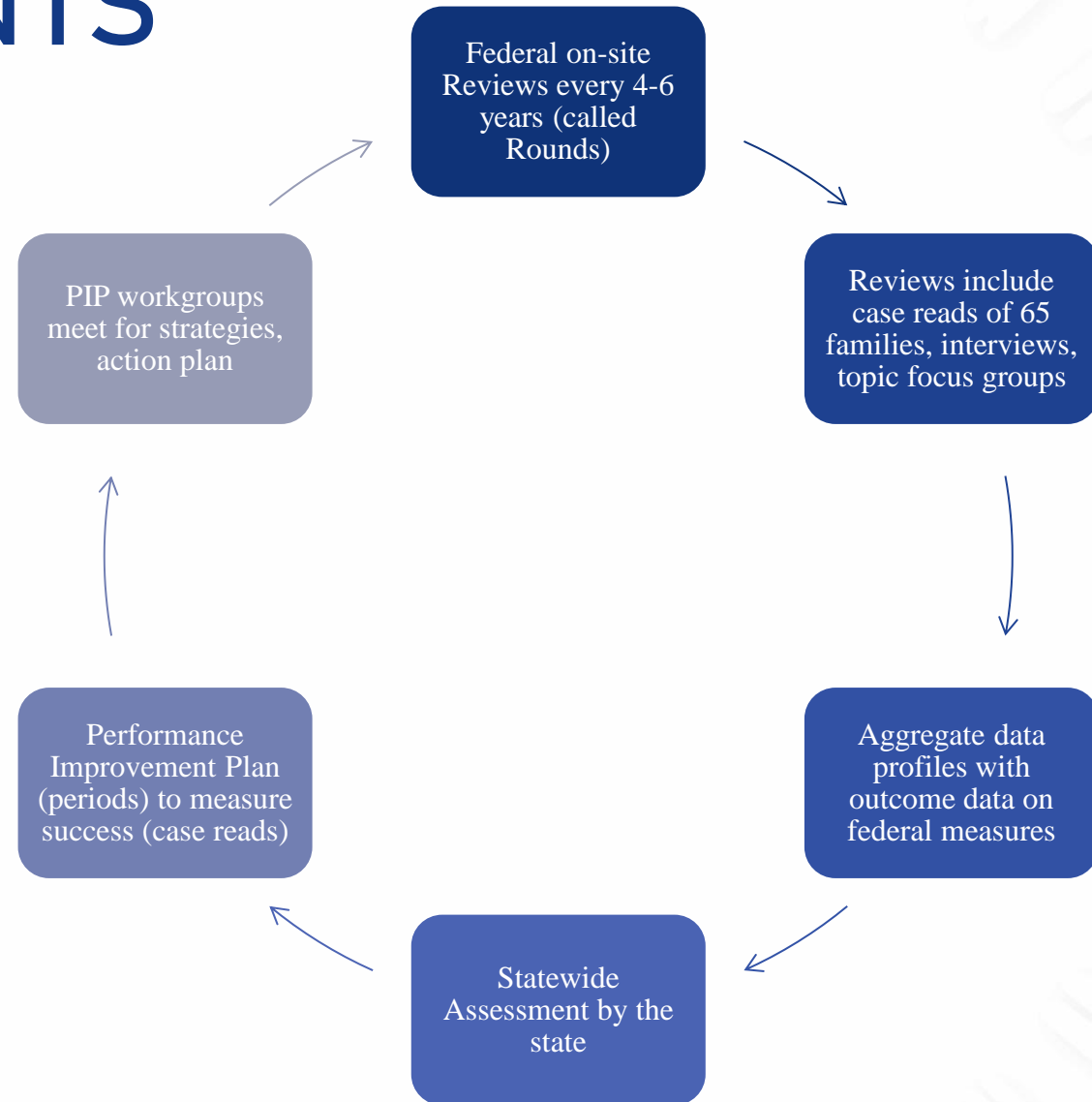
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PURPOSE



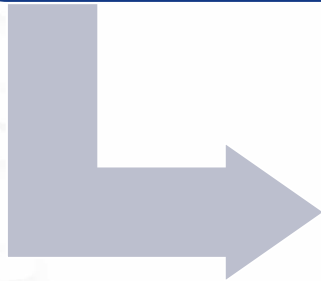
COMPONENTS



TIMELINE

KS Round 4
Federal Review
Week

April 17, 2023 : for Apr.
2002-April 2023
activity



Final Report
Received

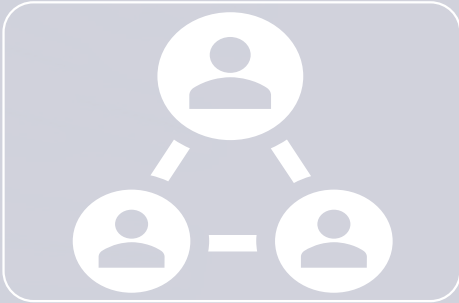
July 2023



Performance
Improvement
Plan
Implemented

May 1, 2024

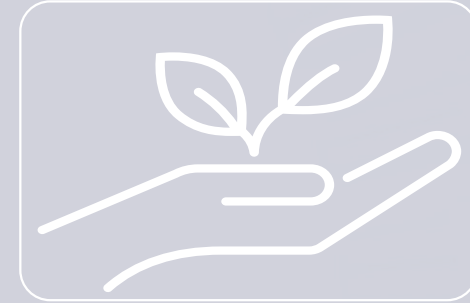
CFSR OUTCOMES



Safety



Permanency



Wellbeing

Measured through individual Case Reviews and statewide aggregate Data Indicators

QUICK REFERENCE: 7 OUTCOMES

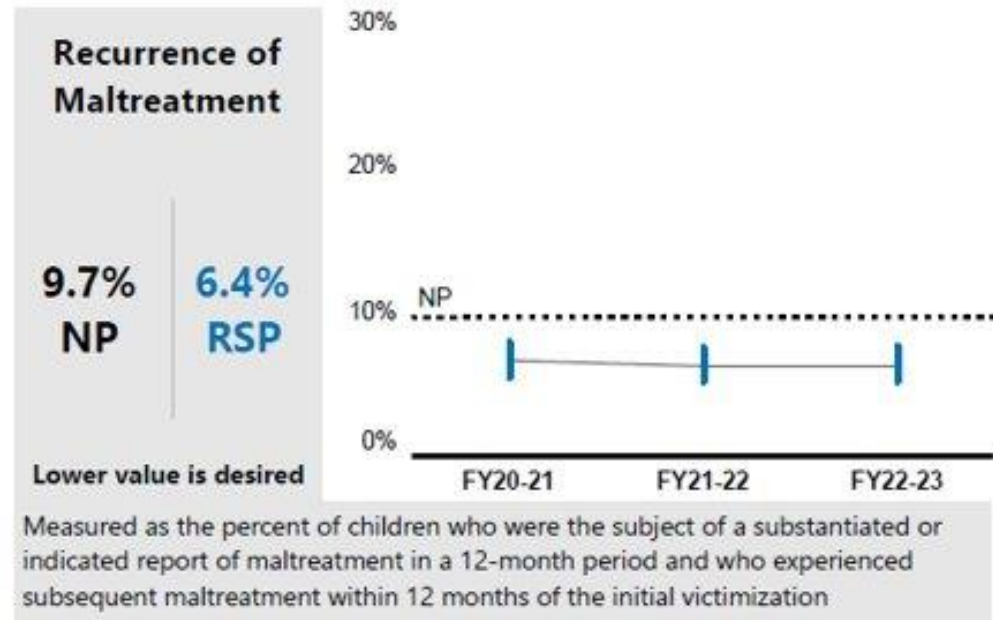
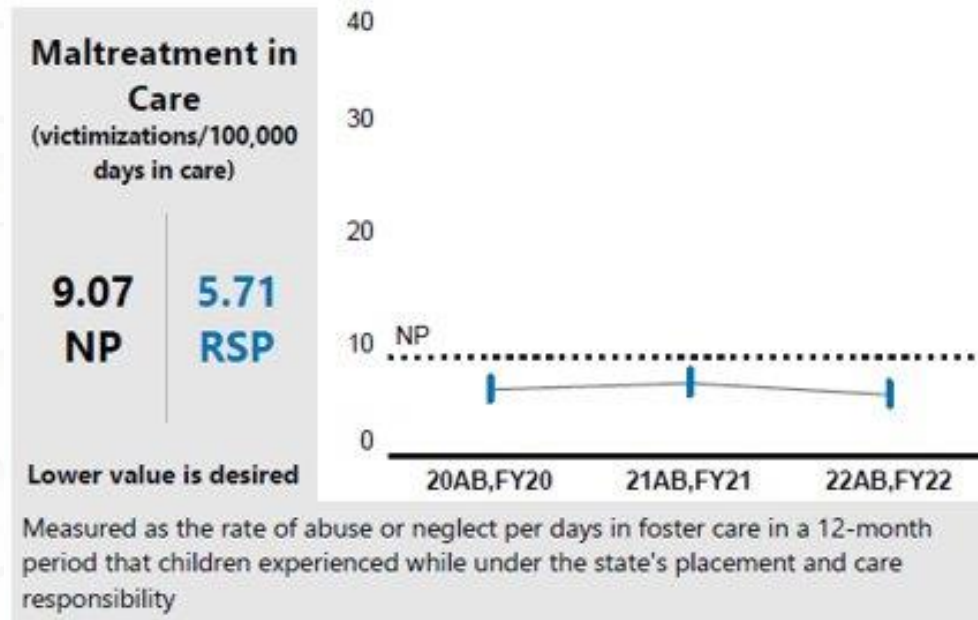


1. Safety 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
2. Safety 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.
- 3. Perm 1: Children have safety and stability in their living situations.**
- 4. Perm 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.**
5. Wellbeing 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
6. Wellbeing 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
7. Wellbeing 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

2 SAFETY DATA OUTCOMES

CFSR Round 4 Data Profile, AFCARS and NCANDS submissions as of 12-17-24, sent to Kansas 2/2025

- Kansas performs better compared to national performance in the two Statewide Data Indicators for Safety (lower is better)



SAFETY – FEDERAL REVIEW (RESULT) THEMES

Strengths

- Timeframes for initiation and face-to-face contact were routinely met
- Family preservation workers managing safety in the home
- Concrete and appropriate risk and safety-related services
- Creative, effective assessment tools for younger children
- Accurate initial assessments of risk and safety

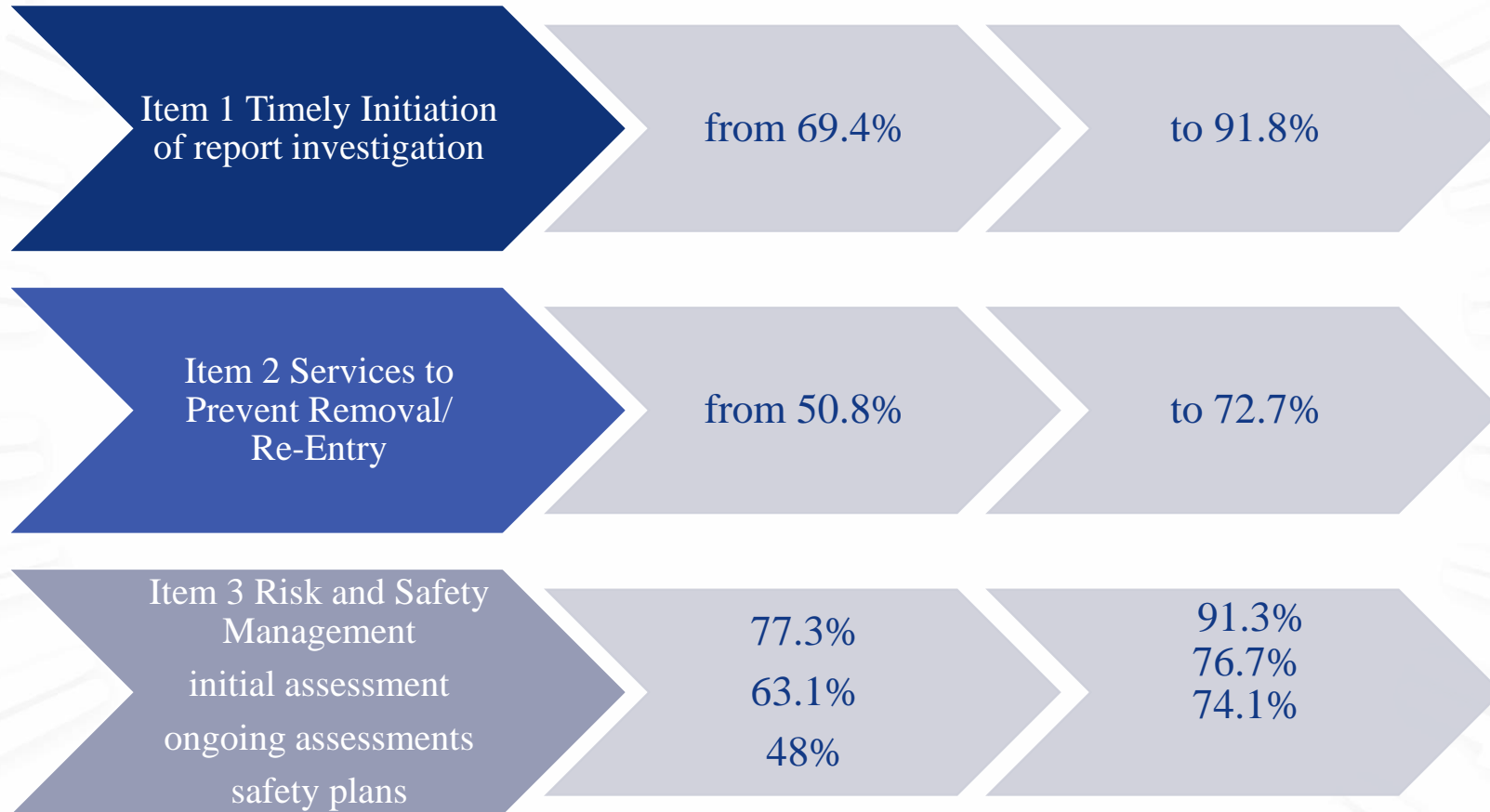
Areas Needing Improvement

- Lack of coordination of timely responses when “courtesy requests” are made for initiation/ face-to-face contact with children
- Inadequate ongoing assessments at critical case junctures in foster homes
- Inadequate provision of needed safety services. Lack of formal/informal safety planning.

SAFETY - UPDATES

- *CFSR Onsite Review results did not achieve the required 95% of the cases rated as strength in how timely DCF was responding to the assigned response time (11 of 65 cases were rated an Area Needing Improvement).*
- ➔ From the PIP Case Reviews and ongoing data submissions, notable progress in five areas
- Performance has improved across both individual questions and overall Safety Outcomes, reflecting teams across the state in their dedication to the implemented initiatives.

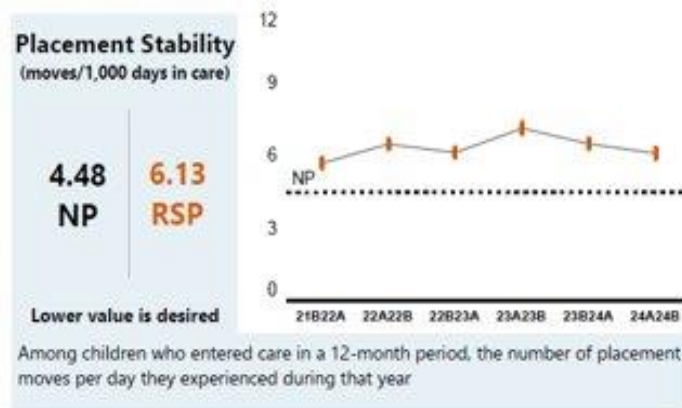
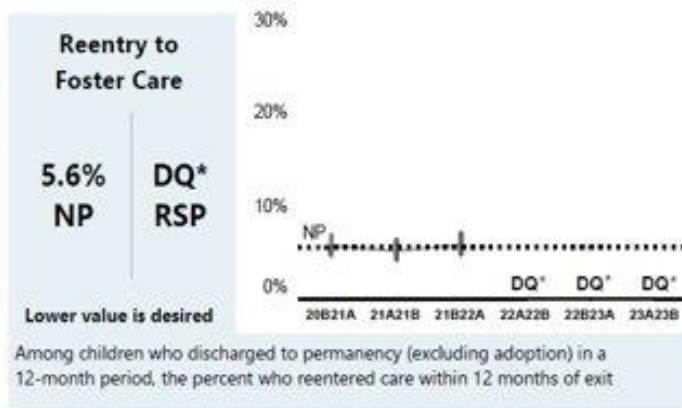
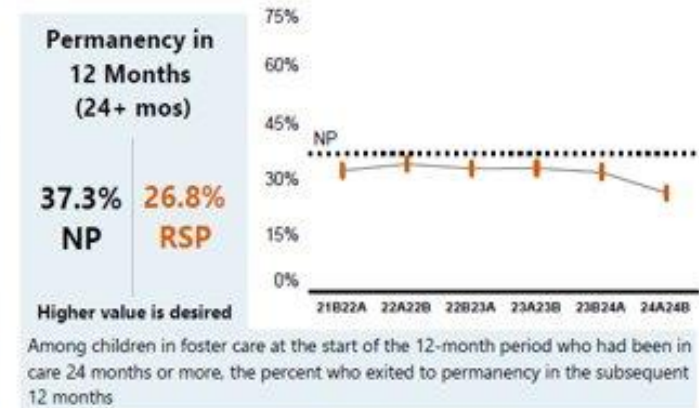
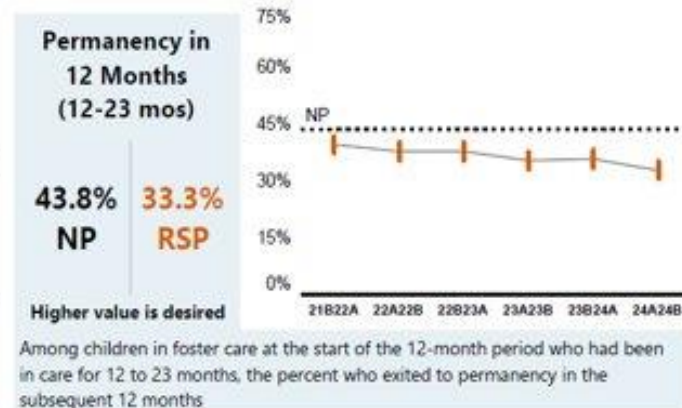
SAFETY – IMPROVEMENT UPDATES



PERMANENCY & PLACEMENT STABILITY

CFSR ROUND 4 DATA PROFILE, AFCARS AND NCANDS SUBMISSIONS AS OF 12-17-24, SENT TO KANSAS 2/2025

Federal Statewide Data Indicators for Permanency



Performance Key

- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically better than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically no different than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically worse than national performance.
- DQ Performance was not calculated due to exceeding the data quality limit on one or more data quality (DQ) checks done for the indicator. See footnotes for more information.
- DQ* Performance was not calculated due to data quality issues beyond the DQ checks.

PERMANENCY CONTEXT: LENGTH OF STAY

Kansas is in a federal Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to improve timely permanency closer to national performance.

Length of Stay

- The average time in foster care for all children who have ended care in SFY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025) was 25.8 months.
- Most children have achieved permanency through reunification (53%).
- Children whose legal permanency is reunification are in care an average length of 12 months.

SFY 2025 (7/1/24 -1/31/25) Exit Reason from Care	% of Exits	Avg. Months in Care
Reunification	53%	12
Adoption	25%	43
Emancipation/ Adult transition	17%	46
Custodianship/ Guardianship	3%	23
Transfer to another Agency	1%	21
SOUL Family	0.4%	17
Other Reason	0.6%	47
All children	100%	25.8

PERMANENCY – REVIEW THEMES

Strengths

- Stability of current placement
- Changes in placement settings were planned in an effort to achieve case goals
- Use of relative placements & preserving connections
- Assignment of GALs, engagement with child/youth/families
- Foster parents facilitating frequent, quality parent/child visitation
- Assessing and meeting the needs of parents and frequent, quality visits in the family home
- Placing siblings together when appropriate

PERMANENCY – REVIEW THEMES

Areas Needing Improvement

- Establishing concurrent goals
- Untimely goal changes from reunification to adoption
- Delays processing signed relinquishments of parental rights
- Adoptions taking longer to finalize than necessary
- Court extending reunification timelines to allow parents more time
- Lack of ongoing efforts to engage resistant parents
- Case plans not developed with parents
- Multiple caseworkers
- Parents not notified of opportunities outside of visitation (e.g., medical, school, etc.)

PERMANENCY – KEY STRATEGIES

Key strategies to reach closer to national performance

- Improve communication of risk and safety concerns related to the four questions so information can be provided to the court and parties to allow for more timely reintegration.
- Increase timely filing of Termination of Parental Rights and subsequent adoptions.

PERMANENCY & STABILITY PIP UPDATES



6.13

PLACEMENT STABILITY Kansas children experienced 6.13 moves per 1,000 days in care, improved from 6.52 in the 08/2024 profile. KS remains higher (more moves) than national performance of 4.48 moves.

33%

PIP GOAL MET : Kansas set and met a PIP goal in August 2024 of at least 33.5% for Permanency in 12 Months

65%

Kansas has Improved performance for Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child since On-Site Review, going from 45% to 65%. From the 40 cases reviewed, 82.5% of goals were appropriate and 77.5% of permanency goals were established timely. 85% of TPR's were also filed timely.

33%

For Permanency in 12-23 Months, Kansas performance was at 33.3% in the 02/2025, data profile, down from 36.3% in the 08/2024 profile and about 10% down from national performance of 43.8%.

WELLBEING – REVIEW THEMES

Strengths

- Comprehensive assessments of children's, parents', and foster parents' needs
- Active engagement of children/youth in case planning
- Frequent, quality visits with children and parents
- Stronger performance seen in In-home services cases than foster care cases
- Timely well-child exams (physical and dental)
- Special medical needs assessed and addressed
- Immediate crisis mental health assessments
- Individualized, effective mental and behavioral health treatment

WELLBEING - REVIEW THEMES

Areas Needing Improvement

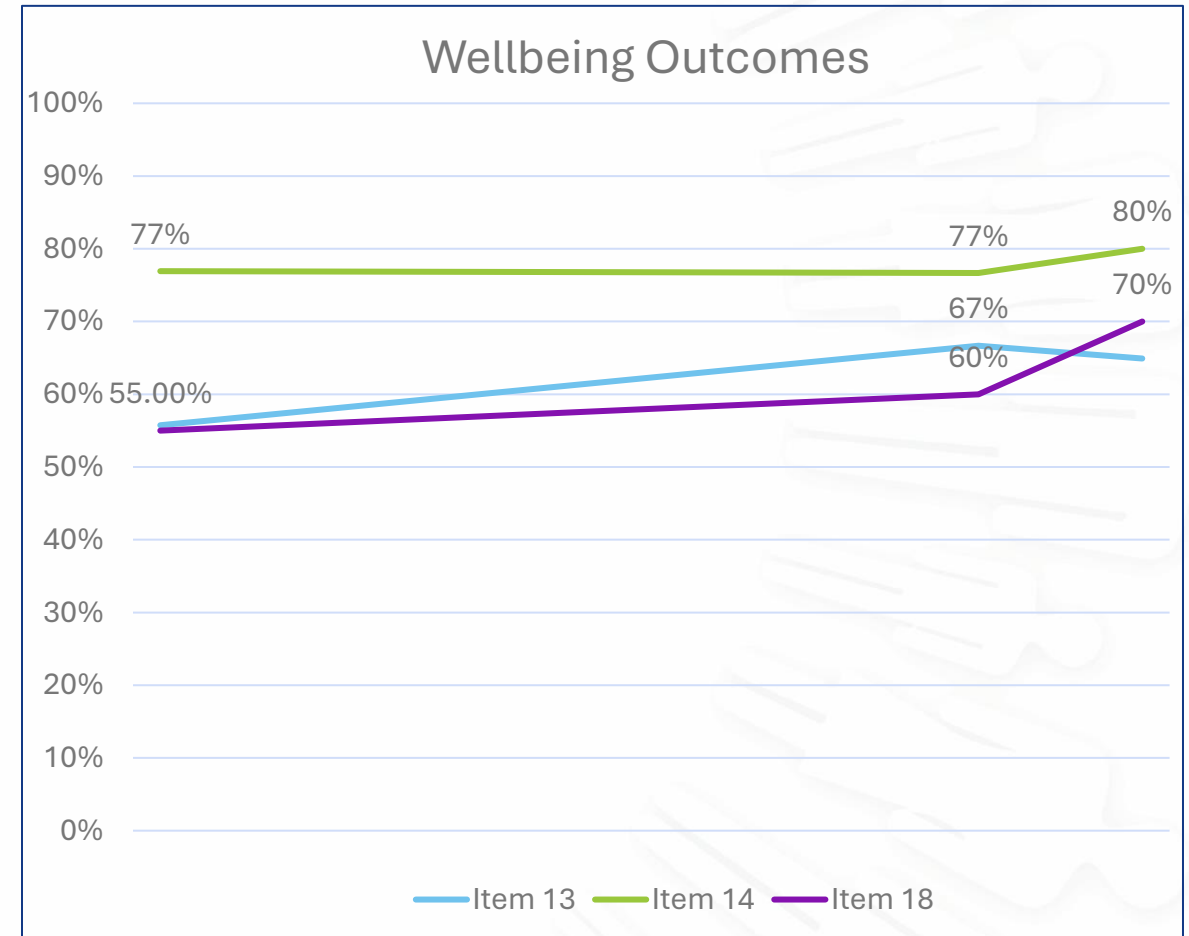
- Dental care limited by providers who accept state insurance
- Insufficient medication monitoring
- Waitlists, accessibility, and availability of specialized mental/behavioral health services

WELLBEING - DATA UPDATES FROM DCF CASE REVIEWS

Wellbeing Outcomes have also shown progress since the On-Site Review, with additional work being done by the Wellbeing Group to further impact the outcomes.

- ▲ Item 13: Family Involvement in Case Planning– from 55.7% to 64.9%
- ▲ Item 14: Caseworker Visits with Child: 76.9% to 80%
- ▲ Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of Child: 54.8% to 70%

These improvements highlight the ongoing commitment to enhancing family engagement and expanding access to critical mental and behavioral health services.



QUESTIONS?
