

ANNUAL HEALTH OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM REPORT

December 1, 2021



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Secretary

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Introduction

Section 409.996(26), Florida Statutes, requires the Department of Children and Families (Department) to implement a statewide accountability system to assess the overall health of the child welfare system by circuit beginning July 1, 2021, and to provide an annual report of this assessment to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1.

Pursuant to statute, the Department implemented a statewide accountability system on July 1, 2021. The grading criteria established for the accountability system is based on 12 months of performance data collected within the state fiscal year cycle. As such, circuit ratings will first be published in the December 1, 2022 annual report. This 2021 report outlines the metrics and grading methodology established for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 child welfare accountability system ratings.

Background

Following the passage of Senate Bill 1326 in 2020, the Department's Quality Office collaborated with the Office of Child Welfare, regional child welfare operations, and contracted partners and stakeholders to determine the metrics that would be used to comprise the accountability system, in accordance with state statute. The Department then worked in consultation with outside entities proficient in statistics and social services rating systems (Texas Public Policy Institute, Casey Family Programs, and SAS) to develop the methodology that would result in a circuit rating. All metrics and the rating methodology were finalized by the July 1, 2021 implementation deadline in statute.

Accountability System Framework

Domains of safety, permanency, and well-being were established for the accountability system in accordance with federal and state child welfare measurement systems and goals for those served by the child welfare system. The safety and permanency domains will each account for 40 percent of the overall circuit rating and the well-being domain will account for 20 percent of the overall circuit rating. Each of the domains contain qualitative metrics, derived from the Quality Office's life-of-case review tool, and quantitative metrics obtained from the state child welfare information system, Florida Safe Families Network. In addition to the overall circuit rating for the health of the child welfare system, each circuit will receive sub-ratings on the domains of safety, permanency, and well-being.

Each domain contains metrics for each entity of the child welfare system: child protective investigations, children's legal services, and case management. Responsibility for the performance of each metric is assigned to the entity that performs the work behind the metric, with the exception of metrics that have shared responsibility among the entities, such as permanency. The accountability system will not rate the individual performance of these entities. The rating will reflect the collective contributions of these entities to the overall health of the child welfare system in the circuit.

Metrics and Targets

The accountability system is comprised of 38 metrics across the three domains of safety, permanency, and well-being. Each metric, including the corresponding responsible system entity, measurement type, target, and circuit and domain weight are included in Appendix 1.

Performance targets remain consistent with federally or state legislatively established targets. For metrics that did not have established targets, historical targets and baseline performance data were taken into consideration for their establishment.

Circuit and Domain Rating Methodology

The overall circuit rating and domain ratings will be calculated using the following formula to compute the sum total of each individual metric score multiplied by its assigned weight. An example of this calculation is illustrated in *Figure 1 - Example of Rating Calculations*.

- $Domain\ Rating = \sum \{Individual\ Metric\ Score \times Domain\ Weight\ Assigned\ to\ Metric\}$
- $Overall\ Rating = \sum \{Individual\ Metric\ Score \times Overall\ Weight\ Assigned\ to\ Metric\}$

Figure 1 - Example of Rating Calculations

Domain	Metric	Metric Rating	Domain Weight	Metric Rating X Domain Weight	Overall Weight	Metric Rating X Overall Weight
A	Metric 1	1	50%	.50	16.7%	.167
	Metric 2	2	50%	1.00	16.7%	.334
	Domain A Rating (sum Metric Rating X Domain Weight)				1.50	
B	Metric 1	3	50%	1.50	16.7%	.501
	Metric 2	4	50%	2.00	16.6%	.664
	Domain B Rating (sum Metric Rating X Domain Weight)				3.50	
C	Metric 1	5	50%	2.50	16.7%	.835
	Metric 2	5	50%	2.50	16.6%	.835
	Domain C Rating (sum Metric Rating X Domain Weight)				5.00	
Overall Circuit Rating (Sum Metric Rating X Overall Weight)						3.33

Metric Scoring

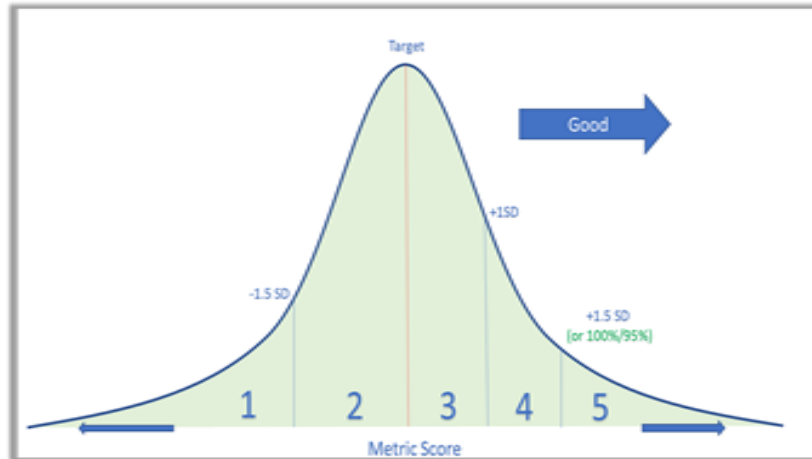
To calculate the overall circuit and domain ratings, each individual metric will first be assigned a metric score. Metrics are scored on a one to five scale based on the relative distance, using standard deviations, between a circuit's actual annual performance on a metric and the established target for that metric.

As illustrated in *Figure 2-Metric Scoring Graph*, moving from most desirable performance to least desirable performance, the scoring system is outlined below.

- Five - the circuit met and exceeded the target by more than one-and-a-half standard deviations

- Four – the circuit met and exceeded the target by more than one standard deviation, but less than one-and-a-half standard deviations
- Three - the circuit met target, but did not exceed the target by more than one standard deviation
- Two - the circuit did not meet target and was within one-and-a-half standard deviations removed from target
- One - the circuit did not meet target and was more than one-and-a-half standard deviations removed from target

Figure 2 – Metric Scoring Graph



Two exceptions may be applied when assigning a metric score of five. One occurs when one-and-a-half standard deviations is greater than 100 percent (max value), for example 105%. In this circumstance, the standard for a five score is 100 percent. The second exception applies to metrics for which, as part of a multi-year strategic effort to shift performance, longer-term target goals have been established that are well above current average statewide performance and the current average statewide performance is in line or more favorable than national comparisons. In these circumstances, the achievement of the end-state goal will constitute of metric score of five.

Metric Weight

As indicated in the calculation of the overall circuit and domain ratings, each accountability metric is assigned an overall weight and domain weight, which will facilitate a rating in the safety, permanency, and well-being domains. With the exception of nine metrics receiving increased weight to align with the achievement of Department strategic priorities, the weight for each accountability metric is equally distributed across metrics within a given domain (safety, permanency, well-being) to equal 100 percent of the domain weight.

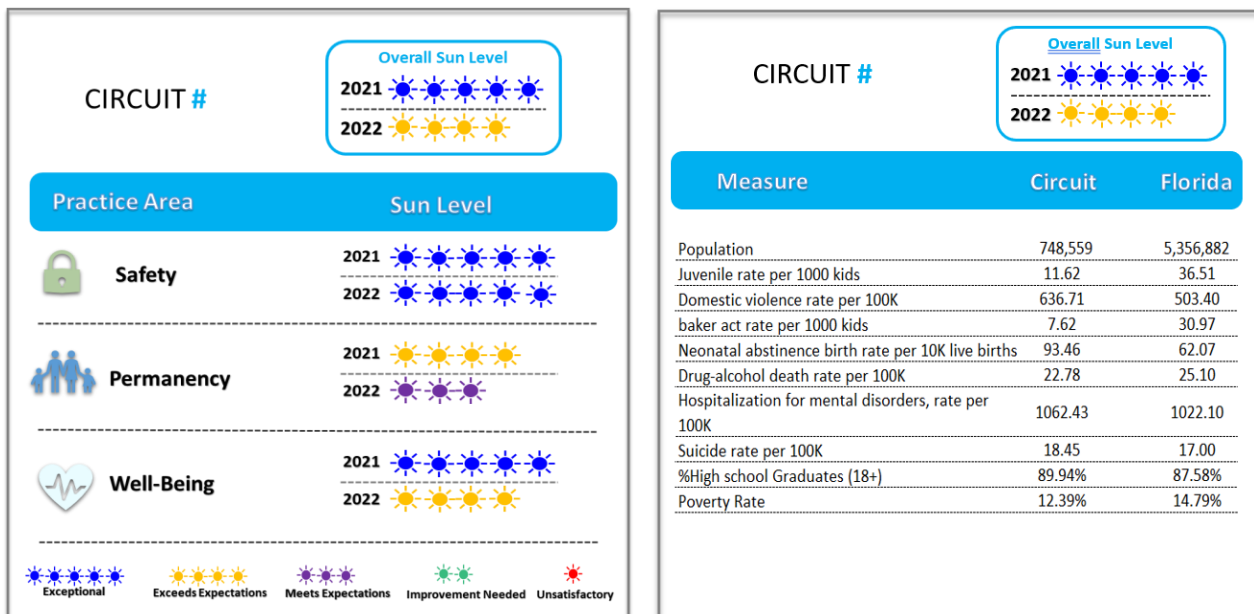
Annual Health of the System Report 2022

After the end of fiscal year 2021-2022, in its December 1, 2022 annual report to the Legislature, the Department will provide an overall circuit rating and individual domain ratings for permanency, safety, and well-being, that rate each circuit's child welfare system performance for the entire fiscal year.

The overall circuit rating and domain ratings will be provided on a scale of one through five, which, in the annual report, will be illustrated using a corresponding number of sun icons, as illustrated in *Figure 3-Circuit Rating Report Example*. An ascribed description of the performance level will accompany each rating, whereby a one-sun rating indicates unsatisfactory performance; a two-sun rating indicates performance improvement is needed; a three-sun rating indicates performance meets expectation; a four-sun rating indicates performance exceeds expectations; and a five-sun rating indicates exceptional performance.

Each circuit rating report will also include indicators to provide context around the community in which the child welfare system operates, such as poverty, divorce, and substance abuse rates. Although these indicators are not part of Department data sets, reputable source data will be cited in the report. A sample of this section of the circuit report is displayed in *Figure 3-Circuit Rating Report Example*.

Figure 3 – Circuit Rating Report Example*



*Appearance and community content is subject to change.

Appendix 1

Accountability Metrics for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Shaded metrics indicate increased weight assigned for Department priorities.

Safety Domain

Metrics	Responsible Entity	Metric Type	Target	Domain Weight	Overall Circuit Weight
Percent of Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment Within 12 Months of A Prior Verified Maltreatment	Shared	Quantitative	90.9%	9.00%	3.60%
Percent of Children Not Abused in Six Months of Termination of Services	Shared	Quantitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	CM	Quantitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Children Not Abused During Out-Of-Home Care	CM	Quantitative	98%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Victims Seen Within 24-Hours	CPI	Quantitative	90%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Child Protective Investigations with Initial Supervisory Consultation Within 5 Days	CPI	Quantitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Present Danger Assessments That Are Correct and The Decision Is Supported Within the Assessment	CPI	Qualitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Cases with Consultation from Specialist When Indicated	CPI	Qualitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Cases That Accurately Assessed for Impending Danger	CPI	Qualitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Cases with Efforts to Provide Services to Prevent Removal	CPI	Qualitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Cases with Diligent Efforts to Connect the Family to Services	CPI	Qualitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Present Danger Plans Sufficient to Control Identified Threats	CPI	Qualitative	95%	9.00%	3.60%
Percent of Cases with Concerted Efforts to Place Sibling Groups Together at Initial Placement	CPI	Qualitative	95%	9.00%	3.60%
Percent of Cases with Concerted Efforts to Provide Services to Prevent Entry/Re-Entry into Out-Of-Home Care	CM	Qualitative	95%	9.00%	3.60%
Percent of Cases for Which Concerted Efforts Were Made to Assess and Provide Services to Meet the Needs of Children, Parents, and Foster Parents	CM	Qualitative	95%	9.00%	3.60%
Total Domain Weight					40%

Permanency Domain

Metrics	Responsible Entity	Metric Type	Target	Domain Weight	Overall Circuit Weight
Percent of Children Achieving Permanency Within 12 Months for Children in Out-Of-Home Care Between 12 And 23 Months	Shared	Quantitative	44%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Children Achieving Permanency Within 12 Months of Entering Care	Shared	Quantitative	41%	15.00%	6.00%
Percent of Children Initially Placed with Relatives/Non-Relatives	CPI	Quantitative	65%	15.00%	6.00%
Percent of Children in Out-Of-Home Care Over 15 Months with A Reunification Goal and No TPR Activity	CLS	Quantitative	6.50%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Timely Permanency Hearings	CLS	Quantitative	90%	5.50%	2.20%
Median Number of Days from Petition to Final TPR Orders	CLS	Quantitative	180	5.50%	2.20%
Median Number of Days from Removal to Dependency Disposition	CLS	Quantitative	90	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Dependency Petitions Filed Timely	CLS	Quantitative	90%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Draft Orders to Court Submitted Timely	CLS	Quantitative	80%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	CM	Quantitative	65%	5.50%	2.20%
Number of Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	CM	Quantitative	4	15.00%	6.00%
Percent of Cases for Which Concerted Efforts Were Made to Ensure Visitation Between A Child in Out-Of-Home Care and Parents and Siblings Also In OHC	CM	Qualitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Percent of Cases with Appropriate Permanency Goals Established in A Timely Manner	CM	Qualitative	95%	5.50%	2.20%
Total Domain Weight					40%

Well-Being Domain

Metrics	Responsible Entity	Metric Type	Target	Domain Weight	Overall Circuit Weight
Percent of Cases Transferred to CM Within 10 Business Days	Shared	Quantitative	60%	0.00%	0.00%
Percent of Child Protective Investigations Closed Within 60 Days	CPI	Quantitative	99%	10.38%	2.08%
Percent of Parents Seen Monthly	CM	Quantitative	80%	10.38%	2.08%
Percent of Children Seen Every 30 Days	CM	Quantitative	80%	10.38%	2.08%
Percent of Cases with Quality Caseworker Visits with Parents to Ensure Safety, Permanency, Well-Being, And Support Achievement of Case Goals	CM	Qualitative	95%	10.38%	2.08%
Percent of Cases with Concerted Efforts to Meet the Mental/Behavioral Health Needs of The Child	CM	Qualitative	95%	17.00%	3.40%
Percent of Cases with Concerted Efforts to Involve Children and Parents in Case Planning	CM	Qualitative	95%	10.37%	2.07%
Percent of Cases with Quality Caseworker Visits with The Child	CM	Qualitative	95%	10.37%	2.07%
Percent of Cases with Concerted Efforts to Meet the Physical and Dental Health Needs of The Child	CM	Qualitative	95%	10.37%	2.07%
Percent of Cases with Concerted Efforts to Meet the Educational Needs	CM	Qualitative	95%	10.37%	2.07%
Total Domain Weight					20%