2.1: Decrease percentage of children with founded allegation of abuse or neglect who have a new founded allegation within 12 months from 9.7% to 6% by July 31, 2017

*Reported on December 21, 2015*

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**RECURRANCE OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

Children’s Administration

Jennifer A. Strus
Assistant Secretary

December 21, 2015
2.1.a Decrease percent of children with a founded allegation who have a new founded allegation within twelve months

**Background:** Children’s Administration has been working to decrease repeat maltreatment to 6%

Repeat maltreatment is measured by a second “founded” allegation of abuse or neglect within 12 months, excluding reports in the first 14 days.
- Founded means that the child has, more likely than not, been abused or neglected by a parent or caregiver

A thorough investigation reduces the likelihood of a child being re-abused.
- Child protective service investigations should be comprehensive and include an assessment of:
  - Dangers and threats to a child
  - Consideration and interview with caregivers
  - Contact with collaterals
  - The child’s home environment

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**Problem:** The recurrence rate has been increasing

![Graph showing recurrence rate over time](chart.png)

**Status:**
- Actions have been taken to strengthen safety-focused practice
- The impact of any actions is not evident for 15-18 months, making it difficult to make rapid adjustments in strategy
- The incident-based focus of past practice could be a contributing factor in increased recurrence
Opportunity: Washington is meeting the national standard for this measure

- Washington is meeting the national standard and falls in the middle when compared to other states, but this is not enough
- Washington’s observed performance for this period is 7.8%
- The federal risk adjusted calculation, intended to equalize state comparisons, adjusts Washington’s performance to 9.1%
Strategy: Multiple strategies are utilized to create collective impact

No single strategy will achieve a reduction in repeat maltreatment. The following are some of the most important:

- Safety Boot Camp to address incident-focused investigations and focus on complete safety and risk assessment
- Review of intakes with ten or more prior intakes
- Workload reduction

Current Status: Racial disproportionality

Status:

- Calls coming into CPS represent fewer Whites, Hispanics, and Asian/Pacific Islanders than are represented in Washington’s child population
- Reports are screened-in for a response in similar proportion by race as the calls coming in
- The Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee (WSRDAC) advises CA on actions related to disproportionality in the child welfare system
**Current Status:** Racial disproportionality

**Status:**
- Finding Rate and Recurrence Rate are disproportionately higher for Native American and Multi-racial children.
- Disproportionality for Native American children is driven by initial calls to CPS which is not within CA’s control.
- CA has worked with WSRDAC for many years to identify strategies to address disproportionality in the child welfare system, including a video addressing racial considerations by mandated reporters.

## Detailed Action Plan:

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<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide “Safety Boot Camp” to field caseworkers and supervisors</td>
<td>Jenna Kiser, Deanna Bedell</td>
<td>Alliance Casey Family Programs</td>
<td>The “Safety Boot Camp” will refocus the field on the safety and risk assessment and provide the proper degree of intervention needed by the family to protect children from further harm and promote safe and stable parenting.</td>
<td>Work will begin January 1, 2016</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
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<td>Shift to safety centered practice, which we believe is superior to an incident-focused model.</td>
<td>Toni Sebastian</td>
<td>Alliance Casey Family Programs</td>
<td>Refocusing on caseworker knowledge and training to appropriately assess safety, risk, and provide services to families that promote safe parenting over time and should result in lower recurrence rates.</td>
<td>Work will begin January 1, 2016</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
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<td>Standardize case consultations to help workers with specific case-related issues, remaining focused on child safety, service planning, and tailoring services, and engagement strategies.</td>
<td>Stephanie Frazier, Jenna Kiser</td>
<td>Alliance</td>
<td>Improve consistency of coaching and topic areas, and caseworker practice with a focus on chronically recurring families.</td>
<td>In process. Case consultation is occurring in each region/office as cases are identified. The Alliance is updating course curriculum for case consultation with focus on child safety and best services and strategies to improve family functioning and maintenance of safe parenting practices.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal review process of intakes identifying child as victim in ten or more prior screened in intakes within a three year period.</td>
<td>Jenna Kiser, Regional QPC</td>
<td></td>
<td>An objective review of current allegations and concerns and history of interventions with family will provide best practice recommendations on necessary degree of intervention and services to prevent recurrence.</td>
<td>As of 11/13/15 statewide, 40 cases met the review criteria and benefitted from a practice consultation and case recommendation staffing.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>Analysis of casework tools, forms, and processes to identify duplication and redundancies to allow caseworkers more time to work intensively with families</td>
<td>Lyn Craig Toni Sebastian</td>
<td>Alliance Federal partners Regional field representatives CA Technology Services</td>
<td>Reduction and removal of redundant casework tools and forms will allow caseworkers to spend more time with children and families, assessing safety and risk of maltreatment, develop tailored case plans with services intended to improve the parents’ ability to safely parent. Elimination of duplicative redundant tools also allows supervisors to focus on caseworker’s engagement with families.</td>
<td>In process, Quick wins identified and have been approved by CA leadership. Task force continues to meet and address each phase and tool being used.</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
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### Assistance Needed:

- CPS FTEs and funding for services to fully implement Family Assessment Response and reduce all CPS caseloads
- FTEs to expand Family Voluntary Services in order to provide critical follow-up services to high-risk families after the CPS investigation or assessment is completed
- Additional CFWS staff to assist in meeting requirements of the Braam settlement including health and safety visits and locating youth missing from care
For more current information see our updated Action Trackers.