

SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN
2015-2019

ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICES REPORT
2020

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I. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT

The following are the Department's Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, and Goals, along with the Core Values of Child Protection Services.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' MISSION

Strengthening and supporting individuals and families by promoting cost effective and comprehensive services in connection with our partners which foster independent and healthy families.

Our Guiding Principles

We believe families have the right to be safe and secure.

We believe in providing opportunities and choices that support the needs of families through available and accessible services.

We believe in collaborative communications, teamwork, partnerships and trust for essential family services.

We believe in respecting individual and cultural differences by treating people with dignity, fairness and respect.

We believe in focusing on meaningful outcomes, continuous quality improvement and using technology to be efficient and effective.

We believe in professional and well-trained staff that is competent, accountable and empowered.

We believe in providing quality, timely customer service through the "no wrong door" approach.

Our Goals

Goal 1: Ensure access to services for our customers.

Goal 2: Promote and support the health, well-being, and safety of our customers.

Goal 3: Foster partnerships to maximize resources for our customers.

Goal 4: Support customers in achieving meaningful outcomes.

Goal 5: Strengthen and align human resources to meet our mission.

SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES CORE VALUES

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES PURPOSE STATEMENT

Working together to bring safety, permanency, and well-being to families to build a better tomorrow.

OUR CORE VALUES

Child Protection Services decided that along with clarity of purpose we needed to define our core values, so they are understood, accepted and applied by everyone in CPS. Child Protection Services staff believes that Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Accountability are the core values of South Dakota Child Protection Services. Our commitment to these core values will guide our thoughts and our actions as helpers, colleagues, and employees. These core values are understood, accepted, and to be applied by all Child Protection Services staff.

RESPECT

- Acknowledge, understand, and accept differences in self and others
- Value everyone equally; Demonstrate kindness
- Live with openness and empathy; Honor others
- Follow the Golden Rule

INTEGRITY

- Treat each person and situation with fairness and compassion
- Be honest with self and others
- Truth to self and others guides interactions
- Walk your talk; Be courageous
- Build trust by being supportive, by listening, and by being responsive

TEAMWORK

- Sense of belonging
- Appreciation for everyone's roles
- Partner toward a common goal through collaboration to make a positive difference
- Be creative and free to express varied viewpoints
- Communicate effectively through active listening, informing, and feedback

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Quality responses in a timely, consistent, and accurate manner
- Commit to and meet or exceed standards and expectations regarding agency policies and procedures.
- Envision and be proactive for the future
- Fulfill responsibility for those we serve
- Commit to, develop, and demonstrate professional competencies

II. INTRODUCTION

Organizational Structure Overview

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection services is the division designated to administer the Title IV-B and IV-E programs, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act grant, John H. Chaffee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, and the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention program. The Division of Child Protection Services (CPS) is a state administered and state supervised child welfare system. The Department of Social Services is led by the Department Secretary. Under the Department Secretary is the Division Director of CPS. The CPS Division Director oversees the statewide provision of CPS programs and services. The Assistant Division Director is under the direct supervision of the Division Director. State Office of Child Protection Services Program Specialists serve as advisors and consultants to the Division staff in specific program areas and are involved in the administration of funding, promotion, and evaluation of those programs. CPS is divided into seven geographical regions. Each Region is led by a Regional Manager who is directly involved with the management of staff in the Region and responsible for overseeing the region-wide provision of services in all program areas. CPS has nineteen offices statewide that provide CPS services. Each office within a Region has a supervisor or supervisors who provide clinical and direct supervision to Family Services Specialists and Social Service Aides that provide services in the program areas.

The core components of CPS and the functions within those components include:

- Administration of the Parenting Education Partners network.
- Intake-receipt of child abuse and neglect reports Request for Services (RFSs) including collateral contacts prior to screening and assignment for an Initial Family Assessment (IFA).
- Initial Family Assessment-process used to assess threats to danger and maltreatment in assigned child abuse and neglect reports through interviews with children, parents, and through other information sources.
- Ongoing Services-Protective Capacity Assessment (PCA) case planning and evaluation, and services provided for in-home and foster care cases where there are threats to child safety.
- Permanency Planning Services-providing placement resources, permanency planning, independent living and supports for children placed in out-of-home care.
- Adoption Services-placement to children who have a goal of adoption when parental rights are terminated and post-adoption services for children in adoptive placement.
- Licensing- licensing and regulation of child welfare and child placement agencies that provide placement services to children with emotional and behavioral needs.

These functions are completed through the statewide regional and office structure.

CPS directly provides child protection services for five of the nine South Dakota tribes. The tribes directly served by CPS are the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and Yankton Sioux Tribe. The four tribes that provide their own full array of child welfare services are the Flandreau Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. CPS has IV-E Agreements with Flandreau and Standing Rock and full contracts with Sisseton Wahpeton and Oglala.

Each of the tribes has tribal courts and tribal law enforcement. There are several similarities with the protocol with the courts and law enforcement with the five tribes compared to non-tribal law enforcement and courts. The similarities include the option for joint investigations, provisions for law enforcement to take emergency custody, and A/N actions through the court with the court being able to give custody, care and placement responsibility to CPS. The FBI and US Attorney's Office also have jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute criminal child abuse on the reservations.

A more detailed description of each of the Department's divisions and the programs each provides can be found on the Department's website at www.state.sd.us/social/social.html

The accompanying plan represents the consolidation of Title IV-B Subparts I and II, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Plan, and the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Plan.

Public Access to the APSR

The APSR is on the state website on the CPS page.

<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/>

Questions about the availability of the APSR can be directed to:

Pamela Bennett
Assistant Director
Department of Social Services
Division of Child Protection Services
700 Governors Drive
Pierre SD
605-773-3227
Pamela.Bennett@state.sd.us

Sharing the APSR with the Tribes

CPS has provided each APSR to the tribes, and this APSR will be shared with the tribes once it is approved by ACF.

Disaster Plan

South Dakota was not affected by any disaster in the last year.

III. SERVICE CONTINUUM

CPS provides a full range of child welfare services statewide. Services are provided in the tribal jurisdictions either directly by CPS or under Agreements in which the Tribe provides the full array of services. The services provided by CPS include parenting education, intake for child abuse and neglect reports, 24/7 emergency response, assessment of abuse and neglect and child safety, ongoing protective services, reunification services to families, independent living services, permanency planning services, and licensing of child welfare agencies. CPS uses the Comprehensive Safety Intervention (CSI) model to respond to reports of abuse and neglect. The CSI is a safety driven model integrated throughout the components of the services to families. CPS coordinates these services with community and tribal providers.

Intake

The first phase of the CSI is Intake. State law requires reports of abuse and neglect to be made either to the county State's Attorney, law enforcement or CPS. The county State's Attorney and law enforcement are then required to inform CPS about reports they receive. CPS provides intake during normal business hours Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. CPS restructured the Intake system in January 2015. Intake was regionalized allowing for specialized Family Services Specialists (FSS) to be housed in a regionally based office. The restructure discontinued the regional structure, which directed intakes to a regional toll free phone number, and moved to a more centralized structure with a single toll free number. The new process also includes an automated phone system which helps in distribution and management of calls. Intake Specialists are all within the same unit even though they are located in different offices.

CPS coordinates the process for gathering and screening of information for Intake with various agencies. Between 5:00 pm and 8:00 am on weekdays, weekends, and on state holidays CPS staff is on call for emergency response to reports of abuse and neglect, which is coordinated with local law enforcement. CPS can access information on criminal court convictions through the Unified Judicial System that provides information related to determining issues with child safety during the Intake process. CPS also networks and consults with key community and tribal stakeholders who could have relevant information about family history. Several jurisdictions across the state have community and tribally based Child Protection Teams and Multidisciplinary Teams for the purposes of assisting in the investigation and treatment of child abuse and neglect. CPS offices are also able to obtain collateral information from selected mandatory reporters to obtain relevant background information related to reports of abuse and neglect.

CPS uses the Child Maltreatment Screening and Response Determination to "triage" RFS assignments based on child safety and vulnerability. The Determination provides a structured decision-making process for Supervisors and Family Services Specialists designated as Screeners to assist staff performing Intake duties in the initial determination of child safety and vulnerability which then drives CPS's timeframes for initial contact. CPS is currently in the process of centralizing the screening process. This centralized process will reduce the number of Supervisors and Family Services Specialist that are responsible for screening referrals. The new process will include four centralized Screeners that will solely be responsible for decision-making of referrals statewide, regardless of the location of the family. This new structure is currently being piloted in South Dakota's two largest offices, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Full implementation for all offices is slated for July 2019.

Initial Family Assessment

CPS and law enforcement have the authority under state law to investigate child abuse and neglect reports. CPS and local law enforcement have a protocol in place regarding coordination of investigations of abuse and neglect depending on child safety and whether the report involves a potential criminal issue. The Initial Family Assessment (IFA) is the assessment process used by CPS when a Request for Services is assigned. The IFA places the emphasis on decision-making regarding intervention on impending and present danger threats to child safety rather than the substantiation of an incident. The IFA is supplemented with processes for Present Danger Plans (PDP), Safety Plan Determinations, Conditions for Return, and In-Home Safety Plans. The PDP allows CPS to consider an alternative to children being placed in CPS custody during the completion of the IFA when it is indicated the child is unsafe due to present danger threats. CPS uses the PDP to explore with the family possible ways of controlling the danger threats to child safety. The parents can voluntarily allow the children to be cared for by other caretakers mutually agreed upon between the parent and CPS pending the completion of the IFA. Another option during the completion of the IFA, is the removal of the alleged maltreating caregiver. Safety planning is used following the completion of the IFA when threats to child safety exist in the home. The use of a Safety Plan gives the parent and CPS additional time to make better determinations during the ongoing services phase as to what behavioral changes and services are needed to help the parent and CPS manage child safety. The most intrusive Safety Plan is when a child is removed from the home and placed in the custody of CPS because danger threats cannot be managed with the child in the home. An important component of the Safety Plan requires coordination with other stakeholders who can be part of the Safety Plan. The Safety Plan providers may be other family members, treatment providers, school representatives, day care providers, etc.

Ongoing Services

CPS believes case decisions need to be based on an ongoing analysis of safety. The Protective Capacity Assessment (PCA) is the ongoing process within the CSI model that occurs between CPS and the parents. The PCA emphasizes self-determination and facilitates case planning with the family based on danger threats, the protective capacities of the parents, and needed behavior change. This focuses case planning on behavior change rather than just the incident or compliance through the development and enhancement of caregiver protective capacities. The PCA is used with both in-home cases and cases where the child is placed in the custody of CPS in an out of home safety plan.

CPS works with the parents during the PCA process to determine what must change and what services are necessary to achieve these behavioral changes. The PCA Case Plan is developed around the necessary services and includes roles, responsibilities, and time frames for those who are involved in the plan. South Dakota is an expansive, rural state with a small population base. The availability of services to families varies depending on the particular geographical area of the state. The PCA process encourages the parent to lead the determination of what services they believe are necessary to make behavior changes and encourages the utilization of natural services identified by the family; e.g. tribal elders as counselors. CPS facilitates parent's access to services through collaboration with service providers, assistance with working with service providers, assistance with transportation, paying for expenses for services not covered through other means, and assistance in addressing other issues that may create barriers for families to access services. The PCA Case Plan Evaluation is used by CPS through communication and contact with the family members and communication and coordination with service providers to evaluate the Case Plan progress to assess whether the diminished protective capacities are being enhanced, and subsequently, whether danger threats are being controlled.

Placement Services

CPS provides placement services when a child is placed in the custody of CPS by either law enforcement or the courts. Placement options for these out of home safety plans include kinship (relative) care, fictive kin (non-relative) care, child welfare agencies licensed by CPS, and in some instances, out-of-state placement resources. Licensed child welfare agencies include family foster care, child placement agencies, Group Care Centers for Minors (this includes shelter care facilities), Residential Treatment Centers, and Intensive Residential Treatment Centers. Residential treatment programs are also available for children with needs related to substance abuse, mental health, and developmental disabilities.

CPS considers placement with relatives a priority and state law include provisions requiring relative placement to be a first consideration when a child is placed. Kinship home studies are completed through a contract with a private agency. The kinship study process includes background checks and the assessment of the capacity of kin related to the needs of the child and determination of the prospective caregiver's ability to provide a safe home based on identification and evaluation of their existing protective capacities. CPS can consider an expedited placement with relative kin or fictive kin soon after the child is placed in care before a home study is completed if the child has a substantial connection to the kin provider, and if the necessary safety determinations can be made.

CPS provides supervision, case planning, permanency planning services, and independent living services to children in CPS custody. When a child is removed from the caretaker, CPS must have contact with the child within 24 hours of placement (kinship or foster care) and weekly for the first month after placement. After the first month, the FSS is to have at least monthly visits with that child. CPS completes the Child Assessment Case Plan within 60 days of the child being placed in care. The case planning process emphasizes the involvement of parents, the child, foster parent, and others who have a significant role in the family. The Child Assessment Case Plan is used to assess and document the child's needs, determine the services and supports needed and document the efforts made in meeting the child's needs, assuring stability and facilitating permanency. CPS uses the Child Case Plan Evaluation to assess progress and make adjustments in the plan. CPS works in coordination with the tribal ICWA programs and other tribal resources when the child is affiliated with a Tribe. These efforts are described under the section on ICWA and collaboration with the Tribes. Some of the additional tools CPS uses to promote stability and permanency for children in care and enhance family involvement include Placement Team Meetings, Team Decision-Making Meetings, Family Group Conferencing, Permanency Planning Team Meetings, Permanency Round Tables, APPLA meetings, and concurrent planning.

Permanency Planning Services

When reunification is not successful, CPS makes concerted efforts to place children in an alternative permanent placement. CPS considers placement with relatives as a priority and makes ongoing efforts to locate relative placement resources. CPS provides subsidies for guardianship using state funds and through the Guardianship Assistance Program. CPS provides financial and medical subsidies and post-adoption services to children and their adoptive families. A majority of adoptions and guardianships are with the children's foster parents and relatives. CPS also places children and youth in Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA) as an alternative when adoption and guardianship are not the permanent plan and APPLA is the best option for the youth over age 16.

CPS provides support to placement resources and regular visitation to assure the stability, safety, and well-being of children in placement. CPS makes efforts to assure the health, education, connections and physical needs of children are met while in foster care. These efforts are documented in the Child Case Plan and the caseworker narratives.

CPS uses a variety of planning meetings to assist in permanency decisions and permanency planning. Those include Placement Team Meetings, Concurrent Planning meetings, Family Group Conferencing, and Team meetings, and Permanency Round Tables. A particular type of meeting is used based on the objective for the meeting.

Licensing

State law requires Child Welfare Agencies, which provide foster care, residential placement services, and adoption, to be licensed. CPS is the entity that is responsible for licensing Child Welfare Agencies and monitoring Child Welfare Agencies' compliance with licensing standards. CPS has processes in place to assure placement resources meet safety requirements and to assure licensing standards are consistently applied to all placement resources.

Information System

CPS has a functioning CCWIS called Family and Children Information System (FACIS). FACIS provides CPS with the ability to gather and maintain the necessary information related to the management of case activity throughout the CPS services continuum. FACIS provides the information required to be submitted for federal reporting under Title IVE, Title IVB, and Chafee.

IV. STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN APSR

The following describes the opportunities that were provided for stakeholder input into South Dakota's child welfare services and for ongoing collaboration since the last APSR. CPS staff are involved as members of the various groups mentioned below and are members of the CPS team that has direct input into the APSR. The details regarding the input and application to the APSR are addressed in each of the related sections of the APSR. Additional collaborative efforts and stakeholder involvement are described throughout the APSR.

1. Independent Living Services (ILS) Advisory Workgroup-The ILS Advisory Workgroup is composed of representatives from CPS, Department of Corrections, group and residential facilities, Community Resource Persons (CRP), tribal representative, and youth who are in foster care or have exited foster care. The ILS Workgroup meets at least twice per year and advises CPS on the biannual teen conference, the Regional ILS training workshops, program development, and service delivery to youth. Data on NYTD and Youth Exit Surveys are provided at the meetings. The ideas and input provided during the meetings are used to update the APSR. The input of the workgroup will continue to be used during FFY20 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
2. The ILS Young Voices youth groups are in four communities. Young Voices continues to provide youth another means to share their views and experiences in foster care and provide input into how the system can improve IL Services and transition support. The CRPs attend the meetings and provide updates to the CPS ILS Program Specialist on the Young Voices work and recommendations. Recommendations from Young Voices continue to be used in the development of the APSR. The input of the youth will continue to be used during FFY20 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
3. The ILS Program Specialist is a member of a group established by the state Department of Labor to help improve youth employment. Information obtained through the group will be used to during FFY19 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
4. The ILS Program Specialist is a member of a group established by the South Dakota Housing Authority to help address housing issues for families and youth who transition from foster care. Information obtained through the group will be used to during FFY20 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
5. Exit Interviews are completed by youth that age out of care. The exit interviews are used to assist in assessing services to youth and to help CPS in looking at and enhancing service delivery. The results of the exit interviews are presented to the CPS Management Team and provided to staff during ongoing and Certification training. The information gained from the surveys will continue to be used during FFY20 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
6. The information from the NYTD survey completed by youth is used to inform the APSR related to establishment of goals and measuring progress in the ILS section of the APSR. The information from the surveys will continue to be used during FFY20 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the ILS services.
7. When the Licensing Program Specialist prepares for the annual relicensing on-site visit to group care centers for minors, residential and intensive residential treatment facilities, residents and staff are surveyed using Survey Monkey. The resident survey includes a range of questions on topics such as how the resident is treated, whether the resident

feels safe; what contact they have with their family and supervising staff, and how they are engaged in the development of treatment plan. The staff survey includes questions pertaining to program policies and procedures, training, treatment planning, services offered by the program. The information is shared with the South Dakota Association of Youth Care Providers, CPS staff, and to address program and planning of services through the CFSP.

8. The Parenting Education Partners is a statewide network of parenting educators that provide parenting classes. The Parenting Education Partners Advisory Board, which is composed of parents and other stakeholders, meets two times per year to assess the effectiveness of the Common Sense Parenting and Responsive Parenting classes and make recommendations regarding parenting program approaches, techniques, and accommodations for populations with special needs. The Parenting Education Partners work with tribal agencies to improve efforts toward serving tribal areas. Input from the Advisory Board is used to enhance parenting education training for parents. The input from the Advisory Board will continue to be used during FFY20 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the Parenting Education Program.
9. Parenting Education Partners hold peer reviews of local Parenting Education providers. The information from the reviews is used in the APSR to improve parenting education and other prevention services. The input gained from the Peer Reviews will continue to be used during FFY20 to measure progress and make any needed adjustments in the Parenting Education Program.
10. The Justice for Children's Committee (JCC) serves as both the Children's Justice Act task force and the Citizen Review Panel. The JCC is composed of a variety of stakeholders. The JCC report is included in the CAPTA Plan. The recommendations and action steps established by the JCC for the Children's Justice Act Grant are also included in the APSR. The JCC is consulted regarding CPS policy, practice and training related to responding child abuse and neglect, including sex trafficking of children.
11. The State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation continues to meet to facilitate coordination and information sharing between CPS and the Tribes. The group includes representatives from tribal child welfare programs, ICWA programs, CPS, and Casey Family Programs. Items related to the CFSP and APSR continue to be discussed at each of the meetings. A copy of the 2019 APSR was first provided to the tribal representatives by email on October 26, 2018 which gave a link to the DSS-CPS page that hosts it. The email encouraged representatives to provide input or suggestions regarding the APSR anytime throughout the year. The State/Tribal Consultation group continues to work towards achieving the objectives developed in the 2016 strategic plan. The group separated some of the objectives into the Operational Plan as they were more related to the procedures of how the group functioned. The Program Instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-19-02) was also emailed out as a reminder to the group on March 21, 2019 with an explanation summary from the program instruction explaining the process. Tribal members were encouraged to provide feedback by the end of May 2019 to be included in the APSR 2020 submission.
12. The South Dakota ICWA Placement & Recruitment Project also known as South Dakota Native Foster Care (SDNFC) was created in 2014 with the task of increasing the amount of Native American foster homes in South Dakota. The group consists of members of 9 tribes in South Dakota and DSS staff from each region. The group meets on a regular basis to plan recruitment strategies. Recruitment is held throughout the year at pow-wows and community and sporting events. Events are posted on the group's Facebook page, which has over 1,000 followers. This group is supported by Casey Family Programs who provides funding for recruitment materials and events throughout the year.

13. The South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association meets quarterly. Representatives from the Department of Social Service (Child Protection Services, Auxiliary Placement and Behavioral Health) and the Department of Corrections attend the meetings to discuss areas related to children placed in group and residential care such as admissions, denials, discharges, seclusion and restraints, placement numbers, out of state placements and efforts to improve the system for youth placed in upper levels of care. CPS began a collaborative effort with the Child Placement Agencies that provide Treatment Foster Care services to children through contracting. The purpose was to review the treatment foster care system and to collaborate with the Treatment Foster Care providers to determine how services can be redesigned to improve stability and permanency for children receiving Treatment Foster Care Services.
14. Three representatives from CPS continue to participate as members of the Court Improvement Program Committee (CIP). The CIP Committee focuses on areas that relate to the CFSR permanency outcomes, the case reviews system, and the CFSP.
15. CPS is involved in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), which is a program intended to provide alternatives to detention for youth in the juvenile corrections system. The Regional Managers from Regions 1 (Rapid City) and 6 (Sioux Falls) are members of the JDAI committees in their service area. JDAI expansion meetings were held in Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, and Pierre with CPS supervisors from those offices participating in the meetings. Occasionally, children under CPS custody enter the juvenile corrections system, and it is important to provide less restrictive alternatives.
16. The Department's new Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 was shared with DSS staff through several informational meetings held across the state in the fall of 2017. The Plan includes broad Department goals, one of which relates to protecting individual from abuse, neglect and exploitation and other relates to meaningful outcomes for customers CPS serves and the recruitment and retention of a quality workforce. CPS completed a telephonic survey with parents in the fall of 2018. The information from the Strategic Plan is used in the review of the APSR.
17. The CPS EPICS workgroups, composed of CPS Family Services Specialists, Supervisors, Regional Managers, and Program Specialists are actively involved on an ongoing basis in developing and recommending enhancements to CPS policy and practice. These workgroups were involved in the development and implementation of the Program Improvement Plan during FFY19 following Round 3 of the CFSR.
18. Interviews are completed with community stakeholders, parents and children, and CPS staff when Safety Permanency and Wellbeing (SPWB) QA reviews are completed to obtain input on CPS service delivery. The results of the interviews are provided to the Regional Managers and Supervisors for each office reviewed to help in determining systemic strengths and needs and responding to the needs either locally or programmatically. The information gained from the interviews is used to assess outcomes and the Child Protection Services' service system.
19. The Protective Services Program Specialist from Child Protection Services is a member of the Birth to Three Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), which has the purpose of advising and assisting the Department of Education on identifying appropriate services for children ages birth to three who have a disability or developmental delay. Information is exchanged between CPS and the ICC to further services for the children in the target

population. The Council meets four times per year and the Program Specialist provides input regarding keeping the children safe and provides data on the number of Birth to Three children who have been victims of abuse and/or neglect.

20. CPS and the Department of Education continue their collaboration related to the implementation of Title I of Every *Student Succeeds Act*. Procedures for staff in CPS and local school districts were developed, as well as an MOU between the Departments of Education and Social Services to enhance educational stability for children and a process to address issues as they arise. This collaboration and process continues to be operational. Collaboration continues and still operational.
21. The Department of Health developed a Child and Family Services Interagency Workgroup that meets quarterly. Areas of focus are family planning, newborn screenings for hearing and metabolic diseases, the WIC program that provides supplemental nutrition for women, infants, and children, For Baby's Sake that provides information and resources to help women have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies, and access to oral health. The CPS Protective Services Program Specialist is also a member of this workgroup and provides input regarding safety of children, as well as education regarding child welfare in South Dakota.
22. The Protection Services Program Specialist is an appointed member of the SD CASA Commission board. The board monitors the number of children served and the number of children waiting for a CASA volunteer. Funding determinations are considered through the board. The board provides opportunities for education and collaboration.
23. The Department of Health is the early stages of developing a Preventable Death Review Team in South Dakota. This team will collaborate with law enforcement, medical examiners/coroners, and the Vital Statistics Office to create and implement a plan to collect timely and comprehensive data on all child deaths. The team will initially focus on the two largest counties, Minnehaha and Pennington, and then will expand statewide within the next two to four years. The Assistant Director and the Protective Services Program Specialist are a part of the review team.
24. The South Dakota House of Representatives introduced House Bill 1043, which was signed by the Governor on February 14, 2019. The bill requires the Department of Social Services to collect and report certain information regarding the military affiliation of a parent whose child is subject to a report of abuse or neglect. Upon receipt of a report of child abuse or neglect, the department shall make an effort to determine the military status of the parent or guardian whose child is subject to the report. If the department determines that the parent or guardian is in the military, the department shall notify a United State Department of Defense family advocacy program of the allegations that relative to the military parent or guardian.
25. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program has six active programs across the state. A CASA volunteer is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. The children served are determined to be victims of abuse or neglect by the Court. In 2018, 659 children received services by a CASA volunteer.

26. The Center for the Maltreatment of Child Prevention developed a task force, PK-12 YSO (Pre-Kindergarten – 12th grade and Youth Serving Organizations) which began in November 2018 to surround community's infrastructure, particularly schools and youth serving organizations, with the tools and education necessary to know of, respond to, and prevent child maltreatment. Four focused objectives of the task force are: offer all school district personnel mandatory reporter training, develop a platform and infrastructure for virtual support services of counseling, behavioral health and social work in K-12 schools, launch a coordinated effort to teach prevention to students in school systems as well as their parents/guardians, and launch a coordinated efforts to teach child sexual abuse prevention efforts in youth serving organizations and faith-based organizations. The Protective Services Program Specialist is a member of the task force and is assisting in moving the efforts, activities and prevention forward.
27. The Division Director and Assistant Division Director had site visits with all 19 CPS field offices in the fall of 2018. Each office had the opportunity to develop part of the agenda to discuss items of importance in their service area. Each office visit included an overview of the status of child welfare at the state and local area and discussions focused on sustaining and enhancing the child welfare system.
28. CPS conducts an online survey of foster families every three years. The last survey was completed in September of 2018 with 256 out of 816 or 32% of licensed foster families completing the survey. Survey questions related to training, communication/support, working with birth parents, and court hearings. Outcomes of the survey are utilized to improve services to foster parents. Some notable outcomes were 85% of the respondents feel they are supported as a foster parent and 94% of the respondents would recommend becoming a foster parent to someone they know.
29. The DSS Management Team consists of the Department Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries, the Chief Financial Officer and the Division Directors for Child Protection Services, Child Care Services, Medical Services, Economic Assistance, Child Support, Behavioral Health, Legal Services, the Human Services Center Administrator and the Human Resource Manager. The team meets twice monthly to discuss department and division initiatives, staffing, legislation, budgets, integration of services and to identify successes, challenges and solutions.
30. The Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment is located at the University of South Dakota under the School of Health Sciences. The Center has six major goals and 48 supporting objectives that address a 10-year comprehensive approach toward ending child sexual abuse in South Dakota. The objectives of 10-year plan will increase the state's capacity to address all forms of child maltreatment. The six goals of the plan include 1) Statistic and Benchmarking, 2) Public, Private and Tribal Health, 3) Mandatory Reporting, 4) Criminal Justice and Child Protection Services Response, 5) Infrastructure, and 6) Public Awareness. The Center has an advisory board with multidisciplinary representation including the Division Director for Child Protection Services. The advisory board provides direction, guidance and oversight of the 10-year plan. The objectives of this plan will increase the state's capacity to address all forms of child maltreatment.
31. The CPS Management Team consists of the Division Director, Assistant Director, Program Specialists and the Regional Managers. The team meets every quarter face to face. Agenda items include the status of each region and program area which are standing agenda items, ongoing progress evaluation of current initiatives, and

discussion, selection, and planning of new initiatives accepted by the team. During the months the team does not meet face to face, conference calls are held.

32. The CPS Program Specialist Team meets every quarter. Program specialists are the subject experts at the state office level of CPS. One of the agenda items is an analysis of the Permanency, Safety and Well Being regional reviews to determine if there are gaps in policy and procedure or a need for additional staff development. The team also tracks the progress of the agency's PIP, CFSP, and APSR.
33. The CPS Supervisory Team meets twice a year; the team consists of the Division Director, Assistant Director, Program Specialists, Regional Managers, and all Supervisors. The team focuses on the status of current initiatives, topic specific skill enhancement, education, and planning. The group discusses and has input in the CFSP and the APSR.

V. PREVENTION EDUCATION AND PARENTING SUPPORT

DSS continues in its role as the lead agency for the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Grant. The mission of the South Dakota Department of Social Services is: *"To strengthen and support individuals and families by promoting cost effective and comprehensive services in connection with our partners that foster independent and healthy families"* and is executed and supported with CBCAP resources. CPS and Parenting Education Program have a commitment to enhance the parenting skills of parents and reduce child abuse and neglect in South Dakota. CPS implements and monitors the specific activities and goals of the programs supported through CBCAP. CPS maintains a continuum of community-based child abuse prevention programs.

The CBCAP Advisory Board for the Parenting Education Program is at the center of a statewide network. This network provides an ongoing opportunity for agencies and providers to collaborate and support community-based efforts to design and provide activities and initiatives aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Parenting Education Advisory Board serves as the driving force to ensure an ongoing focus on the social and emotional well-being of children through building of state and local resources. A strong parent voice is a critical component of the Parenting Advisory Board. Parents are involved in all aspects of the planning and implementation of prevention programs and services. The Program Specialist, assigned to the Parenting Education Program, leads and directs the Parenting Education Advisory Board. CPS contracts with the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative to provide a staff person to assist with additional support to the statewide network. The Parenting Education Program Specialist and the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative Specialist provide leadership for the Parenting Education Advisory Board. The Black Hills Special Services Cooperative Specialist provides training on the Parenting Leadership curriculum to other Common Sense Parenting Program statewide.

A network of parenting education providers will continue to be in place across the state for families that are interested in improving their parenting skills or that are referred because of concerns of being at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. Parenting instruction based on the Common Sense Parenting Model is designed to meet a range of individual needs and is provided statewide by a network of regional site coordinators. The Parenting Education Partners utilize the child abuse and neglect prevention information and the Common Sense Parenting Program to provide awareness about child abuse and neglect in the state.

Parents have a strong voice in the South Dakota Parenting Education Program. Parents are program advocates, referrals sources for other parents in need of assistance, and share testimonials about how the program has made a difference in their life. The Parenting Education

Program website will continue to be used to advertise and to promote the local Common Sense Parenting classes throughout South Dakota. The schedule of classes is maintained on the CPS website: <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/parentingprogram.aspx>.

CPS is the lead agency responsible for promoting statewide child abuse and neglect prevention activities during Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Program Specialist promotes the use of prevention resources within all CPS offices, schools, Head Start Centers, local Child Protection Teams, private and public organizations, and the Parenting Education Partners network. The public has access to the state parenting and child abuse prevention website at <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/nationalchildabuse.aspx>.

The Parenting Education Peer Reviews provide an avenue for parents, staff of tribal and local service providers, CPS, Head Start, domestic violence providers, and Parenting Education Partners to discuss the strengths and concerns associated with the Common Sense Parenting Program. Parents will continue to be a major part of the review and a guiding force for planning the future. The Peer Review is a valuable way to evaluate the program and give feedback to the Parenting Education Program. The Peer Review helps to assure information about the availability of parenting education is effectively provided to the public. Setting down around the table is a valuable experience for all who attend the Peer Reviews.

The Parenting Education Program will continue to collaborate with FRIENDS National Resource Center to enhance the outcome evaluation process with the Common Sense Partners. South Dakota will work together with FRIENDS to continue to measure continuous outcomes to ensure requirements are met.

2020 Progress Update

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services is the lead agency responsible for the distribution of information and resources focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. While April is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month, information and education related to prevention and reduction of child abuse are provided year around to obtain the best results for children and their families. Child abuse and neglect impacts every community. Solutions focused on prevention and education continues to be a priority for each community. The Division of Child Protection Services works to provide support information, programs, and activities that will reduce and prevent child abuse and neglect throughout the year. The Six Protective Factors will remain the platform for publications and activities related to child abuse prevention.

The Parenting Education Program Specialist will coordinate child abuse prevention information on the Department of Social Services website. In preparation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the following information is available on the Department of Social Services website during March and April <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/nationalchildabuse.aspx>.

- Governor's Executive Proclamation: The website contains the Executive Proclamation and resources to promote community awareness that can be used throughout the year, as well as activities designed especially for April, Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Prevention Resource Guide: The *2018 Prevention Resource Guides Keeping Children Safe and Families Strong in Supportive Communities* were distributed to the Child Protection Service staff, Tribal Child Welfare Agencies, and Parenting Partners to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The Resource Guide focuses on the Six Protective Factors, which have been proven to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect and provides tools and strategies to integrate the factors into existing programs and systems. The Prevention Resource Guide has *Tip Sheets for Parents and Care Givers*. The tip sheets are designed for

service providers to distribute to parents and caregivers to address parenting concerns or questions.

- Common Sense Parenting brochure: The brochure has information about the Common Sense Parenting Program, locations, and contact information for Common Sense Parenting Providers. The Common Sense Parenting brochure includes information about the Six Protective Factors.
- Safe Home Rule: Parents attending Common Sense Parenting classes make a staying calm plan and learn skills to help them and their children remain calm. Parents attending Common Sense Parenting classes will write a Safe Home Rule in place for the safety of everyone in the home.
- Mandatory Reporting brochure: South Dakota requirements regarding reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Safe Havens in South Dakota brochure: The Safe Haven brochure gives information if a parent of a baby, less than 60 days old, feels they cannot care for their baby they can leave the baby with an emergency medical services provider, or employee at any fire department, law enforcement agency, clinic, licensed child placement agency or medical facility. Leaving a baby under this law with an emergency medical services provider or child placement agency as allowed for under this law is not a crime.
- Child Care Assistance Program: The Child Care Assistance Program is available to families who meet income guidelines and are working or working and attending school a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- Registration and Licensure of Child Care Environments: This pamphlet has information for licensing a child care environment.
- Parent's Guide Child Seat Safety: The Parent's Guide is information on child seat safety and buckling up the right way in a car seat, booster and seat belt brochure.
- Impaired Driving Information: The Impaired Driving brochure has information concerning reducing alcohol-related crash fatalities and injuries.
- Pedestrian and Bike Safety: The Pedestrian and Bike Safety website has information on bike and helmet safety.
- National Children's Helpline: The National Children's Helpline is resource to receive emotional support from a trained advocate, become empowered and a stronger parent.

In addition, child abuse prevention material was provided to the Common Sense Parenting class participants statewide. Parenting Education Partners provided information from the *2018 Prevention Resource Guides* to parents and service providers in their areas of service. CPS provided the *2018 Prevention Resource Guides* to the South Dakota Association for the Education of Youth Children and South Dakota Head Start Association (SDAAYC/SDHSA) joint conference in April. Approximately 379 participants received the resource guide.

During FFY18, 774 adults from families involving 2,049 children attended the Common Sense Parenting Program. An additional parenting education option is provided through Great Plains Psychological Service's traditional Positive Indian Parenting classes in the Sioux Falls area.

The Parenting Outcome Survey provides parents the opportunities to give input regarding their level of satisfaction to the effectiveness of the Common Sense Parenting Program, and the training skills of the presenter. The Parenting Education Partners are expected to ask parents to complete the outcome survey at the end of the six-week class.

The following tables include data related to several of the questions from the FFY18 Common Sense Parenting (CSP) Program evaluation.

The CSP Program has helped me improve my parent skills.		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
515	6.44	0.86

My ideas and opinions are welcomed and included in the CSP Program.		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
515	6.52	0.85

The CSP Program has helped me reach my goals for my family and me.		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
515	6.23	0.99

The CSP has given me skills to teach my children better self-control.		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
514	6.55	0.81

My children's behaviors have improved since I began using CSP Program skills.		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
493	5.74	1.24

My relationship with my children has improved since I began using CSP skills.		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
494	5.99	1.18

I understand how I can be a leader in my home.		
Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
513	6.55	0.85

I have confidence in my ability to parents and take care of my children.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
509	5.11	1.41	507	6.53	0.70	501	73.25%

I use effective praise and prevention and corrective teaching in interactions with my children.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
504	4.44	1.65	498	6.37	0.85	493	79.51%

I help my children learn social skills that include following instructions and accepting "no" for an answer.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
505	4.53	1.45	502	6.17	0.95	497	76.06%

I am able to manage the stress in my life.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
507	4.52	1.45	509	6.09	0.95	502	72.91%

When I am worried about my child I have someone to talk to.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
505	5.18	1.65	507	6.28	1.04	499	50.70%

I stand up for what my family and children need.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
509	5.58	1.48	509	6.57	0.67	503	47.51%

I am able to meet my family's needs with the resources available to me.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
506	5.77	1.46	505	6.31	1.19	499	30.06%

When I have a problem, I can't solve on my own, I reach out for help.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
508	4.90	1.77	509	6.19	1.11	503	55.07%

I set and enforce boundaries (limits and expectations) without losing control.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
507	4.67	1.55	506	6.18	0.96	500	70.40%

I am a leader in my home.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
505	5.38	1.63	505	6.34	0.98	498	46.39%

I have friends and/or family who provide me with support when I need it.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved
506	5.41	1.68	509	6.19	1.24	502	37.05%

My children and I enjoy the time we spend together.							
Before CSP			After CSP			Improved Score (%)	
Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Mean	St Dev	Count	Improved

506	6.08	1.30	505	6.67	0.71	499	30.46%
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The Parenting Education Program is a statewide system to support families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The most effective way to meet the challenge of preventing child abuse and neglect is for the programs to collaborate.

2015-2020 APSR Final Update

The following are the number of adults, children, families, parents with disabilities, and children with disabilities that were served with the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant in South Dakota over the last 5-years. During this time period, there has been an increase with the adult, children, and families each year with the program.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Adults	641	644	642	674	777	3378
Children	1433	1568	1509	1667	2055	8232
Families	546	556	566	581	700	2949
Parents w/ Disabilities	132	146	125	95	108	606
Children w/ Disabilities	134	150	126	168	213	791

Plan for 2020-2024 CFSP

Over the next five-years, the South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, will continue to be the lead agency for the CBCAP grant and promoting Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention in the state. The Division of Child Protection Program and CBCAP Advisory Board for the Parenting Education Program will continue to promote prevention in the state. The Parenting Education Program Peer Reviews will provide the avenue for parents, the Division of Child Protection Services, CSP instructors, Head Start staff, domestic violence personnel, Parenting Education Partners, tribal and local service providers; and public to get together to discuss the strengths and concerns associated with the CSP Program and prevention needs in the different areas.

The Parenting Education Program is committed to ongoing evaluation and program enhancement. Data will to be collected to adequately evaluate the program components to meet federal guidelines and the needs of families in South Dakota.

The Parenting Program will continue to collaborate with the FRIENDS National Resource Center continues to provide ongoing training and technical support for programming assistance and program effectiveness. FRIENDS' staff and the Program Specialist for the Parenting Education Program will continue ongoing teleconference calls and email contacts. The Black Hills Special Services Cooperative Specialist and the Program Specialist for the Parenting Education Program will continue to participate in FRIEND's webinars and conference calls.

The state will continue to develop functions in the system for federal requirements. As the Division of Child Protection Services practice is enhanced in South Dakota in safety, permanency, and well-being. The program changes needed for best practices for prevention will drive system changes to deliver services to children and families that prevent child abuse and neglect.

VI. SAFETY

Goal: Safety is managed for children in their homes.

Objective 1: Increase Supervisors skills and knowledge related to supervision of safety management.

Intervention 1: Provide development training to supervisors to increase their knowledge regarding monitoring of provisional safety management.

Benchmarks: End of Year 2: Development training completed.

2017 Update: This Benchmark has been met.

Intervention 2: Provide onsite coaching to supervisors related to supervision of safety management.

Benchmarks: End of Year 4: Onsite coaching provided.

2017 Update: The coaching will be provided by phone to make it more feasible to provide the coaching to all staff in a timely manner.

2018 Update: Coaching is occurring through office consultations both onsite and via Skype.

Ongoing and a part of PIP moving forward.

Objective 2: Improve practice related to safety decision-making to support safe and timely permanency decisions.

Intervention 1: Implement a distinct decision-making process within the CSI that contributes to sufficient in-home safety plans.

Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Enhanced safety-decision making guidelines and tool are finalized and implemented.

2017 Update: This Benchmark has been met.

Intervention 2: Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

Benchmarks: End of Year 2: Piloting of Conditions for Return completed in 3 sites.

End of Year 3: Conditions for Return policy and procedures finalized, and service is implemented statewide.

Intervention 3: Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning.

Benchmarks: End of Year 2: Determination made as to which stakeholders to educate and plan for education of stakeholders developed.

Benchmark: End of Year 3: Plan is implemented.

2020 Progress Update

CPS completed Round 3 of the CFSR in 2016. CPS was aware as a result the SPWB QA reviews completed prior to the 2016 CFSR that Safety Items 2 and 3 were areas needing improvement. CPS developed the goals and interventions incorporated in the CFSP to impact many of the same issues which were found in the 2016 CFSR. CPS will need to develop the PIP with inclusion of both Safety Outcomes 1 and 2 due to the 2016 CFSR findings. CPS will be expanding on the current interventions in the APSR to address the themes found in the CFSR related to all three safety items.

CPS will report in this APSR on the status of the goals and interventions established in the development of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). The PIP goals and strategies for these Items will be incorporated into the CFSP which will be due following the approval by the Children's Bureau.

SAFETY DATA

South Dakota's Program Improvement Plan was approved in March of 2019. A baseline will be established through November of 2019 to establish measurement goals.

State Performance on Statewide Safety Indicators January 2019:

Based on the May January 2019, 12-10-18 AFCARS and 10-12-18 NCANDS submissions South Dakota exceeded the National Standard for Maltreatment in Foster Care and met National Standard for Recurrence of Maltreatment.

Maltreatment in Foster Care:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
2.88%	4.49%	7.02%	9.67%	Met

Recurrence of Maltreatment:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
7.7%	9.3%	11.3%	9.5%	Met

Goal: Safety is managed for children in their homes.

Objective 1: Increase Supervisors skills and knowledge related to supervision of safety management.

Intervention 1: Provide development training to supervisors to increase their knowledge regarding monitoring of provisional safety management.

All Supervisors completed Round Two of Supervisor Development Training related to the clinical and consultation skills in implementation of the Comprehensive Safety Intervention model, which was held in August 2015, November 2015 and January 2016. CPS met this benchmark.

Intervention 2: Provide onsite coaching to supervisors related to supervision of safety management.

After consideration of onsite coaching as an approach to overseeing implementation, CPS decided on a different plan that would be more functional for providing coaching than onsite coaching. The CPS Ongoing Program Specialist will review each Family Services Specialist's first IFA after implementation of Conditions for Return and provide feedback to the Family Services Specialist and Supervisor as to how well the Family Services Specialist is applying the practice. The Ongoing Program Specialist will review each Family Services Specialist's first PCA following implementation and provide feedback to the Family Services Specialist and Supervisor as to how well the Family Services Specialist is applying the practice. If any Family Services Specialist and/or the Supervisor is struggling with the practice in the IFA or PCA, the Ongoing Services Program Specialist will review additional cases to assess progress by the Family Services Specialist and provide additional coaching if needed.

The coaching delivery has further evolved. Coaching occurs at a regional basis through utilization of "live" cases that are followed through the stages of the cases. The consultation occurs either onsite or via Skype.

Objective 2: Improve practice related to safety decision-making to support safe and timely permanency decisions.

Intervention 2: Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

Training on Conditions for Return was provided to the Supervisors, Regional Managers and State office staff On March 15, 2017. Training was then provided to Family Services Specialists in Region 1, Region 2, Region 3 and Region 6 by Supervisors who are members of the CSI workgroup. Training was provided to Family Services Specialists in Regions 4, 5 and 7 by the Ongoing Services Program Specialist and Region 5 Regional Manager who are also members of the CSI workgroup. CPS will implement Conditions for Return statewide on July 1, 2017.

Intervention 3: Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning.

Each office will be providing education to key stakeholders regarding Conditions for Return during implementation. This will include a brief overview of the Comprehensive Safety Intervention process. Those stakeholders will include: Judges, States Attorneys, and Attorneys. The offices will use Child Protection Teams, MDT's and other meetings as opportunities to educate stakeholders.

Measure: The original measurement goal of 86% for Item 3 will be adjusted In accordance with the PIP. Measures will also be required for Item 1 and Item 2.

High Risk Population

The number of children served age four and under has increased in the last State Fiscal Year. During State Fiscal Year 2017, 833 children ages 0-4 were served. In State Fiscal Year 2018, 982 children ages 0-4 were served, which is a 15% increase.

The Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) requires a referral to a Birth to Three Program for any child age 3 and under who are involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect. The parent/guardian is advised that, with their permission, a referral is made for a developmental screening of their child. In State Fiscal Year 2017, 547 children ages 0-3 were referred to a Birth to Three program and in State Fiscal Year 2018, 588 children ages 0-3 were referred. This is a 7% increase.

Child Maltreatment Death Reporting Sources

South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-3 mandates which entities are required to report child abuse and neglect.

“26-8A-3. Persons required to report child abuse or neglected child--Intentional failure as misdemeanor. Any physician, dentist, doctor of osteopathy, chiropractor, optometrist, emergency medical technician, paramedic, mental health professional or counselor, podiatrist, psychologist, religious healing practitioner, social worker, hospital intern or resident, parole or court services officer, law enforcement officer, teacher, school counselor, school official, nurse, licensed or registered child welfare provider, employee or volunteer of a domestic abuse shelter, employee or volunteer of a child advocacy organization or child welfare service provider, chemical dependency counselor, coroner, or any safety-sensitive position as defined in § 3-6C-1, who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child under the age of eighteen has been abused or neglected as defined in § 26-8A-2 shall report that information in accordance with §§ 26-8A-6, 26-8A-7, and 26-8A-8. Any person who intentionally fails to make the required report is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person who knows or has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected as defined in § 26-8A-2 may report that information as provided in § 26-8A-8.”

South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-4 mandates that anyone who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of child abuse or neglect must report. The reporting process required by SDCL 26-8A-4 stipulates that the report must be made to the medical examiner or coroner and in turn the medical examiner or coroner must report to the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

“26-8A-4. Additional persons to report death resulting from abuse or neglect--Intentional failure as misdemeanor. In addition to the report required under § 26-8A-3, any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has died as a result of child abuse or neglect as defined in § 26-8A-2 shall report that information to the medical examiner or coroner. Upon receipt of the report, the medical examiner or coroner shall cause an investigation to be made and submit written findings to the state's attorney and the Department of Social Services. Any person required to report under this section who knowingly and intentionally fails to make a report is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.”

When CPS receives reports of child maltreatment deaths as required under SDCL 26-8A-4 or from any source, CPS documents the report in FACIS (SACWIS). In addition, the Protective Services Program Specialist, Assistant Division Director, and Division Director are immediately notified of the death. The Protective Services Program Specialist works closely with the Family Services Specialist and Supervisor assigned to the case to gather details regarding the death, as

well as circumstances leading up to and surrounding the incident. Deaths which meet the NCANDS data definition are reported to NCANDS. The State has and will continue to provide information to the Justice for Children's Committee (JCC), which is a joint committee of the Citizen Review Panel and Children's Justice Task Force, regarding child deaths.

The Department of Health is the early stages of developing a Preventable Death Review Team in South Dakota. This team will collaborate with law enforcement, medical examiners/coroners, and the Vital Statistics Office to create and implement a plan to collect timely and comprehensive data on all child deaths. The team will initially focus on the two largest counties, Minnehaha and Pennington, and then will expand statewide within the next two to four years. The Assistant Director and the Protective Services Program Specialist are a part of the review team.

CAPTA

The State Liaison for CAPTA is:

JoLynn Bostrom, Program Specialist
Department of Social Services
Division of Child Protection Services
2200 W. Main Street
Sturgis, SD 57785
Email: JoLynn.Bostrom@state.sd.us

2020 Progress Update

26-8A-14

There were no changes in South Dakota's laws or regulations which affect the State's eligibility for the CAPTA State grant. South Dakota has provisions in place for the public disclosure of child abuse and neglect fatalities or near fatalities as required by 106(b)(2)(B)(x) of CAPTA.

On January 7, 2019, the President signed the Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2018, which included an amendment to CAPTA. The amendment expands the scope related to the legal immunity for good faith reports of child abuse and neglect. South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 26-8A-14 is already in place and covers the amendment. This law states "Any person or party participating in good faith in the making of a report or the submitting of copies of medical examination, treatment, or hospitalization records pursuant to SDCL 26-8A-3 to 26-8A-8, inclusive, or pursuant to any other provisions of this chapter, is immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, and has the same immunity for participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report. Immunity also extends in the same manner to persons requesting the taking of photographs and X-rays pursuant to SDCL 26-8A-16, to persons taking the photographs and X-rays, to child protection teams established by the secretary of social services, to public officials or employees involved in the investigation and treatment of child abuse or neglect or making a temporary placement of the child pursuant to this chapter, or to any person who in good faith cooperates with a child protection team or the Department of Social Services in investigation, placement, or a treatment plan. The provisions of this section or any other section granting or allowing the grant of immunity do not extend to any person alleged to have committed an act or acts of child abuse or neglect."

CPS continues to use CAPTA funds to support the objectives described in the FFY 2012 CAPTA State Plan, including maintenance of and enhancements to the CPS system and processes for receipt of reports of child abuse and neglect, response to reports of child abuse and neglect, and intervention when there are threats to child safety.

CAPTA funds were used to purchase services from interpreters to assist in Initial Family Assessments (IFA) and Protective Capacity Assessments (PCA) when working with non-English speaking families or for parents with other needs.

CAPTA funds were used to pay for substance and alcohol assessments and for monitoring of parents' substance and alcohol use to assess parental capacity and assure safe reunification. CAPTA funds were used to pay for drug testing during IFAs and Ongoing services. CAPTA funds were used to purchase equipment for office interview and visitation rooms.

CPS continues to train new staff through the Certification Training program, which provides comprehensive knowledge and skill training to CPS staff. CPS provides ongoing and advanced training on safety, permanency, and wellbeing to all staff. (See the APSR section on Training) CAPTA funds were used to purchase training resources to help support some of these training activities.

CAPTA funds were used to contract with an attorney to assist in child abuse and neglect court cases in a tribal court to expedite the permanency process, whether it is reunification or some other permanent plan.

CAPTA funds were used for printing CPS brochures for educating and informing the public about Child Protection Services and child abuse and neglect.

CAPTA funds were used for case management services including: mental health assessments, counseling, anger manager assessment, and domestic violence counseling.

Intake Restructure

CPS restructured the intake system and has entered the fifth year of implementation. CJA funds were used to restructure the system and have been used since the restructure to support the sustainability of the intake system. This includes supporting ongoing costs of maintaining the system, additional equipment as needed, training of staff, and improvements.

The Protective Services Program Specialist continues to monitor the intake process through reports within the centralized telephone system. The reports assist with ensuring equal distribution of workload, as well as the number of incoming calls, the length of calls, the number of abandoned calls, call volumes, and the timeliness of answering calls.

In reviewing data from Federal Fiscal Year 2018, the distribution of the calls remains steady in comparison to the prior year. Within the intake unit, there is some variance regarding skill level amongst the staff; however, the average number of calls each month per staff is 100. The centralized telephone system received a total of 17,264 calls. Of these calls, 1251 (7.2%) were abandoned, meaning the caller hung up prior to the call being answered. The average speed for a call to be answered is 1 minute, 17 seconds, and the average delay before a call is abandoned is 3 minutes, 6 seconds.

Each year a mandatory Intake Specialist meeting is held to update the Intake Specialists and the Intake Specialist Screeners on policies and procedures and to discuss practice. Prior to the Intake meeting, questionnaires are sent out to the Family Services Specialists and Supervisors on topics they would like to discuss and review. This gives the Intake Family Services Specialists, Screeners, and Supervisors input on the agenda items at the annual training. The 2019 meeting is scheduled for June 18-19, 2019. The agenda includes training on sufficient information gathering, identifying danger threats, peer reviews, and team building activities.

Drug Affected Infants

South Dakota has provisions in state law which include prenatal exposure to abusive use of drugs and alcohol as part of the definition of child abuse and neglect. In addition, South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-3 addresses requirements of health care providers, and other professionals, to report

child abuse or neglect. This law lists out several professional mandated to report child abuse and/or neglect and a failure to do so, could result in a misdemeanor charge. South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-6 is further specific to hospital personnel in that “any person who has contact with a child through the performance of services as a member of the staff of a hospital or similar institutions shall immediately notify the person in charge of the institution or his designee of suspected abuse or neglect...”

The South Dakota Health Department has guidelines defined in South Dakota Administrative Rule 44:65:02:01 and 44:65:02:02 that require reports by physicians or hospitals to the Health Department situations where a diagnosing physician attends to a person suspected of having FAS or a hospital is aware of a person who is suspected of having FAS was served by the hospital. The rules also state that reporting under these provisions does not relieve the physician or hospital from the obligation to report FAS as child abuse or neglect.

In 2018, Senate Bill 105 was introduced and passed by the legislature which authorizes health care practitioners to administer a toxicology test to an infant during the first 28 days of life under certain circumstances with or without parental consent. If a health care practitioner has reason to believe, based on a medical assessment of a mother or a newborn infant, that the mother used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy, the practitioner may administer, with or without the consent of the newborn infant’s parent or guardian, a toxicology test. The test is to determine whether there is evidence of prenatal exposure of a controlled substance. If the test results are positive, the practitioner shall report the results according to South Dakota’s mandatory reporting law, which is SDCL 26-8A-8.

Child Protection Services’ safety focused model includes services for those infants affected by abuse of drugs or alcohol. When a child who is born drug affected or suspected of suffering from FASD is ready for discharge from a hospital and cannot be placed safely in their home through a safety plan, Child Protection Services seeks the assistance of relatives and/or foster homes which can address the child’s needs and provide a safe environment for the child, which includes a safe care plan. The caregiver and the Child Protection Service Family Specialist work closely with the physician to ensure the continuity of care. If a child is ready for discharge and can safely remain in their home and the danger threats are able to be managed, Child Protection Services opens the case for in-home services, providing additional support to the family with a safe care plan. The Child Protection Family Services Specialist continues to monitor the child’s safety while arranging for additional services, based on the parent’s needs and assuring the child’s needs are being met in the home.

The increase in the State’s CAPTA funds will assist in continued efforts to support and address the needs of infants born and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure. Funding will be utilized to assist parents with drug assessments and subsequent treatment if recommended, and/or ongoing monitoring in the form of substance use testing. Safe care plans developed for the infants to avoid the child being placed in custody may include additional case management services and costs for the alternative providers. These services may include but are not limited to temporary daycare for the child or training related to providing care for the infant’s medical needs.

CPS will collaborate with the Division of Behavioral Health and the Department of Health to explore further opportunities to enhance safe care plans, including linking infants affected by substance abuse to the Bright Start Home Visiting program. Parents are eligible to begin visits during pregnancy up to the child’s second birthday through Bright Start. The program is currently available in eleven counties in SD.

On October 31, 2017, South Dakota implemented new fields in the FACIS (SACWIS) system to track alcohol affected infants, drug affected infants, safe care plans, and referral to Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) related services.

CAPTA Amendments-Sex Trafficking

Intake Specialists have been provided with information regarding responding to report of sex trafficking and potential victims of sex-trafficking. The Intake Specialist must identify and document in the FACIS system children who Child Protection Services has a reasonable cause to believe are sex trafficking victims or are at risk of being sex-trafficking victims. On October 31, 2017, South Dakota added a new maltreatment type to the FACIS (SACWIS) system to track the number of children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking.

There are instances in which a referral is received by the Department; however, the allegations do not involve a parent, guardian, or custodian. In these situations, in accordance with SDCL (South Dakota Codified Law) 26-8A-2, the referral is forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency to investigate. Along with the Department, law enforcement is the other agency mandated by state law to investigate reports of child abuse and neglect. The investigation can be completed by either agency or jointly. The Department does not have the legal authority to investigate any cases of child maltreatment or sex offenses which do not meet the definitions within SDCL 26-8A-2. In these situations, the safety of the child is paramount, and it is important to assure the parent, guardian, or custodian responsible for the child is able and willing to protect the child. If the report indicates the parent, guardian or custodian, or another person responsible is not protecting the child or the child is otherwise unsafe through fault or no fault of the parent, the report is further assessed for assignment and for additional services by Child Protection Services. Child Protection Services also coordinates with other agencies and service providers needed to assure the child's safety and to implement services which provide for the physical and emotional needs of the child. The Department does consider requests by law enforcement and child protection agencies from other states for a Family Services Specialist to conduct a courtesy interview and assist with ensuring the safety of the child.

On March 7-8, 2019, Child Protection Services sent 13 employees to a Human Trafficking Awareness Conference. The conference focused on the following topics: in-depth information about child sexual abuse, risks of sex trafficking to child sexual abuse victims, recognizing potential trafficking situations, understanding the impact of complex trauma on those affected by trafficking, and the role of the internet providing a mechanism for trafficking perpetrators.

CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL REPORT- FISCAL YEAR 2019

The Justice for Children's Committee (JCC), which is a joint committee of the Citizen Review Panel and Children's Justice Task Force, held meetings and conference calls over the last year to continue progress on the approved three-year recommendations set forth in 2018. The meetings and conference calls included other topics; however, the focus of the meetings was the three-year assessment recommendations. Various members of the JCC provided presentations to the JCC about current projects and issues relevant to the assessment. Those presentations included the work of the Court Improvement Program Committee, law enforcement's experience with the rise in methamphetamine cases, recent legislation related to family violence, and discussion about a task force created to study policy, and practice and laws related to child sexual abuse in South Dakota.

What follows are the recommendations and action steps agreed upon by the JCC. Action steps for some of the recommendations are still being developed. The JCC will continue to further develop action steps as needed over the next three years related to the recommendations.

2019 Progress Regarding Three Year Recommendations

Recommendation I: Mandatory Conference Attendance

JCC members support attendance at the annual Children's Justice Act conference.

Action Steps:

- A. JCC Member attends the annual CJA grantee meeting in Washington DC.
- B. Attendance contingent on approved funding.

2019 Update:

Representatives from South Dakota attended the annual grantee meeting in Washington DC held on July 19-20, 2018 and attended this year's meeting on April 23-24, 2019.

Recommendation II: Safety Response to Domestic Violence

Review the current processes and practice used to assess child abuse and neglect and child safety in domestic violence cases and develop recommendations regarding any areas where enhancements can be made.

Action Steps:

- A. JCC obtain information and input from South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault regarding statistics and best practice.
- B. Research and increase system understanding of trauma as it relates to children's exposure to domestic violence.
- C. Research availability of resources for families and children affected by domestic violence and increase awareness of responders regarding those resources.

2019 Update:

The South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault continues to offer training throughout the year for law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, Child Protection staff, medical personnel, school personnel, and other community members regarding domestic violence. The training includes the dynamics of domestic violence, arrest decisions, updated laws, protection orders, and investigation and victim's services. This includes statewide conferences as well.

Recommendation III: Develop a workgroup regarding sex trafficking.

Review recent legislation and make recommendations for policy and procedures to the Department of Social Services related to sex trafficking.

Action Steps:

- A. Outline key components regarding response to reports of trafficking.
- B. Provide guidelines and recommendations regarding indicators, policy, and procedures.

2019 Update:

Thirteen Child Protection staff attended a Human Trafficking Conference on March 7-8, 2019. The conference focused on the following topics: in-depth information about child sexual abuse, risks of sex trafficking to child sexual abuse victims, recognizing potential trafficking situations, understanding the impact of complex trauma on those affected by trafficking, and the role of the internet providing a mechanism for trafficking perpetrators

Recommendation IV: Enough Abuse Campaign.

JCC will support and assist in launching "Enough Abuse" campaign regarding child sexual abuse.

Action Steps:

- A. Collaborate with the South Dakota Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment regarding the train the trainer's program.

- B. Train 40 individuals across the state from varying professions.
- C. Support additional training for staff and stakeholders statewide.

2019 Update:

The Enough Abuse campaign has launched in South Dakota and the first training took place on May 16-17, 2019. After an application process and review, 35 individuals who demonstrated a passion for educating others about keeping children safe, were selected to complete the train the trainer's course. The individuals will then train their respective agencies, as well as provide training in other areas and communities.

Recommendation V: Defer to Jolene's Task Force Study.

JCC will defer to Jolene's Law Task Force regarding any further review of issues related to child sexual abuse.

Action Steps:

- A. JCC will stay informed about the work and developments of Jolene's Law Task Force.
- B. JCC will consider the recommendations of Jolene's Law Task Force in relation to any further work needed by the JCC.

2019 Update:

The JCC continues to be updated regarding the recommendations of Jolene's Law Task Force. The recommendation of the Enough Abuse Campaign was a result of the task force and was approved by the JCC as a needed project.

Recommendation #VI: Sexual Abuse Video

Research and begin development of an online training video regarding the assessment and investigation of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Action Steps:

- A. Explore the options of development and cost of the video.
- B. Explore other state's use of training regarding responding to sexual abuse.
- C. Explore the curriculum to be used for the video in conjunction with the Enough Abuse campaign.

2019 Update:

The research and development of an online training video regarding child sexual abuse and exploitation will follow the work of the Enough Abuse campaign. As data and further developments regarding the Enough Abuse training begin, work on this project will then follow. Data continues to be gathered and shared between Child Protection Services and the Child Advocacy Centers.

Recommendation VII: Improve Public Relations and Education

Enhance public education relating to the Child Protection Services processes and other related areas affecting children's safety to increase the public's knowledge of the services Child Protection Services provides.

Action Steps:

- A. Explore ways to more effectively make information available to the public regarding issues impacting children and families. Some examples include the use of tools similar to social media and development of brochures.

2019 Update:

The JCC Task Force continues to discuss this topic and ideas for moving forward. Much of the work on this task has been tabled in lieu of the Enough Abuse campaign. The work related to sex trafficking will likely impact this recommendation as well in regard to educating the public.

VII. PERMANENCY AND CHILD AND FAMILY WELL BEING

Goal 1: Children reunified with their families are able to remain at home and do not re-enter foster care.

Objective 1: Improve re-entry rates in selected offices with higher foster care caseloads.

Intervention: Use the CQI process to address re-entry in selected offices.

Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Determinations will be made regarding offices to include in analysis.

End of Year 2:

- a. Analysis of selected offices will be completed.
- b. Action plans will be implemented as necessary based on analysis.

End of Year 3: Assessment of progress will be completed.

2017 Update: CPS achieved the measure of No Difference in relation to the National Standard. As a result, CPS will not continue to implement the intervention under Objective 1.

Objective 2: Parents will have the enhanced protective capacities to manage safety for their children.

Intervention 1: Implement a distinct decision-making process within the CSI that contributes to sufficient in-home safety plans.

Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Enhanced safety-decision making guidelines and tool are finalized and implemented.

2017 Update: This intervention is operational.

Intervention 2: Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Piloting of Conditions for Return completed in 3 sites.

End of Year 3: Conditions for Return policy and procedures finalized, and service is implemented statewide.

2018 Update: This Intervention will be operational beginning July 1, 2017.

Intervention 3: Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning,

Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Determination made as to which stakeholders to educate and plan for education of stakeholders developed.

End of Year 3: Plan is implemented.

2018 Update: This intervention will be complete by September 30, 2017.

Measure: The progress measure will be changed in accordance with the PIP as a result of the CFSR Round 3

Goal 2: Families will have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Objective: CPS staff skills will be enhanced in assessing parent's needs and determining services for parents.

Intervention 1: Provide advanced training to staff regarding the PCA process and needs assessment of parents.

Benchmark: End of Year 1: Training is completed.

2017 Update: This Benchmark has been met.

Intervention 2: Provide training to Supervisors to increase their consultation skills regarding the PCA process and needs assessment of parents.

Benchmark: End of Year 2: Training is completed.

2017 Update: This Benchmark has been met.

Intervention 3: Review implementation of PCA practice related to assessing parents needs and the results of service provision through SPWB Reviews.

Benchmark: End of Year 3: Review of practice completed, and recommendations made regarding enhancements.

Measure: The progress measure will be changed to the measure for Item 3 established during the CFSR Round 3. Update

Goal 3: Permanency will be achieved for children in a timely manner.

Objective 1: Permanency practice results in timely permanent placements

Intervention 1: Complete analysis of current practice related to achieving timely permanency and implement necessary improvements.

Benchmarks: End of Year 3:

- a. Analysis of current practice is completed.
- b. Recommendations for enhancements are presented to the Management Team.

End of Year 4: Recommendations approved by the Management Team are implemented.

2018 Update: CPS has completed some initial analysis. That information will be used to assist in the implementation of the PIP.

2019 Update: South Dakota is engaging with the Capacity Building Center for States and Courts to develop an instrument to complete case reviews with the intent of pinpointing issues related to timely achievement of permanency. As part of the PIP, South Dakota will gather data, based on specific case dynamics, child age, ethnicity, region, time in care, state or tribal court, and other factors. Individual case reviews will be completed on case files, as well as court and administrative review observations. The project is being designed so that results will be specific to each regional office in the state, and individual and specific strategies can be created to address the identified concerns. In addition to this work South Dakota implemented the most recent enhancement to the CSI model, safety plan determination and conditions for return in order to return children home sooner, safely, with an emphasis on keeping them in the family home, and ultimately preventing re-entry into foster care through the development of an in-home safety plan.

2020 Update: Case reviews completed. Analysis from case review utilized to develop PIP strategy to enhance the quality and ensure timeliness of permanency hearings.

Intervention 2: Continue implementation of current statewide recruitment, development and retention plans to increase placement resources specific to cultural, behavioral and emotional needs of children.

Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Gather and assess data related to impact of recruitment plans.

2017 Update: This Benchmark has been met.

Intervention 3: Implement enhanced targeted recruitment in tribal areas.

Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Targeted recruitment plan is implemented.

2017 Update: This Benchmark has been met.

Intervention 4: Implement a team review process to enhance efforts toward achieving permanent plans.

Benchmarks: End of Year 2:

- a) Gather information with the assistance of Casey Family Programs on current processes/models that use a team review process for addressing timeliness for children in care over 24 months.
- b) Select process/model.

End of Year 3: Develop implementation plan.

Measure 1: The progress measure will be changed to the measure for Item 6 established for the PIP during the CFSR Round 3. The baseline for the PIP will be established by November of 2019.

Measure 2: CPS will improve the rating for permanency in 12 months for children in foster Care 24 months or more based on the CFSR 3 Standard from Not Met to No Difference by 2018.

2020 Progress Update

CPS developed the goals and interventions incorporated in the CFSP based on QA case reviews completed prior to the 2016 CFSR. CPS will need to develop the PIP with inclusion of Permanency Outcome 1, Permanency Outcome 2, Well Being Outcome 1, Well Being Outcome 2 and Well Being Outcome 3 due to the 2016 CFSR findings. CPS will integrate the PIP and

CFSP once the PIP is approved. CPS is already in the process of implementing enhancements to practice that are expected to improve the permanency outcomes. Many of those enhancements will be discussed in this APSR. The baseline for the PIP will be established by November of 2019.

CPS will report in this APSR on the status of the Permanency and Well Being goals and interventions established in the development of the 2015-2019 CFSP. The PIP goals and strategies for the Permanency and Well Being Outcomes will be incorporated into the first APSR that is due following the approval of the PIP by the Children’s Bureau. In addition, CPS will include progress updates related to those Outcomes once the PIP is implemented. The baseline for the PIP will be established by November of 2019.

PERMANENCY DATA

State Performance on Statewide Permanency Indicators December 2018:

Permanency in 12 Months:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota’s RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
37.5%	40.4%	43%	42.7%	No Difference

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12-23 Months:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota’s RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
41.6%	45.9%	50.2%	45.9%	No Difference

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 24 Months or More:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota’s RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Met/Not Met/No Difference
24.6%	28.2%	32.0%	31.8%	No Difference

Re-entry to Foster Care

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota’s RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
5.7%	7.9%	10.7%	8.1%	No Difference

Placement Stability:

South Dakota Risk Standard Performance			South Dakota's RSP Relative to National Standard	
Lower RSP	RSP	Upper RSP	NS	Exceeded/Not Met/No Difference
5.24%	5.62%	6.03%	4.44%	Not Met

Goal 1: Children reunified with their families are able to remain at home and do not re-enter foster care.

Objective 1: Improve re-entry rates in selected offices with higher foster care caseloads.

Intervention: Use the CQI process to address reentry in selected offices.

Since CPS met the measure and is not required to include the standard in the PIP, CPS will not proceed with the Intervention in Objective 1.

Objective 2: Parents will have the enhanced protective capacities to manage safety for their children.

Intervention 2: Implement formalized standards and guidelines that clearly define Conditions for Return.

Training on Conditions for Return was provided to the Supervisors, Regional Managers and State office staff On March 15, 2017. Training was then provided to Family Services Specialists in Region 1, Region 2, Region 3 and Region 6 by Supervisors who are members of the CSI workgroup. Training was provided to Family Services Specialists in Regions 4, 5 and 7 by the Ongoing Services Program Specialist and Region 5 Regional Manager who are also members of the CSI workgroup. CPS will implement Conditions for Return statewide on July 1, 2017.

Intervention 3: Educate stakeholders on safety management and planning,

Each office will be providing education to key stakeholders regarding Conditions for Return during implementation. This will include a brief overview of the Comprehensive Safety Intervention process. Those stakeholders will include: Judges, States Attorneys, and Attorneys. The offices will use Child Protection Teams, MDT's and other meetings as opportunities to educate stakeholders.

Goal 3: Permanency will be achieved for children in a timely manner.

Objective 1: Permanency practice results in timely permanent placements

Intervention 1: Complete analysis of current practice related to achieving timely permanency and implement necessary improvements.

As a result of the findings in Round 3 of the CFSR, CPS is revising the strategies/interventions with this objective. Due to the fact that the themes found in the case reviews depending on the jurisdiction show a variety of factors affecting Permanency Outcome 1. CPS will incorporate the revised strategies within the CFSP and subsequent APSR once the PIP is approved.

Intervention 2: Continue implementation of current statewide recruitment, development and retention plans to increase placement resources specific to cultural, behavioral and emotional needs of children.

Information and related updates can be found in the South Dakota Division of Child Protection Services 2015-2019 Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment section of the APSR.

CPS continues to work with the Treatment Foster Care providers to review the current Treatment Foster Care service system. A compression planning session, which will be facilitated by Casey Family Programs, has been scheduled to assist CPS in establishing the overarching goal and outcomes CPS would like to result from the collaboration.

Intervention 3: Implement enhanced targeted recruitment in tribal areas.

Information and related updates can be found in the South Dakota Division of Child Protection Services 2015-2019 Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment section of the APSR.

Intervention 4: Implement a team review process to enhance efforts toward achieving permanent plans.

South Dakota implemented Permanency Round Tables (PRT) to assist with timely permanency for children. In July of 2016, a CORE Team comprised of two State Office Program Specialists, along with at least one field staff member from each region, was developed to attend PRT training. The training consists of Values Training which everyone is required to attend and then the Skills Training which only those involved in a Permanency Round Table are required to attend.

The Permanency Round Table Meetings consist of the initial meeting, a 30 day follow up meeting, a 90 day follow up, another 90 day follow up, and then a meeting every six months until permanency is achieved. The process may not always get the “Gold” standard of adoption for the children, but often when the goal of adoption is not achieved, PRT assists in finding connections and supports for the children.

Permanency Round Tables have been implemented in Regions Two, Four, Five and Seven. Region One and Region Six will be implemented by July 2020, completing statewide implementation.

Kinship Recruitment and Placement

Policy and Procedure Revisions and Training

CPS had strategies in place and was implementing strategies during the 2016 CFSR, which were intended to positively impact relative placements, yet the review showed “placement with relatives” was an area needing improvement. CPS identified the need to improve the CPS Policy and Procedure Manual related to kinship; a workgroup was formed with participants from CPS state office staff and field staff. The group reviewed existing policy, rearranged it to flow in a more practical manner, added step-by-step explanations to help staff better understand the kinship process, and approach to working with kinship families. In November and December of 2017, the Foster Care and Kinship Program Specialist and the Adoption Program Specialist scheduled trainings in each of the 7 CPS Regions to review the enhanced policy and procedure related to kinship. All staff, except for intake staff, were mandated to attend the training. Areas of discussion in all regions were guidance related to diligent search, how to address relatives who are

unresponsive to notifications from CPS to determine if they would like to be considered as a placement or connection for their relative, and clarification related to policy about kinship care and fictive kinship care.

<u>Training Date</u>	<u>Offices</u>
November 3	Rapid City
November 8	Chamberlain, Winner and Mission
November 9	Hot Springs, Deadwood, Sturgis
November 16	Pierre, Mobridge, and Eagle Butte
November 17	Rapid City
December 1	Watertown, Huron, Aberdeen and Brookings
December 4 and 5	Sioux Falls
December 14	Mitchell, Lake Andes, Yankton and Vermillion

Kinship Locators

CPS has used Kinship Locators to locate and contact relatives for potential placement and to maintain connections for children in custody. CPS has designated FTE as Kinship Locators in Regions 3 and 6. In FY15, CPS added a Kinship Locator to Region 2 via a contract with a former CPS employee. In FY16, CPS added Kinship Locators to Regions 5 and 7 via another contract with Lutheran Social Services (LSS). There was a change in the CPS Kinship Locator positions in Region 1 and 4. In Region 1, kinship locators are now called resource specialists. They are assigned to cases when children are entering DSS custody or believed to be coming into custody. They search for relative placement as a priority over placement in foster care and continually search for relatives throughout the life of the case. The resource specialists are assigned to relative homes and provide support and help the family get needed services during placement of a relative child. They are responsible for making referrals for the family to PRIDE or Unity. When emergencies occur, and a child is removed from their home at night, the resource specialist will assist in locating a relative placement, so the child doesn't have to be placed in foster care. In Region 4, all staff are expected to assist in identifying kinship resources for possible home studies.

Kinship Home Studies

The Lutheran Social Services and Sicangu Child and Family Services (SCFS) contracts continue to be beneficial in assessing relatives for potential placement options. CPS strives to locate kinship families who can provide a safe and nurturing environment for relative children as soon as possible after a child enters care. Therefore, its important a thorough home study be completed within 30 days, which remains the goal for the contracted agencies completing kinship home studies.

Not only has the number of referrals for home studies to LSS increased since the beginning of the contract in FY14, the timeliness of completed home studies has also shown improvement. The most recent improvements in timeliness is due to the \$195,195.00 increase in funding because of the CPS budget request which was supported through the 2017 legislative process and became available on July 1, 2017. LSS was able to hire more staff to meet the ever-growing need for timely kinship home studies, both for kinship families in state and for kinship families through the ICPC process. Lutheran Social Services improved their timeliness from 65% to 74% of the home studies in 30 days, while Sicangu Child and Family Services completed kinship home studies within 30 days 34% of the time.

In 2017 a review of home studies which were not completed within the 30-day timeframe found those home studies required more out of state central registry or child abuse and neglect checks to be completed as the potential resource lived in several other states prior to living in South Dakota. These types of checks are necessary to ensure there is no substantiated history of child abuse and neglect but can often times prolong the time it takes to complete the study. The time

in which out of state central registry child abuse and neglect checks are being completed continues to be the number one reason why home studies aren't being completed within the 30- and 45-day timeframes requested.

As processes become more defined and the appropriate kinship families are selected to be assessed for placement, the timeframes to complete them are decreasing. The chart below shows the number of home studies requested from LSS for children in DSS custody and for children from another state through ICPC.

	SFY2016	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019
In State Children	319	295	315	307
Out of State Children	112	106	112	116
Total	431	401	427	423

The number of children SD completed kinship home studies on as well as the number of home studies being completed has increased.

CPS contracted with Sicangu Child and Family Services (SCFS) to complete kinship home studies and foster care licensing home studies for children in custody whose relatives live on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in FY13. CPS made 75 kinship home study referrals to Sicangu since the beginning of the contract with the following outcomes:

- 75 referrals:
 - 44 completed and approved
 - 7 denied
 - 10 closed prior to completion (either because the study was no longer needed by CPS or the court closed the case)
 - 8 families withdrew from the process for personal reasons
 - 3 families failed to follow through
 - 1 family moved out of the Rosebud area before the study could be initiated
 - 2 requests closed prior to completion due to concerns with the safety of the home upon initial contact

CPS also made 51 referrals for home studies for prospective foster families with the following outcomes:

- 51 referrals
 - 25 licensed and/or approved
 - 11 withdrew
 - 15 closed due to lack of follow-through

2020 Update

In 2019 the number of children a kinship home study was requested for has remained about the same as in 2018. Up until this year, the number of children a kinship home study was requested for increased. The rise was attributed due in part to the implementation of kinship locator services in Regions 5 and 7 provided through a contract with Lutheran Social Services, as well as enhanced kinship policy which provides better direction for staff regarding the process to locate kinship families.

Child Protection Services developed a new contract with Sicangu Child and Family Services on the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in SFY2019. The contract focus is the completion of kinship home

studies for placement of their relative children in the custody of the Department of Social Services. Through this contract, payment is provided at a set rate for the completion of each home study. As of May 31,2019, Sicangu Child and Family Services completed and requested payment for one kinship home study under the current grant. Prior to the SFY2019 contract with Sicangu Child and Family Services, the contract supported a position to complete kinship home studies.

Final Summary

Child Protection Services contracts kinship home study services through a competitive RFP process. Lutheran Social Services has held this contract since 2014. Guidelines have been developed with timeframes for timely completion of relative home studies. In 2017, the legislature approved additional funding for the contract in the amount of \$195,195.00 to address the increase in requests for kinship home studies for families seeking placement of their relative children and to improve timeliness of completion with the addition of contract staff, which has had a positive impact. One factor that occasionally impacts timely completion of home studies is the child abuse and neglect background checks (central registry screenings) from other states. Reasons for the delays are sometimes due to the paperwork process changing in other states causing Child Protection Services to resubmit the central registry paperwork. Another reason for delays is the length of time it takes for the central registry screenings to be completed by some of the states. Sometimes states have a month or longer processing time to complete central registry screenings. These are some reasons which delay the home study process as this information is required before a home study can be finalized. Overall, kinship families are being located, contacted, assessed and utilized when in the best interest for children.

Fictive Kin

There continues to be an increase in fictive kin placements. We do this for children, who are people who have a significant relationship with the child, for placement. When there is a significant relationship between a child and a potential non-related caregiver and the parent and the court and CPS state office approve the placement, the child may be placed with the fictive kin. Prior to approval of this placement, background checks and reference checks are completed, a home visit is conducted, and the fictive kin placement provider agrees to complete the process to become a licensed foster parent. Forty-six children are placed with fictive kin and the breakout by CPS region is shown below.

	As of May 10, 2018	As of May 10, 2019
Region 1	15 children	7 children
Region 2	3 children	3 children
Region 3	1 child	0 children
Region 4	5 children	6 children
Region 5	3 children	11 children
Region 6	5 children	18 children
Region 7	5 children	1 child

Kinship Data

The number of non-licensed kinship placements increased during SFY 16, SFY 17 and again in SFY 18. Licensed kinship placements were on the rise in SFY 16 and 17 but fell in SFY18. Fictive Kin placements are captured for SFY 18. The total number of kinship placements is on the rise.

	SFY 14	SFY 15	SFY 16	SFY17	SFY 18	SFY19
Kinship Placements	183	200	245	271	320	299
Licensed Kinship Placements	63	37	87	88	75	105
Fictive Kin Placements					(37) Included above	(46) Included above
Total Kinship Placements	246	237	332	359	395	404

2020 Update

Utilizing kinship placements continues to be a high priority for Child Protection Services. The number of kinship placements choosing to be licensed continues to increase as kinship resources see the benefits of becoming licensed. The licensing of kinship placements allows Child Protection Services to provide a monthly foster care reimbursement to the family to financially assist the foster family to care for the child. When kinship placements are not licensed, they may be eligible to apply for TANF for financial support or if the child has own funds from SSI or a death benefit, their funds are passed through to the relative to support the child. Occasionally a licensed kinship family will agree to provide foster care for non-related children in DSS custody. This benefits Child Protection Services as there is a shortage of licensed foster parents to provide care for children in South Dakota. Approximately 23% of the children in the custody of the Department of Social Services are placed with their relatives.

Final Summary

Over the years Child Protection Services has focused on increasing the number of kinship placements. Kinship policy has been updated and process improvements related to the kinship home study and kinship locator contracts in Regions 2, 5 and 7 have been made. FACIS reports show an increased number of children being placed in kinship homes. Child Protection Services State Office has seen an increase in fictive kin placements which are placements with an unrelated person who has a significant relationship with the child. When children are placed with a caretaker they know, the likelihood of a successful placement increases and sometimes the fictive kinship placement becomes the permanent placement for the child. In SFY 2019, more children were placed in kinship care than ever before in South Dakota. Kinship placements increased by 60% from SFY 2014 to SFY 2019.

Five Year Plan

South Dakota Child Protection Services will continue to review cases through the Child and Family Service Review as well as supervisor/caseworker staffing to assess the continued practice of locating, assessing and utilizing kinship and fictive kinship placements of children in custody. Child Protection Services plans to focus on locating kinship and fictive kinship placements for families when a Present Danger Plan is utilized. Continuing to increase kinship and fictive kin placements and enhance services to assist them in caring for their relatives will be a focus of Child Protection Service during the next 5 years. As fictive kinship placements continue to increase, a plan to add data elements in FACIS to track these placements will be developed. Currently, each office must do a hand count of these placements, this population, but captures it as a kinship placement in FACIS. This will allow Child Protection Services to differentiate the type of relationship the resource has to the child as kinship or fictive kin.

Sibling Placement Practice

Findings from the 2016 CFSR revealed case documentation was lacking on why children were placed separately from siblings and what efforts were made to place them together. CPS revised sibling placement policy to enhance practice, which addressed the placement of siblings when they enter care and when they enter care before or after another of their siblings has been placed. This policy includes information on the importance of placing siblings together; licensing rules related to placing siblings together; searching for resources who will care for sibling groups; preserving sibling connections when they are not able to be placed together; what constitutes allowable reasons for separating siblings; and procedures to follow if permanent separation of siblings is a necessary. CPS Program Specialists provided Regional training to all staff statewide beginning in May 2015 and finishing in August 2015. The Program Specialists also provided consultation to staff during the training when requested by staff regarding cases where siblings have been separated or cases where attempts have been made to place siblings together. All offices implemented a strategy to discuss each case monthly where siblings are separated and develop a plan to place them together and maintain connections until they can be together. A process for group case consultation related to review of cases when siblings are separated was established. The group is composed of the Family Services Specialist, the Family Services Specialist Supervisor, and the Foster Care and Adoption Program Specialists.

This group consultation process occurs when staff struggle with locating placement resources able to care for a sibling group together. Many of the issues revolve around sibling groups of 5 or more children when there are significant behavioral and treatment needs involved. Foster families are able to care for 2 or 3 of the children, but not all due to the needs of the children. When children are not able to be placed with their sibling(s), staff work hard to maintain the sibling connection by ensuring visits occur or other types of contact are provided such as phone calls or Skype. Another practice which is encouraged for siblings who are separated because of their behaviors when together, is sibling therapy to build a positive relationship between the siblings, and to assess what can be done to place them together in the future.

Because of new and ongoing efforts which have been incorporated into practice, CPS has seen an increase in active discussions regarding placing siblings together prior to reunification. Discussion continues to occur between state office and the local office staff regarding locating permanent placements for siblings who are separated. Issues impacting sibling placement include: sibling groups where ICWA applies to some of the children and not others; siblings with different fathers; resource family has a significant relationship to the child because of the child previously being placed with them, and the placement resource does not agree to taking the sibling who has just entered care; and finding resource families who will take large sibling groups. The philosophy of CPS to keep siblings together, is continually being stressed with resource families throughout the life of a child's case.

Local offices around the state are tracking the number of cases where siblings are not placed together. Based on case reviews, the reasons for not placing children together were:

- Child was placed in psychiatric residential treatment or had medical, or behavioral needs
- Multiple children residing with different relatives
- Lack of resources willing to take large sibling groups
- Siblings entering care at different times
- Siblings having different fathers
- A sibling not in care
- A child transitioning to trial reunification sooner than their siblings
- Due to the length of time in placement with the resource, the children and family have bonded, and the local CPS staff are reluctant to disrupt the placement

Child Protection Services has seen improvement in staff's philosophy and the practice of placing siblings together and when not possible, to maintain connections through visitation. Child Protection Services staff are having more open conversations with placement resources about accepting large sibling groups placements and engaging in creative ways to support sibling connections when placement together is unattainable. Sibling assessments, to determine the appropriateness of separating siblings for permanency, are being completed on a more regular basis. These assessments focus on the best interest of the sibling group and the individual children in the sibling group. When siblings are not placed together Child Protection Services is more cautious assessing the placement resources intent and plan for keeping a connection amongst them. Practice is in place that requires a staffing with the Adoption Program Specialist and Foster Care and Kinship Program Specialist whenever separating siblings is being considered on a permanent basis. During the staffing, efforts to maintain siblings together in their permanent placement are discussed and what effort will be made to keep siblings connected if they cannot be placed together. The final sibling placement assessment is completed during the adoption conference staffing.

Final Summary

Placing siblings together has been a practice Child Protection Services has strived to meet. However, large sibling groups of 5 or more, the needs of the children, children entering care at different times, having different parents and the shortage of foster parents sometimes makes it difficult to achieve placing siblings together. Policy addressing this challenge has been enhanced to ensure children do not lose connections with their siblings if a permanent placement together is not achievable. Child Protection Services staff have focused more attention and efforts to placing children together whenever possible and have been creative in keeping them connected when placement together is not possible. Monthly staffing between supervisors and family services specialists has been incorporated into practice to ensure connections are being maintained and finding families willing to care for sibling groups remains a high priority. Staff are also meeting with Program Specialists any time they are unable to find a permanent home for a sibling group to ensure the best placement plan possible is put in place for the well-being of all the children involved.

Five Year Plan

South Dakota Child Protection Services will continue to work towards placing sibling groups together whenever possible. Staffings will continue to occur between local offices and state office whenever a sibling group is not able to find permanency together to determine the best plan to maintain connections and unity among the children. Child Protection Services will continue to work with the FACIS program specialist to enhance tracking of sibling placements.

Services to Children Under the Age of 5

CPS provides several interventions intended to help achieve permanency in a timely manner. While most of these interventions can apply to any age of child in care, interventions can be focused on children based on age and needs.

CPS experience is the children in this age group have a high potential for being placed in a permanent family. CPS provides child development training to new staff and uses a range of services to help facilitate this result including: relative searches, concurrent planning, placement team meetings, Birth to Three, developmental assessments, FASD evaluations, special needs day care, and mental health referrals.

CPS staff utilize several agencies to provide services to support children and their families. Some of which are listed below:

- Discover Your Child at Home parenting program
- Early Head Start/Head Start educational services to young children
- Regulation 7 ICPC priority 30-day home studies
- Bright Start to assist young mothers through home visitation, screenings, immunizations, parenting seminars and parenting education
- Indian Health Services
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC-Nutrition Program – Healthy food for your family)
- Catholic Mentoring Services
- Big Brother Big Sisters-Mentor Mom's
- Interactive Child Play Therapy
- Responsive Parenting Classes
- Common Sense Parenting Classes

When CPS staff visit the placement resource and child, the staff and foster parent discuss the following information: placement stability and needs the resource provider might have, the child's medical, mental health, educational and developmental milestones/needs; the child's social activities and connections for the month; as well as any progress made towards the permanency plan. CPS staff discuss the same type of information when visiting families in an in-home case. Questions CPS staff ask the caretaker when assessing the development and education of the child induced:

Development-

- Are there current services? What are they and for what purpose?
- An assessment of: Gross motor skills, Fine motor skills, Cognition, Expressive and receptive language, Social Interactions, Age-appropriate activities of daily living.
- Are there concerns?
- Services in the past, needs?
- Is there a history of trauma?
- Document and refer to services, if needed.
- Substantiated cases-require Birth to 3 screening.
- Activities which promote the social and emotional development of a child.

Education-

- What grade is the child in?
- What school?
- Who is the teacher or counselor?
- Can parent sign a release to check on how things are going?
- IEP? For what? Do parents have a copy? Attend meetings?
- Attendance concerns?
- Grades?
- Attending parent conferences?
- Any issues with education needs met?
- Special Ed needs?
- Pre-school?
- IFSP?
- Education-School-where are they going? History of performance, IEP attendance? What is the parent involvement?
- Birth to Three

The child is met with on an individual basis for the staff to discuss, observe, and assess the safety of the child residing both in an in-home placement as well as out of home placement. CPS staff use different tools to assess and address the developmental needs of a child in out of home and in-home placements. A Milestone Chart is used to show the developmental milestone a child should be at from 1 month to age 5. CPS uses Well Child Check Charts to document the ages and times a child is to have medical, dental and eye exams. The Period of PURPLE crying is a research-based education program which teaches parents about the normal period of increased crying which occurs in ALL infants. This is used by CPS staff to reassure parents and resource parents during the first few months with a newborn. The Child Case Plan and Protective Capacity Assessment also include the domains of emotional, mental health, and physical needs which help staff focus on the needs of the child.

The South Dakota Birth to Three Program provides free early intervention services for children from birth to age 3 who have a disability or a developmental delay. CPS staff will make referrals or assist the parent and resource parent in getting services as needed.

CPS staffs are educated in Permanency and Well-Being Certification Training on a number of developmental disorders and things to look for when working with young children which include:

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Prenatal Exposure to Drugs
- Special Care for Severely Abused Infants
- Failure to Thrive
- Cerebral Palsy
- Safe Sleep/SIDS (getting plenty of tummy time to help reduce SIDS)

The use of Team meetings helps facilitate relative involvement, kinship care, and relationship building between parents and foster parents. CPS has increased regularity of parent/child visits through the use of family visitation centers, increased efforts with the non-resident parent for placement options, and has an adoption committee to review progress and address barriers affecting timeliness of adoption.

CPS is implementing the enhancements to the CSI model which involves establishment of Conditions for Return related to the safety plan determination, which will contribute to more precise assessments related to reunification decision-making. The objectives are to improve safety decisions and timeliness related to reunification and other permanency decisions. This, along with the safety plans CPS develops at the time of trial reunification, are expected to provide staff with a more effective and precise instrument to make decisions in a timely manner for all children, which will also impact children under the age of 5.

CPS uses FACIS assessment screens which are used to track children's mental health, physical health, developmental needs, and educational needs, which will further assist CPS in monitoring and focusing on the needs and outcomes of this population. CPS enhanced training related to serving this population.

CPS expanded the contract for kinship home studies with the goal of increasing kinship placement resources, including Native American placement resources. Objectives of the contract are to enhance engagement of prospective relative resources and expedite the kinship approval process to allow children to be placed more quickly with qualified relative placement resources.

CPS has a number of recruitment efforts underway to increase kinship, foster parent and adoptive placement resources, including Native American resources, which have the potential of decreasing the length of time children, are in care without a permanent family. CPS continues the geographically targeted recruitment effort to focus recruitment on the specific localized needs. CPS is involved in a collaborative recruitment effort with the Tribes through technical assistance

form Casey Family Programs. The ICWA Placement Recruitment Project was established to increase Native American placement resources for Native American children. Each of these efforts is described in the Targeted Recruitment Plan included with the CFSP.

The mandated court appointed attorney training provided by the Unified Judicial System includes information on child development, which can increase awareness in the court process of younger children's needs.

The children in CPS custody are tracked through the state's SACWIS (FACIS). FACIS is able to gather a number of demographic items related to children in care and their families. CPS will assess what reports could be developed to help in increasing the ability of CPS to estimate the number of children under the age of 5 who will be without a permanent home during a given year and report characteristic information regarding this group of children.

There were 947 children served under the age of 5 in SFY18. There were 427 children in this age category discharged from care in SFY18. In SFY19, 915 children were served under the age of 5. In SFY19, 370 children in this age category were discharged from care. The percentage of discharge reasons, in SFY 2019, for the 370 children served under age 5 were as follows:

- 57% were reunified with their parents
- 13.5% were transferred to a tribe
- 1.4% were transferred to another agency
- 17.8% were adopted
- 8.9% were placed in a guardianship
- 1.1% were placed with a relative

Promoting Safe And Stable Families Funds

CPS continues to use Promoting Safe and Stable Families (IVB Part II) funds to assist with providing services which help keep children in their homes, support parents to keep children safe when reunification occurs, assure stability of placements with foster parents, kinship parents, and adoptive parents, and facilitate adoptions. CPS views Promoting Safe and Stable Families funds as a critical source for situations where even basic levels of support can make the difference in the success of family preservation. CPS will continue to request approval to use funds to provide:

- Contract services for Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and kin placement home studies to support temporary and permanent placement with relatives;
- Contract services for adoption support and post-adoption services such as counseling, pre-placement visits, parenting educational services;
- Contract for legal services to expedite permanency for children through the court process.
- Consultation services to expedite adoption placements;
- Child parent visitation through contracts with visitation centers; and

In addition, funds will be made available for staff to help families meet needs which can help with placement prevention or reunification, including:

- Transportation- bus tickets, gas cards- for parents to access services and employment.
- Rental assistance, utility deposits to support placement prevention and reunification.
- Crisis or other day care to support placement prevention and reunification.
- Counseling/treatment for parents.

- Assessments and evaluations for parents and children to assess danger threats and determine service needs.
- Alcohol and drug treatment and testing for parents to assess danger threats and determine service needs.
- Supports and services to Present Danger Plan and Safety Plan providers to prevent children from entering care.
- Needs for kinship placement resources-beds, cribs, high chairs, initial food or clothing, etc.

Approval for use of funds must be provided by Regional Managers and State Office.

The IVB Part II Funds will be allocated as follows:

- Family Preservation Services- 29%
CPS needs to enhance implementation of interventions in maintaining children in their homes and determining when children can be reunified. Funds will be used to support these efforts.
- Family Support Services-24%
The services and reason the service providers were selected include: community based family visitation center services for parents and their children, which were selected for contracting based on the fact they were already providing visitation services; community based counseling for parents and children selected based on the treatment providers who provide a specific type of service and expertise; FAS screenings by the University of South Dakota Medical School with the expertise in this area.
- Time Limited Family Reunification Services-22%
CPS will be increasing efforts to improve timeliness of permanency and funds will be used in this area to support those efforts.
- Adoption Promotion and Support Services-25%
CPS will be increasing efforts to improve timeliness of permanency and assure stability of adoptions and funds will be used in this area to support those efforts.

Caseworker Visits

CPS continues to use the caseworker visits screens to track frequency and location of visits by Family Services Specialists. CPS monitors caseworker visits through random calls to foster parents. Reports from Family Services Specialists' narratives and caseworker visits documented

on screens are available to supervisors through FACIS. CPS will continue to use the random calls and FACIS reports to assess the quality and frequency of caseworker visits.

CPS achieved a rate for monthly visits in FFY18 of 97.57% and 95.03% of those were in the residence. CPS believes it is important to provide a variety of settings for caseworker visits which allow children to express their feelings and talk about experiences while in care. Factors other than CPS staff not making all expected monthly visits which affect the level of compliance for visits are: other states inability in some cases for staff in those states to visit children monthly who are in South Dakota custody and placed in the other state; and the difficulty of tribes with IVE contracts to meet the required rate of visits. The following table shows the difference in visitation rates the previous three years when CPS staff were responsible for the visitations compared to when other states and tribal staff are responsible for visits. While the difference in the rate is not substantial, the difference can have more impact since the compliance rate increased to 95%. CPS continues to collaborate with the tribal programs to improve their level of compliance.

Federal Fiscal Year	Rate of Monthly Visits Excluding Counting Other States and Tribes	Rate of Monthly Visits When Other States and Tribal Are Included
FFY 14	99.02%	97.44%
FFY 15	98.60%	97.68%
FFY 16	99.20%	96.54%
FFY 17	99.41%	97.96%
FFY 18	98.68%	97.57%

Caseworker Visits

	% of Total Visits Held	% Held in Residence
FFY 15	97.37%	95.02%
FFY 16	96.54%	95.98%
FFY 17	97.96%	96.80%
FFY 18	97.57%	95.03%

Adoption Support Services and Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Activities

Child Protection Services placed 195 children in adoptive placement, with 166 children finalizing their adoption as of May 31, 2019, with a month remaining in SFY19. This is compared to 173 adoptions finalized in SFY 2018. The average number of months from initial placement to adoption finalization was 33.7 months compared to 32.3 months in SFY 2018, an increase of 1.5 months. In SFY 2019, 20.5% of adoptions finalized under 24 months, while 34.1% of adoptions finalized under 24 months in SFY18.

During SFY 2019, 61% of children adopted through the Department were adopted by their foster parents. This is an increase from last year's data of 54%. Thirty two percent of children in SFY 2019 were adopted by relatives, which is a decrease of 8% from SFY 2018, and 77% of relatives adopting were licensed as foster parents. The remaining 7% of adoptions are nonrelative families located through photo listings on the AdoptUsKids or Adoption Exchange web site, or through targeted recruitment efforts by the Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters.

Timeliness to Adoption by Region

	Number of Finalized Adoptions	Average Months Between TPR and Finalization	Average Months Between Adoption Initiation and Finalization	Average Months Between TPR and Adoption Initiation	Average Month Between Initial Placement and Finalization	Percent of finalized adoptions within 24 months
Region 1	53	19	3.3	15.7	33.6	22.6
Region 2	7	15.8	5.1	10.7	29.3	14.3
Region 3	7	15.6	2.2	13.3	37.7	14.3
Region 4	6	20.3	3.7	16.6	41.9	16.7
Region 5	23	15.9	2.6	13.3	35	4.3%
Region 6	49	14.8	2.2	12.6	34	22.4
Region 7	18	11.8	4.5	7.3	29	33.3%

The Department continues to address barriers to timeliness of adoption. Legal delays remain the largest barrier to timeliness. Identification of adoptive resources for large sibling groups and youth with high medical needs have been identified as other prevalent barriers to timeliness.

Region One typically has the shortest number of months from initial placement to adoption finalization. Last year over 54.5% of their cases finalized under 24 months with the average number of months to finalize being 26.1 months. Finalization occurred in only 33.3% of cases under 24 months with the average increasing up to 29 months in state fiscal year 2019. The primary cause for this increase in time to finalize involved three separate cases which were appealed and involved sibling groups. All three cases also had tribal intervention which requires additional steps for the tribes to agree on adoption finalization. Appeals usually add six or more months delay in finalization.

Region Two's average from initial placement to finalization is 29.3 months; legal delays are not the primary permanency issue. The biggest barrier to permanency in Region Two is youth who do not have an identified placement resource. The youth available for adoption are children with higher end needs. Region Two has embraced permanency roundtables and is working with the SD Kids Belong project. Targeted recruitment is the primary strategy to mitigate barriers.

Region Three's primary barrier is court delays. In the one tribal jurisdiction in the region, tribal court does not hold hearings as frequently, there are cases where it has taken up to a year to hold a review hearing. Termination of parental rights and permission to pursue adoption are difficult to achieve. The Department continues to contract with an attorney to move cases to termination and adoption. In one of the state court jurisdictions, termination of parental rights takes longer as there are several ICWA cases. The court gives more time to provide active efforts and the local tribe is resistant to adoption. This same tribe requires a child to live with the placement provider twelve months before they approve a family to adopt a tribal member. Obtaining ICPC approval was identified as a barrier to timeliness in one case.

Region Four has the longest time from initial placement to finalization. Forty-one point nine months is the average time from initial placement to finalization. Court issues are the biggest barrier to adoption. Region Four has three tribal courts which include Crow Creek, Lower Brule and Rosebud Sioux tribal court. The tribes advocate for guardianships over adoption as getting termination of parental rights is difficult. After termination of parental rights, there is an issue getting the orders drafted, signed and served on the parents. The court is also delaying adoption hearings to get youth tribally enrolled before proceeding with the adoption hearing. This extends the time to permanency. Other barriers identified by the region include identifying adoption resources for youth with high special needs.

Region Five had several sibling groups that finalized this last year. One of the barriers identified for timeliness is the complexities of large sibling groups. Relative searches are more complicated if there were multiple fathers. ICWA applied to some of the children, but not all siblings. Identification of a family willing to take a larger sibling group placement take extended time. Evaluations to determine if a large sibling group should be split, extended the amount of time to finalization.

Region Six has increased its timeliness this last year. Twenty-two-point four percent of adoptions now meet the 24-month requirement compared with 13.1% last fiscal year. Delay in termination of parent rights is the largest factor noted in this region's barriers to permanency. Region Six had twelve cases where termination of parental rights was ordered between 18 to 23 months; the delay in termination of parental rights caused many of these cases to go well past the 24-month timeframe. Other barriers noted include ICPC and good cause hearings. Region Six had three children that finalized that had been in care for over four years.

Region Seven averaged 29 months to reach adoption finalization. The primary barrier was legal delays; including filing of adoption petitions timely; courts not completing orders, and scheduling of hearings. Other barriers include the length of time to complete an ICPC request.

Other barriers to timeliness to adoption are being identified through the Permanency Roundtable (PRT) process. The Division of Child Protection Services implemented PRT's as a strategy to address permanency for children in foster care. PRTs are a structured, professional case consultation designed to develop an aggressive, innovative and realistic Permanency Action Plan for the child or sibling group. PRT's have been implemented in Regions Four, Seven, Two and Five.

Region Four started Permanency Roundtables in March of 2017. Since that time, they have completed roundtables on 27 youth, including eight sibling groups and have held 82 meetings. Two sibling groups have found permanency through guardianship. One sibling group found permanency through reunification and one youth transitioned from custody to adulthood. The biggest barrier Region Seven experienced is the court system. In many of the cases,

termination of parental rights did not occur, and guardianship was a more feasible outcome. Courts have been resistant to relieve the Department from active efforts with families. Permanency roundtables have empowered the staff to look outside the box and think of different ways to approach the court and strategize other ways to try and achieve termination.

Region Seven started Permanency Roundtables in July of 2017 with ten youth involved in the roundtable process, including two sibling groups. A total of thirty-four meetings have been held. Most of the youth involved with permanency roundtables are youth in residential placement. One sibling group achieved permanency through guardianship with a relative. The barriers addressed through the roundtable process included resistance of the foster parent and other stakeholders involved in the case due to the severity of the abuse experienced by the child and the reluctance to place with a relative out of state. The roundtable members were able to aid the Family Service Specialist in resolving every one's resistance to the grandmother obtaining guardianship which resulted in the child achieving permanency.

Region Two started Permanency Roundtables in November 2017. Since that time, thirteen youth have been a part of the permanency roundtable process. This includes three sibling groups and holding thirty-eight separate meetings. Permanency was almost achieved for one sibling group when their adoption was set to finalized at the end of December 2018. One of the children started to struggle over the holiday season and was placed residentially. The adoptive family chose not to move forward with the adoption, however one of the other families, identified through the PRT process, is being considered as the adoptive placement resource pending the child's completion of residential treatment. On another case where the plan was reunification, the PRT process helped move the case forward in preparation of returning the children to their birth family. The PRT meetings assisted the Family Service Specialist in addressing barriers by the therapist involved with one of the children that was placed residentially. Unfortunately, one of the birth parents relapsed prior to reunification. On a third case, the Region Two was able to locate and place a medically complex youth with an adoptive family with finalization scheduled in June of 2019. This was a child expected to remain in a hospital like setting for her entire life. Through the roundtable process, various members completed specialized recruitment tasks such as photo listing on web sites, reverse searches on the AdoptUsKids Website, reading home studies obtained by the searches, and internet searches of agencies working with medically complex children. By working as a team, a family was identified, and the family service specialist appreciated the team approach in finding a family. While actual permanency has not been achieved in many of these cases, the roundtable experience has allowed cases to move forward and not stagnate. Family Service Specialists are not as overwhelmed and feel supported. Expertise and skills are being developed by roundtable members that can be used in other cases.

Region Five started Permanency Roundtable in October of 2018. Although staff are new to the process, seven youth have been part of the roundtable process, involving one sibling group. One child achieved permanency through a guardianship by a grandfather. Roundtables have encouraged staff to better strategize efforts for permanency. Most of the cases staffed are on the alternative care family services specialist's caseload, which has the long-term youth in Region Five assigned to it. While having one family services specialist assigned to these cases provides a strong connection between the youth and the family services specialist, it leaves the family service specialist with difficult cases and without permanency options. Permanency roundtables have rejuvenated many of these cases by staff coming together to work as a team to look for permanency options. Many of the tasks identified are shared across the region. This too helps educate a number of staff in the region on various topics and efforts to achieve permanency, which they in turn can take back to their own caseload. It has been helpful to have different eyes on a case brainstorming new ideas to achieve permanency. One example of this is a sibling group of two brothers, both developmentally delayed. During the roundtable, an employee from the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities

provided information about services for youth with developmental disabilities and support services available to the placement resource family.

Over 57 children have been staffed through permanency roundtables. This process has assisted staff by providing new ideas or approaches toward finding permanency for children. This process has also introduced staff toward more targeted recruitment for youth on their caseload. Additional education is being provided about referring children to the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program, photo listing children on AdoptUsKids and the Adoption Exchange, and utilizing other recruitment tools. Staff may be resistant at first, but after experiencing roundtables they usually become enthusiastic about the process.

Post Adoption

At the end of SFY 2019, there were 1,888 children receiving an adoption assistance through the Department of Social Services.

The Adoption Program Specialist consults with adoptive families who are seeking access for psychiatric residential treatment or group care for their adopted child. The Adoption Program Specialist assists families in determining what level of care their child may need, assists families with the state review process, and in obtaining tuition funding. During SFY 2019, 32 adoptive youth received residential treatment and 12 received group care services. Of those youth in treatment, the Department paid tuition expenses for 31 of the 44 children. Treatment services include evaluations, crisis stabilization, and step down from residential treatment.

Families receiving adoption assistance have been able to submit individual requests for funding for specialized services related to pre-existing conditions recorded in their child's subsidy agreement. Some services funded for families include, but are not limited to: tutoring services, Behavioral Care Specialist Services, fetal alcohol testing, genetic testing, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy, Psycho-Sexual Evaluations, Bio-Feed Back testing, various camps, educational programming, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, autism evaluations, special needs daycare, medical equipment, vehicle modifications, home modifications, diapers, medical supplies, special formulas, and equine therapy. CPS contracts with Children's Home Society (CHS) for post adoption services. Efforts continue to increase services statewide. An increase in services on the western part of the state has occurred and the contractor is offering services through video conferencing for others across the state. The contract supports an annual conference for mental health providers, social work, educators and CPS staff to enhance adoption competency.

Post-Adoption Services Contract Outcomes for SFY 2019

The contract currently funds the following:

- 1 full time therapist in Sioux Falls
- 1 part time therapist (5-6 hours per week) in Sioux Falls
- A block of time in Rapid City for Children's Home Society therapists to support some post-adoption cases.
- Funding to organize a yearly adoption services conference

Referrals received for post adoption support services:

Sioux Falls: 4 youth referred Rapid City: 5 youth referred

Youth and families served on a regular basis as part of the active caseload:

Sioux Falls: 14 youth and 10 families Rapid City: 6 youth and 4 families

Youth and families served intermittently on an as needed basis:

Sioux Falls: 7 youth and 6 families Rapid City: - none

New youth and families that began to receive services in 2017-18:

Sioux Falls: 1 youth and 1 family

Rapid City: 3 youth and 1 family

Total number of youth and families who received adoption support and therapy services:

Sioux Falls: 21 youth and 16 families

Rapid City: 9 youth and 5 families

Total from Sioux Falls and Rapid City:

30 youth and 21 families

Trends in Post Adoption Services Offered

- Families that are seeking services for their children, but are reluctant to engage in family therapy
- Knowledge that post-adoption support services are available creates comfort in families and perhaps accelerates the adoption finalization
- Post-adoption services work particularly well with therapeutic families who have already been receiving services.
- Highest caseload to date in the Sioux Falls office this year

Types of Services Provided

- Individual child therapy
- Consultation
- Family therapy
- Crisis intervention
- EMDR
- Referral to appropriate services
- One on one parent education
- Psycho-educational services
- Family support

Adoption Services Outcomes

- In Sioux Falls, a sibling group was able to receive post adoption services. One sibling displayed intense behavior and the child's name was added to a waiting list for residential services. Because of post-adoption services provided, the child was able to remain in the home and avoid residential services. In Rapid City, a family struggling to help their adoptive child transition to adulthood successfully was able to utilize the post adoption therapist to help both their child and them. The therapist worked closely with all parties as the child sought to transitioned into his own apartment and began working to reconnect with birth family. The family remains close and supportive of their child.

MONTH	Individual therapy	Family Therapy	Consultation	Crisis Intervention	EMDR	1:1 Parent Education	Psycho-educational services	Family Support	BCI Class	Sibling Study (x = in process)
June	20	10	1	0	14 of 20	0	0	5	-	x
July	23	23	0	1	9 of 23	5	3	7	-	x
August	14	18	0	1	10 of 14	7	5	21	-	x
September	15	22	1 - Beyond Go	1	12 of 15	4	4	16	class of 16 started	x
October	12	20	1 - Central Chu	1	8 of 12	0	4	10	class of 16 finished	x
November	14	17	1 - Central Chu	1	8 of 14	2	7	6	-	X (1 in progress, 1 started)
December	8	11	1 - Central Chu	0	4 of 8	1	6	2	-	X (2 in progress)
January	14	18	0	0	3 of 14	3	10	3	-	x (in process, therapist leaving)
February*	2	5	0	0	N/A	0	3	4	5 hours prep time	N/A
March										
April										
May										

Adoption Competency Training

Allison Davis Maxon was invited to present a training titled “Desperately Seeking Attachment, Understanding How Trauma and Neglect Disrupt Attachment: A Guide to Healing.” Last year there were requests to offer insight into specific behaviors and challenges families might face when parenting a child impacted by trauma. The goal of this training was both practical application and approaches to parenting as well as therapeutic techniques to work on attachment and parent/child relationship. Learning from last year’s poor attendance, the contractor was careful to choose the training date, marketed the training differently and offered an online option for registration and payment. A parent workshop was offered in the evening for families who have adopted or who wish to adopt. The one-day conference was open to professionals and adoptive families. There were 149 attendees at the conference with 28 from CPS, 25 from the contractor, 41 other professionals and 55 parents. The evening workshop for parents had 26 attendees. Based on early registrations and the continued interest in the conference, it demonstrates the continued need and desire for professional and parent education in adoption competency.

Additional Assignments Provided Through the Contract:

Sibling Evaluations

An adoption therapist (under the contract), completed two sibling evaluations.

Training

- September 22, 2018 - “Attachment and Disruptions”, a three-hour session presented at Beyond Gotcha Day, an annual conference hosted by All About You U Adoption Agency with 50 attendees.
- September 11, 2018 and October 2, 2018 – “Beyond Consequences” training for 16 foster/adoptive parents.
- March 2 - 23, 2019 – “Beyond Consequences” training for 12 foster/adoptive parents.

Wendy’s Wonderful Kids (WWK) 2018-19:

Sioux Falls:

WWK recruiter has built positive relationships with children on the WWK caseload and professional rapport with Family Service Specialists and families. The recruiter was on FMLA for three months during the review year which impacted the number of children added to the caseload. Within the WWK-Sioux Falls program, there are currently 16 youth on the caseload. 10 of these youth are active, while six are in monitoring status. In the last quarter, six times youth were removed from the WWK program. Five of these youth were matched with families with assistance from the recruiter. One youth was removed due to transitioning from custody to adulthood, two due to the caseworker changing the goal to APPLA from adoption after the match disrupted, and three siblings who were matched with a relative for guardianship, there have been no adoptions finalized during this report period and three matches during the report

period. Four finalized adoptions are anticipated by the end of reporting period with three or more adoptions within the next year.

Current caseload:	16
Permanency finalized:	0
Matches during the year:	3

The trend towards guardianship remains a challenge this year. The concern for the WWK program is that many families are not interested in guardianship, they fear the uncertainty, and they really are seeking adoption. This year, three siblings were matched, and relative placement was ready to finalize the guardianship until behaviors came up at which point the match disrupted. Now, because of a guardianship goal instead of adoption, the Family Services Specialist is not wanting to search for a new family. Additionally, two siblings currently face a barrier to finalizing the adoption at the six-month mark as their behaviors and mental health needs are causing instability in the placement.

Rapid City:

The WWK recruiter continues to work on building connections with local offices and educating staff about the WWK program. There are currently 29 youth on the WWK-Rapid City caseload. During this reporting period there have been six adoptions and 12 other youth are currently matched and awaiting finalization. There are six additional adoptions planned by the end of June 2019 which will bring the total to 12 adoptions for the year.

Current caseload:	29
Permanency finalized:	6
Matches during the year:	12

A trend that has continued this year is the number of sibling groups in need of placement, as well as the large size of the sibling groups. This dynamic poses some challenges when the goal is to keep siblings together.

Role of the WWK Recruiter

- Mine child's file to learn about child's needs and any possible connections which could be explored
- Provide professional photos for recruitment and for child's life book
- Complete initial youth assessment/recruitment narrative
- Complete initial recruitment plan
- Develop relationship with child - understand what they hope for in an adoptive home
- Develop relationship with other team members
- Have monthly visits with the child
- Manage online profiles
- Complete reverse searches on listing websites and reach out to possible families
- Feature children in online matching events/participate in online family matching events
- Review incoming home studies and provide summaries to staff
- Participate in treatment reviews, school meetings, team meetings as needed.
- Help with transition planning and visits when possible
- Assist in adoption preparation with child & family when needed
- Provide adoption resources to child and foster family as needed
- Review all state home studies that are completed, provide those families with a letter connecting them to the Heart Gallery link
- Support staff in knowing the history of the child's case and the child's needs
- Attend monthly meetings with the child's family services specialist

- Have ongoing communication with child's family services specialist about inquiries and recruitment efforts for a child
- Provide recruitment summary for the child's court hearings
- Meet with licensing staff about inquiring families
- Help to share information about the child with a family and interview the family
- Help present families in adoption conference calls
- Assist in decision-making when selecting a family during adoption conference calls
- Attend adoption finalizations when possible
- Assist in searching for extended relatives
- Reach out to engage family and the child's past connections

Impressions of the Program and Partnership

Overall WWK staff report positive communication and relationships with the local DSS staff. WWK staff feedback is that some other DSS offices, who have not worked much with WWK, could benefit from additional education about the program and the role of the recruiter. The Sioux Falls recruiter had an issue with a new staff for one youth from another office who did not involve her in the team process. The match disrupted, and the youth will likely be transitioning from custody to adulthood. The Rapid City recruiter has a few challenges with staff not understanding the role of the WWK recruiter and continues to educate staff about the program. WWK staff are willing to continue to provide education on their role and ways they can help DSS staff and benefit children on their caseload.

Recruitment Efforts

The WWK model focuses almost exclusively on child focused recruiting and family finding. Traditional methods of recruitment, i.e. commercials and other general recruitment efforts, are not acceptable methods of finding families in their model. Every case is different when it comes to methods used to find the right family for a child. Because of this, it is difficult to sum up how recruitment efforts have gone, since it is child specific.

WWK believes the key to success is building relationships and recruiting more families. One of the focuses was to recruit families from the treatment foster care program. The WWK program made families aware of children on their caseload. The youth were placed in treatment foster care, so the family could receive the extra support and services that treatment foster care offer. This allowed for better outcomes for youth with more challenging behaviors and gave the family an idea of the support available to them

Inter-Country Adoptions

There were no instances of children who were adopted internationally entering CPS care due to an adoption disruption or dissolution during FY2019.

Adoption and Guardianship Incentive Funds

CPS used Adoption Incentive funds for:

- adoption support services under the Post Adoption contract
- an adoption recruitment and support contract with Wendy's Wonderful Kids
- contracts to provide ICPC placement services and supervision for an adoptive home in another state

CPS will continue to use adoption incentive funds for the Post Adoption and Wendy's Wonderful Kids contracts, support services to adoptive and pre-adoptive families, and support services to children who are legally free for adoption.

Five Year Summary

CPS has implemented several strategies in the last five years to address timeliness to adoptions. New kinship policy about relative search has helped streamline early identification of kin family, provided a consistent practice in working with families and provided a means for workers to move forward with selection of adoptive placement resources.

The Permanency Roundtable process has been implemented in four of the seven regions. CPS has observed promising results with this model, with youth achieving permanency through adoption and guardianship. Other benefits include support that Family Services Specialist get and permanency planning for youth become priority in stagnated cases.

The contract for two Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters has been successful for youth achieving permanency for some of SD hardest to place youth. CPS has seen an increase of medically complex youth and older youth being adopted.

While in the early implementation stage, South Dakota's Kids Belong project looks to be a promising partnership with the faith-based community. The video's produced on youth available for adoption have helped to identify families for specific youth as well as increase inquiries for families interested in adopting from the child welfare system.

Legal issues continue to be the biggest issue around timeliness and has been the hardest to impact. Many of the legal issues are outside the scope of what CPS has control over.

CFSP

CPS will look at building on to the strategies that have worked. Implementation of permanency roundtables in the three remaining regions will continue. Expansions of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruitment contract will be studied as well as expansion the South Dakota Kids Belong project. There are infinite possibilities of how this could roll out to the rest of the state.

Addressing court issues in the two most populated regions will be a focus of the new five-year plan as mentioned in SD PIP.

Services to Children Under the Age of 5

CPS provides several interventions intended to help achieve permanency in a timely manner. While most of these interventions can apply to any age of child in care, interventions can be focused on children based on age and needs.

CPS experience is the children in this age group have a high potential for being placed in a permanent family. CPS provides child development training to new staff and uses a range of services to help facilitate this result including: relative searches, concurrent planning, placement team meetings, Birth to Three, developmental assessments, FASD evaluations, special needs day care, and mental health referrals.

CPS staff utilize several agencies to provide services to support children and their families. Some of which are listed below:

- Discover Your Child at Home parenting program
- Early Head Start/Head Start educational services to young children
- Regulation 7 ICPC priority 30-day home studies
- Bright Start to assist young mothers through home visitation, screenings, immunizations, parenting seminars and parenting education
- Indian Health Services
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC-Nutrition Program – Healthy food for your family)
- Catholic Mentoring Services

- Big Brother Big Sisters-Mentor Mom's
- Interactive Child Play Therapy
- Responsive Parenting Classes
- Common Sense Parenting Classes

When CPS staff visit the placement resource and child, the staff and foster parent discuss the following information: placement stability and needs the resource provider might have, the child's medical, mental health, educational and developmental milestones/needs; the child's social activities and connections for the month; as well as any progress made towards the permanency plan. CPS staff discuss the same type of information when visiting families in an in-home case. Questions CPS staff ask the caretaker when assessing the development and education of the child induced:

Development-

- Are there current services? What are they and for what purpose?
- An assessment of: Gross motor skills, Fine motor skills, Cognition, Expressive and receptive language, Social Interactions, Age-appropriate activities of daily living.
- Are there concerns?
- Services in the past, needs?
- Is there a history of trauma?
- Document and refer to services, if needed.
- Substantiated cases-require Birth to 3 screening.
- Activities which promote the social and emotional development of a child.

Education-

- What grade is the child in?
- What school?
- Who is the teacher or counselor?
- Can parent sign a release to check on how things are going?
- IEP? For what? Do parents have a copy? Attend meetings?
- Attendance concerns?
- Grades?
- Attending parent conferences?
- Any issues with education needs met?
- Special Ed needs?
- Pre-school?
- IFSP?
- Education-School-where are they going? History of performance, IEP attendance? What is the parent involvement?
- Birth to Three

The child is met with on an individual basis for the staff to discuss, observe, and assess the safety of the child residing both in an in-home placement as well as out of home placement. CPS staff use different tools to assess and address the developmental needs of a child in out of home and in-home placements. A Milestone Chart is used to show the developmental milestone a child should be at from 1 month to age 5. CPS uses Well Child Check Charts to document the ages and times a child is to have medical, dental and eye exams. The Period of PURPLE crying is a research-based education program which teaches parents about the normal period of increased crying which occurs in ALL infants. This is used by CPS staff to reassure parents and resource parents during the first few months with a newborn. The Child Case Plan and Protective Capacity

Assessment also include the domains of emotional, mental health, and physical needs which help staff focus on the needs of the child.

The South Dakota Birth to Three Program provides free early intervention services for children from birth to age 3 who have a disability or a developmental delay. CPS staff will make referrals or assist the parent and resource parent in getting services as needed.

CPS staffs are educated in Permanency and Well-Being Certification Training on a number of developmental disorders and things to look for when working with young children which include:

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Prenatal Exposure to Drugs
- Special Care for Severely Abused Infants
- Failure to Thrive
- Cerebral Palsy
- Safe Sleep/SIDS (getting plenty of tummy time to help reduce SIDS)

The use of Team meetings helps facilitate relative involvement, kinship care, and relationship building between parents and foster parents. CPS has increased regularity of parent/child visits through the use of family visitation centers, increased efforts with the non-resident parent for placement options, and has an adoption committee to review progress and address barriers affecting timeliness of adoption.

CPS is implementing the enhancements to the CSI model which involves establishment of Conditions for Return related to the safety plan determination, which will contribute to more precise assessments related to reunification decision-making. The objectives are to improve safety decisions and timeliness related to reunification and other permanency decisions. This, along with the safety plans CPS develops at the time of trial reunification, are expected to provide staff with a more effective and precise instrument to make decisions in a timely manner for all children, which will also impact children under the age of 5.

CPS uses FACIS assessment screens which are used to track children's mental health, physical health, developmental needs, and educational needs, which will further assist CPS in monitoring and focusing on the needs and outcomes of this population. CPS enhanced training related to serving this population.

CPS expanded the contract for kinship home studies with the goal of increasing kinship placement resources, including Native American placement resources. Objectives of the contract are to enhance engagement of prospective relative resources and expedite the kinship approval process to allow children to be placed more quickly with qualified relative placement resources.

CPS has a number of recruitment efforts underway to increase kinship, foster parent and adoptive placement resources, including Native American resources, which have the potential of decreasing the length of time children, are in care without a permanent family. CPS continues the geographically targeted recruitment effort to focus recruitment on the specific localized needs. CPS is involved in a collaborative recruitment effort with the Tribes through technical assistance form Casey Family Programs. The ICWA Placement Recruitment Project was established to increase Native American placement resources for Native American children. Each of these efforts is described in the Targeted Recruitment Plan included with the CFSP.

The mandated court appointed attorney training provided by the Unified Judicial System includes information on child development, which can increase awareness in the court process of younger children's needs.

The children in CPS custody are tracked through the state's SACWIS (FACIS). FACIS is able to gather a number of demographic items related to children in care and their families. CPS will assess what reports could be developed to help in increasing the ability of CPS to estimate the number of children under the age of 5 who will be without a permanent home during a given year and report characteristic information regarding this group of children.

There were 947 children served under the age of 5 in SFY18. There were 427 children in this age category discharged from care in SFY18. In SFY19, 915 children were served under the age of 5. In SFY19, 370 children in this age category were discharged from care. The percentage of discharge reasons, in SFY 2019, for the 370 children served under age 5 were as follows:

- 57% were reunified with their parents
- 13.5% were transferred to a tribe
- 1.4% were transferred to another agency
- 17.8% were adopted
- 8.9% were placed in a guardianship
- 1.1% were placed with a relative

Revised Child Case Plan

A workgroup composed of Permanency and Well-Being Certification trainers was established in August 2014 to make improvements to the Child Case Plan. The workgroup surveyed staff responsible for completing Child Case Plans to obtain their input on what they like about the current Child Case Plan and what they would like to see changed with the current Child Case Plan. The workgroup noted some trends in the survey responses, which included taking out the activity sheet and making the needs assessment area clearer. The Child Case Plan was piloted in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Mission offices beginning in August 2016. Training and statewide implementation was completed in August 2017. There have been updates made to the Child Case Plan after statewide implementation to further enhance the quality and usability of the Child Case Plan. The Child Case Plan Workgroup was expanded in November 2018 to consist of the original workgroup members and one Family Services Specialist representatives from each Region. The goal of the workgroup was to revise the Child Case Plan to consider balancing what is manageable for Family Services Specialists, what is in the best interest of the child, and meeting IVE requirements. The workgroup sought input from foster parents throughout the state and Young Voices for what they would find meaningful in a child's case plan. The workgroup met February 1, 2019 to finalize the updates to the Child Case Plan and at the meeting were two youth currently in foster care to provide their input on making the Child Case Plan present more positively about youth, to expand the Independent Living Section, how the Child Case Plan is reviewed with them by their worker, and connections.

The Child Case Plan Addendum was implemented statewide in August 2017. The addendum will allow a Family Services Specialist to document significant changes for a child after the child's initial case plan is done and in-between evaluations. These changes include, behavioral changes that require a change in services, changes in placement, and goal changes. Any changes to the child's behavioral needs, services, or goal that is documented on the addendum will be incorporated in the next Child Case Plan evaluation. This document will allow for timely incorporation of changes with the child's needs, services, and permanency goal.

The Outcomes Management Program Specialist monitored the implementation of the Child Case Plan as indicated in the Key Activities listed below. Supervisors submitted newly completed Child Case Plans to the Program Specialist prior to the family signing the case plans, and after the Supervisor reviewed it. The Program Specialist provided written feedback in the Child Case Plan document if something is not completed according to policy. Depending on how much and what feedback is provided, the Program Specialist may have reviewed the Child Case Plan again to provide additional feedback. A spreadsheet was kept of every Child Case Plan reviewed from

each office. When the 90-day evaluation was due the Program Specialist will review one evaluation from each worker prior to it being signed to assure evaluations to the Child Case Plan are being done according to policy regarding the case plan; which emphasizes the practice of engaging parents in case development and case review. The Program Specialist reviewed additional Child Case Plans from each Family Services Specialist, as necessary. Once it is determined a Supervisor has demonstrated the ability to provide feedback to their staff with fidelity to the policy and procedures of the Child Case Plans, the Program Specialist will do quarterly reviews of a sample of the Child Case Plans for 9 months.

Starting in May 2018 there was a shift from the Outcomes Management Program Specialist reviewing the Child Case Plan to doing onsite coaching and consultation regarding the Child Case Plan process. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist communicated with the Regional Managers to determine if offices within their Region were candidates for onsite coaching and consultation on the Child Case Plan. The coaching and consultation occurred in Region 1, Region 3, Region 5, and Region 7. Once the newest update to the Child Case Plan is implemented the coaching and consultation will continue in the identified offices where support is needed.

As a part the review of the Child Case Plan, the Program Specialist will also be reviewing the case narratives that relate to the development of the Child Case Plans and evaluations to help determine if parents and children are involved in the case planning process and if quality conversations are happening between the Family Services Specialist, parents, and child.

Parent and Child Narratives and Caseworker Visit Screens

CPS implemented caseworker visits narrative tabs in FACIS related to visits to parents, in home children, and children in foster care. The caseworker screens for both the child and the parent were implemented April 3, 2017. The CQI Core Team prepared a survey of Family Service Specialists to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. After the survey was completed, a Family Services Specialist Supervisor Survey was completed to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. After all the data was collected from both surveys, revisions to the narrative tab and policy were completed. The changes to the narrative tab are in the process of being implemented into the FACIS system. After policy is implemented, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist will provide oversight to ensure the tabs are being utilized correctly and the goals of the tabs are being met. The first step will be to complete a random pull of cases from each office to check compliance and quality. When completed, quality reviews will be completed on a random pull of cases along with pulls from the Child Case Plan reviews.

VIII. HEALTH CARE OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION PLAN

Goal: Children in the custody of the Department of Social Services will not require psychotropic medications as a treatment intervention.

Objective A: Decrease the number of youths prescribed psychotropic medications.

Strategy 1: Enhance training of Family Services Specialist (FSS) regarding psychotropic medications.

Action Step:

- Develop ongoing training for Child Protection Services staff regarding the utilization and monitoring of psychotropic medications.

2020 Progress Update

Utilization and monitoring of psychotropic medications are part of Child Protection Services Certification Training in Permanency and Well-being. There were three training groups with 60 staff participating. The curriculum for Permanency and Well-Being includes education for the FSS. The role of the FSS is on-going monitoring of Psychotropic Medications and is included in this training in addition to the following:

- Generally prescribed medications to treat Depression, Psychosis, Anxiety, Mood Disorders, ADHD;
- Disproportionate use of these medications among youth in foster care
- Informed Consent from the child and their guardian
- Side effects and on-going monitoring;
- Being a strong advocate and asking questions like a parent about the goal the team seeks from the prescribed medication; and
- Provide frequent conversation and contact with the child for feedback on possible side effects

Common topics of discussion during and after the training include:

- Explanation of what types of medications fall under “Psychotropic Medications”. All antidepressants, antianxiety meds, and all antipsychotics;
- Monitoring the possible side effects of prescribed medications and communicating with providers about related concerns.
- Children on more than one psychotropic medication, their age, and the dosage
- Treatment plans from South Dakota Department of Social Services and from treatment providers to ensure effective monitoring

Strategy 2: The psychotropic medications prescribed to children placed in a residential treatment centers or group care centers will continue to use an Informed Consent form to authorize psychotropic medications and track changes to approved medications. For children in state custody placed in a family-like setting, the revised Child Case Plan with the revised policy was provided to staff on September 1, 2018 which provides for the authorization and monitoring of psychotropic medications. On-going monitoring of the child case plans, narratives and Health Assessment screens on FACIS will continue to ensure psychotropic medication oversight.

Action Step:

Random cases will be pulled annually for children placed in the custody of South Dakota Department of Social Services.

2020 Progress Update

A list of all children in CPS custody prescribed psychotropic medications was provided by the Division of Medical Services on January 9, 2019. Case reviews were completed from a random pull of 90 children from the list who were identified as being prescribed at least one or more psychotropic medications between August and October 2018. The cases chosen for review represent the regions with the largest number of children prescribed psychotropic medications which are regions 1, 3, and 6. Each of these regions had 20 cases reviewed, the remaining 30 cases were randomly selected from regions 2, 4, 5, and 7. After the review, 88% of these cases were found to have an Informed Consent form for psychotropic medication or documentation such as psychiatric assessments and mental health evaluations to justify the use of psychotropic medication. FACIS Health Assessment Screens in all 90 cases contained key data entered with pharmacy claims consistently documented.

The child case plan is reviewed by the supervisor with the FSS for accurate completion and quality data. The following items are included for focus under the Mental Health section:

- Dates of evaluations and provider names
- Current diagnoses
- Current medications and therapist
- Strengths and challenges; and
- Progress

CPS will be able to monitor psychotropic medications more effectively by reviewing the enhanced child case plans.

CPS completed two office reviews in Region 1, 2 and 5 since implementation of the child case plan in September 2018 with a focus on the quality of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) screening, referral to appropriate mental health services and medication monitoring. The expectations are clearly defined in the Mental Health section the child case plan. Reviews of child case plans during the regional reviews found one case where psychotropic medication monitoring was determined not be adequate and two cases where the children were not referred to services in timely manner. The Child Case Service Plan provides a greater focus on the well-being of the children.

Strategy 3: Utilize data from the Division of Medical Services to monitor trends related to utilization of psychotropic medications for youth in the custody of DSS.

Action Step:

- Develop specific timeframes for the Division of Medical Services to deliver the Prescribed Psychotropic Drug file to CPS.

Because of the positive trends in the reduction of utilization of psychotropic medications, along with additional monitoring processes in place, CPS conducts an annual review of the Prescribed

Psychotropic Drug file to monitor the utilization of psychotropic medications from one year to the next.

The tables below provide data from the Department of Medical Services.

Children on Psychotropic Medications Compared to All Children in Care							
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Percentage of Children	23.58%	20.22%	16.32%	16.44%	14.40%	14.58%	16.08%
Dispensed August to October 2015							
Total Children in File	221		+19				
Children on 1 drug	111	50.23%	+25				
Children on 2 drugs	71	32.13%	-3				
Children on 3 drugs	26	11.76%	-14				
Children on 4 drugs	10	4.52%	+8				
Children on 5 drugs	2	0.90%	+2				
Children on 6 drugs	1	0.45%	+1				
Children on 7 drugs	0	0					
Children on 8 drugs	0	0					
Dispensed August to October 2016							
Total Children in File	217		-4				
Children on 1 drug	122	56.22%	+11				
Children on 2 drugs	59	32.13%	-12				
Children on 3 drugs	26	11.98%	0				
Children on 4 drugs	7	3.23%	+8				
Children on 5 drugs	2	0.92%	+2				
Children on 6 drugs	1	0.46%	+1				
Children on 7 drugs	0	0	0				
Children on 8 drugs	0	0	0				
Dispensed August to October 2017							
Total Children in File	245	%	+28				
Children on 1 drug	132	53.88%	+10				
Children on 2 drugs	69	28.16%	+10				
Children on 3 drugs	32	13.06%	+6				
Children on 4 drugs	10	4.08%	+3				
Children on 5 drugs	1	0.41%	1				
Children on 6 drugs	1	0.41%	0				
Children on 7 drugs	0	0					
Children on 8 drugs	0	0					

Dispensed August to October 2018				
Psychotropic Drugs	DIFF			
Total Children in File	269	%	+24	
Children on 1 drug	133	49.44%	+1	
Children on 2 drugs	91	33.83%	+22	
Children on 3 drugs	38	14.13%	+6	
Children on 4 drugs	7	2.6%	-3	
Children on 5 drugs	0	0.41%	-1	
Children on 6 drugs	0	0.41%	-1	
Children on 7 drugs	0	0	0	
Children on 8 drugs	0	0	0	

Comparison of data from October 2017 to 2018 shows an increase in the number of children with a prescribed psychotropic drug from 245 to 269. The number of children in state custody increased by 121 from FY2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 total 1,542) to FY2019 (July 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019 total 1,663) The 2018 data reflects improvements. There are no children on more than four psychotropic medications. Three less on four medications and slight increases for the number of children on one, two, and 3 medications.

The three primary psychotropic drugs prescribed for youth in CPS custody continue to be:

- 1) Intuniv ER – (guanfacine) prescribed to treat ADHD in children who are at least 6 years old.
- 2) Fluoxetine HCL – prescribed to treat chemicals in the brain that may become unbalanced and cause depression, panic, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive symptoms,
- 3) Vyvanse – a central nervous system stimulant, it is prescribed to treat chemicals in the brain and nerves that contribute to hyperactivity and impulse control in adults and children who are at least 6 years old.
- 4) Trazadone – Also continues to be frequently prescribed at the same rate as Vyvanse for 2018 data.

Strategy 4: On-going process has been implemented to consult with the State Review Team to assess treatment options for the health and well-being of youth to determine the most appropriate treatment plan.

Action Steps:

- Protocol for referral of children to the Peer Review Organization (PRO) to obtain second reviews regarding treatment continues to be a very useful tool.

2020 Progress Update

During SFY 2019 the Residential/Group Care Program Specialist had 27 contacts for second opinions on requested changes for psychotropic medications or dosages with the Peer Review Organization (PRO) which includes child psychiatrists, a medical doctor and a psychiatric nurse PRO provided education on the prescriptions but did not oppose any of the prescriptions.

Goal 2: Children in the custody of the Department of Social Services will receive trauma-informed care identified through a screening process.

Strategy 1: Monitor through random case pulls and on-site reviews of offices to ensure the Adverse Childhood Experience or ACE is being utilized.

2020 Progress Update

CPS reviewed ninety cases from data provided from Medical Services. All files reviewed contained an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) screening completed during the Initial Family Assessment to determine the impact of trauma on the child and ensure appropriate service providers are identified when applicable. Case service plans were also reviewed to ensure monitoring is taking place.

Goal 3: Children in the custody of The Department of Social Services will have procedures and protocols established to ensure children in foster care are not inappropriately diagnosed with mental illness, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions, or developmental disabilities and placed in settings that are not foster family homes because of an inappropriate diagnosis.

Objective A: To prevent misdiagnosis of children causing them to be placed in a setting other than a family foster home.

Strategy 1: Implement procedure for review of children referred to a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF).

When a child is referred for PRTF placement the process is for the referent to submit a PRTF application. The FSS's send the application to the Group/Residential Program Specialist located in Pierre State Office. The child's case is reviewed by the State Review Team (SRT). The SRT is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Social Services, Corrections, Human Services and Education. The SRT meets weekly to review and discuss each referral. Each member is required to review the child's case information which includes mental health evaluations and progress in therapy, ask questions, and discuss alternatives to PRTF placement. If the recommendation is for a PRTF level of care, the case is referred on to the Peer Review Organization (PRO) for a review to determine the medical necessity of placement in a PRFT.

2020 Progress Update

The Department of Social Services, Divisions of Child Protection Services, Medical Services, and Economic Assistant (Auxiliary Placement) collaborated with the Department of Corrections and Department of Education to review the referral process for psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) placement; child eligibility criteria; mental health, substance use and education documentation required with a referral, information required from PRTF providers for continued stay at a PRTF and other pertinent information to ensure children are not inappropriately placed. Once the review was completed, information was shared with PRTF providers and outpatient community-based providers.

The Division of Medical Services developed a database from paid Medicaid claims to review data such as length of stay in treatment by placement, by placing agency, and children with multiple placements. The data will be shared with the PRTF providers at the August 2019 meeting of the State placing agencies and the providers.

NOTE: DSS Medical Services contracts with the Peer Review Organization (PRO), South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care to serve as the certification team.

Strategy 2: Procedure for children referred to a Group Care Center for Minors

The Residential/Group Care Program Specialist reviews referrals of youth to group care centers with the child's FSS and supervisory team to determine appropriateness of placement. Case information reviewed includes the severity of the behavior, what has happened in the foster home that resulted in a referral to group care, availability of foster family resources, level of supervision required, mental health or substance evaluations and progress in out-patient treatment, and alternatives to group care. Referrals can also come from the child's own home and can serve as a discharge option from a higher level of care such as Residential Treatment or Behavioral Hospital. Progress in the group care facility is monitored to plan for discharge and transition to their home, a foster home or an Independent Living Program.

Strategy 3: Procedure for Developmental Disabilities and Medically Fragile Children

The Department of Social Services works closely with the Department of Human Services to serve children who meet criteria for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The criteria for the youth are a full scale IQ 70 or below, testing to show the child's cognitive ability is impacted for example, traumatic brain injury diagnosis of autism. Community support providers are consulted to find the least restrictive setting for the youth based on services needed. A recent example of this working relationship resulted in a new program, Dakota Reach. Both divisions collaborated with one service provider to provide appropriate treatment to youth who meet the criteria for developmental disability services in addition to physically aggressive behavior patterns. The service provider offers specific programming to these youth and is equipped to handle aggressive behavior. Six youth are currently treated in this program and would have been very difficult for an out of state placement.

Medically fragile youth are transitioned to foster homes able to provide the services needed. These youth may be in a hospital setting until a family is identified that can best meet the individual needs of the child. Currently we have some children who could transition to a lower level of care if we had the resources.

It is not common for misdiagnosis to occur in South Dakota. All diagnoses are given after evaluation from a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) and in many cases a Child Psychiatrist. If there are concerns related to a QMHP diagnosis, a second opinion from a Child Psychiatrist can be requested. There has not been a change made after reviewing the concern within the past year.

2015-2019 Summary of Progress

South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services (CPS) made positive strides in the Healthcare and Oversight Plan during the previous five-year plan. Positive trends are observed in the number of children prescribed a psychotropic medication. The total percentage of children has decreased every year apart from a slight rise in data for the 2019 APSR. This rise is reflective of the increase of children in state custody.

Training has been enhanced in the curriculum for Permanency and Wellbeing for new Family Service Specialists (FSS). On-going monitoring is emphasized in the training from a "Too Many, Too Much, and Too Young" perspective. The child case plan has been enhanced in the mental health section by adding information such as a description of abuse, neglect, trauma, and loss history as well as the following information:

- The Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Tool
- Dates of previous evaluations and providers
- Current diagnosis
- List of current medications and what they are prescribed to treat
- Progress

- Medication consent

CPS has developed a strong working relationship with the Peer Review Organization (PRO) of child psychiatrists to prevent misdiagnosis of children and to ensure only those children needing the highest level of treatment are approved for placement. PRO provides the division an avenue for consultation and second opinions related to concerns about prescribed medications such as the reasons for the type of medication, prescribed dosage, combination of multiple medications, side effects, and the conditions the medication is being prescribed for.

CPS continues to collaborate with Medical Services to provide data for tracking psychotropic medications, as well as information about length of stay in psychiatric residential facilities.

CPS will also work in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disability to develop resources for children with a developmental disability. The partnership with the Division of Developmental Disability resulted in a new resource during SFY 2019.

2020 - 2024 Five Year Plan

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services is committed to strengthening activities to improve the health care and oversight of children and youth in foster care over the next five years.

The division will continue to collaborate with the Division of Medical Services through its Well-Child Check-Ups initiative to ensure children in the custody of Child Protection Services (CPS) receive appropriate check-ups and immunizations according to a defined schedule. Information from the check-ups will be documents in FACIS in the child's medical assessment and shared with their caretakers and parents. Children in custody are also assigned to a Health Home and CPS will continue to assist Health Home staff in registering children and youth for the program.

Child Protection Services will continue to obtain information on children and youth on psychotropic medications from the Division of Medical Services for analysis and oversight. The Division of Medical Services has a contract with the Peer Review Organization which CPS has access to for second opinions related to psychotropic medications and to ensure children are not placed inappropriately in treatment facilities due to misdiagnosis. CPS also has access to a doctor under contract with the Division of Medical Services and with nurses within the Division of Medical Services for consultation regarding the medical needs of children and youth.

Child Protection Services will continue to record health exams and recommendations in the child's medical assessment in FACIS and ensure that information necessary for the proper care of the child or youth is shared with their caretaker. CPS staff will continue to complete the Child hood Adverse Experiences screening tool on children and youth to ensure appropriate services are available and accessible to address trauma.

CPS has a strong Independent Living Preparation Program with protocols in place to ensure a youth's transition plan includes detailed information related to options for on-gong health coverage, information about a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document recognized under state law, and to provide the child with the option to execute such a document.

Child Protection Services will focus on building additional partnerships across the medical field to ensure the health needs of children and youth are assessed, recommendations for treatment are followed and outcomes are evaluated.

IX. ICWA AND COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE TRIBES

2020 Update

A workgroup entitled State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation (STCWC) was formed after a reorganizational meeting on February 27, 2014. Building on experiences learned from the previous state/tribal consultation group called the “Collaborative Circle”, this new workgroup expanded its membership to include not only Tribal ICWA Directors but also Tribal CPS Directors who work with the state under a State/Tribal Agreement. Also, involved from the state are the Division Director, Assistant Division Director, seven Regional Managers, ICWA Program Specialist, Licensing Program Specialist and Foster/Kinship Care Program Specialist and from time to time other Program Specialists, tribal leaders, or other invited guests. The Casey Family Programs Indian Child Welfare Director is a regular attendee as their program has been invested in South Dakota in three initiatives; State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation (STCWC), ICWA Coalition and South Dakota Native Foster Care (SDNFC). Casey Family Programs has brought financial support to these three initiatives by paying for lodging, meals, meeting space and promotional items for SDNFC. The workgroup elected two co-leaders to facilitate the meetings with one being the Licensing Program Specialist and the other being the leader of the ICWA Coalition which is a separate workgroup made up of Tribal ICWA Directors. In budgeting for 2019 and beyond, Casey Family Programs made the decision that the SDNFC workgroup would need to cover its own expenses going forward. How exactly that is going to look has not been decided. For the September 12-13th, 2018 meetings, Casey Family Programs took on the responsibility of scheduling attendance, meals and lodging via web link which helped the process with registrations. The ICWA Coalition which is made of the nine ICWA Directors usually schedules their meetings before the STCWC meetings. They also had a Denver March Retreat on March 13-14th, 2019 to help them revitalize the group’s direction and cohesiveness. This meeting was facilitated by Casey Family Program consultants who directed the entire meeting. The same facilitators will be used in the June 12-13th, 2019 meeting for STCWC.

All nine tribes in South Dakota are regularly invited to every STCWC meetings. Before the meetings occur, a conference call is held between interested parties from the state and tribe to set the agenda so there is input from both entities. Mostly it is the leadership from this group that consistently participates on these calls being the two co-leaders, Division Director, Assistant Division Director and ICWA Program Specialist. The ICWA Directors from Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Lower Brule Sioux Tribe were added to the planning calls to serve as back up in case the tribal co-leader cannot attend the call or meeting.

The state tribal meetings during the past year are as follows:

- September 12 - 13, 2018 in Pierre. This meeting was split between STCWC on the 12th and SDNFC on the 13th. Tribes not present were: Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
 - STCWC meeting agenda featured the following:
 - An overview of the Family First Prevention Services Act.
 - Present Danger Plan (PDP) policy and procedure was reviewed and the tribe’s suggestion to include tribal notification if parent agrees was adopted.

- Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) training needs and suggestions from the tribes to fill that need in SD. Some members of the ICWA Coalition recently attended a QEW training conducted by National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) in Portland, OR and this was the suggested answer for any person seeking to become trained to serve as a QEW.
- SNDFC meeting agenda featured the following:
 - Reports from the regional recruitment groups formed during the June 7th, 2018 meeting.
 - Protocols for conducting recruitment during the Lakota Nation Invitational and Casey sponsored promotional items were handed out. Casey announced they would no longer purchase recruitment items in the future and the booth at Lakota Nation Invitational would have very limited funding.
- December 5-6, 2018 in Pierre. The STCWC meeting was cancelled due to low tribal turnout and the Casey representative had flight issues and could not make the meeting. December 5, 2018 was declared a “National Day of Mourning” in honor of President George H.W. Bush’s passing and many tribal offices were closed.
- June 12-13th, 2019 in Pierre. This meeting will be facilitated by Casey Family Program consultants, Paul and Leslie Kabotie, who also facilitated the Denver March Retreat for the ICWA Coalition. The goal is to revitalize the group’s cohesiveness while strategizing on future initiatives the group wants to focus on in the next ten years for shared impact. This meeting will provide the framework for tribal state collaboration in the next CFSP.

One of the data elements that the SDNFC group tracks is the number of Native American foster homes. The categories below are split into two because of the different way South Dakota DSS-CPS captured this data with a pre-new ICWA regulations and a post-new ICWA regulations.

Native American Foster Homes that meet ICWA compliance with at least one head of household an enrolled member of a Federally Recognized American Indian or Alaskan Native tribe. * **(Native American Foster Home Listing)**

- July 3 –5, 2017 - **62**
- July 5 –7, 2018 - **73**

Native American Foster Homes with at least one head of household that self-identifies as American Indian or Alaskan Native. **(Licensed Foster Home by Race)**

- June 30, 2015 - **70**
- June 30, 2016 - **87**
- June 30, 2017 – **82**
- June 30, 2018 – **98**

2020 Update

Sharing of the CFSP and APSR:

The state shares its CFSP/APSR with the tribes and any input from the consultation groups are included in the annual APSR update on a yearly basis. This past reporting year, the ICWA Program Specialist emailed a link with the approved CFSP 2015-2019 and APSR 2019 to the tribal members of the State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation group on October 26, 2018. The link for this can be found on the DSS-CPS home page. The Program Instruction (ACYF-CB-PI-19-02) was also emailed out as a reminder to the group on March 21, 2019 with an explanation

summary from the program instruction explaining the purpose. Tribal members were encouraged to provide feedback by the end of May to be included in the APSR 2020 submission which is due June 30, 2019 but feedback was very limited. The state's APSR yearly update is shared with the tribes that can be used in their Title IV-B submissions. Not all tribes submit requests for Title IV-B funding, but some tribes do, and it has been requested from the tribes that this be shared. DSS-CPS receives limited responses from the tribes from these requests, so the majority of the input comes from the collaboration involved in STCWC and SDNFC and also from contacts made by the ICWA Program Specialist or the DSS-CPS Regions in their conversations with tribes on various topics.

Suggestions were provided by the President of the ICWA Coalition, who would like to see the state add two new positions in the Rapid City and Sioux Falls offices. This position would be an ICWA Advocate and would help Native families to stay connected to one person throughout much of the case and help them navigate the system by explaining steps, both DSS-CPS and ICWA. She has received feedback that having the multiple workers is confusing for the family's and having one consistent person would help overcome that. She also mentioned that accessing PRIDE online is important for some of the tribes that license. In looking forward to the June meeting of the STCWC she is hoping that the group can get beyond defensiveness in pursuing truth and feels that the meetings would be more productive if people spoke more freely. It was her opinion that this was a barrier for the group than needs to be overcome. All these suggestions will be worked through at the June meeting.

The report was sent to the following:

- Deborah Divine – SWO-CPP
- Jolene Martin – OST-CPS
- Arlyn Eastman – OST-CPS
- Jake Little – OST-ICWA
- Jessica Morson – FSST-CPS
- Rebecca Grey Bull – SRST-ICWA
- Marlow Medicine Crow – CCST-ICWA
- Diane Garreau – CRST-ICWA
- Melissa Chrans – YST-ICWA
- Ida Brown – YST-CPS
- Elizabeth Little Elk – RST Sicangu Child and Family Services
- Kathy Black Bear – RST Sicangu Child and Family Services
- Jessica Porras – SRST-CPS (Acting Director of CPS)
- Marilee Lawrence – SRST-CPS
- Shirley Bad Wound – RST-ICWA
- Jera Brouse-Koster – LBST-ICWA

ICWA Compliance Case Reviews

DSS-CPS continues to emphasize compliance by CPS staff with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) which includes incorporating the new ICWA regulations into policies and procedures.

The ICWA Program Specialist conducts ICWA compliance case reviews. The data reviewed comes from the ICWA Director's Report which is generated monthly of all children identified on their demographics as being American Indian/Alaskan Native. Their tribal affiliation can either be of a federally recognized tribe or an unknown tribal affiliation. The ICWA Program Specialist regularly reviews the children on the unknown section if they have been there for more than four months to help identify the tribal affiliation and provide recommendations to the FSS assigned to the case. Another area reviewed is the "None" section of the report. Any child(ren) in this section would be an error as the tribal affiliation is being reported as None, but the demographics report the child as Native American. The ICWA Program Specialist will investigate each of these cases and provide feedback to the Family Services Specialist (FSS)/Supervisor/Regional Manager so this is corrected in the proper way. This report is analyzed more in depth four times per year as part of the ICWA Compliance Desk Review process. The months selected for reviews include July, October, January and April.

For the quarterly reviews, 32 children who have been in care less than eight months are randomly selected by the ICWA Program Specialist; there is consideration of increasing this number in the next cycle of reviews. At this juncture in the case, the adjudication process is usually complete and there are sufficient documents on File Director and the state's CCWIS system to complete an accurate assessment for ICWA compliance at the front end. If documents are missing from the two databases, the ICWA Program Specialist emails the FSS/Supervisor/Regional Manager and requests the documents. Most often, the document missing is the ICWA Affidavit used at the 48 Hour hearing. The review tool also considers court reports to evaluate if active efforts have been made to achieve the permanent plan, which in most cases is reunification. A higher number of cases are reviewed from the offices with a higher caseload of Native American children which are Pennington and Minnehaha County. The following information provides data related to ICWA compliance:

- Present Danger Plan*
 - Was a PDP attempted, if not then why not?
- Reasons for placement
- Court Circuit
- Initial Placement type
- Placement transitions
 - How many placements occurred
- Diligent efforts to meet ICWA Placement Preferences
- Relative search efforts as listed in the court report
- Active Efforts listed in the court report
- DSS-CPS initial date of courtesy notice
- State's Attorney initial date of legal notice
- Intervention/Transfer motions made
- Transfers made
- Permanency goal

- Siblings placed together
- ICWA Affidavit used at 48 hearing
 - Finding Determination of Physical Damage or Harm to the child
 - Finding Preventive Measures to Rehabilitate the Family
- Number of previous transfers (this was started to be tracked with the April 2018 review)

*The Present Danger Plan (PDP) is an immediate, short term plan to keep the child(ren) safe when they have been identified as being in danger because of the actions of their caretaker(s). It is an alternative to court custody and placing children in foster care. This plan is developed in cooperation with the child(ren)'s parents or caretakers. The use of these plans are part of active efforts to prevent removal and keep children connected to their families.

If compliance issues are found, the ICWA Program Specialist communicates with staff to point out the issue and advise correction according to the CPS Policy and Procedures Manual. Also, general feedback from these reviews is provided in the ICWA Program Specialist's monthly report and if the issue is seen statewide then it will be added as an agenda item on a DSS-CPS Management Team meeting.

ICWA Compliance Review Data

Review Month	DSS Notice to the Tribe*	Intervention by Tribe	Transfer by Tribe
July 2018	32	26	Yes-3 No-29
October 2018	32	24	Yes-0 No-32
January 2019	30	25	Yes-1 No-31
April 2019	30	24	Yes-0 No-32

*This column relates to documentation in the record of courtesy notice provided by DSS/CPS.

Placement Preference

Review Month	Met at Removal	No but Met at Subsequent Placement	Child Needing Treatment*	No Available Native American Resource
July 2018	11	4	0	21
October 2018	13	2	2	17
January 2019	7	3	3	22
April 2019	11	7	3	9

*This column includes situations where children required a treatment placement setting; Group Care, Specialized Foster Care, Residential Treatment, Family Treatment Home Care.

Diligent Relative Search - Active Efforts

Review Month	Relative Search Documented	Active Efforts Documented
July 2018	31	31
October 2018	32	32
January 2019	32	32
April 2019	32	32

These data elements were tabulated from reviewing court reports in the case file. The ICWA Program Specialist began tracking Active Efforts in the August 2015 review.

ICWA Affidavits

Review Month	Was it done at the 48 Hour Hearing?	ICWA Not Determined by Court at 48 Hour Hearing.	Was the 1922 standard of eminent physical damage or harm utilized?	Was the 1912 standard of preventive measures utilized?	Was Information contained in the document sufficient?
July 2018	Yes-26 No-6	Yes-0 No-32	Yes-28 No-4	Yes-28 No-4	Yes-28 No-4
October 2018	Yes-27 No-5	Yes-1 No-31	Yes-28 No-4	Yes-28 No-4	Yes-28 No-4
January 2019	Yes-25 No-7	Yes-1 No-31	Yes-27 No-5	Yes-27 No-5	Yes-27 No-5
April 2019	Yes-26 No-6	Yes-1 No-31	Yes-27 No-4	Yes-27 No-4	Yes-27 No-4

The ICWA Program Specialist works with the four tribes that have Title IV-E State Tribal Agreements in overseeing AFCARS data elements that are entered in the state's CCWIS system. One of the data elements is the Caseworker Visits in which reports are generated bi-monthly. These reports are provided to the four tribes every month to try and improve compliance in reaching the federal standard of 95%, of which two were in compliance. The report is summarized and attached to an email that is sent to the CPS Director, Case Managers and Family Developers (in some cases). For the FFY18 Federal Submission Report, the tribe's total overall percentages were as follows:

- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) – **100%**
- Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) – **59.34%**
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) – **96.40%**
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) – **88.36%**

2020 Annual Update with Tribal Consultations

The ICWA Program Specialist works with all nine tribes in South Dakota in several ways, with additional technical assistance provided to those tribes with state-tribal agreements or are working towards an agreement. Other Program Specialists, Regional Managers, Supervisors and Family Services Specialists also work with the tribes during case management which would not necessarily be captured in this report for every interaction. Some of these interactions are part of various groups that meets consistently, and some are just everyday contacts to help the process along. As an example, one ICWA Director, stated that she works with the State's Attorney's office in the county adjoining her reservation borders and they have a good working relationship now because the communication has improved, in her opinion.

Title IV-E Agreement Tribes

- Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST)
 - On September 5th, 2018, Program Specialists from State Office provided onsite technical assistance for new staff from OST-CPS on Title IV-E, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), Auxiliary Placements and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF), Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and an update from the 2018 Federal Title IV-E Review.
 - On March 1st, 2019, a conference call was held between DSS-CPS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe Child Protection Program and the Oglala Sioux Tribe Attorney General's Office to establish the following protocols and training plans:
 - Oglala Sioux Tribal children who have cases managed by DSS-CPS who must complete required caseworker visits, work with families to complete to kinship or adoptive home studies or to preserve or establish connections and services for tribal children will email the OST-CPP Director before coming onto the reservation to provide these services.
 - A template was developed to notify OST-CPP when DSS-CPS is planning a visit onto the reservation.
 - Staff changes either with OST-CPP or DSS-CPS in Region 1 will be exchanged between programs through email.
 - OST enrollment requests for the relative search process will include the OST-CPP Director.
 - Exclusive Jurisdiction Transfers - A process was set up to expedite ICWA transfers by having the ICWA Director personally take physical custody of the child(ren) and placement decisions can be made by the program.
 - Training requests were made for the state's CCWIS system and Cost Allocation Time Studies (CATS).
 - Planning for Positive Indian Parenting classes in the Rapid City area will take place between OST-CPP and DSS-CPS.
 - In April of 2019, the ICWA Program Specialist assumed oversight of the the state tribal agreement.
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST)
 - On March 7th, 2019, the ICWA Program Specialist provided on-site technical assistance to the CPS Program. The program hired a new Family Developer and

technical assistance was provided on South Dakota's licensing administrative rules, federal guidelines and procedures on licensing foster homes within the parameters of the state-tribal agreement. Technical assistance was also provided to a newly hired Office Manager on Cost Allocation Time Studies (CATS) and Title IV-E administrative Reimbursements. The Acting Program Director was on leave this day, so contact was not made.

- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO)
 - July 25, 2018, at the request of SWO-Child Protection Program (CPP), technical assistance on Title IV-E application process was provided by the Foster Care and Kinship Program Specialist and the ICWA Program Specialist at Agency Village. This benefits the tribal program by training new staff on the Title IV-E eligibility process with the responsibilities of the state and tribe defined.
 - March 27- 28, 2019, the ICWA Program Specialist conducted a review of licensing files from the SWO-CPP, met with the new Program Director, provided updates from DSS-CPS and received a tour of the new Tribal Access Program (TAP) site within their law enforcement center. This program provides the tribe the ability to conduct their own fingerprint-based FBI background checks. The ICWA Program Specialist met the Chief of Police and discussed the procedure for future licensing reviews to verify FBI checks on tribally licensed foster homes.
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST)
 - March 28, 2019, the ICWA Program Specialist met with the ICWA Director/CPS Program Manager who is also the President of the ICWA Coalition. There was discussion on the upcoming CFSP planning process and feedback from the Casey Family Program's March Retreat in Denver. The President of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe was introduced to the ICWA Program Specialist and was given a chance to talk briefly about the CFSP and how the STCWC fits into this consultation process.

Non-Title IV-E Tribes

- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST)
 - August 7, 2018, the Regional Manager and two Supervisors from Region 3 and the CRST ICWA Director met with the President/Founder and staff from Simply Smiles, Inc. to listen to their proposal to create a foster home community on the reservation to help alleviate the problem of lack of resources.
 - March 5, 2019, the Division Director, Assistant Division Director, Region 3 Regional Manager, Region 3 Supervisor, Licensing Program Specialist, and the ICWA Program Specialist met with the President/Founder of Simply Smiles, Inc. as he presented his vision for creating the Simply Smiles Children's Village which will be a community foster homes utilizing tribal members as licensed foster parents. His next step was to meet with tribal council members to provide an update on the project. The ICWA Program Specialist provided a letter of support for the President of Simply Smiles to present to the tribal council. On April 4, 2019, the CRST Tribal Council approved the foster care project. DSS-CPS completed the initial Child Placement Agency licensing study and issued a license on April 5, 2019 pending completion of a few items before providing services to children in foster care.

- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (CCST)
 - August 23, 2018, a meeting was held at Ft. Thompson Tribal Hall with the Tribal Council, ICWA Director, DSS-CPS Division Director, Region 4 Regional Manager, Chamberlain CPS Supervisor and the Secretary of Tribal Relations to begin talking about a state-tribal agreement for the purposes of licensing tribal foster homes. The tribe presented draft copies of an agreement, licensing standards and a home study template.
 - Since the August 23, 2018 Meeting, the ICWA Program Specialist completed a side by side analysis of licensing standards between the State/CCST proposed/National Association for Regulatory Administration/National Indian Child Welfare Association/ Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and sent it to the tribe's ICWA Director for review. The proposed tribal licensing standards were edited, and suggestions were added by the Licensing Program Specialist and the ICWA Program Specialist and sent back to the ICWA Director for consideration. A meeting was held on April 5, 2019 in Pierre between DSS-CPS and tribal leaders to review drafts and discuss any changes. After changes are implemented, and accepted by the state and tribe, the agreement will be finalized and signed by both parties. The CCST is actively working on licensing foster homes by conducting pre-service classes utilizing UNITY as the training curriculum. The outcome of additional foster homes will be a benefit to both the state and the tribe. This will help the state with ICWA compliance by having foster homes become a placement option that the state can use for tribal children. This agreement will recognize Crow Creek's sovereignty as a tribal nation to be able to license their own foster homes and keep tribal children in tribal foster homes. Those involved from DSS-CPS and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in the process were:
 - Virgena Wieseler – Division Director
 - Pamela Bennett – Assistant Division Director
 - Rique Moore-Briggs – Region 4 Regional Manager
 - Kevin Kanta – Licensing Program Specialist
 - Joseph Ashley – ICWA Program Specialist
 - Marlow Medicine Crow – ICWA Director
 - Lester Thompson Jr. - Chairman
 - Barry Thompson – Vice Chairman
 - Fabian Howe Sr. - Councilman
 - Evan Hawk – Councilman
 - Carla Pickner – Councilwoman
 - Kyle Kirkie – Councilman
 - April 5, 2019, a meeting was held in Pierre with members of the tribal council including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and two councilmen plus the DSS-CPS Division Director, Assistant Division Director, Licensing Program Specialist and ICWA Program Specialist. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the state-tribal agreement to a mutually agreeable format recognizing the sovereignty of the tribe in the government to government agreement. Additional questions were addressed after the meeting because of the legal nature of contracts.

- May 20, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was created using much of the requested language from the tribe. The tribe is reviewing this MOU and DSS-CPS is awaiting a final response.
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
 - September 13, 2018, the Program Director and staff from Sicangu Child and Family Services (SCFS) met with the Division Director, Assistant Division Director, Foster and Kinship Care Program Specialist, Region 4 Regional Manager and the ICWA Program Specialist to present a Title IV-E implementation timeline which began on September 30, 2013 when the tribe received approval for their grant to the projected date of opening doors for services on October 1st, 2020. Points covered in this meeting were location of the program, Title IV-E regulatory process, staff size, court process, tribal council concerns and transition planning.
 - April 15, 2019, the ICWA Program Specialist contacted a supervisor at Sicangu Child and Family Services (SCFS) on behalf of the Foster Care Developer at SRST-CPS to inquire about her attending a class on becoming a trainer of UNITY, a culturally responsive foster care pre-service training. SCFS will work with this new Foster Care Developer to train her at a future date as she was already working with a new Foster Care Developer from OST-CPS.

In some regions across the state, there are meetings held monthly with stakeholders in the area that includes DSS-CPS and the tribes. These meetings include:

- Multi-Disciplinary meetings which are sometimes organized by the US Attorney's office for the purpose to discuss cases pending federal investigation and/or prosecution.
 - CCST
 - RST
 - LBST
- Child Protection Team meetings to discuss concerns for children and families as well as general community information.
 - CCST
 - RST
 - LBST
- Interagency meetings to gather agencies together who work with children to share the good of the community as well as any concerns.
 - CCST
 - RST

Final Summary

Applicability of the ICWA

Application- Through consultation with the tribes in 2017, it was suggested DSS-CPS send the enrollment inquiries to the ICWA Programs instead of the enrollment offices because they may be able to provide a timelier response to tribal affiliation and enrollment inquiries as many of them have enrollment books. If they don't have an enrollment books, they will send inquires to the enrollment office. DSS-CPS has made the necessary change in the policies and procedures manual to reflect this change

Jurisdictional Provisions of the ICWA

Transfer- In 2005, the Transfer Protocol checklist was developed with consultation with the tribes to insure there was a structured and consistent process for the transfer of responsibility for placement and care of the child under state jurisdiction to the tribal program. This checklist was revised again in 2015 because of collaboration through the STCWC workgroup and a section was added for Exclusive Jurisdiction Tribal Transfer Cases.

Through consultation with the tribes in 2017, Exclusive Jurisdiction and ICWA Transfer were discussed again due to difficulties with the time it takes for the physical transfer of the child to take place and managing the child's placement while the child is still in placement of the CPS placement resource. Communication was discussed as being an important way of addressing some of the issues. DSS-CPS made changes in policy and procedure to give Family Services Specialists more direction on best practice with the emphasis that the actual transfer is not complete until the child(ren) are in the physical custody of the designated tribal agent with protocols for communication and what DSS-CPS can and cannot do to assist in this process. This update also included transfer to tribes that have a Title IV-E agreement in place to insure the process of Title IV-E determinations and redeterminations and Medicaid coverage remains constant.

The ICWA Program Specialist becomes involved in cases with out of state tribes when the local DSS-CPS office and State's Attorney's Office are having difficulty with the physical transfer. The ICWA Program Specialist will make needed contacts and help facilitate a smooth and expedient transfer when communication breaks down.

Jurisdictional Questions by Region- In some regions with the smaller reservations near urban areas such as Yankton Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, the land can be checker boarded between state land and tribal trust lands. There is a process in place to decide who has jurisdiction on referrals. If it is not clear, then the local DSS-CPS office will call the Tribal Police and have them confirm if it is on state or tribal land. If it is on tribal land, then the referral is sent to the Title IV-E Tribal CPS or DSS-CPS will intervene with assistance from the Tribal Police and if needed the Tribal Court for any removals.

Procedural Requirements of the ICWA

Active Efforts- Through discussions in the 2018 STCWC meetings, a request came forward from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe ICWA Director to change the Present Danger Plan (PDP) and put a checkbox in the PDP form which would signify the parent giving permission for DSS-CPS to notify the tribe's ICWA Program that a family has entered into PDP to keep their children safe and DSS is working with this family. The tribes agreed that this change would allow them to intervene with the family earlier than would normally happen which would increase the chances for a successful intervention and keep the Indian family intact. This change was implemented into policy and practice on January 1, 2019 and an email went out to the tribe's announcing this change on January 2, 2019.

Emergency Removal- DSS-CPS completes an ICWA Affidavit for the 48-hour hearing. DSS-CPS made the decision to use only one ICWA Affidavit form statewide where previously there were three different formats used within the DSS-CPS. The new affidavit was released by the CPS Division Director on January 11, 2017 to the DSS-CPS Management Team with a directive to implement with supervisors and field staff for immediate use. The new affidavit includes information on a number of points regarding an ICWA case and incorporates the new ICWA Regulations. Through ICWA Compliance Desk Reviews completed by the ICWA Program Specialist, the findings show all regions are using the new affidavit. Areas covered in the ICWA Affidavit include the following:

- The date CPS noticed the tribe when removal occurred, and custody was granted;
- Place of residence at time of removal;
- Birth mother and father information including tribal affiliation and eligibility status of children, if known;
- CPS active efforts provided to prevent the removal;
- Temporary custody by CPS is necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child(ren);
- The facts that warrant continued separation of the child(ren) from their parents or custodians to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child(ren);
- CPS active efforts to comply with placement preferences and reason for being unable to comply with them, if that is the case;
- CPS active efforts provided to rehabilitate and reunite the family and to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian Family

Notice for 48-Hour Hearing- Through consultation with the tribes on communication, the process of DSS's very first initial contact is through a Courtesy Notice email template and letter that is sent to the tribe's Designated Tribal Agent if a reason to believe a child may be an Indian child as defined by ICWA. This is done via fax, telephone contact, or email. The purpose of this initial notice is to inform the tribe if the parents/children involved that are believed to have tribal affiliation and when the 48-Hour Hearing is scheduled. The communication also requests for assistance to help identify and locate relatives the child(ren) as part of the relative search. The ICWA Program Specialist keeps in contact with the tribes to keep current contact information which is forwarded onto DSS's Web Administrator to have the Designated Tribal Agent and ICWA Directors page updated with current contact information for the tribes.

Qualified Expert Witness- The ICWA Program Specialist is involved in the procurement of Qualified Expert Witnesses (QEW) for abuse and neglect cases in state court. A list is maintained and shared with Unified Judicial System which hosts it on their website:

http://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/docs/Qualified_Expert_Witness_Listing.pdf

This list is updated through collaboration with tribal ICWA Programs. The tribes hosted QEW training in September of 2016, which added 10 trained tribal members to the existing list. Also, more South Dakota tribe's sent representatives to Portland, Oregon in June of 2018 to attend the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) QEW training. The names were requested by the ICWA Program Specialist and the above listing was updated with names that were provided. The training provided by NICWA is the only training format available for South Dakota tribes currently. The ICWA Program Specialist sends out training dates to the nine tribes as they become available on the NICWA website.

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates- The ICWA Chapter of the DSS-CPS Policy and Procedures Manual underwent a major revision after the federal ICWA regulations (25 CFR Part 23) were updated in December of 2016. The new chapter incorporated the changes from the new regulation and was released to DSS-CPS staff on January 30, 2017 with follow up changes made on March 14, 2017 and August 28, 2018. The new regulations were also incorporated into the ICWA Compliance Desk Guide and released to DSS-CPS staff on January 31, 2017.

Training- The ICWA Program Specialist and an attorney from DSS Legal attended two training sessions on the new ICWA regulation. The first one was titled an ICWA Basics with Regulations Update in Rapid City, SD on August 23-24, 2016 and the second was an Advanced ICWA with Regulations on August 25, 2016 also in Rapid City, SD. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) conducted a training session in Pierre, SD on September 16, 2016 to review the new regulations. Attending this session was the Division Director, Assistant Division Director, Regional Manager for Region 3, Foster and Kinship Care Program Specialist and Adoption Program Specialist. Large numbers of DSS-CPS staff participated in the BIA Webinars online to learn about the new regulations.

The ICWA Program Specialist conducted two ICWA trainings regarding the new regulations to field staff for Region 5 on March 21, 2017 and Region 7 on November 21, 2017. The ICWA Program Specialist researched and answered many questions from the field regarding the new regulations from both DSS-CPS and various State's Attorney's offices.

Placement Provisions of the ICWA

Placement Resources- Child Placement Agreement developed in 2017 that gave a process for tribes to access state foster homes as a potential placement option. The agreement spells out responsibilities for both the tribe and the state. The process to begin the search starts with a Child Profile Form being filled out and emailed to Program Specialists Kanta and Ashley who will disperse it within DSS-CPS and give feedback to the tribe.

Placement Resources- Starting in the Fall of 2018, DSS-CPS participated in discussions with representatives from Simply Smiles, Inc on their work on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) regarding creating a community of foster parents to be able to serve the children and families of CRST. These discussions continued into 2019 and with the support from the CRST Tribal Council,

the Simply Smiles Children's Village became licensed as a Child Placement Agency on April 5th, 2019 pending compliance on a few items. This entity will be located on the reservation in LaPlante, SD and has made arrangements with the tribe to have trust land set aside on a 99-year lease just for this program. The group plans on building houses to create this village system which will keep all the foster homes together in this children's village. The President and Founder of Simply Smiles, Inc., Bryan Nurnberger, has had an active presence on the CRST reservation for 10 years and has done a similar project in Mexico which has proven successful. This organization is based out of Connecticut and their website is: <http://www.simplysmiles.org/>. This projects goals will fit in well with a need to keep CRST children in ICWA compliant placements on the reservation.

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008- The Rosebud Sioux Tribe through Sicangu Child and Family Services has had a state tribal agreement to complete kinship home studies and the completion of training and home studies for foster and adoptive families since SFY 2013. This agreement was revised for SFY2020 for the provision of kinship home studies only with a set rate for each completed home study of families residing on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe was also awarded a Title IV-E Planning Development Grant in 2013 under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. They received their Title IV-E approval in July of 2018. Throughout this process, staff in DSS-CPS Region 4 and DSS-CPS State Office collaborated with the tribe to provide data and work processes to assist the tribe in meeting the grant requirements. The tribe is working on improvements to the court process to include timely hearings and the correct language required for IV-E funding. The tribe's goal to administer its Title IV-E child welfare program is October 1, 2020.

Placement of Indian Children- DSS-CPS met with representatives from Crow Creek Sioux Tribe on August 23, 2018 at Ft. Thompson, SD to continue discussions of entering into a State Tribal Agreement for licensing purposes. Even though discussions began in the spring of 2018, due to tribal elections resulting in new council members and a new ICWA Director, the discussions needed to begin again. During the meeting, the tribe presented proposed licensing standards, a home study template, and a proposed state tribal agreement. The last state tribal agreement between DSS and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe was in state fiscal year 2009. Since 2009, various tribal representatives inquired about entering into another agreement starting in 2014 with email exchanges, but talks never advanced, until FFY19.

It should be noted that there are systemic issues beyond the control of DSS-CPS that affects the working relationship between state and tribal agencies specifically with the three out of the four Title IV-E CPS Programs. With those three tribes that have agreements; Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, there has been a turnover in the director's position, that ranges from five to seven different program directors within the last five years, as many have been temporarily acting. Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe has been stable in this regard which has been a benefit to not only their tribal program but also the ICWA Coalition as the director is also the president of that workgroup. DSS-CPS has made many efforts to bring training, establish rapport and open lines of communication, not only with the directors, but also their staff as some of the agencies have had similar turnover within Case Manager and Family Developer positions. The ICWA Coalition provides much needed support and guidance to the ICWA Programs, if the new director becomes involved in that workgroup, as some tribes have also had turnover in this position within the last five years. DSS-CPS looks to the State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation workgroup for working relationships between the local DSS-CPS offices and ICWA offices as the avenue to bring

parties together, but this lack of continuity is a barrier to the consultation process as new directors are faced with the challenges of immediate program demands and attending another meeting is just one more demand on their time.

Moving forward the department would like to continue working on the need for placement resources especially Native American resources for cases that are determined to be ICWA. This recruitment and retention initiative will continue to be a focus because of the great need and it is an area of past, present and future collaboration. A couple of current projects that would affect the outcome of this goal is the current work on a licensing agreement with Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and the recruitment of Native foster families through the Simply Smiles Children's Village on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. These projects are in progress but when properly put in place can only add to our data which shows that the number of Native American Foster Homes is rising every year which, is the goal if children cannot be safely maintained in their own homes through a safety plan or reunification. Although not a initiative but more of a focus for the State Tribal Child Welfare Consultation, which is to revitalize the group's purpose and vision so members from both the state and the tribe will have buy in and feel that this is a working consultation group that is accomplishing what needs to be accomplished to further help the children and families of South Dakota and worthy of their time and efforts.

X. FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT DILIGENT RECRUITMENT PLAN

2020 Progress Update

The following information provides progress updates related to the Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan. The Plan is intended to facilitate recruitment of placement resources to assure there are enough foster and adoptive parents who reflect the diversity of children in care and can meet the individual needs of those children. CPS does not have any policies or practices in place which limit or restrict CPS's ability to recruit foster and adoptive parents who reflect the diversity of children in care.

Goal: Children requiring placement outside of their home are placed with placement resources who can meet their cultural, physical, educational, and mental health needs.

Objective A: Enhance recruitment plans that were developed with the assistance of National Resource Center for Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Parents at AdoptUSKids and the National Resource Center for Tribes to include general, targeted, and child-specific recruitment.

Strategy 1: Identify the demographics of children in care.

The "Demographics of Children In Alternative Care" report continues to be generated on a quarterly basis and is available in FACIS. Licensing FSS utilize the data when updating their recruitment plans.

Data from FACIS as of May 31, 2019 utilized to inform recruitment efforts is provided below.

Percentage of Children in Custody Statewide by Age Group

Age Group	0-4	5-11	12-15	16-18	19-21
Percentage in Custody	37.4%	34.1%	18.1%	10.3%	.1%
Percentage in Family Setting*	92.6%	83.8%	55.3%	45.6	33.3%

*This number does not include children and youth in trial reunification.

Gender of Children in Custody Statewide

Male	Female
52.3%	47.7%

Race of Children in Custody Statewide

Black	Indian	White	Asian	Hawaiian/Pcf	Hispanic
6.1%	65.4%	27.9%	.5%	.2%	5.8%

Tribal Affiliation: Number of Children in Custody Statewide

Sisseton-Wahpeton	Standing Rock	Crow Creek	Cheyenne River	Lower Brule	Oglala Nation	Rosebud	Flandreau-Santee	Yankton
19	34	35	77	29	102	84	2	57

Tribal Affiliation: Number of Children in Custody by Region

Region	Sisseton-Wahpeton	Standing Rock	Crow Creek	Cheyenne River	Lower Brule	Oglala Nation	Rosebud	Flandreau-Santee	Yankton
1	1	9	1	24	0	46	35	0	0
2	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	0	4
3	0	5	0	40	3	1	16	0	0
4	1	2	23	5	15	3	12	0	0
5	12	4	2	0	5	0	5	2	2
6	1	8	9	5	6	19	28	0	22
7	0	0	0	3	0	5	5	0	29

Strategy 2: Utilize data regarding demographics of children in care by office to inform and update the population of children requiring targeted recruitment.

The Licensing Family Services Specialists and Supervisors continue to meet at least every six months to update the Region's recruitment plans. Meetings may occur more frequently in Regions where there is a greater need for foster parents. The data is used to drive their recruitment efforts.

Licensing staff continue to utilize the data from the Demographics of Children in Care report for their region when discussing the need for foster parents and to update their recruitment plans.

Strategy 3: Modify recruitment plan strategies by utilizing data regarding the current pool of available foster families and determining their ability to meet the needs of children identified in Strategy 1.

CPS continues to work on the accuracy of the Licensed Foster Homes by Race report which compiles the total number of families who wish to care for children age 0-4, 5-11, 12-15, 16-18, and whether they are gender specific or not. The current report does not take into consideration families who only provide respite care, are temporarily not accepting children, or families who consider themselves to be at capacity, even though the reports reflects available slots. A FACIS update reflecting if a family is on hold or providing respite care only is on the list of FACIS projects.

Strategy 4: Enhance recruitment plans with the use of diligent recruitment efforts to effectively work with diverse populations.

The Diligent Recruitment Peer to Peer network was discontinued on September 30, 2017. The Capacity Building Center for States will provide support to participants in the group going forward. The Licensing Program Specialist was not able to attend the first call but will attend calls when possible in the future. There has not been a second call scheduled.

Strategy 5: Enhance the recruitment efforts of Native American foster homes.

The South Dakota Native Foster Care Workgroup returned to Rapid City in December for the Lakota Nation Invitational (LNI) December 12-16, 2018. This effort resulted in 24 “Commit to Know More” cards being completed by visitors to the booth. Those who visited the booth registered for drawings for items donated or provided by Casey Family Programs. Items given away were twenty-five-dollar Wal-Mart gift cards, gift bags, and a quilt. There were 315 tickets for the giveaway completed. Visitors to the booth were given information about becoming a foster parent.

The South Dakota Native Foster Care group continues to spread the word about the need for foster parents on their Facebook page. Booths or other events held in the regions are added to the Facebook page. The page currently has 1030 likes and 1022 people who follow the page.

For more information on collaboration with South Dakota tribes please see the section titled ICWA AND COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE TRIBES.

Strategy 6: Identify characteristics of children in care.

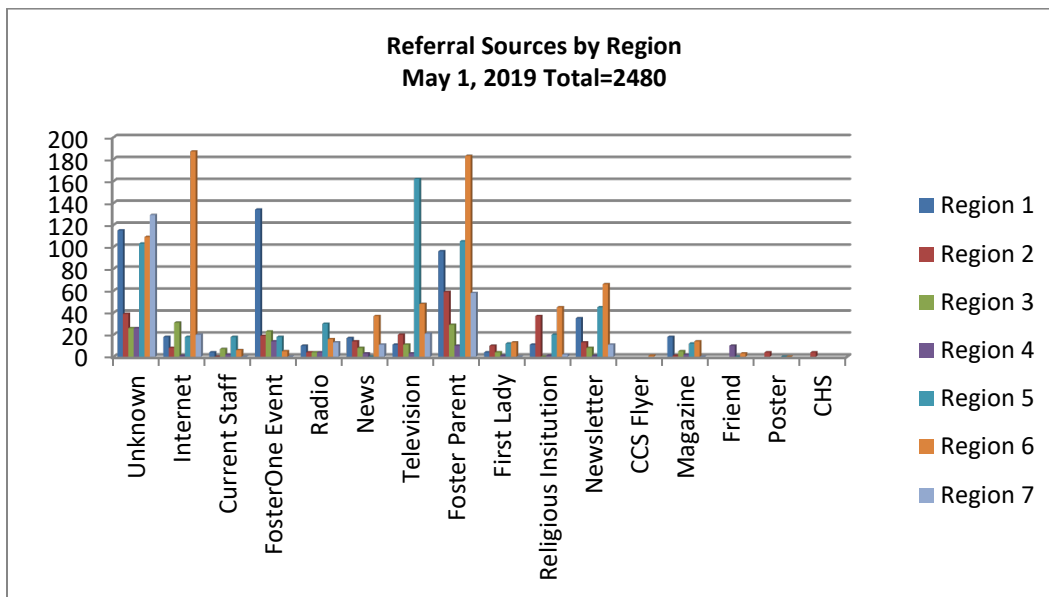
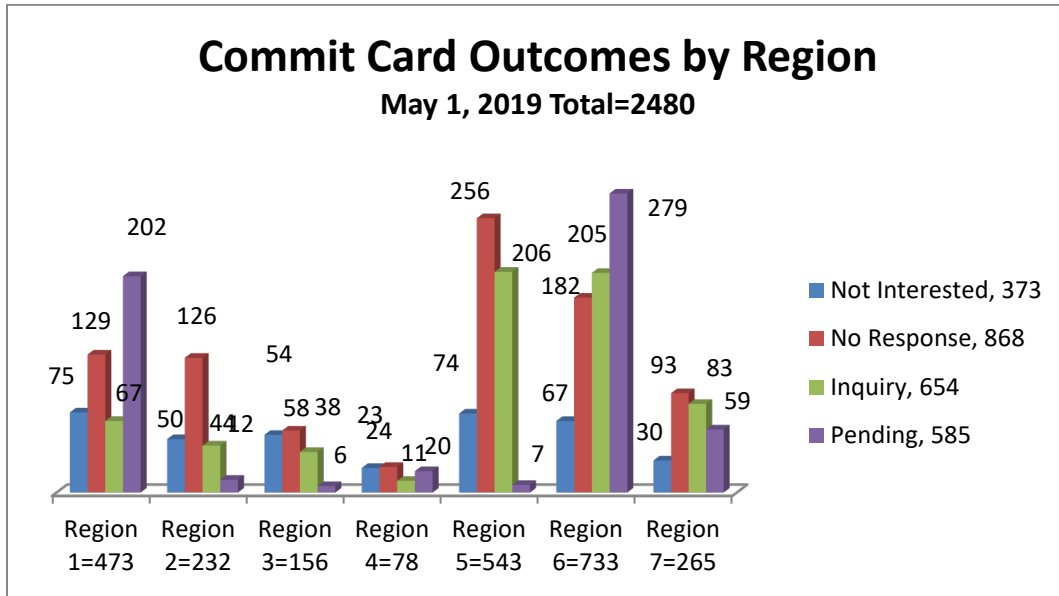
Information available in FACIS related to characteristics of children in care is limited. CPS continues to have a need for Native American foster families, families who can care for sibling groups, and families willing to care for teens. See Strategy 1 for information on demographics of children in care.

Objective B: Improve customer service to prospective foster and adoptive parents who have inquired about foster parenting and adoption.

Strategy: Identify barriers to becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent and develop interventions to eliminate the barriers identified.

CPS continues to monitor the outcomes of the FosterOne campaign. Licensing FSS and Supervisors compile FosterOne “Commit to Know More” card outcomes and referral sources quarterly (3/31, 6/30, 9/30, 12/31). The cards contain information on where the person submitting

the card heard about FosterOne. If the card does not contain the referral source, it is gathered when contact is made with the person. Referral sources of these cards are the tracking mechanism of the recruitment efforts of each office. Current foster parents continue to be the leading “Commit to Know More” card referral source.



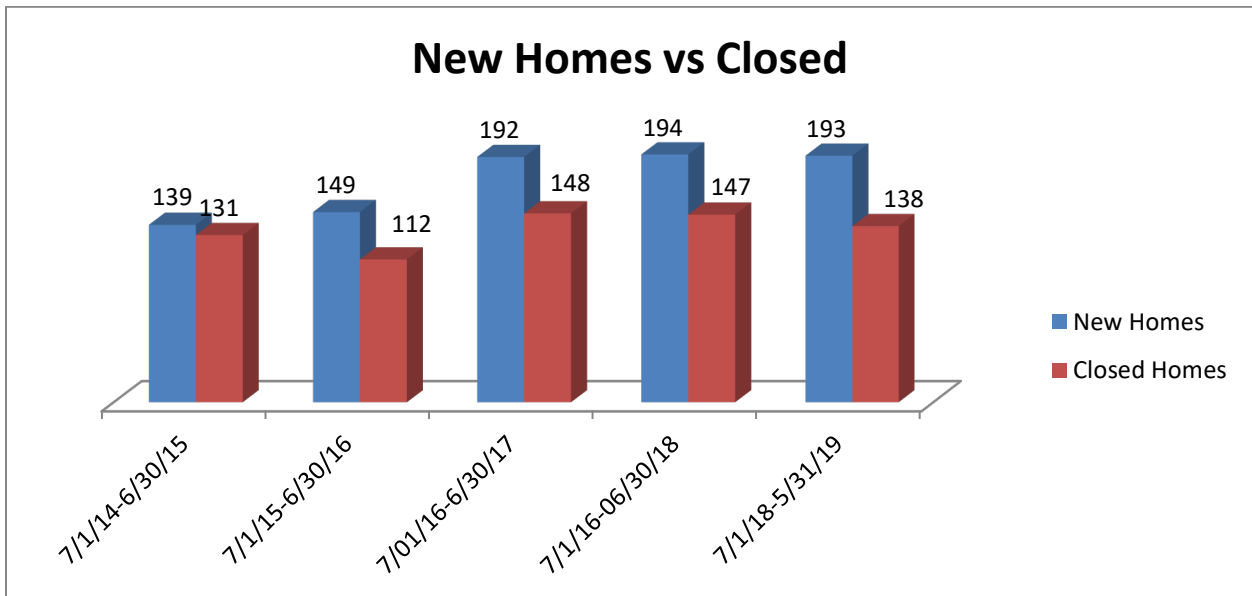
After the prospective foster parent commits to know more and is provided information about becoming a foster parent, they are asked to complete an inquiry. The inquiry process consists of the prospective foster parent providing personal information about their family such as household members, dates of birth, race, and employment. The numbers of inquiry types are tracked in FACIS by office and for the state.

The number of inquiries by type for state fiscal year 2019 is outlined in the following table:

State Total as of 5/31/19

Inquiry Type	Current Inquiries
Adoption	0
Adoption/Foster Care	272
Foster Care	7
ICPC Adoption	8
ICPC Foster Care	5
ICPC Kinship	14
Kinship Care	146
Total	452

The “Active Inquires” on the “Resource Compliance Report” tab lists the resource name, inquiry date, application date, and the date of the most recent action completed by the Family Services Specialist. The most recent action categories are information material sent, referred to pre-service, scheduled home consultation, and scheduled office visit. This information is used by each office to track inquiries and ensure consistent periodic contact with the family. The tab is also used to track the prospective foster parent’s progress through the licensing process.



CPS continues to license more families compared to families who close their license. The top closure reasons continue to be adoption of a child or children and family changes such as divorce or wanting to spend more time with their birth children. CPS had licensed 193 families in SFY 2019.

Objective C: Assure the level of Unity training is available to meet the volume of prospective Native American placement resources.

Strategy 1: Increase the number of PRIDE trainers.

Average number of days to complete home studies:				
	2015-16 year end	2016-17 year end	2017-18 1st quarter	2017-18 2nd quarter
Regions 1 & 2	111 days	134 days	127	144
Region 3	There had been no home studies completed since adding this region to determine time frames. This region will be added to the next quarter report when home studies have been completed.			
Region 5	154 days	111 days	103	103
Region 6	156 days	145 days	140	156
Region 7	200 days	163 days	166	153
All Regions	151 days	137 days	132	139

Average number of days to complete home studies:					
	2016-17 year end	2017-18 year end	2018-19 1st quarter	2018-19 2nd quarter	2018-19 3rd quarter
Regions 1 & 2	134	140	160	170	174
Region 3		148	130	106	159
Region 5	111	106	125	107	117
Region 6	145	151	183	181	155
Region 7	163	170	176	179	260
All Regions	137	140	154	156	173

The increase in time frames to complete studies was seen in Regions 3, 5, and 7 in the third quarter of the year. Regions 3 and 5 had low time frames in the 2nd quarter and increased some in the 3rd quarter. Items contributing to the increased time were staff vacancies, larger class sizes, and kinship families not motivated to complete the process.

Strategy 2: Collaborate with State/Tribal Welfare Consultation Workgroup to determine level of expansion of Unity required by assessing current implementation of UNITY.

Objective D: Foster parents have the capacity to provide children with safety and stability while in their care.

Strategy 1: Implement PRIDE Online, which replaces the current PRIDE curriculum and provides a combination of classroom and on-line training, in addition to a component on childhood trauma.

As of June 1, 2019, 431 people who completed PRIDE Online filled out a survey on Survey Monkey about their experience. CPS continues to compile the data to improve implementation of PRIDE Online. Of the respondents, 92% agreed or strongly agreed the online format is easy to use. Seventy respondents were more interested in completing PRIDE due to the training being online. Ten respondents would not have completed PRIDE if it was not online. Of the respondents, 92% felt PRIDE Online enhanced their training experience while 98% of the respondents felt the program helped strengthen their knowledge and skills. The training met the expectations of 97% of respondents.

Strategy 2: Enhance ongoing training of current foster families and develop training opportunities to meet the identified need.

There are no updates to this strategy.

Objective E: Retain currently licensed foster parents.

Strategy 1: Improve customer service and support to currently licensed foster parents.

CPS conducted an online survey utilizing Survey Monkey in September of 2018. 256 out of 816 (32%) of the licensed foster homes completed a survey. The questions were related to training, communication/support, working with birth parents, and court hearings. Some notable outcomes were 85% of the respondents feel they are supported as a foster parent and 94% of the respondents would recommend becoming a foster parent to someone they know.

CPS has various events and acknowledgements for foster parent appreciation month in May which included a proclamation from the governor.

Strategy 2: Develop a Foster Parent Handbook which includes a foster parent bill of rights.

CPS updated the Foster Parent Handbook on August of 2017 and June 2018 related to policy updates. The updates were mailed to current foster parents. The handbook did not require an update in 2019 and will be reviewed again in 2020.

Summary

CPS has made numerous accomplishments in the last five years in this area. The foster parent handbook will continue to be a helpful resource for South Dakota foster parents for years to come. CPS has streamlined the inquiry process for prospective foster parents. CPS can compile data throughout the inquiry process to help drive recruitment efforts and improve customer service. PRIDE Online has increased access to training and continues to get positive feedback from participants. It was anticipated the implementation of PRIDE Online would influence the length of time to become licensed. Training time was decreased substantially giving more time to concentrate on the family's home study and paperwork needed. CPS has not experienced a significant decrease due to barriers such as staff vacancies. CPS licensed more families in each of the last five years than families who discontinued doing care. South Dakota's First Lady Linda Dugaard helped put need for foster parents in the spotlight and was a huge advocate to the recruitment efforts.

CFSP Items

CPS would like to decrease the amount of time to license foster parents. CPS will assess the current licensing process to explore ways to shorten the timeframe. South Dakota Governor Noem has placed the need for foster parents in South Dakota as one of her top priorities. She has made a commitment to discuss the need at all her speaking engagements. CPS is excited to work Governor Noem to continue the diligent recruitment of foster parents in South Dakota.

XI. STAFF TRAINING

Certification Training

CPS continues to provide mandatory Certification training for all newly hired Family Services Specialists (FSS). The Certification program also is required for any newly hired Supervisors, Regional Managers, or Program Specialists. The rotation allows for staff to enter the training cycle shortly after their hire date. The current Certification training is 217 hours of training.

The training rotation for each of the Certification components is as follows:

- Foundation (36 hours)
- Mandatory Reporter training (1 hour)
- Initial Family Assessment/Safety Evaluation/Planning/Interviewing (36 hours)
- Ongoing Services/Case Planning and Safety Management (36 hours)
- Permanency/Well Being (34 hours)
- Trauma Informed Practice (20 hours)
- Motivational Interviewing Level 1 (12 hours)
- Motivational Interviewing Level 2 (8 hours)
- Foster/adoptive parent training program (PRIDE) (30 hours)
- Common-Sense Parenting classes (4 hours).

The Certification faculty includes 36 trainers from CPS and a physician who trains on medical indicators of child abuse and neglect. The ICWA Program Specialist continues to provide Cultural Awareness training as part of Foundation training week.

Foundation training is being offered three to four times a year depending on the rotation from the prior year. Initial Family Assessment, Protective Capacity Assessment/Ongoing, and Permanency and Well-Being are offered three times a year. Trauma Training is held one time a year. It has been determined staff need a year worth of field experience prior to attending trauma training, to allow FSSs to understand the effects of trauma on children and families, and the effects of secondary trauma on themselves. Motivational Interviewing Level One and Level Two is being offered two times a year.

Initial Family Assessment training historically has been a week-long classroom training held in Pierre, SD. The Initial Family Assessment has been restructured to make it a more integrated process between the trainings and the field work. The first Initial Family Assessment certification training was completed in January and February of 2019. The Initial Family Assessment training was also restructured to accomplish CPS's goals of:

1. Shorter training sessions
2. More training in the field
3. Training on real life cases
4. Provide level one training (basic) and a level two training (advanced)
5. Provide different training opportunities through skype, Digital Dakota Video Network (DDN), classroom and field consultations
6. Less time out of the office and less travel.

The Initial Family Assessment training has been restructured to include four sessions of training. Session One is a one day of DDN training. Session Two is three days of classroom training. Session Three is a two days DDN training and Session Four is two days of DDN training. In between sessions training assignments are provided to the participants to continue the transfer of learning process.

The participant evaluations from the first restructured Initial Family Assessment trainings indicated staff liked not having to travel. DDN was a good way to communicate with other Family Services Specialist across the state. The participants appreciated the interactive portions and different polls during the DDN portions of the training as well as the assignments which related to what they had learned during each session. Family Services Specialist liked the classroom style training due to the ability to interact more with the trainers and other participants. Feedback was taken from this group and from the trainers who provided the training; a meeting was held with the IFA trainers to revamp and discuss what went well and what needed improvement.

When evaluating the certification training it was determined Intake and FACIS no longer needed to be trained in a classroom setting. FACIS will be trained in the local offices along with the corresponding certification training which requires data input. It was determined Family Services Specialist that are not specialized in Intake will not be required to complete an Intake and will not be putting Request for Services in the FACIS system therefore Intake training for statewide Family Services Specialist would not be needed.

Ongoing Training

CPS continues to provide formal ongoing training for Family Services Specialists and Family Services Specialist Supervisors. Depending on the need, CPS provides training either through Skype for Business or traditional class room settings.

In 2018-2019, the following trainings were held in group classroom setting in each Region:

- Current Family Services Specialist completed training in Motivational Interviewing Level One in May and July of 2018. (12 hours)
- Current Family Services Specialist completed training in Motivational Interviewing Level Two in September and November 2018. (8 hours)
- Family Services Specialists, Supervisors and Regional Managers were provided training in Permanency Round Tables in Region Three and Region Five in July and October 2018.
- All Family Services Specialists, Social Services Aides, Supervisors, Regional Managers and Program Specialists were provided Cultural training by Dee LeBeau-Hein in various locations across the state. (6 hours)

Consultation, coaching and skill development continues with the Regional Mangers on the Comprehensive Safety Intervention (CSI) model. The regional managers complete a survey on Survey Monkey determining the accuracy of the decisions which were made, and the sufficiency of information collected. Conference calls are held with the Regional Managers as a group and the Ongoing and Protective Services Program Specialists and Assistant Division Director. This has been completed every month through December 2018. Starting in July of 2019 the process will be completed every other month with the expectation that during the months in between the Region Managers will complete the same process with the Supervisors in their Region.

The process as used for Region Six was incorporated in the PIP and will be included in the CFSP.

Supervisor Development

CPS continues to focus on the enhancement of supervision skills. In response to achieving this objective, CPS is committed to providing specialized training for Supervisors related to clinical and consultation skills in implementing the CSI model.

CPS set forth a goal of enhancing the safety decision making of supervisors. Enhancing the competency of the supervisors leads to accurate decisions of child safety, precise safety planning, and improved outcomes for children and families, through consultations, coaching and skill application.

To best determine the needs of each supervisor, the division directed a team of evaluators to complete the assessment and evaluation. The review team is comprised of the Ongoing Program Specialists, Protective Services Program Specialist, Outcomes Management Program Specialist and the Assistant Division Director. The assessment focuses on gathering information to determine each supervisor's basic understanding of CSI to determine, what, if any, deficits exist in the supervisor's practice, and if there are deficiencies to determine what development would be necessary to enhance the supervisor's knowledge, skill, and/or motivation.

Based on the findings of each Supervisor a determination will be made as to which Supervisors will require more formalized development.

The following are the sources of data for the evaluation.

- Review of Request for Services Screening and Response Decisions
- Review of Present Danger Assessments and Determinations
- Review of Initial Family Assessment Information Elements
- Review of Impending Danger Determination and Analysis
- Review of Safety Plan Determinations
- Review of Conditions for Return
- Review of Protective Capacity Case Plans and Protective Capacity Case Plan Evaluation
- Review of Case Records of Children entering the Division's Custody
- Review of Court Reports
- Onsite Record Reads with Regional Manager, Supervisors, and Family Services Specialists
- Observation of Group Supervision if applicable
- Supervisory Input to Impending Danger Enhancements

Region 6 assessment was completed in 2017, however based on what was done in Region 6, the process was incorporated in the PIP and will be included in the CFSP with the focus on Region 1 and Region 6.

A first round of records review was completed with Region one in July 2018, however, due to circumstances beyond the control of the agency a full assessment and evaluation of the supervisors was not completed.

As part of South Dakota's Program Improvement Plan, this process will be completed for Region 1 by October 2019.

A reassessment of Region 6 will occur with random cases to assess for the application of learning and a regional action plan will be developed regarding the findings, to include how culture, perspectives, and values will be addressed.

Final Summary

South Dakota's certification training program continues to provide new staff with a statewide training system to ensure that initial training is provided to all staff who deliver services pursuant to the CFSP which includes the basic skills and knowledge required for their positions. During

the 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan, South Dakota's certification program trained 285 new Family Services Specialist.

The staff training system is functioning statewide to ensure ongoing training is provided for staff to develop the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties which are included in the CFSP. During the 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan, South Dakota has provided 28 trainings which provided staff with a variety of training to ensure that they are knowledgeable in new initiatives and trends which are occurring in child welfare. Training also continued skill building in South Dakota's Comprehensive Safety Intervention practice model.

Child Protection continues to explore and restructure training to continue the development of an integrated process between the training and field work. Exploration also continues around using technology to provide more trainings remotely and providing the Family Services Specialist more flexibility.

ICPC AND ICAMA MEETINGS

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

Update-SN

CPS signed the MOU with the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) in June of 2017. Throughout the SFY 2019, South Dakota CPS and the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT) have been working with Tetrus and the NEICE staff to implement the system.

Several meetings have been held regarding the explanation of the NEICE screens and types of users (user roles) available for state access to the system, as well as a number of technical meetings regarding onboarding the NEICE portal to the FACIS system. State Office CPS program staff have been familiarizing themselves with the NEICE portal. The BIT staff have been working with Tetrus in the onboarding process.

During initial implementation stages, CPS has each ICPC request is sent to State Office where staff enter the data on NEICE. This will allow State Office to become very familiar with the screens and process before allowing local offices to enter the data themselves when requesting home studies. Future steps consist of developing training and writing policy and procedure on how to use the NEICE system.

The ICPC Deputy Compact Administrator was unable to attend the 45th Annual Business Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana in April 2019.

SD CPS continues to be a member of the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance. The June 2019 ICAMA National Conference was not attended, but plans are made to attend future national conferences.

IVE TRIBAL AGREEMENT AND TRAINING

CPS will be passing through IVE training funds to tribal programs at the tribe's request for allowable IVE training activities. Reference Tribal Consultation for further details.

XII. COLLABORATION WITH THE COURTS

Child Protection Services and the Unified Judicial System (UJS) Court Improvement Program (CIP) continue to collaborate on activities related to the divisions' Child and Family Services Plan and Program Improvement Plan. The CPS Division Director and two Regional Managers participate as members of the CIP Committee, which meets quarterly. The CIP Committee is comprised of the following entities:

1. Three Circuit Judges
2. A State's Attorney
3. Court Administrator
4. Law Enforcement
5. School Superintendent
6. Attorney
7. Child Protection Services Representatives (3)
8. Victim Witness Specialist
9. CASA Representative
10. Tribal ICWA Director
11. Legislator
12. Director of the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment
13. UJS CIP Coordinator

The 18th Annual Community Response to Child Abuse Conference was held on October 4-5, 2018 in Sioux Falls. This was a collaborative effort between the UJS Court Improvement Program (CIP) Committee, Child's Voice and the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM). The presentations included topics on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and resiliency, internet safety, coordinating with systems of care around child abuse, the drug endangered child, youth with problematic sexual behaviors and working with traumatized children. A presentation was also provided by Child Protection Services from receiving the report to screening of the report, to assignment and disposition of the Initial Family Assessment.

The first of two conferences planned for 2019 occurred on May 9, 2019, in Rapid City. Agenda items included sessions on Dispelling the Myths of Child Sex Trafficking, Pathways for Reclaiming Youth, and Keynote Speaker, Kevin Mulcahy who spoke of his own story of sexual exploitation. The second conference is scheduled for October 3-4, 2019 in Sioux Falls and the agenda is begin finalized.

One project the CIP Committee chose to focus on was representation of children and parents in abuse and neglect court proceedings. Survey Monkey was used to gather information from attorneys related to their representation, such as how often they meet with their clients, training needs, working relationship with CPS and recommendations for improvements. The results are being compiled and plan will be developed related to communicating the results with impacted parties.

Another project of the CIP Committee is the revision of the South Dakota Guidelines for Judicial Process in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. The guidelines were developed in 1999 and were revised 2007 and 2014. The revised Guidelines will be available to the courts, states attorneys and child protection staff in the fall of 2019. Child Protection Services is collaborating with the Court Improvement Program Coordinator and the Center for Courts to address permanency by focusing on timely and appropriate permanency hearings as a goal in the Division's PIP. A goal with strategies and action steps was developed to focus on cases in Minnehaha and Pennington Counties, as those counties have approximately half of the children in court custody. The Court Improvement Coordinator sought approval from the Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court and the Court Administrator to move forward with the goal to impact permanency.

Another key revision to the Guidebook will be the addition of and guidance around a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights which is also a part of the Division's PIP. The Executive Director of the State's Attorney's Association agreed to send a letter from the DSS Division Directors from Child Protection Services and Legal Services introducing the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and the reason why is it being introduced into practice.

The CIP Coordinator is a member of the Justice for Children's Committee (CJA Task Force and Citizen Review Panel).

The CIP Coordinator is a member of the Division's Permanency Workgroup and has agreed to be a reviewer for the Safety, Permanency and Well-Being on-site regional reviews. The CIP Coordinator has also agreed to participate in the Division's efforts to address Candidates for Care and efforts prevent out of home placement.

The Protective Services Program Specialist is a member of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Commission, which meets yearly to review proposed CASA grants. The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Commission is administered and staffed by the Unified Judicial System and includes one member appointed by the Governor, who currently is a Program Specialist in CPS and has experience in the area of child abuse and neglect assessments. At the CASA Commission annual meeting, the six Executive CASA Directors present their grant request to the Commission in order to receive funds. The grants are awarded to support the development, growth, quality, and continuation of CASA programs in South Dakota. CPS recently signed separate updated MOUs with each of the six CASA programs.

XIII. OUTCOMES MANAGEMENT (QA & CQI)

Safety, Permanency and Well-Being Reviews

In April 2015, South Dakota began using the Onsite Monitoring System (OMS) designed by JBS International for entering case review data in the CQI site. The ACF and Region VIII Office were able to review the South Dakota cases and make comments to rating items, as well as provide input and guidance for the review process. ACF and Region VIII Office staff attended training for South Dakota staff in preparation for the CFSR Round 3 and provided guidance and input to the CQI team members. Following this training, the ACF and Region VIII staff attended the onsite Brookings review in August 2015 and the Sioux Falls review in November 2015 and assisted with the QA process.

The ACF included for Initial Family Assessments with Present Danger Plans cases open longer than 45 days during the period under review in the in-home category of cases for the CFSR. Initial Family Assessments with Present Danger Plans cases will only be used if there are not enough true in-home cases to make up the 25 in-home cases each PIP review year. Another change for the CFSR timeframe included adding one to two alternate cases in the event a case has to be eliminated due to lack of interviews of key participants. The number of alternate cases for each office is based on the total of cases pulled.

In Years Two and Three of SPWB Round 3, between 72 and 78 cases were reviewed, resulting in approximately the same number of cases for Round Three as were reviewed in the first two rounds. While South Dakota has been encouraged to review more cases if possible, it is not feasible; South Dakota does not have a dedicated review team, but rather uses staff from all levels within Child Protection Services to conduct reviews. Based on staff availability, in conjunction with their normal job duties, South Dakota has reached the maximum number of cases which can be reviewed within a three-year cycle.

2020 Progress Update

The Outcomes Management Program Specialist has provided training to every Region entering their Period Under Review (PUR) to discuss each item, the purpose of the item, what the item considers and how South Dakota's current policy correlates to the item. During this training, there was discussion regarding new policy/documents being implemented and how they support Child Protection Services in making progress towards better Outcomes. These include: Parent/Child Narrative Tabs, Child Case Plan, Non-Resident Parent Case Plan, Conditions for Return and Protective Capacity Assessment. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist discussed areas CPS underperformed in the CFSR. It was discussed how the policies we currently have, and the ones being implemented, when followed, will help achieve better Outcomes. During this training, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist provided refresher training on engagement of children and parents in case planning, as well as needs assessment. This refresher training will be provided at the request of the Region as they are entering their PUR.

CPS transitioned from doing office reviews to regional reviews. This means every office in the region is represented in the case pull and cases are randomized together. Regions already had cross assignments between the offices within the regions, therefore, cases were already getting pulled on a regional level during individual office reviews. A regional review also allows for a larger in-home pool of cases to pull from. Initial Family Assessments with Present Danger Plans cases are still a part of the case pull, however, are randomized with the in-home cases. As policy is strictly enforced for Initial Family Assessments with Present Danger Plans, they will disappear from the case pull. In transitioning towards a regional review, South Dakota CPS needed to establish a new baseline for the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The best interest of South Dakota CPS was taken into consideration when deciding to start the regional review and establishing a new baseline. If South Dakota CPS continued to use the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) while under the PIP Measurement, reviews would have to be completed consecutive six months. South Dakota is a rural state and does not have its own review team, therefore existing staff complete the reviews. It was not feasible for South Dakota CPS to complete the reviews in consecutive six months periods.

South Dakota Program Improvement Plan was approved March 6, 2019 and Program Improvement Plan Measurement Plan was approved on February 21, 2019. Region 2 review was completed in February which started the year to establish the new baseline. The last regional review towards the new baseline will occur in November 2019. February 2020 will start the first PIP Measurement Year.

Continuous Quality Improvement

Following the completion of the Statewide Assessment the Management Team and CPS Supervisors continue to work on CQI projects. Many of the projects relate to the implementation of enhanced or new practices in several program areas. CQI has been used and will continue to be used to monitor the implementation of those enhanced or new practices to assess fidelity and effectiveness of the practice.

Supporting those we serve is a goal included in the DSS Strategic Plan. There are several strategies and actions steps which will require the use of CQI.

CPS implemented the most recent enhancement to the CSI model with safety plan determination and conditions for return. The goal is to return children home sooner, safely, with an emphasis on keeping them in the family home, and ultimately preventing re-entry into foster care through the development of an in-home safety plan. CPS will continue to monitor practice and the impact in the early stages of statewide implementation through the Safety, Permanency, Well-Being onsite reviews. Adjustments will be made as needed through the CQI process.

CPS will be implementing a two-component assessment process to better understand the perspectives of staff related to working with families and permanency, the overall office culture and norms, and the fidelity of practice and decision-making.

Assessment Component I was initiated to assess whether the children must remain in an out of home safety plan or whether their safety could be maintained in their homes through an in-home safety plan. This review will be paired with Assessment Component II to strengthen the assessment of implementation of practice. The reviews will evaluate perspectives of staff related to working with families and permanency, the overall office culture and norms, and fidelity of practice and decision-making. Assessment Component I began with Region 6 and this process thus far has provided a good initial view of trends of practice in safety assessment, planning and management. There will be projected dates for both Region 1 and Region 6. Regions 1 and 6 are the targeted regions as they are the largest populated areas in the state and consistently have the most children in custody. If this process is proven successful consideration will be given to statewide implantation.

Assessment Component I:

A review of Region 1 and Region 6 will be completed focusing on children in foster care. The criteria for case selection are cases of children from each region that have been in care at least 6 months and no longer than 12 months, have parental rights intact, and are not in a residential treatment setting. All foster care cases in the sample will be reviewed within an office unless it is confirmed accurate and precise decisions are being made consistently in the region regarding the safety of children and the necessity for out-of-home safety plans.

- Cases are reviewed by the Protective Services Program Specialist, Ongoing Services Program Specialist, Outcomes Management Program Specialist, Assistant Director, and other potential in house experts, using the Comprehensive Safety Intervention model (CSI) instruments.
- Discussion is held by the reviewers with the Regional Manager, Supervisor, and Family Services Specialist about those cases where more immediate action needs to be taken related to reunification or immediate safety management.
- A list of cases that have been reviewed are provided to the Regional Manager to follow up with each Supervisor and Family Services Specialist regarding information that is needed or needs to be updated to make a determination if children can be returned home with an in-home plan.
- The review instrument, which may include further recommendation/guidance on future casework, will be provided to the Regional Manager.
- The Regional Manager notifies the team of reviewers upon completion of any required case action and includes supporting case documents, i.e. completed safety plan determination and conditions for return.
- A determination is made by the reviewers as to whether the recommendations were implemented.

Assessment Component II:

A review of Initial Family Assessments (IFA) and/or Protective Capacity Assessments (PCA) from each region will be completed as a component of the case review outlined in Assessment Component I. These findings will provide the basis for the assessments of the Supervisors' skills and coaching will be tailored based on those conclusions.

- Regional Managers and/or their supervisory team select the case(s) to be candidates for consultation/coaching.
- A minimum of four case consultation/coaching sessions will be held by the Protective Services Program Specialist, Ongoing Services Program Specialist, Outcomes Management Program Specialist, Assistant Director, with the Regional Manager, Supervisor and available Family Services Specialists. The group will

work through the case using the CSI tools and related case information to assess and provide consultation and coaching on the following safety decision points:

1. Screening decision and response time (initial contact).
 2. Determination of present danger.
 3. Protocol used for case interviews.
 4. Whether there was sufficient information provided related to the six elements of the IFA.
 5. Whether there was impending danger.
 6. If there was impending danger, the impending danger statement.
 7. If no impending danger, the accuracy of the case closure determination.
 8. Safety plan determinations in open cases.
 9. Conditions for return criteria when children are in out of home safety plans.
 10. Development of behavior-based Outcomes in caregiver's language in case plan
 11. Case evaluations determined utilizing behavior change.
- A regional evaluation to include conclusions obtained from the case review of Component I and the consultation/coaching of Component II will be written for the Region which will provide a summary of the process, findings and conclusions and recommendations. The evaluation will include identified areas of need related to staff perspective and office culture and norms.
 - A meeting will be held with the Supervisors, Regional Managers, and the review team to discuss the findings of the regional evaluation, results of follow up case reviews, and recommendations. A decision will be made as to whether more coaching is necessary. If further coaching is needed, a plan will be developed with the Regional Manager and Supervisors to determine how the coaching will be provided.
 - Regional action plans will be developed, as needed, for Region 1 and Region 6 to address any further areas of need. Regional action plans will be monitored by the Ongoing Services Program Specialist, the Protective Services Program Specialist, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist and the Assistant Division Director.
 - A follow up review of cases, either through onsite consultation/coaching or record read (at a minimum of 2 per region) will be completed by the review team three months after coaching has been completed and quarterly for the next year to determine if the model and techniques are being used in day to day practice and have positively impacted Outcomes for children.
 - A determination will be made about each Supervisor's level of competence and need for further development in safety decision-making. A decision will then be made as to whether the Supervisor will need to attend Supervisory Safety Decision Making or additional individual training. If further coaching is needed, a plan will be developed with the Regional Manager and Supervisor to detail how the additional coaching will be provided.
 - If the skill enhancement supports positive Outcomes, the process will be replicated in the other five regions.
 - All Regional Managers will participate in monthly IFA/PCA case consultations to monitor the practice enhancements and allow for opportunities for statewide practice enhancement. One month all seven Regional Managers will review and consult on a selected IFA or PCA. The following month the Regional Managers will facilitate the process with the supervisory group in their region. The effectiveness of this strategy will be revisited after the first year of implementation.

If the strategy is found to be successful in supporting practice enhancement, a plan will be developed to sustain the practice.

The Protective Services Program Specialist has been providing QA regarding initial contact to help monitor the timeliness of initial contact to determine what, if any, patterns exist to why Family Services Specialist are not meeting initial contact. Initial contact is also monitored through the Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being onsite reviews.

The Protective Services Program Specialist and Ongoing Program Specialist completed a study of Request for Services screened as a 0-7 day initial contact and screened out Request for Services. The study determined if screeners are applying the screening criteria and to propose enhancements which can more clearly define screening and response criteria. Through the review of Request for Services it was determined to reevaluate criteria for initial contact response. There is now only one criteria that falls under the 0-7 day initial contact, which is when the report confirms the maltreater does not have access to the home and the children are currently safe while the maltreater is out of the home for at least up to 7 days. The remaining criteria are assigned as immediate or 0-3 day initial contact.

The Protective Capacity Assessment Case Plan is intended for parents who have diminished protective capacities which expose the child to impending or present danger. Child Protection Services did not have a case plan for non-resident parents who have no assessed danger threats. Child Protection Services implemented a Non-Resident Parent Case Plan to enhance the engagement of non-resident parents of children in out-of-home care who do not have any identified danger threats. The Ongoing Services Program Specialist will review Non-Resident Parent Case Plans as part of the review of children in out-of-home care. The Program Specialist will complete quarterly reviews of a sample of cases from each office and provide feedback on the fidelity of the Non-Resident Parent Case Plan. A longer-term process for monitoring will be instituted once it is determined what the focus needs to be geographically and how broad the review process will need to be regarding practice areas.

A workgroup composed of Permanency and Well-Being Certification trainers was established in August 2014 to make improvements to the Child Case Plan. The workgroup surveyed staff responsible for completing Child Case Plans to obtain their input on what they like about the current Child Case Plan and what they would like to see changed with the current Child Case Plan. The workgroup noted some trends in the survey responses, which included taking out the activity sheet and making the needs assessment area clearer. The Child Case Plan was piloted in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Mission offices beginning in August 2016. Training and statewide implementation was completed in August 2017. There have been updates made to the Child Case Plan after statewide implementation to further enhance the quality and usability of the Child Case Plan. The Child Case Plan Workgroup was expanded in November 2018 to consist of the original workgroup members and one Family Services Specialist representative from each Region. The goal of the workgroup was to revise the Child Case Plan to consider balancing what is manageable for Family Services Specialists, what is in the best interest of the child, and meeting IVE requirements. The workgroup sought input from foster parents throughout the state and Young Voices for what they would find meaningful in a child's case plan. The workgroup met February 1, 2019 to finalize the updates to the Child Case Plan. Two youth, currently in foster care, attended the meeting to provide their input on making the Child Case Plan present more positively about youth, to expand the Independent Living Section, how the Child Case Plan is reviewed with them by their worker, and connections.

The Child Case Plan Addendum was implemented statewide in August 2017. The addendum will allow a Family Services Specialist to document significant changes for a child after the child's initial case plan is done and in-between evaluations. These changes include, behavioral changes that require a change in services, changes in placement, and goal changes. Any changes to the

child's behavioral needs, services, or goal that is documented on the addendum will be incorporated in the next Child Case Plan evaluation. This document will allow for timely incorporation of changes with the child's needs, services, and permanency goal.

The Outcomes Management Program Specialist monitored the implementation of the Child Case Plan. Supervisors submitted newly completed Child Case Plans to the Program Specialist prior to the family signing the case plans, and after the Supervisor reviewed it. The Program Specialist provided written feedback in the Child Case Plan document if something is not completed according to policy. Depending on how much and what feedback is provided, the Program Specialist may have reviewed the Child Case Plan again to provide additional feedback. A spreadsheet was kept of every Child Case Plan reviewed from each office. When the 90-day evaluation was due the Program Specialist will review one evaluation from each worker prior to it being signed to assure evaluations to the Child Case Plan are being done according to policy regarding the case plan; which emphasizes the practice of engaging parents in case development and case review. The Program Specialist reviewed additional Child Case Plans from each Family Services Specialist, as necessary. Once it is determined a Supervisor has demonstrated the ability to provide feedback to their staff with fidelity to the policy and procedures of the Child Case Plans, the Program Specialist completed quarterly reviews of a sample of the Child Case Plans for 9 months.

Starting in May 2018 there was a shift from the Outcomes Management Program Specialist reviewing the Child Case Plan to doing onsite coaching and consultation regarding the Child Case Plan process. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist communicated with the Regional Managers to determine if offices within their Region were candidates for onsite coaching and consultation on the Child Case Plan. The coaching and consultation occurred in Region 1, Region 3, Region 5, and Region 7. Once the newest update to the Child Case Plan is implemented the coaching and consultation will continue in the identified offices where support is required.

As a part the review of the Child Case Plan, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist will also be reviewing the case narratives that relate to the development of the Child Case Plans and evaluations to help determine if parents and children are involved in the case planning process and if quality conversations are happening between the Family Services Specialist, parents, and child.

CPS implemented caseworker visits narrative tabs in FACIS related to visits to parents, in home children, and children in foster care. The caseworker screens for both the child and the parent were implemented April 3, 2017. The CQI Core Team prepared a survey of Family Service Specialists to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. After the survey was completed, a Family Services Specialist Supervisor Survey was completed to gather their input relating to the effectiveness, efficiency, and functionality of the narrative tabs. After all the data was collected from both surveys, revisions to the narrative tab and policy were completed. The changes to the narrative tab are in the process of being implemented into the FACIS system. After policy is implemented, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist will provide oversight to ensure the tabs are being utilized correctly and the goals of the tabs are being met. The first step will be to complete a random pull of cases from each office to check compliance and quality. When completed, quality reviews will be completed on a random pull of cases along with pulls from the Child Case Plan reviews.

CPS is in the process of implementing the Permanency Round Tables (PRTs) model statewide. PRTs will be used to target youth who have been in care for an extended period of time and are in need of a permanent placement resource. CPS will be tracking Outcomes to determine the impact of the program. Permanency Round Tables have been implemented in Regions 2, 4, 5, and 7. South Dakota is moving forward with implementing Permanency Round Tables in Regions 1, 3 and 6.

Quality and timely permanency hearings support the achievement of permanency for children. The Division of Child Protection Services, the Pennington and Minnehaha County State's Attorneys, the Unified Judicial System and the Court Improvement Program Committee will collaborate to enhance the quality of permanency hearings in Region 1 (Pennington County) and Region 6 (Minnehaha County), as these regions have the most children in placement. The court and the agency will work on improving hearing quality and timeliness of permanency hearing to improve Item 6.

There are several components to help achieve timely and quality permanency hearings. The first component entailed a workgroup comprised of the Capacity Building Center for Courts, Child Protection Services and the Court Improvement Program Coordinator completing a root cause analysis to determine the factors impacting permanency for children. The analysis focused on data related to Item 6 in Region 1 and 6 to include the following:

- Data from the 2016 Child and Family Services Review
- Data from the Safety Permanency, Well-Being reviews conducted by the CPS in 2017 and 2018
- Interviews with Child Protection Services Staff
- Data on the length of stay of children in care and length of time between entry and discharge by permanency goal
- Data on the timeliness of permanency hearings
- Review of the New York Child Welfare Court Improvement Program's data on the relationship between hearing quality and case Outcomes.

The Outcomes of the analysis determined the quality of permanency hearings was impacting permanency.

The second component will include a presentation of the data by the Court Improvement Program Coordinator and CPS staff to the Court Improvement Program Committee. Along with review of the data, the focus of this committee will be to define timely and quality permanency hearings for children and select a workgroup to develop and implement a Best Practice Standards for South Dakota Permanency Hearings for judges, attorneys, and CPS. The Best Practice Standards for South Dakota Permanency Hearings will be incorporated into the South Dakota Guidelines for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, which is being revised by a Court Improvement Program Workgroup.

The third component is to align the court report utilized by CPS to provide information related to the specific case goal as outlined in the Best Practice Standards for South Dakota Permanency Hearings.

The fourth component will have the Court Improvement Program Committee requesting a letter from the Chief Justice to coincide with the release of the South Dakota Guidelines for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases. This letter will include data reflecting the number of children in CPS custody, length of stay, timeliness to permanency, and request for a collaborative effort to enhance the quality and ensure timeliness of permanency hearings for children starting with the two largest counties.

The fifth component will be a request to the State Court Administrator for key members of the Court Improvement Program Committee to meet with the Presiding Judges to present permanency data for South Dakota, and to share the Best Practice Standards for South Dakota Permanency Hearings, which are incorporated in the South Dakota Guidelines for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases.

The sixth component will be meetings between the Presiding Judge, the Abuse and Neglect Judge, the Deputy State's Attorney, the Court Improvement Program Coordinator, the Division and Assistant Division Director of CPS and the Regional Managers in both Pennington and

Minnehaha Counties. The purpose of the meeting is to review data, review and discuss the revised South Dakota Guidelines for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, with specific attention to the Best Practice Standards for South Dakota Permanency Hearings and the revised court report, and obtain consensus on implementation strategy and timeframe of the Best Practice Standards for South Dakota Permanency Hearings.

The seventh component will involve a plan to measure the effectiveness, to include a request for technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for Courts to develop a court observation instrument for permanency hearings and a strategy for implementation of the measurement process. Also, data analysis from Safety, Permanency, Well Being Reviews, data analysis from FACIS and Odyssey, and feedback from key stakeholders involved in the court process will be analyzed to measure effectiveness.

If this process has a successful impact on permanency Outcomes for children, the plan would be to implement this strategy statewide after consultation with the key stakeholders. This strategy will also be shared with tribal representatives and implemented as permitted by each sovereign tribe.

The CQI Core Team surveyed parents whose children are on Trial Reunification or have successfully had their children reunified with them. The purpose of the stakeholder interview with parents and surveys was to gather information to help improve the South Dakota Division of Child Protection Services provision of services. Parents had the opportunity to voice what their expectations were in working with the Division and if those expectations were achieved. This helped the Division determine quality of services and areas where quality can be enhanced. The survey was completed January 2019 and the results have been analyzed by the CQI Core Team and was presented to the Supervisors and Management Team in April 2019. A parent survey will be completed annually to assist CPS in continuing to improve services and Outcomes for parents. During the office reviews, the Outcomes Management Program Specialist completes stakeholder interviews from the office coverage area. These interviews include: a Judge, State's Attorney, child's attorney, mental health therapist, law enforcement, CASA, and any other agency which may be specific to the office's coverage area. The SPWB reviews will begin with the Region 5 review to include stakeholder interviews with parents.

After an office review the Outcomes Management Program Specialist returns to the office six to eight weeks after the review to facilitate an exit meet. During the exit meeting the following is discussed; the results of the review, training on CQI and identify which area needing improvement the office to begin the CQI process with. The Outcomes Management Program Specialist will provide any additional training requested by the office.

CPS continues to view CQI as an important tool in assuring quality practice and achieving positive Outcomes for children and families. While some temporary adjustments have been made in the CPS CQI program, the projects described above are evidence of the commitment of DSS and CPS to an active CQI program.

The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) projects listed above are being moved forward through the approved Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for South Dakota. The CQI Core team will assist in monitoring progress and projects that are outlined in the PIP.

Final Summary

Child and Family Services Review/Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Reviews

The 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan started out by preparing for the Child and Family Services Review that occurred April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016. During that time seven offices and seventy-two cases were reviewed. The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI) was finalized in July 2014. Beginning with the

April 2015 review, South Dakota is utilizing the OSRI instrument in the Safety, Permanency and Well-being (SPWB) reviews. In the previous rounds, the 2008 CFSR instrument and instructions were used. Also, beginning with the April 2015 review, South Dakota began using the Online Monitoring System (OMS) to enter case data into a web-based system. The OMS replaced the document previously written by reviewers that outlined the strengths and areas needing improvement for each case. A SPWB Review Results newsletter has also been provided to staff at the Exit Meetings, which includes a brief description of the items, as well as how that office did on each item

An addition to Round Three included sharing of the office's Outcomes with certain community stakeholders. This will be accomplished by the Regional Managers inviting stakeholders to participate in a meeting where a SPWB Review Results newsletter outlining the Outcomes will be shared. This meeting was put on hold during the development of the Program Improvement Plan. However, now that the PIP has been approved these meetings are expected to resume.

CFSR was completed in September 30, 2016 and the CFSR Final Report was issued on February 1, 2017. South Dakota CPS began to analyze items where the state underperformed. South Dakota submitted an initial PIP to the Children's Bureau on May 22, 2017. South Dakota CPS and the Children's Bureau had several discussions, negotiations and revision to the PIP. South Dakota submitted the final version of the PIP to the Children's Bureau on February 26, 2019. The PIP was approved as of March 6, 2019.

Initially, the offices for each round of the PIP review years were chosen by the Measurement and Sampling Committee (MASC) by using the three data points of average weighted poverty, median number in foster care, and median foster care rate (number in foster care per 1,000 population). They grouped offices to be roughly comparable to the grouping of the five of the seven CFSR sites. Sioux Falls and Rapid City were not included in the analyses as they are reviewed annually, and their demographics are different from the rest of the offices in the state. South Dakota CPS had several phone calls with MASC and the Children's Bureau about what would be in the best interest of South Dakota moving forward with the PIP Measurement. The new plan is outlined above.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

In 2014, four members of the CPS CQI Core Team attended and completed the online CQI Training Academy provided by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families. Through the course of the Training Academy, several new ideas and tools were shared that greatly enhanced the CQI process for South Dakota. A new CQI training curriculum was developed and training using the updated curriculum started in January 2015. Every office received the training by July 2015.

CQI training is provided at the exit meetings that occur after the onsite reviews. Every office received at least one CQI training, with the larger offices receiving additional training after each annual review. Upon completion of the CQI training, offices then moved forward with their plans for CQI, either because of their office review, or in anticipation of making improvements prior to their next office review, or to enhance a practice they may have identified as needing improvement. As offices began utilizing the CQI process, in conjunction with working on completion of any action plans they had in place, it became clear that CQI would provide a better avenue in which to promote lasting change in improving Outcomes. As such, offices have moved away from action plans and have incorporated more CQI projects into their efforts to improve Outcomes for children and families.

Every office was assigned a CQI Liaison from the CQI Core Team membership. The CQI Liaisons attended exit meetings and worked with staff in the local offices towards developing a CQI plan. A guide for CQI Liaisons has been developed to ensure all CQI Liaisons are proceeding in a uniform manner when working with their assigned offices. The CQI Liaison was dissolved and the Outcomes Management Program Specialist oversees and provides direction on CQI plans for each Region.

CQI was used extensively in the gathering of data for and development of the Statewide Assessment. The gathering of data for the Statewide Assessment required involvement of the Management Team (members from the Management Team also make up the CQI Core Team) and CPS Supervisors. CQI was also utilized following the Child and Family Services Review to analyze Outcomes from the review and to develop strategies moving forward in developing the Program Improvement Plan.

Vision for the next five-year plan:

Child and Family Services Review/Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Reviews

South Dakota Child Protection Services will continue to enhance the statewide review process. With the shift at the end of the current five-year planning going to regional reviews, this process will continue to be assessed and enhanced as it starts to get integrated more into practice. South Dakota Child Protection Services vision for the review process is to be consistent, focused on the Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions, provide data to help enhance policy and practice in the entire child welfare system, and to bridge any gaps there may be between South Dakota Child Protection Policy and federal standards.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

CQI will be instrumental in the five-year plan as South Dakota Child Protection will be under their Program Improvement Plan. CQI Core Team will be used to gather data on outcomes, analyzes that data to determine next steps, and initiate any policy change that would be needed. CQI will be done at the regional levels with both the staff and stakeholders in the community to address outcomes South Dakota Child Protection Services underperformed in to be addressed as an entire child welfare system.

XIV. JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

2020 Progress Update

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, (CPS) is the state agency responsible for administering, supervising and overseeing the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFCPSTA) under sections 471, 472, 474, 475 and 477 in the Title IV-E of the Social Security Act: Title I, and the Education and Training Vouchers Programs (ETV) set forth under Section 477 (a).

The identified Program Specialist and contact information are listed below.

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The Department of Social Services will cooperate with national evaluations of the effects of the program implemented to achieve its purpose as required under section 477 (b)(2)(f).

South Dakota's John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program 2015-2019 Plan describes South Dakota's goals and objectives for enhancing and improving services within the CFCPSTA.

South Dakota's John H. Chafee Plan states South Dakota will expend no more than 30 percent of the allotment of federal funds for room and board for youth who left foster care because they attained 18 years of age but have not yet attained age 21. For the purpose of the plan, "room and board" is defined to include housing (direct rental assistance, deposits, utilities, provide housing assistance if a youth is attending school full time and there are no dorms at the post-secondary school or for foster parent payments for youth remaining in their foster home after age 18 - Section 477(b)(3)(B & C).

CPS supports and follows the eight CFCPSTA Program purposes, applicable to the FFY 2019 grant. This information was provided to the ILS Workgroup Meeting in June 2018, CPS Supervisors and Management Team at the October 2018 meeting, Permanency and Well-Being Training for new staff, and at the 2018 Teen Conference. ILS updates are provided to CPS staff, the ILS Workgroup, and youth.

CPS will maintain the contract with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to provide Community Resource People (CRP) to provide support services regarding development of independent living skills for youth ages 15 through 18 in foster care and for young adults from 18 – 21 to assist in their transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency. The CRPs assist youth to prepare for post-secondary education; provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and promotion of interactions with dedicated adults; provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services allow youth to have regular, ongoing opportunity to engage in age or developmental-appropriate activities as defined in section 475 (111) of the Act; and provide services to youth who after attaining 16 years of age have left foster care for kinship, guardianship or adoption.

South Dakota's CFCPSTA Program is designed to assist youth in foster care and as they are working toward independence. The program has been successful because the Family Services Specialists (FSSs) and CRPs provide ILS to the youth at an early age. The FSSs and CRPs continue to build on their relationship with youth as they transition to adulthood. Over this transition period, the youth establish strong connections and trust with the CRPs. The CRP Program established a process to continue the support of youth, while in care and after the youth transition to adulthood. The strength of the ILS Program is to involve youth in the planning process and ask for their input and feedback through surveys completed at the ILS Workshops, surveys completed at the Teen Conference, the Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Surveys completed after each of the meetings, and through the LSS-CRP Satisfaction Survey.

From the 2018 Exit Surveys youth completed, youth indicated the FSSs and CRPs were the number one person who talked to them about their future career. Based on information gathered from the surveys, youth comments have been very positive about the services they have received through the program. The following are some of the areas of service they felt were helpful:

- Helped me achieve a healthy lifestyle;
- Things I did not know they taught me;
- Prepare for adulthood;
- Pushing me to the best I can be;
- Give me advice and help me through things;
- Helped me with the skills I need to be on my own, to go to places;
- Prepare me and gave me the information and resources I needed;
- Being there for me;
- Giving me information and assistance;
- Importance of getting a job and keeping it;
- Assisted me with budgeting and finding an apartment;
- Knowing services and what is available; and
- Provide college tours.

In 2019, CPS is revising the Child Case Plan to make it easier for staff to utilize and for youth to understand. In February 2019, two youth from Young Voices who participated and gave input during the Case Plan Meeting. The workgroup developed the updated case plan. During the review process, Young Voices chapters gave feedback on important information with the case plan. Some of the information shared during this Young Voices meeting was the following:

- Progress being made with independent living skills. An opportunity to be strength-based and focus on achievements;
- Focus on more positive outcomes. Ask questions and be youth-driven;
- Change how the case plan is presented; Youth would like a hard copy. FSS could give youth the case plan document to review or add to in the month prior to signing and finalizing;
- Keep information current and relevant;
- Youth discussed the importance of driver's education (and a driver's license) and felt it should be required for those who are in a stable home to help the transition to IL more successful;
- Obtaining important documents (such as social security card, photo ID/driver license, birth certificate, Medical card/records etc.) is an ongoing discussion after turning 15 (or even before) to ensure youth have what they need as youth to be employed, drive, etc.; and
- Connections should be discussed at each evaluation. Youth want input on who they wish to contact with and who they view as supportive. If a parent's rights are terminated, that doesn't necessarily mean no contact. Youth need to have conversations with these adults to discover who will continue to be a support to them when they transition from care.

The last five years Young Voices has focused on connections. Young Voices developed a Connection document which was integrated into the Child Case Plan. Adding this information to the Child Case Plan has assist CPS in strengthening the connections developed for youth. Young Voices developed *What I Want My Worker to Know: About Who is Important to Me* which has been added to the Family and Children Information System (FACIS) and has been included in practice to use with children and youth in CPS custody to build on and maintain their meaningful connections.

CPS recognizes youth often try to reconnect with their family when they leave care. For this reason, CPS continues to enhance practice around developing connections with family, while the youth is in custody. A requirement of the Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Planning Meetings is to invite whoever the youth wants to the meetings and to make these connections early so CPS can work with the youth and their family. A function of the meeting is to identify important people in the youth's life and to invite them to the meetings. Youth are encouraged to invite whomever they feel can help them plan for their future such as their FSS, CRP, Career Learning Center staff, school counselor, foster parent, group care center staff, family, mentors, advocates, and special friends. During the meeting, the importance of maintaining foster parent connections is reinforced. The FSS will invite the important people the youth requested to the ILS Meetings. The following are some questions which may be asked: Does the youth have support systems available to them? If not, what needs to be done to put these into place? What are the plans to get the youth connected with all the community resources which will assist the youth? The FSS, CRP, and youth discuss who the youth considers, and needs support for the youth cultural, spiritual, recreational and educational.

I. Report on the state's specific accomplishment achieved since the 2015-2019 CFSP submission.

Community Resource People:

The goal of the CRP Program is to provide youth, as well as FSSs, foster parents, group and residential providers with resource information needed to bolster independent living skills. Information gathered from youth involved with the CRP Program indicates they are positive about the service they receive. In FFY 2019, youth completed the LSS-CRP Satisfaction Survey. The following are the responses to two questions from the survey:

- "My CRP is helpful".
 - 81 percent or 60 youth said, "strongly agree" and 14 percent or 10 youth said "agree", and 5 percent or 4 youth were "neutral" the CRPs are helpful.
- "My CRP treats me with respect".
 - 90 percent or 66 youth said they "strongly agree", and 8 percent or 6 youth said "agree", and 1 percent or 1 youth was "neutral" the CRPs treat them with respect.

The following are some comments from youth when they completed the LSS/CRP Satisfactory Survey concerning the CRPs. The question was "What is most helpful to you with the CRPs?"

- Receiving information on apartments;
- Having a CRP to ask questions when needed;
- Completing applications;
- Learning how to pay for food or cars myself;
- Getting everything figured out;
- Coming to meet me to discuss things;
- Having the workshops and teen conference available to me;
- Helping me budget and to know where I want to be in my future and advocate for myself;
- Finding employment;
- Learning about college;
- Providing me the organizer for my future'

- Receiving financial planning;
- Helping me to plan the services to meet my education goals;
- Learning about colleges and jobs;
- Learning about money and how to be responsible;
- Being taught the responsibilities of being an adult; and
- Talking about college options;

The following are highlights from a young adult with a child and the CRP concerning a youth:

“I was in foster care for 3 years and transitioning from childhood to an adult is a challenge. It takes a network of strong and stable connections with family and friends. ILS are one of my main stable and positive support team I have. With their help I was taught life skills, from paying bills, how to communicate with businesses and to ask questions. When coming into foster care I did not know how to do this. They have helped me become an adult that I need to be to handle the changes from foster care. I am so appreciative for the support and kindness I am given. With the ability to ask ILS for advice on obstacles I usually run into, or when I need someone to talk to, it helps me be calm whenever I feel overwhelmed. One big challenge that I have overcome is keeping my mind focused on the positive and to keep myself motivated. My recommendation to youth transitioning out of foster care is to know that it will not be easy but to stay focused on becoming a good adult for yourself, your family, and your friends.”

The youth is an 18-year-old. She is attending high school and working towards her diploma. She is also the mother of an 8-month-old. She has been attending school and taking her son to daycare at the school, riding the city bus but with her son to and from school. She received assistance from the CRP to find an apartment close to school; she can continue her education and not have to travel on the city bus to school with her son. The CRP's has assisted her with furniture and with some food to help get her settled in her apartment. The CRP will assist her with her driver license and talking to the youth about purchasing a vehicle. She has expressed great appreciation to the CRP for all her assistance.

The following are the statistics related to services and activities completed by the CRPs for the timeframe July 1, 2018, through May 1, 2019:

*Total youth served	409
** ILS services	2,734
Gender	
o Male	188
o Females	221
Race	
o Native American	234
o White	146
o Other	29
* Total ILS services includes starter kits, assistance with obtaining a driver's license, group and individual trainings, Casey Life Skills Assessments (CLSA), educational and scholarship planning and special purchases.	
**Total youth served to include those with specific ILS services and those with a CRP contact regarding services.	

Trust Fund:

The State of South Dakota has chosen not to establish a trust fund program for youth in the CPS foster care system.

Medicaid:

The *Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program (FFCMA)* provided Medicaid coverage for 310 individuals from July 1, 2018, to April 1, 2019, with a monthly average of 291 youth covered

(need to update) during this time of period. The FFCMA Program Specialist presented information on the program at the ILS Workgroup Meeting on December 2017, December 2018, and June 2019 at the Teen Conference. The information presented will assist youth in having a better understanding of the Medicaid coverage, how to utilize the program, and who to contact for assistance.

Driver's Education:

The cost for driver's education classes is paid when requested by the youth's FSS. The course consists of classroom instruction and behind the wheel driving. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, \$8,343.00 of Chafee funding was provided to 30 youth for driver's education training.

Assessments:

The Independent Living Program requires an independent living assessment for all youth, in care, at the age of 16, and then again at the time they exit foster care. The Casey Life Skill Assessment (CLSA) is used to evaluate a youth's readiness to meet the challenges of adulthood and is designed to provide a picture of a youth's strengths and needs. The assessment tool is used to match the needs with independent living services. The results of the assessment are expected to be incorporated into the youths' case service plans by FSSs. The CRPs are responsible for ensuring assessments are completed within three months of a youth's 16th birthday. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, 94 youth completed the CLSA.

Starter Kits:

The starter kit funds are provided to youth when youth are living on their own with a solid plan for independent living. Youth who have left foster care due to kinship guardianship or adoption before 18 years old can use the starter kit funding they earned when living on their own. None of the starter kit funds will be used for room or board. The ILS Program added honor roll grades as an incentive to the starter kit funding. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, \$10,936.70 of Chafee funding was used for 54 youth who received starter kit funds.

Youth Organizers:

The organizer helps youth gather the information they will need as they prepare to transition to adulthood and live on their own. The organizer can identify helpful information and provide youth a place to store their personal information. Youth ages 14 and older are provided with organizers. An organizer includes thirteen sections for keeping medical, housing, employment, education, insurance, legal, personal, emergency, family, school, tax, paid and unpaid bills and banking information. The Health Care Directory information has been added to the organizer. The CRPs give the organizers to CPS, BIA and tribal youth.

Independent Living Planning Meetings: The Independent Living Planning Meetings assist the youth to have an earlier connection with other important people in the youth's life and provide the time necessary for the youth to prepare for adulthood. Before the meeting, the youth will identify influential people in their life to invite to the meeting, such as: their FSS, CRP, Career Learning Center staff, a school counselor, foster parents, group care center or residential treatment staff, birth family and extended family member(s), mentor(s), advocates or special friends. Youth are encouraged to invite whomever they feel can help them plan for their future. During the meeting, the importance of maintaining foster parent connections is reinforced.

- **Age 16 Planning Meeting:** One of the focuses of the *Age 16 Planning Meeting* is to review the CLSA (or other assessments), as a team, to provide input to determine strengths and needs when developing the youth's case plan for ILS services. The CLSA helps the team establish the direction to be taken to assist with independent living as the case plan is developed for the youth. The credit report information is discussed during the meeting. Education is an important topic to discuss at the *Age 16 Planning Meeting* with emphasis on identifying a school contact, such as the school counselor, to participate in the meetings.

The meeting assisted youth to ensure the educational components are covered and identify school credits obtained and those still needed to graduate. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, 68 *Age 16 Planning Meetings* were completed.

- **Age 17 Planning Meeting:** The main goal of the *Age 17 Planning Meeting* is to continue to plan for the youth's future. The meeting is used to review and assess the plan for the youth. The areas addressed at the *Age 16 Planning Meeting*, along with any other critical areas are addressed at the *Age 17 Planning Meeting*. The Health Care Directive information is part of the *Age 17 Planning Meeting* and to the *Exit/Transitional Meeting*. To assist with education, obtaining important document for the youth (such as verification letter, birth certificate, social security card, photo ID/driver's license, and Medicaid card), the Independent Living Program has the Health Care Directive pamphlet - *It's All About You and Decisions You Make* and *5 Wishes* booklet. A copy of these materials is given to youth at the *Exit/Transitional Meeting*. This information is added to the youth's ILS organizer, so the youth have it, before they leave care and the youth can complete the information when they turn age 18. Each youth is provided information on the importance of having a Power of Attorney for Health Care or a Health Care Directive, if they are unable to make decision themselves, their wish to be an organ and tissue donor upon their death and information on health care providers. The credit report information is also discussed during the *Age 17 Planning Meeting*. During the *Age 17 Planning Meeting*, the FSS and the CRPs continue to assist youth, verbalize their vision, and let them know what options and resources are available to help them reach their vision. The following areas are covered during the meeting: housing, education, employment, life skills, connections, and health. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, 63 youth completed the *Age 17 Planning Meetings*.
- **Exit/Transitional Meeting:** The *Exit/Transitional Meeting* process is an opportunity, not only for additional program information, but also for the youth to share concerns about the system, identify unmet needs, and further assess readiness to transition into independent living. Each youth requesting financial assistance needs to submit an individual plan for achieving independence. The information obtained in the *Exit/Transitional Meeting* can be used to develop this plan. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, 41 youth completed the *Exit/Transitional Meeting*. The response by youth to the Exit Survey indicated the FSS, followed by the CRPs, were the top people to discuss their future career plans with them.

During 2018, youth completed a survey, for the first time, after the Age 16 and Age 17 Meetings. The goal of developing the surveys is to gather feedback from the youth and to have a better understanding if the meetings were helpful to the youth before leaving CSP custody. The following is information from the surveys:

- **Age 16 Meetings:** 49 youth completed the survey. Eighty percent of the youth felt prepared for the meeting; 56 percent of the youth were able to invite important people to the meeting; 95 percent of the youth had the starter kit information explained at the meeting; 86 percent of the youth knew the number of school credits and how many credits needed to graduate; 64 percent of the youth said they knew when they will graduate; 97 percent of the youth said the CLSA was explained at the meeting; 91 percent of the youth said the credit report was discussed; 95 percent of the youth said the meeting helped them to plan for their future; 71 percent of the youth had "no" suggestions to improve the meeting. Other comments were the survey was easy to understand, would like more on what to do for the future, and explain filing taxes,

- Age 17 Meetings: 56 youth completed the survey. Seventy-one percent of the youth felt prepared for the meeting; 69 percent of the youth were able to invite important people; 86 percent of the youth had the starter kit explained; 90 percent of the youth said the school credits and number of credits to graduated were discussed; 67 percent of the youth know when they will graduate; 78 percent of the youth explained the credit report information; 77 percent of the youth discussed their important documents (photo ID/driver's license, social security card, & birth certificate); 79 percent of the youth completed the NYTD survey after the meeting; 92 percent of the youth said the meeting helped them to plan for their future; 94 percent of the youth said "no" for suggestions to improve the meeting.

ILS Workshops:

All eligible youth can attend a workshop on each topic before reaching age 18. In addition to inviting youth to each workshop, invitations are extended to foster parents, adoptive parents, staff from group homes and residential treatment facilities, Department of Corrections (DOC) staff, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare staff so they have a better understanding of issues confronting youth as they prepare for independent living. The Independent Living Program recognizes the importance of youth attending school; therefore, workshops are held on Saturdays, school holidays or late afternoon to the evening.

Training opportunities for youth are presented at the Spring and Fall regional workshops. The workshops are held in the western, northeast, eastern and central regions of the state twice a year. The ILS Workshop follows the Three-Year Plan set-up from the ILS Workgroup. The Three-Year Plan can be found in the ILS Five-Year Plan. Each youth is given the opportunity to attend two workshops per year. From July 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019, 83 youth attended the fall 2018 workshops, and 121 youth attended the Spring 2019 workshops.

The topics for the Fall 2018 ILS Workshop were: health, medical, housing, real-life situations, budgeting, National Youth in Transitional Database (NYTD), and drug and alcohol prevention. The following are some of the comments from the youth related to the information presented at the workshops:

- The workshop taught me a lot;
- The game of life was realistic;
- The workshop helped me to figure out what I want to do;
- The presenters did a good job and were inspiring and energetic; the workshop was helpful, so I know what to do in my life;
- Important to know what I am going to need in my future;
- All the information from the workshop was helpful;
- The information on how to keep a job and get one was beneficial to me;
- I have heard some of this before, but I still think it was good to hear it again;
- Nothing should be changed with the workshop;
- I would like more information on careers: the workshop was helpful;
- I learned new things;
- The workshop helped really help me to open my mind on drugs;
- The workshop helped me to understand things and helped me to raise my son;
- I was interested in what information was presented; the presenters did a good job;
- The workshop was creative;
- I liked the military recruiter. He gave good advice.
- The military presenter was helpful;
- The presenters did a nice job;
- The presenters were very informing;
- The workshop was good workshop;
- I would not change anything with the workshop.

The topics for the Spring 2019 ILS Workshops were healthy life styles, relationships, parenting, mentoring opportunities, bullying, prevent being a victim of human trafficking, budgeting, NYTD, and drug and alcohol prevention. Some of the comments from the youth were:

- I learned over 800,000 people worldwide are human trafficked;
- I gained a lot of information;
- I learned information for a healthy relationship;
- The workshop was very helpful;
- The workshop taught me some good stuff;
- The presenter that provided information on drugs was very helpful
- The presenters had good facts about the situations;
- The presenters did a good job;
- The speaker was very inspirational;
- I realized I do have a lot of coping skills;
- I loved the workshop;
- I connected to everything that was said;
- some of the information I gained new knowledge;
- The workshop was very interesting; the workshop was helpful;
- The workshop helped me to know myself better;
- The workshop had a lot of valuable information;
- Keep up the amazing work; the workshop was very motivational and
- I left feeling better about myself;
- The information from the workshop helped me look at things differently; and
- The workshop was an eye opener.

On April 30, 2018, and May 1, 2019, an ILS Workshop was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. 68 youth attended the workshop. The conference focused on the theme of Positive Youth Development; specifically, regarding internet safety, human trafficking, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and creating a safe classroom environment. Keith Deltano (Anti-Bullying Speaker and Comedian) presented to the youth. Keith's program goes beyond the bully/victim/bystander labels to get at the underlying causes of bullying. Keith's background as an award-winning school teacher gives him insight into school culture. His message is about overcoming adversities, acceptance, making new friends by reaching out, and encouraging the audience to stop judging one another by race, outward appearance, speech, or economic status.

2018 Teen Conference:

The conference is designed to help youth improve their independent living skills as they transition from foster care into self-sufficiency. Youth from CPS, DOC, residential treatment facilities, group care centers for minors, and BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies are invited to attend the conference. The conference furnishes meals, transportation, workshops, evening activities and lodging for youth. The idea of having the conference on a college campus is to encourage youth who have been in the foster care system to think about the option of post-secondary education. This type of atmosphere opens their eyes to the endless possibilities of what they can do next with their future. The conference provides youth in foster care the opportunity to interact with other youth in similar situations and to learn important life skills. The conference is a multi-day event which occurs every two years. The 2018 Teen Conference was held on the campus of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in June 2018. Seventy-nine youth attended, and five additional youth attended the day activities at the conference.

The Independent Living Program collaborated with the Department of Health on the Personal Responsibility Education Program Grant. The overall goal of *Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)* project is to reduce teen pregnancy and STDs through interventions, to increase the knowledge, and skills of youth to reduce risky behaviors, and help youth identify qualities of healthy relationships. There were 84 youth who attended the *SHARP* training at the 2018 Teen Conference.

The 2018 Teen Conference topics included:

- South Dakota School of Mines and Technology representative provided a welcome and presentation and tours for the youth;
- A young adult who transitioned from foster care shared his story from being in foster care, the importance on going on to post-secondary school, and using the Education and Trainings Voucher scholarship;
- Young Voices members shared the NYTD data along with displaying NYTD flyers on the walls by the meeting rooms and in the dorm;
- Founder of Enlighten Communication presented on tough issues of sex and the challenges for young people to get the abstinence advantage;
- *SHARP* curriculum was shared with 84 youth at the conference;
- Department of Labor and Regulation provided a mock interview showing appropriate and inappropriate interview techniques;
- A representative from Youth and Family Services presenting on healthy relationships;
- A Family Nurse Practitioner presented information on services she offers at the Community Health Center such as regular family practice care, family planning services, birth control and STD testing;
- A social worker from Saint Francis Indian School, who lives on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, shared her story and insight into Native American culture;
- A public speaker, from the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, shared her story through experiences in dealing with obstacles by rising to make a difference in her life and the lives of others;
- Department of Criminal Investigation shared information on internet safety and human trafficking in South Dakota. The presenter also presented, "How to Prevent from Becoming a Victim of Human Trafficking";
- A Community Resource Fair was provided to the youth. The community contacts which were part of the fair were the following: Department of Labor and Regulation, Build Dakota, Department of Social Services, Independent Living Program and Economic Assistance with Medicaid; Youth and Family Services, South Dakota Public Housing, Department of Health, Job Corps, Western Resources, Black Hills State University, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, Oglala Lakota College, Western Dakota Technology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and Seek Learn and Grow;
- Evening activities included a talent show, dance, and tours of Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse. At Crazy Horse, a culture presentation was shared with the youth. The talent show was an outstanding event where youth showed their talents through singing, acting, dancing, and providing humor. There was also creative art displayed which showed the youth's artistic talent.

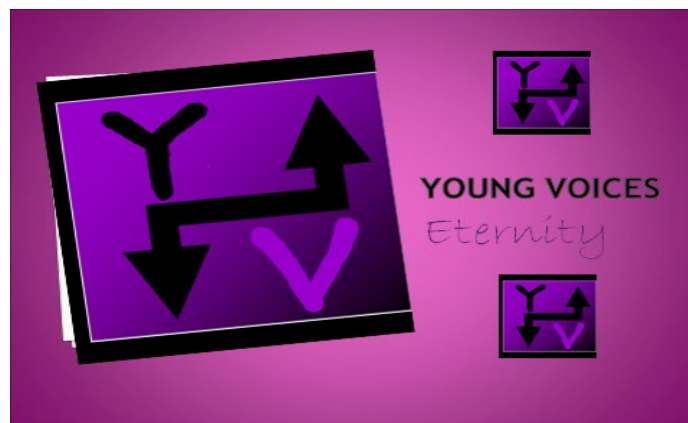
At the closing ceremony, a slide show of the conference week was shared with the youth. CPS's goal for youth is to have ambitious goals for their transition to adulthood. CPS want youth to be able to advocate for themselves, complete their education, become a successful member of their community, be safe and can create their own strong family. The Independent Living Program provides them with the tools to help accomplish these things. CPS, the CRPs, IL Workgroup members and members of Young Voices planned the 24th ILS 2018 Teen Conference in Rapid City at the School of Mines and Technology.

ILS Workgroup:

The Independent Living Workgroups has an Independent Living Program Specialist and includes representatives from over 20 various entities and over 30 youth. Staff and youth involved with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies are invited to participate in the ILS Workgroup. The Independent Living Workgroup members represent CPS current and past foster care youth, the DOC, foster/adoptive parents, staff from group care centers for minors and residential treatment facilities, staff from Lutheran Social Services and the CRP's and their supervisor. A representative of the Department of Labor and Regulation was added as a member of the ILS Workgroup. The Independent Living Workgroup meets at least twice a year for planning, organizing and facilitating the workshops, and teen conferences. Workgroup members evaluate the success of the conference, plan for the workshops and provide guidance to the ILS Program Specialist for planning for independent living services. The workgroup minutes are distributed to participating agencies and individuals as well as any other interested parties.

During the ILS Workgroup Meetings, the CFCPSTA, Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP) and NYTD are regular topics. Information has been shared with the ILS Workgroup, so workgroup members and youth have a better understanding of this information. After sharing this information, CPS asks for the ILS members and youth for their input. CPS continues to involve youth through Young Voices to receive input from them to assist with the CFCPSTA, CFSP, and NYTD. ILS Workgroup Meeting was held June 2018. The ILS Workgroup will continue to meet, and the agenda will be focused on the CFSP, NYTD, training for youth, Young Voices and areas of need as determined by data and input from Workgroup members. During the Spring of 2018, the workgroup met by conference call in February, March, and May to plan for the teen conference. In January 2019, Young Voices discussed information concerning the ILS program with the state office staff. After this meeting, a *Question and Answer* document was created to assist staff and youth with information related to education, employment, services, and technology.

South Dakota Advocacy – Young Voices



Logo developed by Young Voices

Young Voices will continue to share the NYTD data with different organizations. CPS realizes the importance for the youth to communicate to others on what their data is saying in South Dakota. Young Voices have integrated the NYTD data into their PowerPoint presentation along with information about the ILS Program and resources which are available to the youth after leaving custody. Young Voices share information about the ILS Program and resources which are available to the youth after leaving custody. The youth also integrate their journey into the presentations, so others have an understanding of the youth's life. The youth shared their experiences in foster care and group care, their outlook today, and future goals. Youth have learned to speak about their life stories and experiences in a way which leads to positive changes in themselves and others. Young Voices operates under the Positive Youth Development model,

which focuses on teaching youth to make their own positive decisions for their lives. Youth have learned to speak out about their life stories and experiences in a way which leads to positive changes in themselves and others. Young Voices members become mentors for their peers and develop positive, supportive relationships with other youth who is transitioning. The power point presentation has been a very powerful tool for Young Voices for delivering their message.

The following is a poem, a youth created of her life and shared at a Young Voices Presentation in 2018

This Isn't Me, I'm So Much More

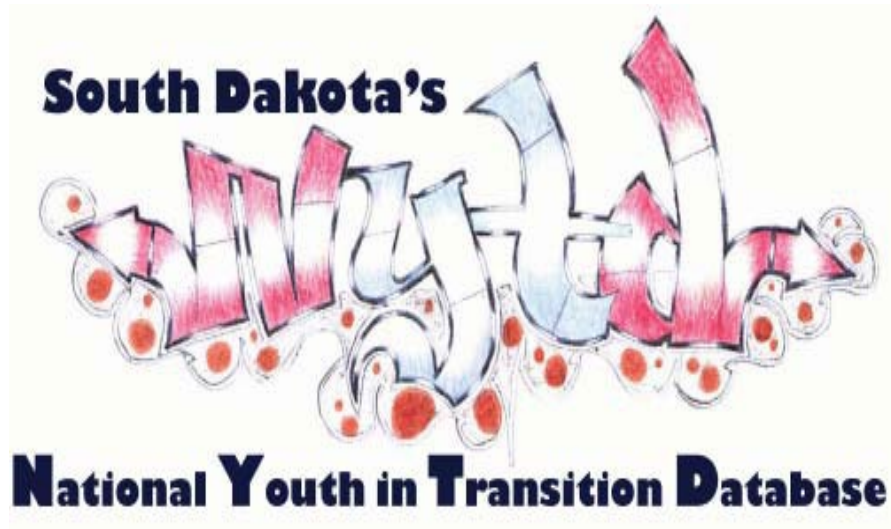
My parents were addicts.
Til' they were six feet under they sipped.
After my parent's death,
That's when I started to struggle to keep myself in check.
My aunt became sick but still had the strength to be strict.
I swear her boyfriend became the devil's drunk walking stick.
Grades dropped, smiles dropped, everything slowly started to tumble downhill.
Believe me, God! I'd cry, I swear I mean no ill will.
It's just hard for me to express how I really feel.
After a while, into the group home I went.
They gave me opportunities to open up, through weights, words; I lost count of how many late
nights at the gym were spent.
I've had my ups and downs there.
Through all the tears of joy and anger, I realized that the people here really do care.
I took advantage of my time.
Learned all that I could, did all that I could, man I was on a grind.
I'm so thankful for the support they offered me.
Pretty soon, I started hanging out with different people, daily I was asked, Aye, you, I want a go
for a smoke, I want a take a dip, come on..., I'd reply with Zee.
I was starting to see my own worth.
To my mind, body, and soul, went all my effort.
Today, I get compliments about my smile, my grades are great, I became self-disciplined.
I was profiled as aggressively independent by a psychiatrist.
Anything that I set my mind to, I believed I could do it.
I became the only High School female wrestler despite all the negative comments.
I plan to go to college for architecture, and business, I'm not doing enough if my hands aren't
going to bleed
Because never again will I go without electricity or water because I'll have me, and I'll succeed
I'll be going to Boston Massachusetts to attend the Congress of Future Science and Technology
Leaders as a delegate representing my school, my tribe, and the State of South Dakota, and I
don't even like science!
Hell, I know I'm going to go somewhere in life, I know I'm going to prove that the cycle of
addiction and abuse can be broken, I'm going to triumph.
The lady you see standing in front of you, was forged from the fires of my own desire
I'm a fighter, risen out of the ashes of my former self; I have built the foundations of my own
empire.
The little girl who couldn't sleep at night in fear, who hated herself, who thought nothing of
herself, I'm not her anymore, that isn't me.
I am so much more.

In addition to the speaking engagements, members of the Young Voices Chapters completed the development of a CPS training video to share their experiences with new CPS staff about what it is like to grow up in foster care, the struggles they faced and the assistance they need to transition to adulthood successfully. Young Voices members have also been involved in projects for the recruitment of foster families for CPS.

From July 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019, over 200 youth attended Young Voices Meetings in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, and Mitchell. The CRPs host monthly meetings with Young Voices in these areas. During each Young Voices Meeting, an educational component is shared, such as ILS services and program; Upward Bound, NSU financial Aid and Cultural Advocate presented; Lifebook and scrapbooking; Department of Labor and Regulation presented on employment; discussion on NYTD; communication activities; career opportunities; discussion on homelessness; youth suicide; discussion on NYTD results and what contributes to homelessness; presentation on opioids, *Erasing the Stigma*; Young Voices accomplishments; case plan discussion; South Dakota Housing discussing Section 8, landlord presented on things to know about renting an apartment.. The following are other presentations that were shared: housing; a veterinarian shared information on his career and the education needed; tax information; Toastmaster presented on how to speak in front of others and to advocate for yourself; tours of post-secondary schools; a presentative from Job Corps presented on education and career opportunities; an attorney spoke her career and shared her story about growing in and out of the child welfare system; an outside speaker discussed being under the influence and youth wore a DUI goggles and attempted to walk; Safe Harbor presented on advocating for oneself; a States Attorney presented on laws when they turn 18 and consequences of drinking

CPS has submitted the NYTD data to the Administration for Children and Families. Based on the review of the 2017B data file submitted, ACF has determined the State is following the NYTD requirements for the period ending September 30, 2017, along with the other submissions with NYTD since 2010. In 2018, NYTD data was submitted to ACF Cohort 2 follow-up population (age 21). The State has not received an official letter from ACF on this cohort. Currently South Dakota is collecting data on Cohort 3 follow-up population (age 19). Based on the recent data, CPS intends to continue using the same techniques during the next year to encourage and obtain youth's participation with the NYTD survey.

- II. **National Youth in Transition Database; Describe how the state, since the 2015-2019 CFSP submission, has informed partners, tribes, courts and other stakeholders about NYTD data and involved them in the analysis of the results of the NYTD data collection or NYTD Assessment Review. Describe how the state has used these data and any other available data in consultation with youth and other stakeholders to improve service delivery in the last year.**



South Dakota NYTD Logo developed by a youth in foster care

In South Dakota, the Division of Child Protection Services has informed a variety of stakeholders concerning the NYTD data. Young Voices has provided the NYTD data in their presentations, so others are aware of the information. The following provides details on meetings with stakeholders and NYTD information shared:

- In June 2018, Young Voices members presented the NYTD data at the 2018 Teen Conference. NYTD presentation posters were displayed at the conference to share the NYTD data.
- In May 2018, the NYTD data was shared during the Supervisor and Management Team Meeting and with the Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Meeting.
- In February 2019, Young Voices presented NYTD data and their stories to the South Dakota Association of Youth Care Providers and South Dakota Legislators in Pierre.
- In October 2018 and April and May 2019, workshops were held in four areas of the state (Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, and Pierre). Young Voices members presented the NYTD data to the youth.
- In June 2018, Young Voices members presented the NYTD data with the ILS Workgroup Meeting and 2018 Teen Conference.

III. Report activities performed since the 2015-2019 CFSP submission and planned for FY 2018 to:

Goals and Objectives:

The following are the goals and objectives to be achieved by the Independent Living Services Program for eligible youth.

Goal 1: Youth are able to be employed after transitioning from foster care.

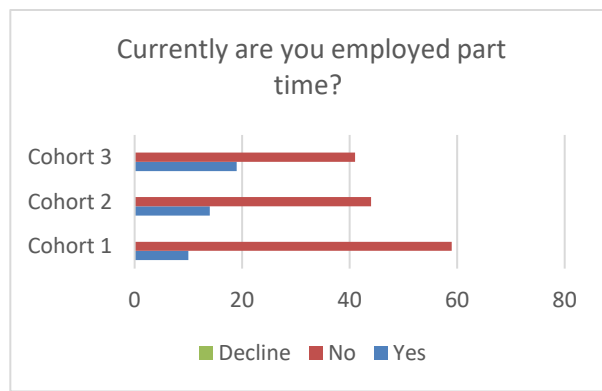
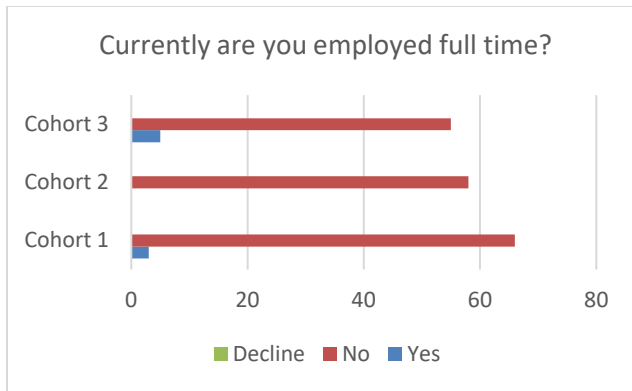
Objective 1: Increase youths' employability skills.

Intervention 1: Provide employment skills training at Regional Workshops and Young Voices meetings.

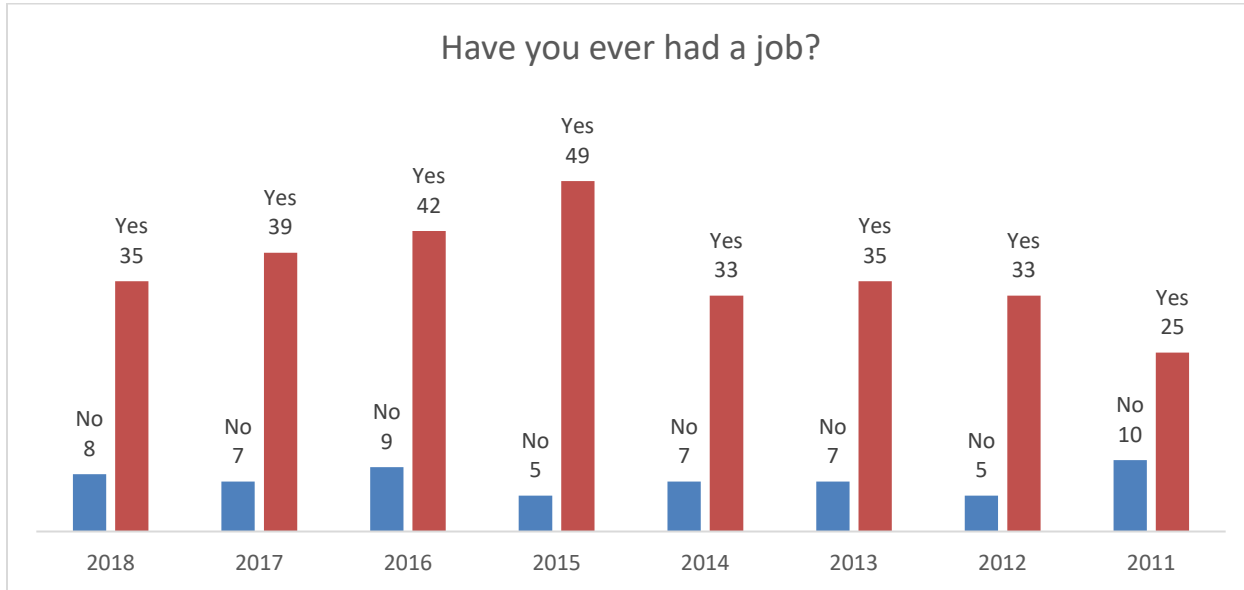
Benchmarks: End of Year 1: Training on employment is established as an agenda item at least annually at the meetings.

The CRPs continue to work with youth individually to enhance their skills with mock interviews and developing a resume. Young Voices scheduled two meetings in March 2018 and August 2018 focusing on career planning and job searching. During the 2018 Teen Conference, the Department of Labor and Regulation presented a mock interview and career opportunities information to the youth who attended the conference.

Since 2010, there has been an increase in youth working while in CPS custody. The charts below are reported from youth at age 17 with the NYTD from each of the cohorts from 2010 to 2017.



Exit Survey completed by youth before leaving CPS



When youth were asked if they had ever had a job, 35 youth or 80 percent have had some employment. There were eight youth or 18 percent left the question blank. According to the NYTD survey, the three cohorts work more part-time than full-time job with youth that are age 17. While this is to be expected because of the age of the youth, the exit survey is showing a higher number of youths working. The higher number may be because the youth worked before entering foster care. Also, youth placed in group homes and similar facilities may not be reporting employment when they work in facilities in the Exit Survey. Youth who are employed within facilities, are learning valuable life skills. In the upcoming Five-Year Plan, the work information will continue to be addressed. Adding a question in the Exit Survey to acknowledge youth employment in facility placements will provide additional data.

Over the last five years, there has been an increase in youth being employed. During the Age 16 and Age 17 Meetings, there is still a need to continue to support youth employment. CPS knows having a job means so much more than a paycheck. Having a job is a connection to a lifelong mentor, the ability to envision a career path, a boost in self-confidence, to prevent homelessness, and to encourage youth to value their self-worth. The FSSs and CRP will continue to encourage employment as a priority while youth are in care to make a difference to their outcomes later in their life. The CRP will continue to provide trainings and the importance of employment at the ILS Workshops, Young Voices Meetings, and the ILS Teen Conference.

Intervention 2: Collaborate with Group and Residential providers to provide youth with more work-related experiences.

Benchmark: End of Year 1: CPS and Group and Residential providers have established a plan to study the issue.

In May 2017, the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist discussed the ILS Five Year Plan at the South Dakota Youth Care Provider Meeting to encourage employment and job skills opportunities for youth. ILS information and Department of Labor and Regulation brochures on career opportunities were shared.

Youth employment is an area which is discussed at the ILS meetings with youth and others who are part of the meeting. During the meeting, the meeting participants brainstorm ideas to work together on how youth would have the opportunity to work, even if the youth can volunteer or work in the placement agency.

In January 2018, an ILS survey was sent to the facilities to gather information on education and job opportunities. The survey results are shared throughout this report.

Employment opportunities within the facilities depend on the youth and the structure of the services a facility is designed to provide. While the goal is to give all youth employment training and related activities, it may not be possible due to at-risk youth and behaviors. In 2018 the ILS Survey which was completed by the facilities showed the following results concerning employment:

- There were 19 facilities (86 percent) of the 22 facilities reporting during the 2018 reporting period indicated they assist youth with developing job skills. In 2016, there were a total of 10 facilities out of 11 facilities or 90 percent reported they did provide job training. While the 2018 results show a decrease, more facilities are participating in the survey, and only three of the facilities indicated they did not provide job skills training.
- There has been an increase in employment training within the facility. There were 16 facilities or 72 percent from 2016 which is a 9 percent increase from 2016.
- Another increase was the amount of youth working outside of the facility. There was a 5 percent increase in facilities providing youth with employment opportunities which are 19 facilities or 86 percent allowing youth to work in the community. The facilities report a total of 150 youth working in the communities at the time of the 2018 survey. In 2016 for youth working outside of the facilities, there were nine facilities or 56 youth or 82 percent which would allow youth to work in the community.
- Transportation is an essential factor for youth employment. There was no change in the number of facilities. There are 18 facilities or 82 percent which transport youth to work. This percentage is the same as the 2016 survey.

Types of Work Youth Participate in the Community 2018*		
Total Number of Facilities	Percentage of Total Facilities Reporting	Type of Work
17	89.47 %	Fast Food
7	38.84%	Office
8	42.11%	Maintenance
7	36.84%	Cleaning
6	31.58%	Lawn
2	10.53%	Computer
2	10.53%	Medical
10	52.63%	Retail
*19 Respondents 3 Skipped		

Types of Work in the Facility 2018*		
Total Number of Facilities	Percentage of Total Facilities Reporting	Type of Work
13	76.47 %	Cafeteria
4	25.53%	Office
8	47.06 %	Maintenance
16	94.12%	Cleaning
0	0%	Lawn
0	0%	Computer
*17 Respondents 5 Skipped		

Over the last five years, there has been an increase in employment with youth in facilities. In 2018 survey, the facilities report a total of 150 youth working in the communities compared to the 2016 survey there were 56 youth or 82 percent of youth working in the community. CPS goal is to provide youth employment training and employment skills. The ILS Program Specialist and Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist will continue to work together to meet the needs of youth concerning employment opportunities within facilities or in the community. ILS information and employment opportunities will be shared at the South Dakota Youth Care Provider's Meeting and at the Facility Reviews. Employment has improved in facilities, but there is still a need to continue to support youth and work with facilities to encourage employment opportunities. In 2020, the ILS survey will be completed again with the facilities in the next Five-Year Plan.

Benchmark: End of Year 2: Recommendations to increase opportunities for youth are made and implemented.

Intervention 3: Collaborate with the Department of Labor and Regulation through the Youth Council to develop strategies to improve employability opportunities for youth.

Benchmark: The Youth Council was established in 2014.

The Youth Council is called the South Dakota Youth Employment Services (SDYES). In December 2018, June 2017 and September 2017, meetings were held with SDYES. The following are highlights from the meetings:

- The Department of Labor and Regulation spoke on Career Launch South Dakota. With the recent push for better-informed youth, Department of Labor and Regulation has merged programs that involved youth into one larger program called Career Launch South Dakota. The program focuses on informing youth of career options, providing career exploration and assistance for youth as they travel down their career pathway. The following site has additional information: <http://careerlaunchsd.com/referral>.
- The Department of Labor and Regulation discussed the National Career Readiness Certificate, which tests individuals in three areas; Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents and measures real-world foundational skills critical to job success. This test is available to anyone wishing to take it; they merely need to contact their local job service office or youth lead. The following websites have the Department of Labor and Regulation list of businesses who recognize, recommend or prefer the National Career Readiness Certificate and information about the National Career Readiness Certificate: https://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/ncrc/ncrc_benefits_for_employers.aspx#support https://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/ncrc/ncrc_getting_started.aspx
- In 2018, the Department of Labor and Regulation applied for and received a waiver which allows them to use funding on both in-school youth (attending secondary or post-secondary) and out-of-school youth (who are not attending secondary or post-secondary schooling). This change now allows the Department of Labor and Regulation to assist anyone who meets the program qualification to assist them with post-secondary education from one of the Eligible Training Providers. In 2017, The Department of Labor and Regulation shared the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program overview. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market, and to match employers with the skilled workers they need. The Department of Labor and Regulation can provide 25 percent of funding to WIOA to in-school youth from 14-18 and 75 percent to WIOA out-of-school youth 16-24.
- The Department of Labor and Regulation spoke on youth and young adults from 16 – 24 years old in the labor force is at a significant higher rate compared to the national level

and the educational attainment of young adults. For South Dakota, the rate is 14.8 percent and the national rate is 13.3 percent for educational attainment.

- The Department of Corrections presented on Juvenile Court Records.
- Information was shared about Job Corps. A person can be eligible for Job Corps if the person is 16 to 24, meets eligibility requirements, is a U.S. citizen, committed to improving one's education and future, and needs job skills training, education, counseling or related assistance to help get started on a career pathway.
- Information was shared on what it is like for a person living in poverty and knowledge on how to assist those living in poverty makes changes. Information was shared by the Dr. Donna Beegle presentation.
- In June 2017, three Young Voices members presented NYTD and services with the ILS Program to SDYES.

In June 2014, The Department of Labor and Regulation establishing the South Dakota Youth Employment Services Council. The ILS Program Specialist was appointed to provide expertise in youth policy and assist the council in recommending youth employment and training policy; broadening the youth employment, and training focus in the community to incorporate a youth development perspective; and establishing linkage with other organization serving youth. The council has provided additional collaboration with the Department of Labor and Regulation. Each year, an updated Youth Leads contacts list is shared with the CRP, so they know who to contact when working with youth in their area. The ILS Program Specialist also shares an updated list of the CRP with the Department of Labor, Youth Leads. Over the last five years, there has been increase collaboration with the council and the ILS program. This has led to a success in providing increased knowledge of the Department of Labor and Regulation services, resources, and has improved employment opportunities for youth in foster care and young adults transitioning from foster care. The CRPs will continue efforts to engage youth with Department of Labor and Regulation to enhance their job opportunity skills. The ILS Program Specialist will continue to be an active part of the Department of Labor and Regulation, South Dakota Youth Employment Service Council. There has been an increase collaboration between the agencies. The collaboration efforts will continue in the Five-Year Plan. The CRP will record contacts they have with youth and the Department of Labor and Regulation. The goal is to continue to increase the employment opportunities with youth with the Department of Labor and Regulation. Over the next five years, Young Voices will present the NYTD data to SDYES to share the employment outcomes and to continue to work youth in care and young adults who have transition from foster care.

Goal 2: Youth will obtain a high school diploma or GED.

Objective 1: Enhance the process for monitoring youths' high school credits.

Intervention 1: Implement educational assessment screens in FACIS include total number of credits.

CPS assist youth while in care in the following ways:

- The ILS Meetings are used to provide opportunities to discuss and assist youth with meeting their educational needs and graduating on time. The focus of the meetings is to plan early so if there is an issue with a class or credits the FSS and school can work together on a resolution. The number of credits is encoded in FACIS to keep track of the school credits. At the meetings, important people the youth would like to attend are invited to assist with the planning for the youth to be independent. Identifying a school contact such as a school counselor is emphasized to participate in the meetings. The meetings have assisted youth in ensuring the educational components are covered and the number of achieved school credits and the number of credits needed to graduate are identified.

- When a youth moves from one residential/group care facility to another facility, a priority goal is to make sure the youth's records are transferred with the youth.
- Each facility has a program for career goal setting and exploration. The facilities do encourage youth to attend a post-secondary institution. Youth may have a careers course they take at some facilities. These courses focus on career development, and skills needed for a future career. Facilities are using specific career guidance assessments to assist youth with their future career choice. Facilities are bringing post-secondary programs into the facilities for career development or the youth are taken to post-secondary schools for tours. Youth do have access to SDMyLife, a career exploration program which provides youth the opportunity to develop their personal learning plans for their future. Some facilities specifically identified an individual or case manager who will meet with youth to develop personal learning plans and educational goals. The CRP also works with youth with SDMyLife and to promote their interest in post-secondary schools.
- Each facility provides youth time to work on their courses and to support youth with the tools needed to complete their school work, so they may complete their education on time to graduate with their peers. Each facility has identified designated time for studying.

In 2017, the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist discussed the ILS Five-Year Plan at the South Dakota Youth Care Provider Meeting to encourage facilities to assist youth in completing their high school diploma. At the meeting, the NYTD data was shared including data on the number of youths who received their high school diploma or GED at age 19 and 21.

The following is a highlight about a youth from the CRPs for staying in school:

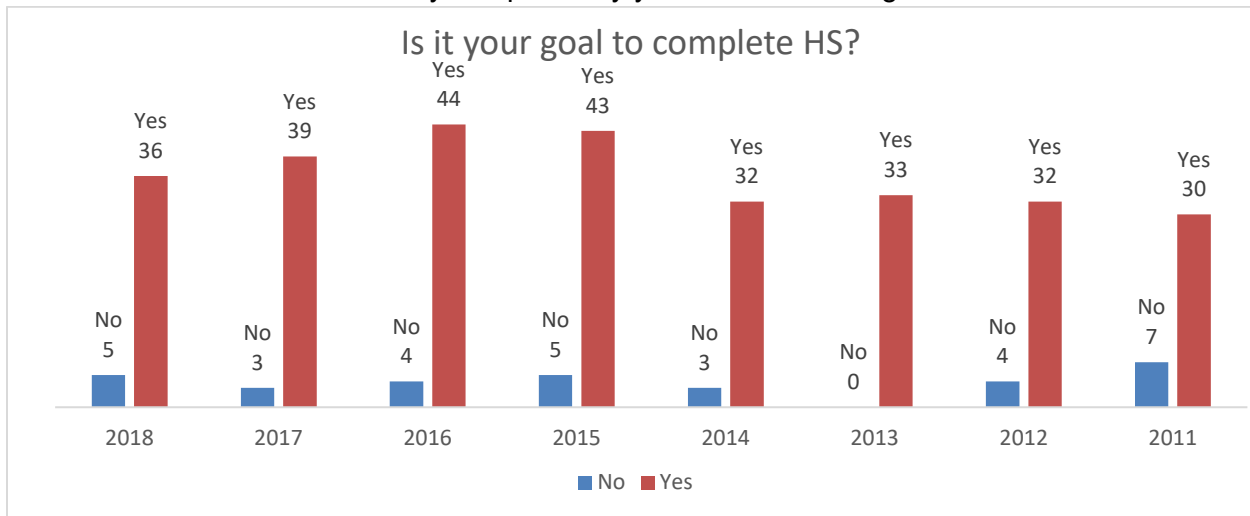
A youth, recently turned 18, lives at McCrossan Independent Living Preparation Apartments. He has decided to remain at McCrossan until he graduates. He is currently working Arby's and has worked regularly since moving to McCrossan IL. He has saved money to purchase a car and paid it in full. While at McCrossan, he participated in cross country and track. The youth is interested in attending a post-secondary school to pursue a career in Architecture and recently toured South Dakota State University with his CRP.

Education within the facilities depends on the youth. While some youth can adapt to any situation, others may be more involved and study within the facility with a tutor. The facilities can use many programs for educational support. Youth can participate in programs offered in the facility, Young Voices Meetings, ILS Workshops, and the ILS Teen Conference.

The following are results from the facility survey concerning education:

- In 2018, there was an increase of nine percent or 16 facilities providing internet access to youth. There were 14 facilities, or 64 percent provide youth have internet access in the 2016 survey there was six facilities or 55 percent.
- The facilities have reported an increase, by 9 percent, in the number of facilities providing study times. Twenty facilities or 91 percent have designated study times for youth.
- There was a decrease of 5 percent of facilities offering tutors. Of the 22 facilities, 17 facilities or 77 percent provide youth with tutors.

Exit Survey completed by youth before leaving CPS



Many youths do set the goal to graduate from high school. According to the 2018 Exit Survey data, there were 36 youth, or 82 percent of youth who want to complete high school. Five youth or 11 percent did not want to graduate from school. In 2017 Exit Survey data, 39 youth or 74 percent of youth do want to complete high school. Three youth or five percent did not want to graduate from school, and 11 youth or 21 percent did not answer the question. Through the years, there has been a high number of youths wanting to complete high school. CPS goal is to encourage all youth to complete high school and support them to carry out this goal. The Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Meetings will continue to assist the youth in reaching their goal to graduate.

The last five years, CPS has been successful to achieve this outcome to enhance the process for monitoring youths' high school credits. This ILS meetings have assisted youth with knowing where they are with credits and the credits left to graduate. The FSSs record the number of credits youth have in FACIS to keep track of their school credits. Facilities are making school records a priority when youth moves from one facility to another facility; facilities have a program for career development and skills need to assist the youth for the future; and the facilities provides youth time to work on their courses along with the tools needed.

Benchmark: End of Year 1: Assessment screen is implemented.

FACIS requires the high school credits to be added to the education screen. During the *Age 16* and *Age 17 Planning Meetings*, the high school transcript and credits are reviewed so everyone at the meeting can work together to assist the youth in working toward a high school diploma.

Intervention 2: Establish procedures for reviewing the status of credits at *Age 16* and *Age 17 Meetings* and include action steps within the case plan to address any issues.

Benchmark: End of Year 1: Procedure implemented.

Over the last five years, there have been many accomplishments to assist with knowing where youth are with their high school credits. Implementing the education assessment screen to FACIS, has supported the FSS to keep track of the credits a youth has received. The *Age 16* and *Age 17 Meeting* has assisted to bring important people, including the school contact, the opportunity to review the school information so everyone is on the same page and youth are not falling behind with their education. Having youth complete the *Age 16* and *Age 17 Surveys* after the meetings have provided additional information on the youth's perspective with the meetings. Additional information on the surveys can be found under the *Independent Living Planning Meetings*. The school credits are an essential piece which needs to be monitored with the surveys. 2018 was the

first year with the ILS Surveys with the Age 16 and Age 17 meeting, the survey results from youth will continue to be reviewed for the next five-years to give additional information on school credits for youth.

Objective 2: Address barriers affecting youths' ability to obtain credits needed for graduation.

Intervention: Collaborate with the Group and Residential providers and the Department of Education to assess the barriers limiting youth's ability to obtain the credits required to graduate from high school and develop solutions to addressing the barriers.

Benchmark: End of Year 1: Assessment of barriers completed.

End of Year 2: Recommendations developed and implemented.

The Department of Education assigned a staff person to work with CPS on educational issues with youth in foster care in response to Every Student Succeeds Act. CPS continues to collaborate with Department of Education to improve the education of youth in foster care. A representative from the Department of Education is also a member of the ILS Workgroup.

The ILS Program Specialist has been incorporating components of Continuous Quality Improvement in the ILS Meetings to address barriers to youth's ability to obtain the required credits to graduate from high school. An important aspect of the meetings is to know where youth are with credits and how many credits are needed to graduate. Addressing these issues early by working with FSS, CRP, youth, and school is essential for the youth to be able to receive their high school diploma before leaving CPS custody.

In 2017, the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist discussed the ILS Five Year Plan with the South Dakota Youth Care Provider Meeting and discussed the importance for youth to graduate on time.

In 2018, Young Voices Chapters have been addressing issues to CPS State Office concerning education. State office staff have had meetings with Young Voices chapters to discuss the issues. These collaboration efforts have increased answering questions and addressing barriers. From the meetings, there will be *Questions and Answers* document which will be shared with CPS, Young Voices, and facilities.

Over the last five years, a Department of Education Program Specialist was added to the ILS Workgroup to assist if issues with education need to be addressed with youth in foster care. The ILS Program Specialist and the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist will continue to address barriers with education. The ILS survey with facilities will continue to be used to provide additional information with youth. The next survey will be implemented in 2020 with the facilities. In the next Five-Year Plan, results from 2016, 2018 and 2020 surveys will be shared during the South Dakota Youth Care Provider Meeting with facilities. The barriers have been addressed during this period and continued to be reviewed.

IV. Provide information on how the state has improved NYTD data collection, based on the plan outlined in the 2015-2019 CFSP or NYTD Assessment Review. States are reminded that information related to NYTD can be viewed in “snap shot” format on the NYTD portal. While the “snap shot” only provides an overview of the NYTD data, it can be a resource to talk with youth, providers, the courts, and other stakeholders about services and outcomes of youth transitioning out of foster care.

South Dakota will continue to collect high-quality NYTD data with FACIS. The goal is to have an information system which provides effective case management and a supervisory management tool which meets federal requirements including the Federal Child and Family Services Review, federal Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System (AFCARS), and the Chafee NYTD. The state continues to develop functions in the system to support federal requirements and policy changes. Staff modules and compliance reports were enhanced to assist staff with monitoring, tracking tasks related to youth in NYTD baseline and to assure youth needing to complete a NYTD survey can be located to complete the survey. The CRPs have access to FACIS for cases assigned to them. The CRPs have access to the compliance report, which assists with meeting the NYTD requirements.

The following is the South Dakota NYTD data from 10.01.2010 to 09.30.2015 (cohort one), and from 10.01.2013 to 09.30.2018 (cohort two). The information has revealed the following:

NYTD Questions - Currently, are you employed full time?

	17-year-old surveyed		19-year-old surveyed		21-year-old surveyed	
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Full-time	3	0	13	13	19	12
No	66	58	48	34	30	32
Decline	0	1	0	1	0	0
Did not answer/other	2	2	8	13	20	17
Total respondents	71	61	69	61	69	61

NYTD Questions - Currently, are you employed part-time?

	17-year-old surveyed		19-year-old surveyed		21-year-old surveyed	
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Part-time	3	14	14	14	11	10
No	59	40	46	32	38	32
Decline	0	1	2	1	0	2
Did not answer/other	9	6	7	14	20	17
Total respondents	71	61	69	61	69	61

Action Steps:

1. Continue to work with youth on potential career opportunities using SDMyLife.
2. Develop employability skills for youth at workshops and trainings.
3. Encourage youth to seek employment to develop employability skills.
4. Encourage youth to attend a post-secondary (either a Technical Institute or a University) through the teen conferences, ILS Workshops, Young Voices, and campus visits.
5. Collaborate with the Department of Labor and Regulation and with the Youth Council to assist the council in recommending youth employment and training policy and establishing linkages with other organizations serving youth.
6. During the *Age 16 and Age 17 Planning Meetings*, the CRPs will encourage youth to be employed, while the youth is in care and stress the importance of not only receiving a job but also keeping the job.

The CRPs continue to work with youth with CPS and BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies regarding career opportunities using SMyLife with the youth to build on the youth's resume, search for jobs and assist the youth with job interviews. At the 2018 Teen Conference, Department of Labor and Regulation presented a Mock Interview showing appropriate and inappropriate interview techniques. During the July 2017 ILS Workgroup meeting, the Department of Labor and Regulation Program Specialist presented to members and youth about job opportunities and other resources available to the youth in care and as they leave custody.

At the 2018 Teen Conference, 84 youth toured South Dakota School of Mines and Technology campus to encourage youth to attend a post-secondary school in the future. One of the purposes of having the conference on a post-secondary campus is for youth to have an idea what it would be like to live on campus for the week and to go on to school. During the *Age 16 and Age 17 Planning Meetings*, the CRPs and FSSs encourage youth to be employed and to keep their job. One of the incentives for the ILS starter kit is maintaining a job for at least six months or two summers.

In December 2018, there was a meeting held with the SDYES with the Department of Labor and Regulation. The council discussed how the changes implemented in 2017 have changed with WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act) funding. The focus was to increase the out-of-school youth funding. Seventy-five percent of the funding will focus on out-of-school youth and 25 percent will be for youth in school. In 2018, the Department of Labor and Regulation applied for and received a waiver which allows them to use funding on both in-school youth (attending secondary or post-secondary) and out-of-school youth (who are not attending secondary or post-secondary schooling). This change now allows Department of Labor and Regulation to assist anyone who meets the program qualification to assist them with post-secondary education from one of the Eligible Training Providers. The ILS Program Specialist will continue to be a member of Youth Committee and collaborate with Department of Labor and Regulation on recommendations for youth in foster care.

In September 2017, the ILS Program Specialist sent CPS Supervisors, Regional Managers, and BIA/Tribal Child Welfare Agencies information about South Dakota Job Corps and an updated contact list for the Job Corps. The information has been helpful to increase awareness with staff and to promote career opportunities for youth.

During the *Age 16, Age 17 and Exit/Transitional Planning Meetings*, the FSS and CRP continue to encourage youth to be employed. One of the purposes of the meetings is for all the essential people to be involved in the meetings to discuss employment options for the youth and youth who are employed to continue to maintain their job. The ILS Program Specialist is participating in some of the meetings to guide to staff.

Facilities are encouraged to provide youth with job opportunities in the community or their facility. There is one facility which provides a community-based service delivery program. This facility provides employment and job shadowing opportunities through partnerships with the school districts, Department of Labor and Regulation, WIA, and similar programming. Youth work within the facility to learn independent living skills and to have responsibility. While it would be ideal for youth to work outside of the facility, in some situations, it just is not possible because of individual needs and security concerns. CPS will continue to promote employment opportunities for youth in the facilities. The more training youth receive, while in placement, the more independent and successful the youth will be in the future. CPS believes this is a promising practice for facilities to incorporate youth employment training and independent living skills in their program.

The following is a highlight from the CRP:

The CRP has been working with a youth on transitioning out of care. The youth completed high school and is enrolled to start school at Western Dakota Tech majoring in the Surgical Technician program. The youth was accepted to New Alternatives and is now living in her apartment. The youth has maintained employment for the summer and continues to work full time at a restaurant.

Over the last five years, there has been an increase with youth working in custody. As shown through this report with the NYTD reports and facility surveys that were completed. The ILS Program will continue to work on employment education and job opportunity for youth in the next Five-Year Plan. CPS knows being employed at an early age is important for a young adult to become a mature and responsible individual. Employment often boosts a person’s moral integrity, ability to enhance and develop his or her skills, and learn moral values such as teamwork and cooperation.

NYTD Question: Currently are you on Medicaid?

	17-year-old surveyed		19-year-old surveyed		21-year-old surveyed	
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Yes	64	55	60	55	54	30
No	2	3	2	0	2	12
Decline	1	1	0	1	0	1
Did not answer/other	4	2	7	13	20	18
Total respondents	71	61	69	61	69	61

Action Steps:

1. Develop youth’s knowledge about Medicaid and Medicaid Services through the Workshops, *Age 16, Age 17 Planning Meetings*, and *Exit/Transitional Meetings*.
2. Develop presentations at ILS Workgroup meetings concerning the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program.
3. Have resources available at the meetings for youth which explain the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program and service qualifications.
4. Continue to educate youth so they know Medicaid can continue until the age of 26.
5. Continue to collaborate with the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program.

During the *Age 16, Age 17, and Exit/Transitional Meetings*, the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program is presented so youth are aware of the program, and the youth know they can receive coverage up to the age of 26. During the Fall of 2017 ILS Workgroup Meeting and the 2018 Teen Conference, the Former Foster Care Medical Program Specialist presented to the groups and answered questions on the program. The focus of this presentation is to inform youth of the Medicaid coverage, so the youth have a better understanding of the program and to know who to contact in the state if the youth have questions. The Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program Specialist sends a letter and Medical Assistance Recipient Handbook to the youth when the youth enters the program to provide information about the coverage. The CRPs and the ILS Program Specialist continue to communicate with the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program to assist youth maintaining their eligibility and awareness of the program up to the age of 26.

Over the last five years, there has been an increasing effort to educate youth on the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program. In cohort 1 and cohort 2 of youth that are 17 years old, over 90 percent of the youth know they were on Medicaid. As youth have left care, these youth are showing they still are on Medicaid. The ILS Program will continue over the next five year to collaborate with the Former Care Medical Assistance Program to continue to educate youth on the program.

NYTD Question: In the past two years, did you refer yourself, or had someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?

	17-year-old surveyed		19-year-old surveyed		21-year-old surveyed	
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Yes	23	16	13	16	10	7
No	46	43	49	31	38	35
Decline	1	0	0	2	0	2
Did not answer/other	1	0	8	12	20	16
Total respondents	71	61	69	61	69	61

Action Steps:

1. Educate youth concerning alcohol and drug abuse through workshops and trainings.
2. Develop presentations for youth focused on preventing alcohol and drug use.
3. Educate youth to know what resources are available to assist with alcohol and drug services.

During each ILS Workshop, alcohol and drug prevention information is presented; youth are aware of the dangers and concerns which are associated with substance abuse. According to the *2016 Annual South Dakota Crash Report*, Young drivers are involved in more crashes than any other age group. In reported crashes, 13 percent of the drivers were under 20 years. Age of drivers involved in fatal and injury crashes follow the pattern of drivers in all crashes. Those drivers under 25 represent 25 percent of the licensed drivers involved in fatal crashes and 29 percent of the drivers in injury crashes. According to the *South Dakota 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 20.1 percent of the youth in 12th grade said they had ridden one or more times during the past 30 days in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. Also, there was 7.9 percent of the students who drove a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days when they were drinking alcohol one or more times. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is conducted every two years in South Dakota. A random sampling of all public, private, and Bureau of Indian Education schools containing any student in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 are eligible to be selected for inclusion in the survey. South Dakota passed the Social Host Law 163, which states no person acting as a social host may knowingly permit any person 18, 19 or 20 to consume any alcoholic beverages illegally. The ILS Program will continue to educate the youth on the dangers of using alcohol and drugs.

Over the last five years, there has been an increasing effort to educate youth on alcohol and drug prevention. During the ILS Workshops and ILS Teen Conferences, alcohol and drug education is a standing topic to present to youth, and how to access resources. The NYTD data is showing higher rates when the youth is 17 and these rates have declined when the young adult was 19 and 21 in cohort 1 and 2. The ILS Program will continue to educate youth on alcohol and drug prevention during the next 5 years.

NYTD Question: “In the past two years, were you homeless at any time?”

	17-year-old surveyed		19-year-old surveyed		21-year-old surveyed	
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Yes	3	2	14	3	6	4
No	66	59	47	44	43	39
Decline	1	0	1	1	0	0
Did not answer/other	1	0	7	13	20	17
Total respondents	71	61	69	61	69	61

Action Steps:

1. Educate youth on services available to them which they may be eligible for concerning housing at workshops and trainings.
2. Provide service information at Planning Meetings and *Exit Meetings*.
3. Encourage Youth/Foster Parent relationships to include potential housing resources after a youth has transitioned from foster care.
4. Educate youth the importance of going to a post-secondary school to further their education.
5. Encourage youth to attend post-secondary institutions which provide campus housing.
6. Provide budget and finance training to youth at workshops and trainings.

The FSSs and CRPs continue to educate youth on resources available through ILS and in the community to assist youth to be self-sufficient. A budget component was incorporated to be a part of each of the ILS Workshop agendas, so youth are provided additional information concerning budgeting. The CRPs also work with the youth on an individual basis with budgeting along with using the starter kit to assist youth with budgeting for their needs when they are independent.

The contract Independent Living Preparation Programs are required to educate youth on Public Housing assistance and assist youth to register for the program in the area youth would like to live. The ILS Program will continue to educate youth on the importance of attending a post-secondary school to complete their education, so they can provide for their future. The teen conference and ILS Workshops assist youth to become knowledgeable about post-secondary training and educational institutions. The conference is held at a college or technical institute campus setting so youth have an opportunity to experience and gain knowledge of independent living skills and what it would be like to stay in the dorms. The ILS Workshops sessions focus on the different colleges and technical institutes in the state. The ILS Workgroup also focuses activities and presentations on post-secondary education to educate youth on the importance of continuing their education.

The ILS Program Specialist is a member of the South Dakota Homeless Consortium and the Youth Committee Workgroup. In 2019, the Youth Committee Workgroup is working to form a Youth Advisory Board. The Youth Advisory Board will be developed in identifying gaps in current housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness in South Dakota. The consortium will be submitting another application for the Homelessness Demonstration Program in 2020. The demonstration project would assist in developing and executing a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness in the state. This next year, the consortium will be working to establish a committee with youth to address homelessness in the state and to assist with the application. In 2016, South Dakota did apply for the Homelessness Demonstration Program but was not one of the states funded. The Housing Youth Council will continue to meet to develop strategies and future opportunities to address youth homelessness.

During the summit, the Housing Youth Committee for the Homeless Consortium created a survey to gain information around the state to see what the services are available for runaway and homeless youth. The survey was used to gather information on the services, where gaps may be in services and a better understanding of the needs across the state. In 2019, the Continuum of Care Administrator with South Dakota Housing has been added as a member of the ILS Workgroup to address the challenges of homelessness in the state.

Over the last five years, there has been an increasing effort to educate youth on homelessness and how to prevent it. Young Voices Chapters have focused meetings on providing the resources to prevent become homeless. The ILS Program has encouraged youth to continue their education with the Educational Training Voucher funding. The NYTD data is showing 60 – 70 percent of the young adults have experienced homelessness in cohort 1 and 2. In the next five years, ILS

Program will continue to collocate with South Dakota Housing and other organization to help prevent homelessness in the state.

NYTD Question: “Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker to whom you can go to for advice or emotional support”

	17-year-old surveyed		19-year-old surveyed		21-year-old surveyed	
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Yes	62	59	54	44	43	39
No	7	2	7	3	6	4
Decline	0	0	0	1	0	1
Did not answer/other	2	0	8	13	20	17
Total respondents	71	61	69	61	69	61

Action Steps:

1. During the *Age 16 and Age 17 Planning Meetings*, encourage youth to invite important people to the meetings to continue to be a support to the youth.
2. Encourage youth to have a mentor to be a part of their life while in custody.
3. Encourage youth to be involved in Young Voices and for Young Voices to speak to foster parents to encourage them to have older youth in their homes.

The *Age 16, Age 17 and Exit/Transitional Planning Meetings* encourage youth to invite important people to the meetings to assist youth in planning for their future. CPS continues to encourage youth to have a mentor, while in custody. Twenty youth were involved from CPS with the USucceed Mentoring Program in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties. There is an incentive in the starter kit for youth to be involved with a mentor.

In 2016, one of Young Voices goals was to build on connections. Young Voices developed a connection sheet which was incorporated in the case plan. Adding this information to the case plan will assist in strengthening the connection piece with children and youth. Young Voices developed *What I want My Worker to Know: About Who is Important to Me*. This form has been added to FACIS and has been incorporated to be used with children and youth in CPS custody at an early age to build on.

The following is a highlight from a youth on positive connections with the foster parents:

The youth is currently a senior in high school. He has lived in his current foster home for almost nine years. Due to the stability and family; he has found in his foster home, he decided to stay in his foster home until he graduates from high school. The youth will be 19 when he graduates. He is an active member in the community and at school. He has found great success on the football field. He was also nominated for Homecoming Royalty this year which was very exciting for him. During the summer he is a lifeguard at the local swimming pool.

Over the last five years, there has been an increasing effort to keep connections with important people in the youth’s life through the *Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Meetings*. CPS, CRPs, and Young Voices have focused on the importance of connections. The NYTD data, with having at least one adult in your life, is showing to be higher when the youth is 17 and declines as the youth approached the age of 21 (in cohort 1 and 2). CPS will continue to invite important people to the youth’s life at the *Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Meetings*. The importance of having a connection will continue to be a high priority for CPS in the next five years.

V. Involve the public and private sectors in helping adolescents in foster care achieve independence (section 477(b)(2)(D) of the Act).

The following provides information on collaborative and coordinated efforts which have taken place during the reporting period to involve the public and private sectors in helping adolescents in foster care achieve independence. These same activities will continue during FFY17.

Department of Labor and Regulation, South Dakota Youth Employment Services:

The ILS Program Specialist will continue to serve on the established SDYES, as a subgroup of the South Dakota Workforce Development Council (WDC). The SDYES subgroup will be an advisory entity offering perspectives from CPS and other organizations to the Department of Labor and Regulation and the WDC concerning youth policy to assist the WDC.

Department of Education – *SDMyLife*:

The Independent Living Program will continue to collaborate with the Department of Education regarding *SDMyLife*. The CRPs use *SDMyLife* with youth in foster care. The Department of Education provided the CRPs an updated *SDMYLIFE* Training if there is a change with the CRPs. The user-friendly interface helps users with four key career preparation activities: career matching, career exploration, post-secondary education planning, and My Portfolio development. Each of these sections can be used on its own. For instance, someone interested in exploring careers could spend days simply learning about different careers and viewing multimedia interviews with people in those careers. Each youth in South Dakota has an account. If a youth does not know his or her account information, the CRP could assist. Some of the activities the CRPs have used *SDMyLife* with youth are scholarship search, college search, matchmaker assessment, and completing a career inventory.

The Department of Education representative provides the ILS Coordinator quarterly newsletters about the Build Dakota Scholarship. The newsletter is shared with the ILS Workgroup members and BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. Build Dakota was created to address the workforce shortage in South Dakota. The scholarships will cover the complete cost for attending any of the technical institutes within the state. As a condition of receiving the scholarship, those who accept are required to live and work in South Dakota for three years after graduation. If this requirement is not met; the scholarship is charged to a loan. A young adult would need to apply at the technical school first and then apply for the scholarship through the following website: www.builddakotascholarships.com.

Department of Health – Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP):

The PREP is a collaborative effort with the Department of Health, CPS and Lutheran Social Services. The overall goal of this project is to reduce teen pregnancy and STDs/HIV through intervention by increasing the knowledge and skills of youth to reduce risky behaviors and help them identify qualities and attributes of healthy relationships between individuals and within families. CPS will continue to assure youth in foster care can participate in the PREP training.

In 2018, Lutheran Social Services have provided the Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention curriculum. This curriculum has a shorter time frame and focuses on substance use and associated risky decisions made while under the influence

From October 2018, through March 2019, 80 youth completed the Reducing the Risk curriculum; 21 youth completed the Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention curriculum, and 21 youth completed Making Proud Choices. Lutheran Social Services continues to train staff and deliver PREP curriculums to youth within 16 programs that provide services to at risk youth throughout South Dakota. Facilities include Five psychiatric residential treatment programs, one intensive psychiatric treatment program, three group care facilities, two independent living programs, one vocational training program, one chemical dependency treatment program, two foster care programs and one refugee and immigration program. In June 2018, there was a teen conference.

During the conference, the Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention curriculum was presented to 84 youth.

In April, the PREP Program hosted a conference in Sioux Falls focused on Positive Youth Development; regarding internet safety, human trafficking, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and creating a safe classroom environment.

Court Improvement Program:

In October 2018, the 18th Annual Community Response to Child Abuse Conference was hosted by Child's Voice, the Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment of the University of South Dakota, and the Unified Judicial System, and Court Improvement Program. There were 500 participants that attended the conference in Sioux Falls. In September 2017, the Court Improvement Program sponsored the seventh annual Children's Justice Conference. The conference was duplicated in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. The conference is a multi-disciplinary training opportunity for the state and anyone involved with youth such as attorneys, judges, CPS staff, DOC staff, CASA, and mental health professionals.

Youth Transitional Impact Program:

The Department of Social Services' Division of Behavioral Health and CPS collaborated on a program to assist youth with mental health needs. New Alternative, located in Rapid City, provides specialized mental health services, transitional housing, and support services targeted to assist the young adult with employment, independent living skills and development of community supports to enhance their chances for a successful transition to adulthood. Referrals to the transition program will be for those youth 18 or older, who have functional impairments because of their mental illness. The program can host a maximum of 12 young adults. In FFY 2019, there was 10 youth in the program. Seven of these youth were former CPS youth. There was one youth enrolled in high school; six youth already achieved their diploma; and three not enrolled in school. At the time of discharge, there were eight youth employed.

South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association

CPS and the Division of Juvenile Services under the DOC meet with the South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association, which is comprised of the directors of the intensive residential, residential and group care providers in South Dakota every quarter. In May 2017, information on the ILS Five-Year Plan was shared with the South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association on providing more emphasis on job opportunities and youth and youth completing their high school education before leaving custody. In March 2018 and 2019, Young Voices presented information to the South Dakota Youth Care Providers Association about Young Voices; discussed the NYTD data; the importance for youth to be employed; to complete high school; have connections, and to be able to attend the Young Voices Meetings and ILS Workshops.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI):

The mission of JDAI is to support the juvenile justice system which ensures the safety of youth and the community, utilizes the assessment of risks, eliminates the unnecessary detention of youth, provides a safe environment for the youth held in detention, and promotes healthy youth development by providing due process and collaborative, evidence-based interventions for youth and families.

Before to disposition, a minor should not be held in secure detention unless:

1. The minor is alleged to have committed a delinquent offense; and
2. The objective assessment via the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) demonstrates there is a high risk for the minor to either commit another offense and/or not appear at future hearings.

South Dakota Codified Law, 26-7A-13, authorizes the court to find temporary custody for a juvenile who is at risk to harm himself or herself. However, no juvenile should be securely detained solely for self-protection unless the court, after considering the alternatives, finds no less restrictive alternative is available. Additionally, an order detaining a juvenile for self-protection should include a specific, time-limited plan for the juvenile's release to the least restrictive environment appropriate to the juvenile's needs.

The purpose of detention following disposition is to sanction delinquent conduct or violations of probation as may be required by law or as determined appropriate by the judicial officer. The decision to detain and the length of detention should be logically related to the seriousness of the offense or violation and the juvenile's risk to community safety and should be made in the context of an articulated system of graduated responses. Detention as a sanction should also be paired with appropriate therapeutic and remedial responses aimed at correcting the behavior and building competency. Ensuring Safe and Humane Conditions in Secure Confinement
Safe and humane conditions of confinement are one of JDAI's core requirements. Detention facilities where juveniles are held must meet federal, state and professional standards.

Public Housing Agencies:

CPS educates and assists youth on HUD/Section 8 so youth can avoid being homeless. The ILS Program Specialist is a member of the South Dakota for the Homeless Consortium and on the Youth Committee. The CRPs will continue to collaborate with youth to encourage youth to apply for Public Housing in the different locations in South Dakota. From July 1, 2017, to May 15, 2019, the CRPs had 17 contacts with youth concerning HUD Section 8 Housing and registered seven youth. In April 2019, a speaker from Corner Stone Apartments spoke to youth in Young Voices about housing issues. At the 2018 Teen Conference, a representative from Public Housing provided information on the program to 84 youth. The Public Housing Program Specialist attended the 2018 Teen Conference Community Health Fair to share housing information with 84 youth.

The Independent Living Preparation Programs will continue to assist youth in registering with Public Housing in the area the youth would like to live. The following was shared with the Independent Living Preparation Programs:

- McCrossan in Sioux Falls has a HUD Section 8 Housing Specialist, from Sioux Falls Housing and Redevelopment Commission present to McCrossan residents about housing opportunities. ILPP and Group Care residents learned about the housing costs in Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas. Information was presented on the process to register for a nationwide housing voucher, local tax-based housing, leases, utilities, and budgeting. Information on HUD/Section 8 is presented every three months. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, there were 36 youth educated on HUD/Section 8.
- VOA discussed HUD/Section with 29 youth from July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019.
- Abbott House Bridges discuss HUD/Section 8 Housing with the six youth and one youth registered for Section 8 Housing, from July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019. Information on HUD housing is also included in resource manual available to the youth in the program.

The ILS Program Specialist will continue to collaborate with the Department of Education, McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children Program Specialist who oversees the program. South Dakota currently does not have FUP vouchers available for use.

Post-Secondary Schools:

The ILS Program collaborates with post-secondary schools when planning the teen conferences and ILS Workshops. The 2018 Teen Conference was held at a college campus in Rapid City, at the South Dakota at the School of Mines and Technology, so youth would have a chance to experience college life during the week of the conference by having the youth live in the dorm and be on campus.

Public and Private Sector:

The ILS Program collaborates with the CRPs when planning the Young Voices Meetings, ILS Workshops and the teen conference. In each area, where the ILS Workshop, and teen conference are held, some local speakers assist with presentations to reinforce the ILS skills, which will assist youth in becoming independent adults. The following are some examples:

- Department of Labor and Regulation presented information on career exploration, career cluster, ethics, goals, completing a job application, job retention, and information on *Ready to Work*.
- A speaker presented on *Step into Your Greatness* workshop. The presenter was part of the Disproportionate Minority Contact conference.
- Department of Labor and Regulation presented job application and interview questions.
- Lutheran Social Services Financial Resources presented on the following topics: define their financial goals, wants and needs, credit and saving, they also shared questions the youth should ask themselves when preparing to rent an apartment, shared how to track monthly expenses, and had the youth participate in a budget activity.
- Caribou Coffee owners shared their experience as employees and what Caribou looks for in an employee and what they need to know in the kitchen.
- A speaker presented on Culturally Inclusive Programming for Youth, how their Native American culture has affected his life, historical trauma, and how to make changes for the future.
- Dietician discussed nutrition, healthy eating and preparing meals.
- Speaker presented on Job Corp and opportunities available with Job Corp.
- Department of Labor and Regulation presented career clusters, career readiness and what employers are looking for in employees.
- Exercise Therapist provided information on the importance of exercising and showed different techniques when exercising.
- South Dakota Public Housing educated nine youth on Public Section 8 Housing.
- A tour guide explained activities and services the library can offer to the community.
- Highway Patrol Officer presented on the dangers of drug and alcohol and what could happen if a person is doing drugs or alcohol. Highway Patrol Officer with a dog from their canine program presented and demonstrated their work. Information on illegal drugs was presented as well as the use of canine for narcotics detection
- Post-secondary school's representative presented on applying for college, different majors, when to take the ACT's, when to start applying for scholarships and financial aid.
- Lutheran Social Services presented on the Mentoring program, foster parent showed how to scrapbook, how to use the youth's *Life Book* when scrapbooking

Medicaid – Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program

The ILS Program continues to assist the *FFCMA* Program to find youth over 21 years of age and to assist young adults who are eligible for the program. The CRPs continue to educate youth over 21 years of age and provide the youth the contact information, so they can register for the program. Eligibility requirements are that youth must have been in foster care under the responsibility of the State on their 18th birthday. There are no income limits and no resource limits. Eligibility continues from the month the youth is no longer under the responsibility of the State until the end of the month in which the youth attains age 26, if the youth maintains residency in South Dakota. If the youth attends an out-of-state post-secondary school, the *FFCMA* Program will continue if the youth intends to return to South Dakota and there are medical providers in their area who accept South Dakota Medicaid.

CPS and Division of Medical Services continue to collaborate to assist young adults from 18 up In December 2017, the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program Specialist presented at the ILS Workgroup Meeting over the Digital Dakota Network and during the 2018 Teen Conference. The information was presented so youth have a better understanding of the coverage and how to utilize it.

Collaboration with the Attorney General's Office to Prevent Being A Victim of Human Trafficking:

During the 2018 Teen Conference, the Division of Criminal Investigation had an investigator present to 84 youth and 20 adults on human trafficking in South Dakota and Internet Safety. The investigator presented a power point about human trafficking; how a sexual predator tries to gain a person's trust to use this person and take one's freedom away; grooming process; using nude pictures against a person to get what they want; how to identify a sexual predator; and how to avoid being a victim of human trafficking. The presenter also presented on internet safety, how to prevent being bullied online, and steps a person can take to stop cyber bullying.

During the 2018 Exit Survey, 42 youth or 95 percent answered they knew how to prevent sex trafficking and in 2017 Exit Survey, 50 youth or 100 percent indicated they knew about preventing sex trafficking and 49 youth or 100 percent said they know what sex trafficking means. CPS has increased its efforts to inform youth about sex trafficking, and the prevention of being a victim. CPS will continue to provide preventative sex trafficking information and education to youth.

Collaboration with Lutheran Social Services, USucceed Mentoring Program:

The Sioux Empire United Way provided funding to LSS for the USucceed Mentoring Program. The program is designed to enhance relationships for youth in foster care by linking youth with an adult volunteer mentor in the community. The mentor program is designed to help youth gain a strong relationship with a positive adult, gain practical knowledge of how employment opportunities take place in the community, and give youth confidence to pursue post-secondary education. LSS of South Dakota launched USucceed in January 2012. All mentors have undergone thorough screening and training. Mentors commit to meeting with their students at least four hours a month year-round. Three core areas of programming include:

- **Relationship Building:** By meeting with their mentor for at least four hours per month, youth learn the importance of consistent, positive relationships. Some activities to enhance relationships include attending baseball games, eating lunch together or playing a round of mini golf.
- **Independent Living:** Mentors have helped youth with grocery shopping, learning how to prepare a meal and have discussed employment opportunities. There is also a focus on the importance of community service. Youth have volunteered for the Humane Society, packed sack lunches for day laborers and helped distribute food through the food bank.
- **Academic Success:** Youth in the program have been exposed to various careers and the importance of earning a high school diploma or GED. In their first months of involvement with the program, all youth received a graduation cap. Academic Success helped reinforce the goal of getting their degree. There has also been discussion related to the importance of higher education.

LSS provides the USucceed Mentoring Program in Lincoln and Minnehaha County. Volunteer mentors work with youth who lack adult support. Mentors and students meet at least one hour per week, working on relationship building, independent living skills, and academic success. Since July 1, 2017, to May 1, 2018, there have been 185 youth involved in the program. Of those, 20 youth were in the custody of CPS.

LSS also operates a school-based mentor program where over 1,200 volunteers meet one-on-one with a student for one hour per week at school during the school day. In our annual survey, we asked our mentors if their student is in foster care or away from their family and 5.4 percent responded the student they mentor falls into this situation.

USucceed Mentoring Program estimates the numbers may be low because several students are not living with adoptive or birth parents or they have at least been temporarily removed from their home. There are also others who might not be in foster care, but CPS connects with the family regularly.

LSS hosts one event per month for youth to attend in addition to the one-on-one time spent with their mentor each week. At these events, LSS incorporates all three areas of programming. For example, when doing a service project for the Humane Society, youth in the program were able to hear from a local vet tech. They also heard from a representative from a local instructor who teaches in a vet tech program. This person also brought in scientific models for the youth to look at to learn more about animal anatomy. Also, animal owners were brought in to talk about the responsibility involved in owning a pet. Youth were provided with information about potential careers related to animals and the steps needed to get to this career goal.

- VI. Coordinate services with “other federal and state programs for youth (especially transitional living programs funded under Part B of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974,) abstinence programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies” in accordance with section 477(b)(3)(F) of the Act**

Independent Living Preparation Programs (ILPP):

CPS provides financial support to youth in the three ILPP which are: Volunteers of America Dakotas, McCrossan Boys Ranch and Abbott House Bridges. The ILPP CPS contracts with do not receive funding under Part B of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

McCrossan’s Boys Ranch:

Provides shelter and case management for male youth ages 16 to 20 to learn independent living skills and experience what it means to live on their own. Applicants must possess the ability, both mentally and physically, to complete the program and express a willingness to work with the program. The program currently has six apartments with room for 24 participants and on-site laundry facilities. The youth must attend school or be working towards their GED. McCrossan Boys Ranch also works with boys who have their diploma or GED and are trying to enroll in post-secondary education. The youth are provided with 24-hour staff support from the group care staff.

In January 2016, McCrossan Boys Ranch opened an eight-bed Transitional Living Unit. This program focuses on youth 16-18 years old who may not entirely be ready for ILPP, but do not necessarily require the structure of Group Care any longer. The Transitional Unit will be a step between Group and ILPP which focuses on preparing young men for success when they move to ILPP. Youth will be eligible, if they have achieved their level three status at McCrossan or have completed another program and are awaiting admittance to an ILPP. The Transitional Unit will fall under their Group Care license and will be staffed by one staff per eight residents.

Volunteers of America, Dakotas:

Volunteers of America, Dakotas provides independent living preparation services to run away, homeless and transition age youth between the ages of 16 -21 in one geographic location in Sioux Falls, SD. ILPP services in Sioux Falls are provided in an eleven (11) unit efficiency apartment building with a staff office onsite with capacity for ten (10) young adults. All utilities and internet access are included in monthly rent. Access to local phone service is available onsite; youth are responsible for the cost of cell phone and cable charges should they choose to purchase these services independently. Participants are expected to be involved in constructive activities totaling 40 hours per week as a combination of education, employment and volunteering.

Abbott House, Bridges:

The Bridges Independent Living Preparation Program started on June 1, 2014. The Bridges provides housing, case management, and life skills to young people from ages 16 – 23. Participants in Bridges rent an apartment, in a duplex, attached to a therapeutic foster home. The program provides a furnished apartment with a kitchen, living area, bathroom, and onsite laundry facilities. Residents are required to obtain employment and pay 30 percent of their income per month, up to \$200, for rent. Residents also receive a \$50 stipend per week for a food allowance if program expectations are followed. Residents are expected to be involved in constructive activities at least 40 hours per week. A program staff person meets with youth weekly and as needed with each resident for case planning, budgeting, etc. The foster parents of the Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care Program are onsite and available for additional support and guidance.

Specialized Independent Living Services:

CPS provides Independent Living Services for youth in foster care with Abbott House-Bridges, Volunteers of America, Dakotas, and McCrossan. The following data provides information about youth served by the ILPPs from June 1, 2018, to May 1, 2019.

		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
Agency	DSS	6	7	19
	DOC	0	3	13
	BIA	0	0	1
	Other	0	19	3
	Total	6	29	36
Gender		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	Male	0	12	36
	Female	6	17	0
	Transgender			0
Ages		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	19-20	0	8	5
	18 yrs.	2	13	11
	17 yrs.	4	6	20
	16 yrs.	0	2	0
Education		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	GED	2	0	0
	Pursuing GED	2	0	2
	High School Diploma completed while in care	1	4	13
	College (currently enrolled)	1	2	3
	Complete GED or Diploma prior to intake	1	11	2
Employment		Bridges	VOA	McCrossan
	60 days out of 90 days	3	21	29
	3 weeks after moving to TLP	2	21	7
Human Trafficking	16-20	6	29	36
HUD / Section 8 Housing				
	16-20	6 – educated 1 – registered	29 – educated 0 – registered	36 – educated 0 – registered

The DOC, Division of Juvenile Corrections provides their funding to assist youth needing independent living preparation and training, transitional services and start-up kit assistance as youth enter independent living. Youth which are pregnant in the custody of DOC and placed at the New Start Program would be eligible for this funding with DOC.

CPS collaborates with the Department of Health with the PREP. The overall goal of this project is to reduce teen pregnancy, abstinence, contraception to prevent pregnancy and STDs/HIV through intervention to increase the knowledge and skills of youth to reduce risky behaviors and help them identify qualities and attributes of healthy relationships between individuals and within families.

The Independent Living Preparation Programs has educated 73 youth and four youth have registered with Public Housing. From July 1, 2018, to May 1, 2019, the CRPs provided information on Public Housing to 17 youth. The Independent Living Preparation Program and CRPs will continue to educate and assist youth in registering with Public Housing in the area the youth would like to live. Chafee funding for housing assistance from July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, for youth over the age of 18 still living with their foster parents, living on their own, renting from a landlord or renting an apartment within the Independent Living Preparation Program was \$39,568.61. To receive “room and board” youth must have exited foster care because they attained 18 years of age and have not yet reached their 21st birthday. Youth need to complete an individual Independent Living Plan and submit a housing application for prior approval before funds can be expended. The five CRPs collaborate with the local housing programs in the different areas of the state, so youth transitioning from foster care receive low-cost housing. Some areas of the state like Sioux Falls and Rapid City which are the large urban areas have a long waiting list to obtain low-cost housing.

The following is an example of the ILS program housing assistance to assist a youth:

The youth has been in the community. He has traveled between Rapid City and Sioux Falls for several months trying to establish a plan. The state has helped him by providing him stays at New Alternatives and housing. He recently has been able to access several community resources in Rapid City and has kept a full-time job. The youth has established stable housing and employment and stays in contact with his CRP for support.

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation has 16 local offices throughout the state with several itinerant sites offering employment services to job seekers. At these local offices, individuals can visit with an Employment Specialist regarding part-time or full-time work. Employment Specialists can work one-on-one with job seekers to offer career planning, job search assistance, National Career Readiness Certification, application assistance, and resume preparation. Each local office provides Job Search Assistance Program classes to assist individuals in securing employment. This program covers an array of job search techniques from developing job leads, interviewing techniques, and follow-up.

Youth in foster care, youth who have transitioned out of foster care, or youth receiving ETV funds may visit with employment specialists regarding more in-depth services through the WIOA. WIOA is an employment-training program housed at the Department of Labor and Regulation local offices. WIOA offers intensive case management leading to employment. Individualized services through WIOA may include paid work experiences, on-the-job training, tuition assistance and much more.

Youth have access to the Department of Labor and Regulation website, www.sdjobs.org, which offers job search opportunities, labor market information, career interest assessments, Reality Check budgeting, and other self-service activities. As funding allows, the WIOA Program may offer youth tuition assistance up to for a WIOA approved program of study which will lead to a degree or certificate within two years from the beginning of a training program.

The Department of Labor and Regulation recognizes the importance of reaching out to youth in foster care, especially as they begin to transition to the adult world. Local office staff receives updated contact information from the CRPs and updates on changes and challenges with services for youth in foster care. At the local level, field offices are encouraged to participate in planning sessions and delivery of services for youth

Department of Labor and Regulation has nine sub-grantee providers of the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Program with services available throughout the state. AEL is for individuals over 18 and offers instructional courses to:

- Assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.
- Assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children.
- Assist adults in the completion of secondary school education.
- Prepare individuals for post-secondary success.

The AEL program emphasizes skills such as reading, writing, numeracy, financial literacy, English language competency, problem-solving, health literacy, and family literacy. These skills bolster workplace readiness, transitions to post-secondary education, and a higher quality of life for South Dakotans. The Department of Labor and Regulation will continue to collaborate with the CPS to provide opportunities for youth in foster care to participate in new programs.

VII. Coordination Between Programs When a Youth Runs from Foster Care.

In June 2019, the ILS Program Specialist attended the 14th Annual Homeless Summit which was dedicated to South Dakota Coordinated Entry System Development. South Dakota Housing Development Authority has contracted with Corporation for Supportive Housing for assistance in creating South Dakota Coordinated Entry System. The information provided by Corporation for Supportive Housing for the South Dakota System Map detailing how people currently flow through the homeless system in South Dakota. The Senior Program Manager for Corporation for Supportive Housing will return to South Dakota to continue the process of developing South Dakota's coordinated entry system statewide. The South Dakota Homeless Consortium members will assist in the creation, implementation, and success of the South Dakota Coordinated Entry System. The system changes will provide improved outcomes for those who experience homelessness in the state. During the summit, the South Dakota Advisory Board with the Homeless Consortium created a survey to gain information around the state to see what the services are for runaway and homeless youth. This is a chance to gather information on what there is for services, where gaps may be in services and get an overall idea of what is needed.

VIII. Collaborate with governmental or other community entities to promote a safe transition to independence by reducing the risk to youth and young adults in the child welfare system will be victims of human trafficking.

The ILS Program collaborated with the Attorney General's office and the Division of Criminal Investigations, to have a Criminal Investigator present on human trafficking in South Dakota and internet safety at the 2018 Teen Conference in June. For more information, see Section V. Involving the Public and Private Section under "Collaboration with the Attorney General Office to Prevent Being a Victim of Human Trafficking".

CPS has a policy in place which requires sex trafficking information to be shared with youth during the Transitional Exit Meeting which is held between 90 and 30 days before the youth leaves care.

- IX. Provide specific training in support of the goals and objectives of the states' CFCPSTA and to help foster parents, relative guardians, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living, consistent with section 477(b)(3)(D) of the Act. Such training should be incorporated into the title IV-E/IV-B training plan, but identified as pertaining to CFCPSTA, with costs allocated appropriately.**

Foster Parent Training:

Foster parents, adoptive parents, staff from group care centers for minors and residential treatment facilities and FSSs who work with youth attend workshops designed to assist them in working more effectively with youth and understand the issues confronting youth as they prepare for independent living. In addition to the knowledge gained, the workshops continue to be an excellent networking opportunity for those in attendance. With the ILS Workshops, CPS has a Three-Year Plan to focus on a variety of ILS topics that are shared. CRPs assist foster parents in teaching life skills to youth by using an Independent Living checklist and CLSA. They also provide information to foster parents on teen issues and Native American culture and provide each foster parent a current local resource list. Foster parents also participate in the *Age 16 and 17 Planning Meetings* for youth in their care. In addition, foster parents, CRPs, FSSs and staff from group care centers for minors and residential treatment facilities work together to encourage creating and maintaining life books and helping youth develop with meaningful and positive relationships and connections. The foster parent trainings are provided at the semi-annual ILS workshops.

Youth with Special Needs:

CPS collaborates with facilities in meeting the needs of youth with special needs. The FSS works the facilities to develop a plan for the youth with independent living depending on the youth's level of development. The Independent Living Program has collaborated with Southeast Behavioral Health and Turtle Creek to see what adjustments could be made to provide independent living skills to for youth with developmental disabilities in facilities and how we coordinate services with the facilities. Discussion about the types of services available from CPS what issues face youth in those and other group/residential programs and what can be done to assure youth receive needed ILS in facilities. The *ILS Skills Assessment Checklist* was developed to assist with this process. The checklist tool has been used to assist facilities in their work with youth. The *ILS Skills Assessment Checklist* tool will be used in addition to the case plan to track youth's progress with ILS when placed in facilities and will follow them as they move from one placement to another so there is continuity in ILS services.

Special Purchases:

FSSs and CRPs request funding for special purchases related to employment, education, and youth development. Youth can request funding to purchase special clothing required for work, driver's education, bus passes to and from work, funding for work-related trainings and graduation items (graduation announcements, gowns, and pictures). Funding has been given to youth to improve their self-esteem (dancing classes, foreign language studies, wrestling camps, tutors and weight watcher activities). Chafee funds have paid for CRPs, foster parents and youth to travel to visit post-secondary schools. From July 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, 27 youth received \$2,658.98 for special purchases.

CPS gave each successful youth graduating from high school and each youth who accomplished the difficult task of completing a GED a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card as a graduation gift. During the reporting period, twenty-nine youth were given \$50 gift cards as a graduation gift.

X. Involve youth/young adults in the CFCPSTA, CFSP, NYTD, and other related agency efforts.

CPS has ensured youth involvement in the Child and Family Services Plan process by creating, developing, and implementing a plan and activities for recruitment of youth. CPS Program Specialist responsible for the Chafee Grant is in a unique position of leadership within the Permanency & Well-being Workgroup. This leadership position has helped to develop and promote consistency for data integrated into the Five-Year CFSP (2015-2019). CPS used the outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being and the systemic factors as the measures for the core structure of the CFSP.

During the ILS Workgroup Meetings in 2018, the CFCPSTA, Child and Family Services Plan and Review (CFSP and CFSR) and NYTD were discussed during the meetings. Information has been shared with the ILS Workgroup, so workgroup members and youth have a better understanding of this information. After sharing this information, CPS asks the ILS members and youth for their input. CPS continues to involve youth through Young Voices to receive input from them to assist with the CFCPSTA, CFSP, CFSR, and NYTD. Young Voices has presented NYTD data to many organizations in the state to spread the information about NYTD and how this data represents the youth in South Dakota.

Members of Young Voices presented information during to the following events:

- In June 2018, at the Teen Conference and ILS Workgroup meeting;
- In March – April 2019 and September - October 2018 Workshops Young Voices members presented in four areas in the state (Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre, and Aberdeen);
- In February 2019 at the South Dakota Association of Youth Care Providers Meeting and South Dakota Legislators Social Event in Pierre;

XI. Consultation with Tribes (section 477(b)(3)(G) of the Act) Provide results of the Indian tribe consultation (section 477(b)(3)(G) of the Act), specifically as it relates to determining eligibility for benefits and services and ensuring fair and equitable treatment for Indian youth in care:

The Independent Living Program Specialist collaborates with the ICWA Program Specialist in the state office to communicate and to share information relating to the ILS program with the tribes. The ICWA Program Specialist provides this information to the appropriate contacts within the tribal areas, so youth in foster care are aware of the independent living services. ICWA Program Specialist acts as a liaison between the CPS and the tribes.

CPS will continue to inform the nine tribes about Education and Training Vouchers and the Chafee Foster Care Program available to eligible youth on the reservation. Special emphasis has been placed on meeting the needs of Native American youth. The Independent Living Program Specialist and ICWA Program Specialist have made each tribe aware of available services and opportunities available to Native American Youth ages 18 through 21 who were formerly in foster care under Tribal jurisdiction. Also, financial assistance for post-secondary education and training is available to eligible tribal youth through the Educational Training Vouchers.

Native American youth in foster care with tribal child welfare agencies between the ages of 14 to 21 are invited to be involved in the Chafee Foster Care Program in the following ways:

- Attending IL Workshops
- Attending ILS Teen Conferences
- Attending the ILS Workgroup Meetings
- Medicaid eligibility for youth up to age 26 who exited foster care at 18 and was funded with IV-E funds through a state/tribal agreement.

- Financial assistance for post-secondary education and training is available to eligible tribal youth.
- CRPs supports youth who exited foster care which was under the BIA and tribal custody.
- Services provided by the Department of Labor and Regulation (job mentors, job skills, writing resumes and pre-employment education).

The ICWA Program Specialist has forwarded emails to the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies from the ILS Program Specialist related to Independent Living Services such as the teen conference, ETV Scholarship funding, ILS Workshops, and ILS Workgroup Meetings. In Independent Living Services and NYTD information was shared by the ICWA Program Specialist at the State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Meeting. Also, written materials were shared with State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation members about the ILS program.

CPS maintains a contract with Lutheran Social Services to provide the CRPs. The CRPs provide assistance and services to the youth in CPS custody, as well as youth with BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. While the best way to learn life skills is by doing, some initial training and guidance can save a great deal of trouble for youth moving out on their own. Therefore, ensuring youth have exposure to various life skills, while still in foster care, is critical to the success of any transition program. The FSSs in partnership with the CRPs will ensure each young person leaving care will have the skills necessary to live independently and productively in the community. The CRP work with youth in foster care and youth who have transitioned out of foster care. The CRPs will connect with youth in their area and will continue this process when youth transitions from CPS and until youth are 21 years old.

The ICWA Program Specialist has created a contact list for each of the tribes. This information has been shared with the CRPs. The CRPs use this information to make connections with the tribes regarding the Independent Living Program for services such as CLSA, ETV funds, Youth Voices, ILS Workgroup and ILS Workshop, and ILS Teen Conference. The CRPs will continue to be responsible for identifying resource and network with BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies on the reservations in their area.

Native American youth are and will continue to be involved in all aspects of the program. Special attention will be given to ensuring the Independent Living resources and CRP services are available to youth living on the reservations. The CRPs have made efforts to schedule meetings with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies and make services available to assist the tribal youth in foster care.

The following chart provides information on services to youth which have been referred by BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. CPS has not received referrals from the tribal program during this timeframe which is why no youth listed for services.

Services to Youth Referred by BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies										
Reservation	Number Youth Served	Meetings with CRP	C L S A	Received Information on the ETV Funds	Discussed or Attending the Young Voices Meeting	Job Opportunity	N Y T D	ILPP / Housing	ILS Workshop	Teen Conference
Cheyenne River Reservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crow Creek Reservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flandreau Reservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Lower Brule Reservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Ridge Reservation	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0
Rosebud Reservation	1	9	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0
Sisseton Wahpeton	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1
Standing Rock Reservation	2	5	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	0
Yankton Sioux Reservation	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	6	15	3	5	7	2	3	2	2	1

Efforts:

1. Continue to work with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare agencies on the reservations through the CRPs.
2. Continue to communicate with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfares agencies on youth visits and opportunities for youth through the CRPs.
3. Continue to encourage and invite BIA and Tribal Child Welfare agencies and youth to attend the ILS Workshops, Young Voices, ILS Teen Conference and ILS Workgroup Meetings.

At the State/Tribal Consultation Meetings in May 2017, May 2018, and May 2019 the ICWA Program Specialist presented NYTD data at the State/Tribal Child Welfare Consultation Meetings. The ICWA Program Specialist also discussed the services available through the ILS Program for youth including youth in the foster care through tribal child welfare programs. The ICWA Program Specialist discussed the ILS Advisory Workgroup and told the group there is a need for more representation on the workgroup from tribal programs. The members of the group were invited to contact CPS if they were interested in participating. Tribal representatives are sent the agenda and invitation to attend the ILS Workgroup Meeting. As described earlier in this section of the APSR, the Independent Living Workgroup meets at least twice a year for planning, organizing and facilitating the regional workshops and teen conferences. Workgroup members evaluate the success of the conference, plan for the workshops and provide guidance to the IL Program Specialist for planning for independent living services. Having tribal representatives attend the ILS Workgroup Meetings would give them the opportunity to learn more about the services and provide input into program planning. One of the representatives chose to attend. Emails are sent to tribal representatives inviting them and their youth to regional workshops and the teen conference. The CRPs communicate very frequently with tribal representatives from each of the tribes as part of the services being provided to youth who are under the care of the tribal program. CPS will continue to request to have the CFCPSTA included on the agenda for upcoming State/Tribal Consultation Meeting to again encourage tribal participation in the ILS Workgroup and discuss the program services.

In SFY 2019, CPS will continue CFCPSTA program but will not be expanding to the age of 23. If youth are over 18, youth can stay in custody up to the age of 21 or until the youth graduates from high school depending upon whichever comes first.

Summary:

Employment:

Over the last five years, there has been an increase in youth employment. During the Age 16 and Age 17 Meetings youth employment is a primary focus. CPS acknowledges having a job means

so much more than a paycheck. Employment is a connection to a lifelong mentor, the ability to envision a career path, a boost in self-confidence, to prevent homelessness, and to encourage youth to value their self-worth. The FSSs and CRP will promote employment, as a priority while in care. The CRPs will continue to provide training at the ILS Workshops, Young Voices Meetings, and the ILS Teen Conference. Employment will continue to be addressed in the next five-year plan.

Youth placed in group homes and similar facilities may not be reporting employment when they work in facilities. Youth who are employed within facilities, they still are learning valuable life skills. In the upcoming Five-Year Plan, the work information will continue to be addressed. Adding a question in the Exit Survey to acknowledge youth employment in facility placements will provide additional data.

The ILS Program Specialist will collaborate with the Department of Labor and Regulation and the South Dakota Youth Employment Service Council. CRPs will record contacts they have with youth and the Department of Labor and Regulation. The goal is to continue to increase the employment opportunities with youth with the Department of Labor and Regulation. Over the next five years, Young Voices will present the NYTD data to SDYES to share the employment outcomes and to continue to work with youth in care and young adults who have transitioned from foster care.

Education:

Over the last five years, there have been many accomplishments to assist with knowing where youth are with their high school credits. Implementing the education assessment screen to the FACIS system is one of those successes. This screen has supported the FSS to keep track of the credits a youth has received. The Age 16 and Age 17 Meeting has assisted in bringing important people, including the school contact, the opportunity to review the school information, so everyone is on the same page and youth are not falling behind with their education. Having youth complete the Age 16 and Age 17 Surveys after the meetings have provided additional information on the youth's satisfaction with the meetings and their educational performance.

Over the last five years, a Department of Education Program Specialist was added to the ILS Workgroup to assist if issues with education need to be addressed with youth in foster care. The ILS Program Specialist and the Group Care/Residential Treatment/Alternative Services Program Specialist will continue to address barriers with education. The ILS survey with facilities will continue to be used to provide additional information with youth. The next survey will be implemented in 2020 with the facilities. In the next Five-Year Plan, results from 2016, 2018 and 2020 surveys will be shared during the South Dakota Youth Care Provider Meeting with facilities. The barriers have been addressed during this period and continued to be reviewed.

National Youth in Transitional Database:

Over the last five years, there has been an increasing effort to educate youth on the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program. In cohort 1 and cohort 2 of youth that is 17 years old, over 90 percent of the youth know they were on Medicaid. As youth have left care, these youth are showing they still are on Medicaid. The ILS Program will continue over the next five year to collaborate with the Former Care Medical Assistance Program to continue to educate youth on the program.

There has been an increasing effort to educate youth on alcohol and drug prevention. During the ILS Workshops and ILS Teen Conferences, alcohol and drug education is a standing topic to present to youth, and how to access resources. The NYTD data is showing higher rates when the youth is 17, and these rates had declined when the young adult was 19 and 21 in cohort 1 and 2. The ILS Program will continue to educate youth on alcohol and drug prevention during the next five years.

The ILS Program Specialist is a member of the South Dakota Homeless Consortium and the Youth Committee Workgroup. In 2019, the Youth Committee Workgroup is working to form a Youth Advisory Board. The Youth Advisory Board will be developed in identifying gaps in current housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness in South Dakota. The consortium will be submitting another application for the Homelessness Demonstration Program in 2020. In 2016, South Dakota did apply for the Homelessness Demonstration Program but was not one of the states funded. The Housing Youth Council will continue to meet to develop strategies and future opportunities to address youth homelessness.

There has been an increasing effort to keep connections with essential people in the youth's life through the Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Meetings. CPS, CRPs, and Young Voices have focused on the importance of connections. The NYTD data, with having at least one adult in your life, is showing to be higher when the youth is 17 and declines as the youth approached the age of 21 of 21 (in cohort 1 and 2). CPS will continue to invite important people to the youth's life at the Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Meetings.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, as the state agency responsible for administering, supervising and overseeing the Chafee Grant will continue to collaborate with a variety of contacts in the state such as DOC, Department of Labor and Regulation Department of Education, South Dakota Housing, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies and others in South Dakota to assist youth. The ILS Program has been a valuable resource to assist youth in reaching their goals and successful independence.

On May 2, 2019, 22 participants (including seven youth) attended the Five-Year Plan Meeting. The group decided on the following priorities from the meeting: 1) education is a high priority; youth need to graduate from high school or have their GED before leaving care; 2) job opportunities need to continue to be a priority for youth while in care and working with the DLR; 3) establish connections for youth before leaving care; and 4) working with South Dakota Homeless Consortium in the state with homelessness. These are the four priorities for the next five years with the Chafee program.

XV. EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM

2020 Progress Update

The Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, and (CPS) is the state agency responsible for administering, supervising and overseeing the Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program. The ETV Program is set forth under Section 477 (a) (3) "to help children likely to remain in foster care until age 18 years of age prepare for and enter post-secondary training and educational institutions".

The Division of Child Protection Services, (CPS) implements policies and procedures to ensure South Dakota provides fair and equitable treatment of recipients in the ETV Program. The State will continue to assure and oversee the expansion of equal and fair treatment for current foster youth and youth who have aged out of the foster care system.

The identified ILS Program Specialist and contact information are listed below.

Eric Grover

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Eric.Grover@state.sd.us

<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx>

The Division of Child Protection Services is committed to improving the participation and success of youth who have exited foster care and are participating in educational and post-secondary training programs. The authorized ETV Program will give South Dakota the financial capability to encourage and support youth in completing educational goals and post-secondary training programs.

The funding received from the Federal ETV Program, which is used to support post-secondary education and training costs, including the cost of living and attendance, are provided to eligible youth. In accordance with the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFPSTA), a youth may apply for assistance through the State's ETV Program. The level of education makes a big difference in where and how youth will live as well as the type of employment for which youth will qualify. It is therefore critical youth graduate from high school or receive a GED and continue to post-secondary education or training. CPS will use ETV funds to assist youth in making the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. The Family First Prevention Services Act issued on July 9, 2018, allowed South Dakota to expand to assist young adults that were in foster care at age 18, adopted or placed in a guardianship with kinship at age 16, to participate in the (ETV) program and remain eligible until the young adult reaches 26 year of age, as-long-as a young adult is enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program. In no event will a young adult participate in the program for more than five years.

The ILS Program Specialist administers the ETV funds and is the liaison for youth eligible for the program. The FACIS data system provides a report to ensure the total amount of educational assistance to a youth under the federal assistance program does not exceed the total cost of attendance as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The ETV data is shared and will continue to be shared, at the ILS Workgroup Meeting. The ILS Workgroup will continue to receive education on the ETV funding and the eligibility guidelines and educate others on the program; this is completed by the ILS Program Specialist. The ETV brochures are given to members of the workgroup.

South Dakota collaborates with each of the nine tribes in the state, so they are aware of the ETV registration period. An email from the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program Specialist concerning the ETV funds was shared with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies in the Fall of 2018, Spring of 2019, and Summer of 2019. The CRP contacts the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies to provide information on the ILS services and how youth can apply for the ETV funds. The CRPs assist the youth with the ETV registration and the application for the post-secondary school. The CRPs will continue to be in contact with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies about the ETV funds and ask if there are youth that would be eligible, so the CRP can contact.

CPS will continue to provide consultation to the tribes to remind the tribes with an approved IV-E plan or a title IV-E tribal and state agreement they have the option to receive directly from ACF a portion of the state's CFPSTA and /or ETV allotment to provide services to eligible tribal youth (section 477(j) of the ACT). At this time, the tribes have not pursued an agreement.

Financial Reporting

The amount of SFY 19 allocated ETV funds expended from July 1, 2018, to May 1, 2019 is \$75,185.00.

Describe the specific accomplishments and progress to establish, expand or strengthen the State's post-secondary educational assistance program to achieve the purpose of the ETV Program.

The following are the number of youth who received the ETV funds for the period specified in the application instructions. The ETV funds paid up to \$2,500 per semester for a youth to attend post-secondary schools for the following timeframe:

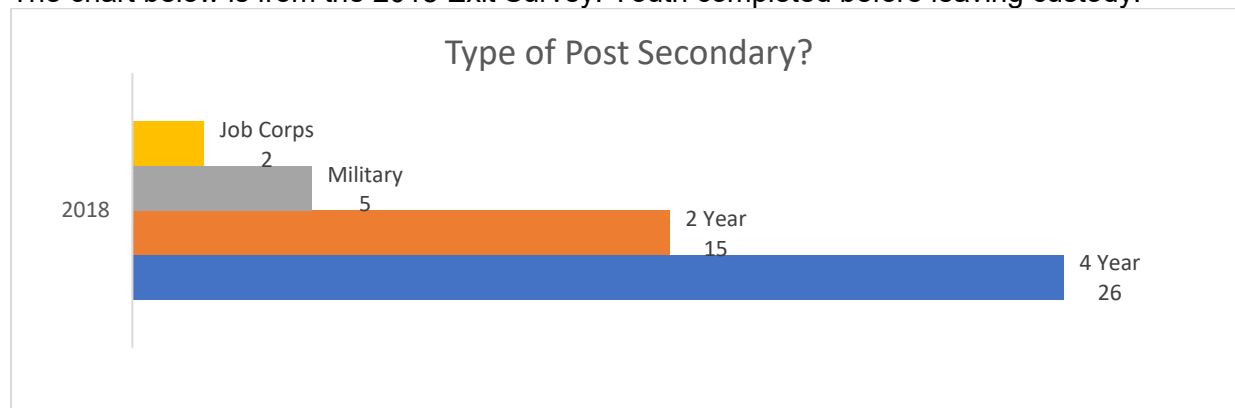
July 1, 2018, to June 1, 2019

- Fall 2018 – 17 youth
- Spring 2019 – 14 youth

The Fall 2018 semester, 17 youth received the ETV funds, and of those, 13 youth were new applicants. In the Spring 2019 semester, 14 youth received the ETV funds, and of those applicants, five youth were new applicants. The total unduplicated number of youths receiving ETV funds from July 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019, there were 29 youth.

CPS gives each youth graduating from college and high school or completing a GED, a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card as a graduation gift. From June 1, 2018, to May 15, 2019, there was 18 youth who received gift cards for high school graduation or GEDs. At the 2018 Teen Conference, 84 youth received a tour at the School of Mines and Technology.

The chart below is from the 2018 Exit Survey. Youth completed before leaving custody.



In 2018, most of the youth do indicate a four-year university as their future plan (26 youth or 59 percent) followed by a two-year technical school setting (15 youth or 34 percent). Five youth or 11 percent are looking at the military as an option after high school. The ETV scholarships did increase in the 2018 Fall semester to 17 youth from 2017 Fall semester to 12 youth attended. The 2018 Spring semester 6 youth attended compared to 14 youth the Spring 2019 semester. The ILS Program is continuing to educate youth on the importance to continue post-secondary school.

The ILS website has a section called *Preparing for Post-Secondary Education*. This section provides high school youth with information about preparing and assisting them for future educational activities. The site is designed to assist youth in preparing early in high school, finding and applying to a post-secondary school, and being aware of the importance of continuing their education. The site has information on:

- Applying for the ACT or the SAT Test;
- Researching postsecondary schools in the state (including links to State Universities in South Dakota, South Dakota Technical Institutes; Private Colleges; Native American Tribal Institutions; Public Higher Education Centers);
- Applying for admissions at the post-secondary school a youth is planning to attend;
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Defining the different financial aids available (grants, scholarships, and loans).

In addition to the information above there is also the following information on the website:

- Checklist for making the most of high school.

- Getting ready for college and know what to expect compared to high school.
- Why it is important to go to college, including earning comparison for the cost of a person that has a college degree, high school diploma and a person that has dropped out of school.
- Search career options, this site will go directly to a site listing different careers and information on earnings and other related careers.

There is information on the ILS website to help youth with challenges to be successful in post-secondary education. The website has links to the South Dakota Department of Education, Special Education and Technical Assistance by Transition Services Liaison Project. The site has information on how youth can have a successful transition to earning education post-secondary education. Information includes the following: *Student with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities - As You Turn 18*; *Top Ten Tips for a Successful Transition*; *What to Pack for College*; *Special Education in High School verse Disability Service in College*, and *ACT Accommodations*. At the *Age 17 Planning Meeting*, information was shared with the youth informing them about post-secondary education and encouraging them to link to this ILS website. The CRPs discuss the ILS website during the meeting. The following is the link to this website:

<http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/postsecondaryresources.aspx>

The Department of Social Services collaborates with the Department of Labor and Regulation. The Labor Program Specialist is a member of the ILS Workgroup to continue to provide job opportunity information to members of this group. Part of Department of Labor and Regulation's mission statement says, "Our mission is to promote economic opportunity and financial security for individuals and businesses through quality, responsive and expert services; fair and equitable employment solutions; and safe and sound business practices." Job opportunity is especially important for the youth affiliated with the Chafee Program.

When youth visit one of the Department of Labor and Regulation's local offices across the state, representatives will offer one-on-one services. The CRPs work with youth to reinforce the services available with the Department of Labor and Regulation. The CRPs also assist youth if they need transportation to and from the Department of Labor and Regulation local offices. Youth have access to the Department of Labor and Regulation website, www.sdjobs.org, which offers job search opportunities, labor market information, career interest assessments, Reality Check budgeting, and other self-service activities.

The Department of Labor and Regulation assists WIOA participants with achieving their training goals by:

- Providing labor market resources so the participant can make an informed decision on suitable training programs.
- Informing the participant on loan repayment, grants vs. loans, self-sufficiency and occupation demands, and wages.
- Assisting a participant in completing a budget to confirm they have funds to support their training goals.
- Monitoring the participant's progress.
- Helping coordinate tutoring services for a participant with the training provider as needed.
- Assisting the participant with job search and placement activities.

The CRPs, the ILS Program Specialist, and Department of Labor and Regulation assist youth in applying for ETV's. Youth can be linked to various resources and services for assistance through the above resources.

Details regarding the ETV Process are as follows:

Recruitment plan:

- ETV Program information and the application process is on the DSS website - <http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx>
- ETV Program information is provided to BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies, the DOC, Lutheran Social Services, all eligible youth, CRPs, the Department of Labor and Regulation and CPS staff.
-

Consult and Coordinate with Tribes:

CPS will continue written and verbal contact with the nine BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies to discuss program issues and gain input related to the coordination of ETV and Chafee Foster Care Program funding and services to eligible youth and staff on the reservation. Special emphasis has been placed on meeting the needs of Native American youth. The Independent Living Program Specialist and ICWA Program Specialist have made each tribe aware of available services and opportunities available to Native American youth age 18 who were formerly in foster care under tribal jurisdiction. Besides, financial assistance for post-secondary education and training is available to eligible tribal youth through the ETV.

The ICWA Program Specialist shares emails with the BIA, Tribal and ICWA contacts informing them of the ETV Scholarship Funding. The ICWA Program Specialist shared information on how to register for the ETV scholarship funds in June 2018, August 2018, December 2018, and May 2019. Emails were shared with BIA, Tribal, and ICWA during this same period since 2014.

Native American youth are and will continue to be involved in all aspects of the ILS program. Special attention is given to ensuring the independent living resources and CRP's services are available to youth living on the reservation. The ICWA Program Specialist created a contact list for each of the tribes. This information is shared with the CRPs. The CRPs use this information to make connections with the tribes. The CRPs are responsible for identifying resources and networking with people on the reservations in their area. Information regarding Chafee services, ETV funds, CRP services, ILS Workshops, Teen Conference and other IL information is shared with the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies.

The following chart provides the numbers of youth under BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies information that received information from ETV funds was made with the CRP about ETV funds. If the CPSs have not received referrals during this time frame from BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies, then there is not a number listed.

Reservation	Number of Youth Received Information on the ETV Funds
Cheyenne River Reservation	0
Crow Creek Reservation	0
Flandreau Reservation	0
Lower Brule Reservation	0
Pine Ridge Reservation	1
Rosebud Reservation	1

Sisseton Wahpeton	0
Standing Rock Reservation	2
Yankton Sioux Reservation	1

The CRPs will meet with interested youth to discuss their education plans and assist with the application for college, the ETV, and other financial support.

Application process:

The CPS website has information about the application and process. The following documents are required to be included with the application.

- A signed statement from post-secondary institution regarding the justification for funds including the cost of attendance.
- School transcripts
- Goals and motivation statements from youth.
- Acceptance letter from the school or vocational institution.
- A cover letter from the youth's FSS or adoptive parent.
- Last semester grades for subsequent applications.

Criteria for eligible youth:

Youth in the custody of CPS, the DOC, BIA, and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies can apply for ETV funding to increase their educational attainment levels under this program if they meet the following criteria:

- Youth in foster care at age 18 who have transitioned from foster care in the custody of CPS, DOC, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies.
- Youth who are in foster care and are adopted or in guardianship after age 16.
- Youth participating in the ETV Program, before their 26th birthday, are eligible for the ETV, if they are enrolled in a post-secondary or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program (for more information see section Educational Funding for Eligible Youth).
- Youth who accept the responsibility for completing their part of the educational planning and educational program.
- Youth who maintain positive documentation of progress by demonstrating at least a 2.0-grade point average and submit their grades each semester to the ILS Program Specialist. Youth may be granted a probation period on an individual basis.
- Youth who demonstrate their willingness and commitment to live up to their ETV Program responsibilities.

Funding for eligible youth:

- Funds for post-secondary education (plus the costs of supporting completion of their educational plan) shall not exceed \$5,000 per youth, per year.
- Funds can be used for the purchase of the following “cost of attendance” items.
 - Dorm room supplies (linen, etc.)
 - Books
 - Supplies (lab equipment, etc.)
 - Meal plan
 - Bus tokens – parking permit

- Tuition
- Student fees - activity card
- Room/housing costs
- Transportation costs (if needed for school attendance)
- Tutoring
- Employment-related necessities
- Childcare
- Tools necessary for the trade
- Computers
- On-line education/internet fees
- Special study projects

These funds will be used after the Pell grant, and other financial aid assistance has been utilized. Education and Training Voucher funds will supplement existing financial assistance with the total amount not to exceed the “cost for attendance” for each post-secondary institution.

Educational assistance included:

South Dakota approves cost for higher education that shall not exceed \$5,000 or the total “cost of attendance”, whichever is the less as defined in sections 472 of the High Education Act.

The FSSs and CRPs will work with youth through their ILS plan to coordinate funding sources, to maximize the use of ETV funding and to avoid duplication. The ILS Program Specialist acts as a checkpoint to ensure all resources are utilized and benefits are not duplicated. The final decision rests with the CPS. The State certifies the program not to duplicate benefits.

The following is a highlight from the CRP with a youth continuing her education:

A youth, turning 18 in July, decided to stay in care with her aunt. She recently had a child and right before this graduated from high school at St. Francis. The baby and the mother are doing exceptionally well; she feels her needs are being met. After graduating and having her child she applied for college at USD and SDSU, she has been accepted to both colleges. CRP assisted her with ETV application, food, and baby items.

It is critical youth graduate from high school or receives a GED and continue to post-secondary training. The services associated with the independent living program to assist youth include:

1. During the *Age 16 Planning Meeting* and *Age 17 Planning Meeting*, anyone involved with the youth is invited such as FSSs, group care staff, CRPs, Department of Labor and Regulation staff, siblings, birth family members, foster parent, mentor or friends. The process involves: the exit interview, the independent living checklist, review of the Casey Life Skills Assessment, recruitment of support persons or mentors, expanded education plans, exploration of employment options, annual credit report checks, housing and medical assistance information, starter kit incentive program, and individual services to assist youth in preparing for further education/training, as well as establish goals for their last year in custody. Before the meeting ends, the youth are encouraged to seek, identify, and build supportive relationships with mentors, family mentors, and friends. Youth will be encouraged to participate in their semi-annual Permanency Planning Review Team Meeting. The results of the meeting are incorporated into the youth’s individual plan.
2. The Teen Conference and ILS Workshops assist youth in becoming knowledgeable about post-secondary training and educational institutions. The Teen Conference is held at college or technical institute campus setting so youth have an opportunity to experience and gain knowledge of independent living skills and what it would be like to stay in the dorms while attending the Teen Conference. In June 2018, the Teen Conference was held at a college campus in Rapid City, South Dakota so youth would have a chance to experience college life during the week of the Teen Conference by having the youth live in

the dorm and be on campus. The ILS Workshops sessions focus on the different colleges and technical institutes in the state. The ILS Workshops also includes activities and presentations related to post-secondary education to educate youth on the importance of continuing their education. During the Teen Conference, there was 84 youth receiving a campus tour.

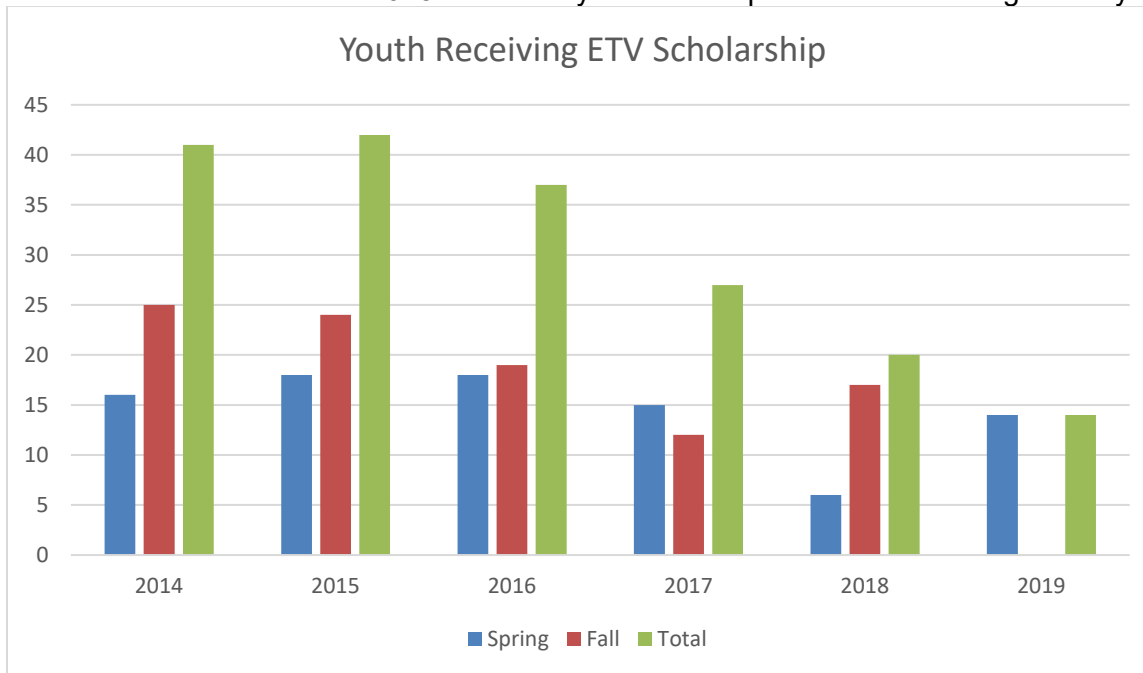
3. Department of Labor and Regulation offers individual services to assist high school graduates in preparing for further education/training. The Department of Labor and Regulation provides classes on topics which include applying for school, completing financial aid forms, college life, etc. During the 2018 Teen Conference, Department of Labor and Regulation provided a mock interview to 84 youth attending the conference. The interview was to demonstrate a good interview compared an interview on what not to do with a potential employer. The youth had many questions for the presenter after the mock interview.
4. The CRPs work with the youth as they enter and continue with post-secondary school. The CRPs could work with the youth up to age 26 if the youth is still receiving the ETV funds. The CRPs can work with youth from CPS, DOC, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare.
5. The CRPs will continue to educate youth in foster care about the importance of attending a post-secondary school, work with youth on campus life, and educate youth on services available to them.
6. *SDMyLife* through the Department of Education is designed to assist youth with career guidance needs such as career matching, career exploration, post-secondary education planning, and My Portfolio development. Each of these sections can be used on its own. For instance, someone interested in exploring careers could spend days simply learning about different careers and viewing multimedia interviews with people in those careers. The CRP can use this program to assist youth in foster care in providing resources to them. The Department of Education Program Specialist was invited to present *SDMyLife* at the 2018 Teen Conference to assist youth with career opportunities. The following is the *SDMyLife* website: <http://sdmylife.com>
7. A special emphasis will be placed on meeting the needs of Native American youth. The ETV Program is available and advertised to this population. The Independent Living Program Specialist collaborates with the ICWA Program Specialist to send information about the ETV Program, ILS Workshops and ILS Teen Conference to the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies. The CRPs provide contact by email, calls, and letters to the BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies and work with the youth to assist youth with ILS services and skills to assist the youth in preparing for adulthood.

Congress enacted Public Law 115-123, the Family First Prevention Service Act and P.L. 115-141, the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2018 on February 9, 2018 and the program instructions were issued on May 31, 2018. In moving forward in SFY 2019, CPS has expanded to support young adults to participate in the ETV voucher program and to remain eligible until they attain 26 years of age, if they are enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program. In no event will a young adult participate in the program for more than five years (whether or not the years are consecutive).

The ILS Program Specialist has shared to information of the expansion of support to young adults to participate in the ETV Program until 26 years of age to CPS staff and CRPs, ILS Workgroup, ILS Workshops, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies, Department of Corrections, and Young Voices. The ILS Program Specialist has worked with the Division of Economic Assistance, Former Foster Care Medicals Assistance Program staff to educate the young adults enrolled in this program of the change. A flyer has been developed to be included with mailings sent by the Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program to educate young adults that were in foster care at age 18 to participate in the Education and Training Voucher Program and remain eligible until the young adult reaches age 26.

Summary:

The chart below is from the 2018 Exit Survey. Youth completed before leaving custody.



In the last five years, there has been a decrease of youth participating with ETV funds.

CPS will continue to educate youth and youth adults on the importance of continuing their post-secondary education through the Age 16, Age 17, and Exit Meeting, ILS Workshops, ILS Teen Conferences, and Young Voices. The Family Services and CRPs will continue to provide information on the ETV Program. In the next Five-Year Plan, the ILS Program will increase efforts to educate youth and young adults through the state. The ILS Program will continue to collaborate with CPS, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies, DOC, Former Foster Care Medical Assistance Program, ILS Workgroup, and foster care and adopted families.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services, as the state agency responsible for administering, supervising and overseeing the ETV Program will continue to collaborate with a variety of contacts in the state such as DOC, Department of Labor and Regulation, Department of Education, South Dakota Housing, BIA and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies and others in South Dakota to assist youth. The ETV Program has been a valuable resource to assist youth in reaching their goals and successful independence.

XVI. STATEWIDE INFORMATION SYSTEM

FACIS/Intake training for newly hired staff is scheduled approximately six times per year. If there is a major enhancement, specialized training occurs in offices or via electronic format such as Live Meeting. In April 2015, Child Protection Services (CPS) completely revamped the Client Assessment screens to enhance information and oversight regarding educational status, educational stability, psychotropic medication monitoring, trauma assessment/treatment and records requests. Training was provided to all staff via Lync sessions. In addition to the regular FACIS/Intake training, specialized training is provided for staff as needed including Tribal and private agency staff.

Quantitative data reports are enhanced as needed based on changing requirements or areas of focus. The data reports are also provided to offices/regions as they develop and implement Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plans in specific areas of focus. For example, an office

may be working on a targeted recruitment plan and reports are provided regarding the demographics of children in care in their specific area.

South Dakota's FACIS system includes compliance reports which provide real-time access to items missing information in the system. These compliance reports can be used with staff during their regular staffing with supervisors. Ongoing training in specific areas is provided by request of the office or region. Training on FACIS data reports is provided to various levels of the management team on an as needed basis. In September 2014, the FACIS Project Manager provided training on specific reports, accessing reports and functionality to drill-down to specific case level data on many reports to supervisors at the CPS Supervisors' statewide meeting.

The FACIS Team & Management Team members use the appropriate data quality utilities and tools provided to ensure data is accurate. These include using the AFCARS Data Quality, Compliance & Frequency Reports, NYTD NDRU & NCANDS portal programs to review data prior to submission. Any data errors found are addressed and corrected wherever possible. Staff have consistently shared they use the Compliance Reports generated in FACIS to monitor their caseloads and required data entry.

Quality data collection, both qualitative and quantitative, is a strength for South Dakota as evidenced by the information available through reports. Challenges within the area of data collection continue to center around ensuring staff enter data in a timely manner in order for the various reports to capture the necessary data. This can be monitored through various reports on FACIS and efforts will be made to make improvements where needed. South Dakota does have some areas needing improvement in AFCARS reporting and has an ongoing AFCARS Improvement Plan. In April 2015, the FACIS Project Manager completed entry of test information into an AFCARS Test Deck database. Extractions for requested AFCARS submission periods were submitted along with the case scenario documentation the week of April 20, 2015.

The state will continue to develop functions in the system for federal requirements such as AFCARS, NYTD, IVE Eligibility and funds reconciliation. As CPS practice is enhanced in South Dakota in safety, permanency, and well-being, the necessary system changes to support the program will be made. The program changes necessary in South Dakota for best practice will drive system changes. The system will not drive the practice used to deliver services to children and families.

2020 Progress Update:

Narrative and Visit Screen Updates:

Narrative functions were updated with separate tabs for the specific areas workers are required to cover in each visit. Narrative screens were paired with the caseworker visit screen to streamline the process and eliminate discrepancies in dates between the two functions based on feedback from field users.

CPS developed two corresponding reports to reflect the addition of parent visit screens and case narrative changes: Caseworker Visits Report with Parents and Caseworker Visits Parents Not Visited.

Narrative functions are being improved again to allow combined parent/child visit entries. This will eliminate the need for workers to add separate narrative entries when parents and children are visited together. This project should be complete by July 2019.

AFCARS Improvement Plan Updates:

CPS received Element & General Requirement AFCARS Improvement Plan documentation from the Administration of Children & Families (ACF). Over the span of the current Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP), the below items were corrected:

- September 27, 2016; CPS added an end date on the Diagnosed Conditions AFCARS screen to capture end dates for diagnosed conditions.
- December 12, 2016; CPS added a new service Runaway to capture situations where CPS received custody of a child whose status is runaway.
- December 12, 2016; CPS added a field to the discharge screen to accurately reflect circumstances when the placement was less than 24 hours. These children are to be excluded from AFCARS files. Prior to this change, children were being included.
- Element 17: Inconsistency between element 16 & 17. The State was incorrectly coding 17 to blank when 16 was Unable to Be Determined. The extraction has been corrected in the 2018A submission.
- Element 24: If runaway is the only placement in the reporting period, element #24 count of placements should be zero. The State was incorrectly counting this as 1. The extraction has been corrected in the 2018A submission.
- Element 43: The extract code should set records to blank for cases where no case plan goal is entered, and the child has been in foster care for 61 or more days. Not Yet Established should only be set if there is no goal entered and the child has been in care for 60 days or less. The State needs to finish reviewing the current extraction and test proposed revisions to the code.

Five areas required AFCARS extraction code changes.

- Exclude children over age 18 & IVE ineligible.
- Exclude Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) dates after the report period end date.
- Exclude periodic review dates after the report period end date.
- For hospital, mental health & juvenile detention stays; report the current placement setting and number of placements.
- For child moves within the same campus, do not count as a placement change.

AIP submitted June 1, 2018. Reply received from ACF on 07/23/2018.

Further work needed on elements related to juvenile detention stays. The state is not reporting these correctly according to the AIP questions. Element 43 Case Plan Goal still needs work to report properly.

AIP submitted 11/02/2018 which included information on the updated extraction to report juvenile detention stays accurately. The state provided the updated stored procedures and extraction code to verify these items are now being reported accurately. Element 43 Case Plan goal still needs work.

Response received 12/20/2018 requesting additional information/documentation for juvenile detention stays and whether code changes were needed to report children in runaway status at the time the State received custody. Element 43 Case Plan Goal is still outstanding. All other elements appear satisfactory. The State has completed screen changes to accurately report the goal. These changes will be reflected in the State's FFY 2019A AFCARS submission in May 2019. AIP response sent April 2019 with updated information.

Final Report:

Electronic Payment:

CPS completed initial implementation of electronic deposit of funds paid to placement providers with the first electronic payroll on 04/05/2016. Changes to FACIS screens were implemented to capture banking information: including account numbers, effective dates, entered by and dates. Providers were given the option of electronic deposits to checking/saving accounts or funds deposited on a debit card. The initial invitation was sent to approximately 1800 placement providers including only foster, adoption, kinship and treatment facilities. As of March 2019, 1876, providers have signed up for electronic payments. This number includes the initial invites as well as new providers. The State of South Dakota switched to a new provider Conduent. CPS began making payments via the new provider effective 02/26/2018. CPS will determine when and how to implement for all providers in the future. Those providers who have enrolled are being paid without any known concerns or delays in payments.

IVE Claims Automation:

The State completed the final step of automating the IVE funds adjustment process in July 2018. This was the last of the findings to be completed from the SACWIS review. The process has been running smoothly since implementation. QA on the monthly file of adjusted claims occurs to ensure claims are being adjusted appropriately. No discrepancies or issues have been identified with the automated function.

Every Student Succeeds Act Requirements:

In response to the Every Student Succeeds Act; CPS evaluated what information was needed in FACIS to report required data. FACIS Education Assessment screen was updated to capture detailed information related to school enrollment, grade, Individualized Education Plan/Individual Family Services Plan and whether the child remained in his/her home school. Data report files are sent to the Department of Education in September and June of each year for children in custody and placement with the Division of Child Protection Services. First data report provided to Department of Education in May 2017. Subsequent reports have been provided per the set schedule.

New CAPTA Requirements for CARA:

Fields added to FACIS in October 2017 to capture information to conform with data reporting requirements in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recover Act (CARA) of 2016. Fields added to the Risk Factors screen are Alcohol Affected Infant, Drug Affected Infant, Safe Care Plan & Referral to CARA-Related Services. Substance Affected Infant was added to the allegations screen to capture allegations involving infants less than 1 year old. Allegation type Sex Trafficking was added. Data from the new fields were included in the FFY 2018 reporting period submitted in January 2019.

Document Templates:

CPS has over 300 templates in FACIS to support casework, policy and practice as well as documents required to comply with Federal and State regulations. Where possible, information already contained in FACIS is auto-populated into the templates when staff generate a new document. This prevents unnecessary duplicate data entry and helps ensure accuracy. These templates are maintained by South Dakota Bureau of Information Technology (BIT) staff. When changes are needed in response to either CPS policy or practice changes or other regulation changes; FACIS Program Specialists work directly with BIT staff to make the updates. A list of templates is maintained within FACIS for easy reference by all FACIS users.

Next Five-Year Plan:

The State will continue development and implementation of improvements and modifications to FACIS that support Federal & State reporting and support the State's policy and practice.

Major initiatives planned for this upcoming 2020-2024 CFSP include the following:

CCWIS Requirements:

The State had identified potential areas where Child Welfare Contributing Agencies (CWCAs) may be entering data in their own data systems and FACIS. This information was contained in the State's annual APDU submitted 07/31/2018. The State intends to hold informational meetings to inform these agencies about CCWIS requirements and what data maybe be duplicated. Following these meetings, the State will make a determination the best way to address the dual entry issue. Possible solutions include agencies using FACIS for all of their data entry needs or data exchanges which meet CCWIS requirements.

The State will be developing a comprehensive data quality plan in accordance with CCWIS requirements.

AFCARS Requirements:

The State will be focusing the majority of technology resources to developing ways to capture the new additional AFCARS requirements. The State intends to focus first on adding data fields to capture sibling placements and multiple Tribal affiliations for children in foster care. FACIS captures all legal hearings and all placements for children in foster care. Reporting on these elements will only require changes to the data extraction. Other additional elements will be evaluated as to what information is required and how best to document the information.

Danger Threats:

The State has a robust functioning comprehensive safety intervention process. The documentation for the danger threats is only contained within the standardized Word templates. The State has begun a process to incorporate documentation of the danger threats present at time of intake, danger threats identified during the initial family assessment and during the protective capacity assessment process. By adding these data fields to FACIS, the State can then better analyze outcomes and trends around danger threats.

Fictive Kinship Placements:

The State has the ability to report on relative placements. Currently, FACIS does not have the ability to capture and report data related to fictive kinship placements. The State plans to develop fields to capture this data and reports related to the type of placements.

Independent Living Services:

The State plans to improve the FACIS Independent Living screens to accurately reflect which documents are provided to youth as they exit foster care and data regarding employment.

Information Systems Initiative:

The Department of Social Services has contracted with a private consulting firm to assist the Department with analyzing the capability and viability of existing systems, areas where there is duplication of entry or effort and prioritizing technology needs and resources. The various divisions within the Department have met with representatives of the agency to discuss the current technology projects, projected upcoming needs or enhancements and efficiency & teamwork between department staff and Bureau of Technology staff. The stated goals are to create a more comprehensive, user-friendly way for stakeholders to access needs and services.

XVII. WORKFORCE INFORMATION

2020 Progress Update

The state of South Dakota personnel qualifications for individuals to apply for CPS positions is based on knowledge, skills, and abilities. CPS hires staff with relevant degrees and experience for all positions. There are minimal circumstances when an individual was hired without a college degree. Those usually occur in areas of the state where filling positions is problematic. The training for new Family Services Specialists and ongoing training are described in the Staff Training Section of the APSR.

Based on demographics of a rural state, turnover, staffing and the number of small offices, it was determined by management caseload standards would be difficult to establish and maintain. The CPS Management Team is in the process of reviewing workload.

Child Protection Services Turnover Rate

State Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019*
Turnover Rate	18.1%		19.2%

	FY18	FY19 (preliminary)
Family Services Specialist	27.6%	21.8%
Family Services Specialist Supervisor	2.94%	6.25%

*Preliminary calendar year turnover rates; data current as of 5/23/2019

STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

Type of Staff	Number of Staff	Race	Degree	Average Number of Years
Supervisor	35	American Indian or Alaska Native: 3 Asian: 1 Black or African American: 0 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 0 White: 31	Master's Degree: 6 Bachelor of Arts: 6 Bachelor of Science: 17 Bachelor of Social Work: 5 Associate Degree: 0 High School Diploma: 2	13 Years
Family Services Specialists	177	American Indian or Alaska Native: 11 Asian: 0 Black or African American: 1	Master's Degree: 9 Bachelor of Arts: 45	5.5 Years

		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 0 White: 165	Bachelor of Science: 93 Bachelor of Social Work: 21 Associate Degree: 6 High School Diploma: 4	
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XVIII. JUVENILE JUSTICE TRANSFERS

2020 Update

Three youth were transferred to the Juvenile Justice System (Juvenile Services, Department of Corrections) in State Fiscal Year 2019. The youth included in this population are those who were in the custody of CPS, custody through CPS was terminated, and the youth were committed to the Department of Corrections. This information is obtained through the FACIS system based on discharge reason.

XIX. FINANCIAL REPORTING

Amount South Dakota expended in FFY 2005 for child care, foster care maintenance payments, and adoption assistance:
\$257,686.00

Amount of non-federal funds South Dakota expended in FFY 2005:
\$85,895.00

STATE AND LOCAL SHARE SPENDING FOR IV-B SUBPART 2

South Dakota’s initial allocation for Subpart 2 was in 1996 and the state/local share was:
\$110,044.97

**South Dakota Department of Social Services
Disaster Plan**

There were no changes or additions made to the Department’s disaster plan since the 2019 APSR was submitted.