

Summary SF 2283 Implementing Recommendations of Governor's Child Protection Task Force

The following summarizes provisions of SF 2283, which requires implementation of certain recommendations from the 2015 Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children.

1. Changes to social work practices.

Place into statute several practice recommendations from the Governor's Task Force:

- a. Except in exceptional circumstances, children shall be interviewed separately from and prior to adults during the initial Family Assessment or investigation.
- b. Implement fact-finding for both Family Assessments and investigations.
- c. A finding of whether maltreatment occurred shall be made in both Family Assessments and investigations. This shall be entered into in the state SSIS system along with facts supporting the findings and the identity of the perpetrator.

2. Standards.

Currently counties are only required to follow Department of Human Services (DHS) standards, which DHS calls 'Guidelines', for the initial maltreatment report. The Department shall be required to develop and counties to follow guidelines for remaining steps in the child protection and foster care services continuum, including:

- Assignment of screened-in reports to Family Assessment or investigative tracks
- Fact-finding
- Determining when it is appropriate to
 - Keep children at home versus remove them to out of home care
 - Return children to their home
 - Pursue Termination of Parental Rights.

3. Reporting/Transparency.

Require DHS to begin producing the following reports by County and begin displaying them on the Department's monthly dashboard report by September 2019:

- a. Total number of maltreatment reports
- b. Number and percentage of maltreatment reports screened in and screened out
- c. Number and percentage of screened in reports assigned to Family Assessment (FA) and to traditional investigations
- d. Number of times children have been reported within the past five years, including whether the reports were screened in or screened out.
- e. Number of FA cases closed due to non-participation
- f. Number and percentage of cases moved from FA to traditional investigation

4. Continuous Quality Improvement Program

The Department shall research models for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) programs and shall make a report and recommendations to the legislature for implementing such a program by March 2020. The recommended model should include:

- Key process measures such as monthly visits by caseworkers
- Key quality measures such as whether case plans have been implemented

- Key outcome measures such as whether children are improving in terms of trauma, cognitive and physical development, and behavioral or mental health concerns
- Implementation at all levels through reviews by peers, supervisors, and managers
- Report CQI results at least quarterly at the unit, county, and state levels