

Date: December 12, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sara Smith, Director, Missouri Children's Director

FROM: Response and Evaluation Team

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Report of the Response and Evaluation Team

Response and Evaluation Team Report

This report is submitted in compliance with Section 210.112 RSMo and 13 CSR 35-35.100(9). Under subsection 210.112.3 RSMo, the Response and Evaluation Team is required to review the evaluation tool and report format established under this section at least twice each year and submit a report to the Children's Division making recommendations for any changes in the tool or metrics. The Response and Evaluation Team ("the team") reports shall be due each year on or before July 1 and January 1. Previous reports were submitted on July 1, 2023, January 1, 2024, July 1, 2024, January 1, 2025, and July 1, 2025. This is the sixth report.

Pursuant to subsection 210.112.3 RSMo the team shall:

- (1) Review the evaluation tool and metrics outlined in subsection 2 of this section on a semiannual basis to determine any adjustments needed or issues that could affect the quality of such tools and approve or deny on a case-by-case basis:
 - (a) Cases that a provider feels are anomalous and should not be part of developing the case management tool under subsection 2 of 210.112 RSMo.

The Response and Evaluation Team has spent a considerable amount of time this year reviewing the evaluation tool and metrics outlined in Section 210.112 RSMo., and making recommendations for adjustments. The Children's Division shared a formal proposal to make certain changes to the performance outcome goals and weights in HB1414. The R&E team was provided a 30-day commenting period in accordance with 13 CSR 35-35.100(9)(B). Some members of the R&E team submitted a formal joint comment on September 11, 2025, providing feedback on the proposed metrics.

Children's Division posted a proposal for amendments to the benchmarks/weights for metrics in HB1414 for public comment. The public notice and commenting period ended on November 20, 2025. Some members of the R&E team submitted a public comment in response to the proposal on November 11, 2025.

While a sub-set of the R&E team supported many of the proposed changes, several recommendations were made due to concerns about data accuracy and long-term sustainability. Before full implementation of the evaluation tool and metrics, the sub-set of the R&E team recommends a pilot to test the proposed changes. This would allow the

Children's Division to ensure the data system is accurately reflecting the practice and identify any unintended consequences prior to full promulgation.

To date, a process for identification of anomalous cases has not yet been established.

- (b) Alternative evaluation metrics recommended by providers based on the best interests of the child under subsections 2 and 5 of 210.112 RSMo.

The team is engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the metrics for all phases and welcomes recommendations from all providers. The team has discussed the process required to request a change in metrics and has discussed the possibility of requesting changes to metrics in the future.

The current system utilized for case management, the Family and Children Electronic System (FACES), was implemented in the mid-2000s and lacks the ability to accurately capture some of the current metrics. As detailed within the published Quarterly Reports, FACES is in the process of being replaced, but the current system has contributed to the discussions surrounding the need to recommend changes to some metrics to assure that accurate data is being collected and reported.

- (c) Review and recommend any structure for incentives or other reimbursement strategies under subsection 6 of 210.112 RSMo.

On August 6, 2025, the Children's Division proposed a two-tier incentive restructure for contracted foster care case management providers. These providers were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments in response to the proposal. There are still concerns about data integrity. It is the hope that these issues will be worked out prior to full implementation.

The R&E team has met regularly with the most recent meeting occurring on November 19, 2025. The team discussed the current implementation and the reporting format and has reviewed each published quarterly report on Phase I and Phase II measures. The team meetings include a discussion of measures, processes, and reporting. The team is required, at minimum, to reevaluate the metrics and reporting format twice per year to provide feedback and make suggestions to improve the evaluation tool and process, including the dashboard (metrics), the Child and Family Services Review tool (Evaluation Tool), and consumer surveys.