

July 1, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Darrell Missey, Director, Missouri Children's Division

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 Missouri Statute 13 CSR 35-35.100. Under Section 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 reports shall be due each year on or before July 1 and January 1. Previous reports were submitted on July 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024. This is the third report.

Pursuant to subsection 210.112.3 RSMo the team shall:

(1) Review the evaluation tool and metrics set forth 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 team has not received any reports of cases that a provider feels are anomalous and should not be part of developing the case management tool during this reporting period.**

(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 has not received any alternative evaluation metrics recommended by providers during this reporting period. The team is engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the metrics for Phase II and Phase III and welcomes recommendations from all providers.**

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

**The team has not received any new recommendations for incentives or other reimbursement strategies during this reporting period. The team and the Children's Division welcomes such recommendations from providers.**

The Response and Evaluation Team has met regularly with the most recent meeting occurring on May 23, 2024. The team discussed current implementation and the reporting format. The Response and Evaluation Team has reviewed each published quarterly report on Phase I and Phase II measures. The Response and Evaluation Team meeting agenda always includes discussion of measures, processes, and

reporting. Currently, we are not recommending any changes to the Phase 1 or 2 metrics or reporting format. The Response and Evaluation Team is required at minimum to reevaluate this twice per year to provide feedback and make suggestions in the evaluation tool and process, including: the dashboard (metrics), Child and Family Services Review tool (Evaluation Tool), and consumer surveys.

House Bill 1414 Implementation is ongoing. Phase I began in October 2022, Phase II began in October 2023 and Phase III was projected for October 2024. Progress is being made in all areas of the work. As the data is collected, analyzed, and discussed, the results and findings will drive systematic recommendations to improve outcomes for children and families.

In April of 2024, the Response and Evaluation Team submitted a Request for Extension to the Director of the Department of Social Services for the postponement of a portion of Phase II and all of Phase III until 2025 and 2026, respectively. The legal basis for this request is pursuant to 13 CSR 35-35.100(3) (E). The team sought approval for these postponements through our established process, and it was ultimately approved by the CD Director. Although postponement was approved, the team will manually collect data where possible while system improvements are underway to allow all phases to be fully implemented.

Phase II requires that “All case managers and supervisors successfully complete training in providing trauma-informed and trauma-based services”. The training data has proved difficult and unreliable to measure as Children’s Division and the private Foster Care Case Management agencies do not share a common platform to record and track staff training completion. A new training tracking system is scheduled to be implemented later in 2025 which is expected to resolve this issue. Team members agreed to provide manual data on staff trauma training for inclusion in the October 2024 quarterly report.

Phase III requires measurement of multiple metrics which would require modification of the current computer system. All changes to the current computer system have been discontinued to concentrate resources on the creation of a new computer system, expected in 2025-2026. The new system is being designed to capture all the required data in Phase III.

The intent of this section of the regulation is to require ongoing evaluation of the statute and regulation after implementation is complete. The Response and Evaluation Team has engaged in regular meetings to drive implementation of all Phases of HB 1414 and will continue this work moving forward.

The next report from the Response and Evaluation Team is due no later than January 1, 2025.