

Finding 3

Required Assessments, Screenings and Services

In addition to ensuring children have a connection to extended family, siblings and culture, the following is a list of questions the board can ask at the CRB review if required assessments, screenings and services are not documented in the case plan:

- **Visitation.** Frequent and regular parenting time promotes attachment and helps families stay connected as they work toward reunification. Parenting time should include participation in normally occurring events such as school events and conferences and medical appointments. Visitation plans should change over time dependent on progress toward reunification, with visits typically moving from being supervised to unsupervised and increasing in length.
 - How often does the child have visits with each parent?
 - How are visits going?
 - Have options for additional visits or contacts been explored?
 - For parents, anything you would like to share about visits with your child?
- **Sibling Placement.**
 - Are diligent efforts to place siblings together documented?
 - Per the Sibling Bill of Rights, if siblings are not placed together, what efforts have been made for ongoing contact including visits, contact by phone, electronic mail and transportation?
 - Is there a sibling contact plan and is it followed?
- **Extended Family.**
 - Has DHS assessed extended relatives' interest in maintaining family relationships and cultural connections?
 - What efforts have been made to ensure child is staying connected to extended family?
- **Medical.**
 - Did child receive an intake nursing assessment shortly after entering care?
 - Did child receive a comprehensive health assessment by the child's primary healthcare provider within 30 days of entering care?
 - Is child current on well-child checks?
 - Are the child's immunizations current?
 - Has child, age 3 or older, received a hearing and vision screening?

- **Dental.**
 - Did child, age 1+, receive dental assessment within 30 days of entering care?
 - When was the last dental exam (every 6 months)?

- **Mental Health.**
 - Did child, age 3+, receive mental health assessment within 60 days of entering care?
 - Is child receiving all recommended mental health services?
 - If child is prescribed more than two psychotropic RX's, or if child is under age 6, has the required annual medication review been held?

- **Developmental.** Early Intervention services are designed to enhance children's physical, cognitive, communication, social, emotional and/or adaptive development.
 - Did child, under age 3, receive an Early Intervention (ECI) screening within 60 days of entering care?
 - Is child receiving all recommended developmental services?
 - If a child is receiving services from Developmental Disabilities (DD), is the Individual Service Plan addressing the child's needs?

- **CANS Screening.** Every foster child receives a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) screening. The CANS establishes a level of care payment for enhanced supervision needs of a child.
 - Did the child receive a CANS screening within 60 days of entering care?
 - Did the CANS make recommendations for further assessments or services?

- **Education.**
 - Is the child at grade level for reading and math?
 - Is child on an IEP? If yes, is the IEP current and is school in compliance?
 - For a child, ages 3 – 5, is DHS assisting with enrollment in Head Start?
 - For a youth in high school, is the youth on track, 24 credits, to graduate? If not, what assistance is the youth receiving?
 - If child qualifies for special education, are there appropriate educational and developmental services in place?
 - Does child have appropriate clothing to attend school and the necessary supplies and equipment to be successful in school?

- **Ongoing Activities.**
 - Is DHS ensuring foster parents are following reasonable and prudent parent standard?
 - When did DHS last consult with child and foster parent about opportunities for ongoing age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities?
 - If there are barriers to the child participating in activities, can DHS assist?

- **Culture.** A child’s connection to their culture and a healthy racial and ethnic identity are critical to a child’s well-being. Cultural services are often related to heritage, language, beliefs, religion, art, dance, clothing and customs.
 - Is the child receiving culturally appropriate services?
 - Does the family need DHS documents to be translated?
 - If the case is an ICWA case:
 - Does the child have opportunities to participate in tribal activities such as a Pow Wow, tribal ceremony or tribal summer camp?
 - Was the tribe invited to the CRB?
 - Is DHS actively involving the tribe in case planning?

- **Child Safety.**
 - Do any of the parties have any concerns related to child safety? If yes, ask follow-up questions and ask Field Manager to detail concerns in the Findings and Recommendations.
 - If board has concerns about safety at child’s placement and caseworker has exhausted current available resources trying to find a safe placement, board can make negative finding and specify this is a resource not a casework issue.
 - When did the child’s attorney last see the child? An attorney should have contact with the child prior to court and CRB reviews and at least quarterly.
 - If there are safety concerns, the board can ask the Field Manager to send a copy of the Findings and Recommendations to the DHS supervisor and DHS Program Manager.

- **Foster Children Bill of Rights.**

As a Child or Youth in Foster Care, I have the right:

To have what every child needs	To have my rights protected
To be safe	To be in a place that meets my needs
To see and talk to people I care about	To make decisions for myself
To be healthy	To be informed
To learn	

- Is the Foster Children’s Bill of Rights posted in the foster home?*
- Has the child received the Bill of Rights Important Contact Information sheet listing the adults involved in his/her case?
- If foster youth are present at a CRB review and express concerns, the board can ensure they know how to contact the Foster Care Ombudsmen, 1-855-840-6036, in addition to speaking to their attorney and/or CASA.

For Foster Youth, Age 14+, please see Finding 3 Requirements for Independence for a successful transition to adulthood.