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## April 24 & 25 (4 cases) and 26 & 27 (4 cases), 2007 Mini CFSR Report Eastern Shoshone Tribal Review

### Case Ratings:

#### #ES310 (child protection case)

- Six areas needing improvement: Item 14-Preserving connections; Item 16-Relationship of child in care with parents; Item 17-Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents; Item 18-Child and family involvement in case planning; Item 19-Worker visits with child and Item 20-Workers visits with parents. “Child is in a good placement and getting needed services”

#### #ES311 (child protection case)

- Two areas needing improvement: Item 18-Child and family involvement in case planning and Item 22-Physical health of the child. “Great coordination between three social service agencies”

#### #ES312 (child protection case)

- Perfect scoring case. “Extended family and case worker involvement ensured the safety of the children”

#### #ES313 (juvenile services case)

- Four areas needing improvement: Item 4-Risk of harm to child(ren); Item 5-Foster care reentries; Item 6-Stability of foster care placement and Item 18-Child and family involvement in case planning. “Communication between the Tribes caused concern”

#### #ES314 (child protection case)

- One area needing improvement: Item 6-Stability of foster care placement. “Agency has identified and achieved appropriate placements for all children and all children are thriving”

#### #ES315 (child protection case)

- Two areas needing improvement: Item 8-Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives and Item 22-Physical health of the child. “Family was offered services and had a good start towards reunification”

#### #ES316 (child protection case)

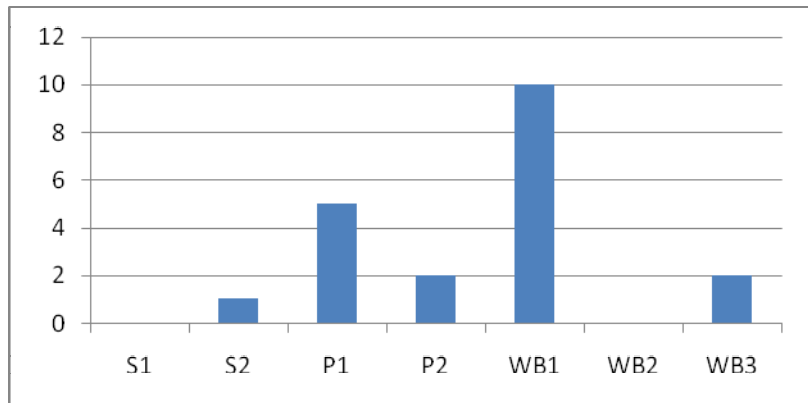
- Perfect scoring case. “Phenomenal relative involvement in the case”

#### #ES317 (juvenile services case)

- Five areas needing improvement: Item 5-Foster care reentries; Item 17-Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents; Item 18-Child and family involvement in case planning; Item 19-Worker visits with child(ren) and Item 20-Worker visits with parent(s) “The Mini CFSR process helped the worker understand the need for family centered approach in case work”

Lack of foster care and a move away from traditional values have influenced outcomes.

The graph to the right shows the number of Mini CFSR instrument items rating as “areas needing improvement” in the broad outcome categories of safety, permanency and well-being.



**Issues requiring administrative level/Tribal Council attention:**

- Residential treatment facility specifically for tribal youth on the Wind River Indian Reservation
- Video conferencing capability for out of community placements to allow for:
  - Worker contact;
  - staffing;
  - family counseling;
  - case planning, and
  - family contact.
- Workers have little or no ability to use WYCAPS due to poor computer access and infrastructure issues; without proper information exchange via WYCAPS this is a serious safety issue which must be resolved
- *Juvenile services issues:*
  - *Law enforcement officers involvement in court proceedings;*
  - *connection to some existing program, and*
  - *inclusion in DFS juvenile services training*
- *Tribal programs do not receive the statpac; may be useful for them*
- Availability of Indian Health Services (IHS) funds to support therapeutic foster care
- IHS social work position available to help with case management of children's mental health needs

**Issues requiring local social service office attention:**

- Policy regarding preschool screening for early intervention
- Worker turnover; four case workers in one year for example
- Communication between tribal programs and other agencies
- Case planning practices need to be more deliberate and include concurrent planning
- *Family centered practice would be useful in juvenile services work*
- Better documentation to include case plans, school and medical records

**Overarching issues which the Wyoming Citizen Review Panel can advocate for and support resolution of:**

- Jurisdictional issues between the courts and law enforcement on and off the reservation (court orders not being honored)
- Transitional services need from drug court as well as residential treatment
- Individual Education Plan (IEP) confusion and consistency currently exists between districts; this should not be subjective and IEPs should transfer between school districts
- Nothing in tribal code to allow intervention with newborns test positive for methamphetamine
- Unique challenges in foster care recruitment:
  - State's requirements for certification are unrealistic on the reservation;
  - perceived invasion of privacy;
  - only negative publicity regarding foster parents, and
  - families view foster parents as adversarial when they accept children

**Strengths:**

- Advocacy:
  - "Two tribal agencies and one state agency collaborated well for the child and family"
  - "Agency has left the case open to continue to provide services even though the court case is closed"

- Collaboration:
  - *“Good collaboration between members of the community for the child’s best interests”*
- Communication:
  - *“Handling of multi-jurisdictional issues was performed well”*
- Consistency:
  - *“Consistent, bi-monthly worker visits were made”*
- Documentation and adherence to procedure (case planning):
  - *“Documentation in case file was good”*
  - *“Good case management practices were done by the case worker”*
  - *“Good case planning procedures”*
  - *“Good family centered case work”*
  - *“Child protection teams used effectively”*
  - *“Organized, structured and deliberate office operations”*
  - *“Case planning was good”*
  - *“Child’s immunizations were up to date as reflected in the case file”*
  - *“Permanency planning was good with grandmother”*
  - *“Case management was outstanding”*
- Effective use of service array:
  - *“Child has received many counseling opportunities and residential placements”*
  - *“Child’s physical and mental health needs were addressed”*
  - *“Effective placements for the child were used; child is receiving the services needed”*
  - *“Drug treatment services were provided”*
  - *“Parenting classes were provided for the child’s mother”*
  - *“TANF, Medicaid and other financial assistance provided to mother and family”*
  - *“Head Start services were successfully used”*
  - *“Parenting classes were offered and taken advantage of by the mother”*
  - *“Good screenings; child receives speech therapy and counseling”*
  - *“Young man has received a great deal of psychiatric care”*
  - *“Tons of services were offered to the family”*
  - *“Child has been receiving medication for depression”*
  - *“Child received good evaluations”*
  - *“Family counseling has been helpful”*
- Engagement of the child:
  - *“Child made a great breakthrough when his cultural needs were identified and provided for in the psychiatric facility”*
  - *“Child was on an IEP at the Wind River Indian School”*
- Family involvement:
  - *“Reunification goal is with grandmother”*
  - *“Parents care and initiated contact with the system for services for their child”*
  - *“Relatives were used for the child’s placement”*
  - *“Parents voluntarily agreed to participate in inpatient treatment for their substance abuse issues”*
  - *“Child had three sets of grandparents and good extended family participation”*
  - *“Extended family’s involvement ensured the safety of the children”*
  - *“Even though grandmother, who was taking care of the child, was backsliding in her alcohol rehabilitation she still provided for the child”*
  - *“Good agency searching for father; father did not want involvement however”*
  - *“Extended family, particularly aunts, are very engaged in the case”*
  - *“Paternal aunt took care of the children, then the child was placed with the paternal uncle”*

- *"Mother and child bond is very strong (could be codependent in future, however)"*
- **Legal System:**
  - *"Educational neglect charge was filed on mom; court was trying to hold mother accountable"*
  - *"Child asked to go back into the drug court's jurisdiction as she felt she needed the structure"*
  - *"Once Tribal Court assumed jurisdiction, the case was much easier to understand"*
  - *"Tribal court system moves expeditiously"*
- **Preserving connections:**
  - *"Culture is very important to the child; Arcadia in Butte, Montana is providing for and maintaining those cultural connections"*
- **Successful outcomes:**
  - *"Children are all thriving in their placements"*

### **Additional contributing factors:**

- *"Eastern Shoshone Social Services lack basic resources such as communication equipment and infrastructure; some progress has been made to correct this, but more is needed"*
- *"Adolescent residential treatment facility is needed on the Wind River Indian Reservation"*
- *"Mother is 23 years old; this will be her 6<sup>th</sup> child"*
- *"Both mother and father had serious substance abuse issues"*
- *"Boy was a father at 15 years of age"*
- *"Child attendance in preschool is only about 50%"*
- *"Many regular medical appointments resulted in "no shows"'"*
- *"Child was targeted by others in his placement for his Native American ethnicity"*
- *"Unmarried couple with children"*
- *"Mother did not follow thru with inpatient treatment recommendation"*

### **Opportunities for improvement:**

- **Case planning:**
  - *"Case plans are needed other than just the court order and conditions of supervision"*
  - *"Case planning needs to be completed"*
  - *"Three family plans and one case plan were in the case file and all were blank; this may be a WYCAPS issue."*
  - *"Case file was lacking dental and medical records"*
  - *"Blank case plan in the case file"*
  - *"Medical records need to be in the case file"*
  - *"Case needs to be family centered practice; no engagement of father"*
  - *"Hard copy case file was in good shape; little or no WYCAPS entries"*
- **Contact:**
  - *"Child felt that he did not have enough visitation from the caseworker"*
  - *"Parents felt they needed more written and verbal contact with case worker"*
  - *"21 days lapsed before a response to a maltreatment allegation"*
  - *"Current relatives that have child would like more communication with the case worker"*
  - *"Worker contact with mother was weak"*
  - *"Worker contact with child was weak"*
- **Family involvement:**
  - *"Mother did not pay much attention to preventative medical and dental needs"*
  - *"Grand parents enabled the child's parents behavior"*
  - *"Girl would like to see her brother in treatment"*
  - *"17 months and family is still not in a safe house"*
  - *"Parents are still abusing drugs and alcohol"*
  - *"Mother needs psychological evaluation and then needs help following it"*

- *“Father needs substance abuse treatment”*
- *“Nobody from Riverton Middle School notified worker or family that child was being taken off IEP”*
- *“Child is interested in his cultural heritage; mother may not be interested and deprive the child of that opportunity”*

### **Systemic Barriers:**

- Area conditions:
  - *“Communication and case file sharing between Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone is weak and the lack of communication could create a serious safety issue for the child”*
  - *“Different tribal affiliations and enrollments can lead to confusion”*
  - *“Confidentiality in a small community is difficult to maintain”*
  - *“A lack of affordable housing exists in the area”*
  - *“Family has transportation needs”*
- Collaboration
  - *“Lander Police Department would not honor the tribal court order”*
  - *“Riverton Police Department did not inform the agency of child welfare concerns”*
  - *“When working the case, it would be beneficial to coordinate all service providers in a wrap around structure”*
  - *“The child was on an IEP at Wind River Indian School, but the IEP was not continued when the child transferred to the Riverton school system”*
- Legal system:
  - *“Only two law enforcement officers; when they are not able to appear in court, the case is often dropped”*
  - *“Judge would like to see a residential treatment facility funded on the Wind River Indian Reservation”*
  - *“Courts need to ensure that parents receive notice of court hearings”*
  - *“Drug court did not let the case worker know of new charges”*
  - *“City and Tribal arrest records do not go on the state’s criminal records check system”*
  - *“The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) does not always report to the agency when they have a child welfare case”*
- Resources:
  - *“Transportation and gas money was needed for parents”*
  - *“A culturally appropriate placement was a 10 hour drive for the parents to visit”*
- Tribal social services program needs:
  - *“Foster parents, especially therapeutic foster parents”*
  - *“Juvenile services office needs clerical help”*
  - *“Video conferencing in the Eastern Shoshone Social Service office is needed”*
  - *“WYCAPS does not work well in the Eastern Shoshone Social Service office; workers enter information and the system freezes up resulting in the information being lost”*

### **Review process dynamics and considerations:**

- Citizen reviewers in this review consisted of:
  - Wyoming Boys School intake manager;
  - Wyoming Girls School superintendent;
  - tribal drug court representative;
  - tribal legal counsel;
  - tribal headstart representative;
  - ACF representative;
  - Praesidium consultant;
  - Praesidium consultant;

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- Fort Washakie Learning Center representative;
  - tribal prosecutor's office representative;
  - tribal ICWA coordinator, and
  - Eagles Wings representative.
- The period under review was October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.

*May 7, 2007 11:45 a.m.*

