

1-15-2020
Colin Parks

The caretaker often (half to three-fourths of the time) demonstrates appropriate behaviors in two or more areas identified as a priority need.

In addition, caretaker is, at least half the time, engaged in services or meeting service plan objectives identified to meet those needs. Caretaker's efforts may be inconsistent but occur at least half of the time.

e. Demonstrates poor progress in reducing two or more of the prioritized needs.

The caretaker rarely (less than half of the time) demonstrates or fails to demonstrate appropriate behaviors in two or more areas identified as a priority need, although partial or substantial progress may have been made in reducing one or more identified priority needs.

Caretaker is not engaged in services or is not meeting service plan objectives identified to meet those needs or demonstrates service plan engagement less than half the time. Evidence of poor progress includes a caretaker's failure or refusal to attend services or work toward service plan objectives identified to address a priority need.

f. Refuses involvement or fails to participate in the service plan.

The caretaker refuses or does not participate in services or service plan objectives necessary to address the priority needs identified in the case plan.

Overrides

For more information overrides on a risk reassessment, see PSM 714-4, CPS Updated Services Plan and Case Closure.

THREATENED HARM ASSESSMENT

In cases in which threatened harm is discovered, alleged, or confirmed, a threatened harm assessment must occur. The caseworker must assess all five areas including: Severity of past behavior, length of time since past incident, evaluation of services, benefit from services (including if conditions have been rectified), and vulnerability of child(ren). For more information on historical threatened harm, see PSM 713-8, Special Investigative Situations.

Caseworkers must consider all information obtained from the assessment to comprehensively determine if threatened harm remains a factor for maltreatment, and/or to determine if legal action is needed. See PSM 715-3, Family Court: Petitions, Hearings and Court Orders for more information on potential mandatory legal action.

Severity of Past Behavior

Caseworkers should review past behavior and assess severity. Individuals with prior criminal convictions or prior substantiation for following factors would be considered more severe and concerning behavior:

- (a) Abuse or neglect was the suspected cause of a child's death.
- (b) The child was the victim of suspected sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.
- (c) Abuse or neglect resulted in severe physical injury to the child that required medical treatment or hospitalization and seriously impaired the health or physical well-being of the child.
- (d) Child exposure to methamphetamine production.

Caseworkers should document the past behavior based on child welfare record, or criminal history.

Length of Time Since Past Incident

Caseworkers must document the length of time that has passed since the historical incident occurred.

Evaluation of Services

Caseworkers must attempt to obtain information and documentation of participation with services and describe participation in all services.

Caseworkers must evaluate benefit from services through feedback from the individual as well as record or report obtained from previous service providers.

Caseworkers must review progress since the prior incident(s) and document if the individual has received services in the past and re-offended.

Comparison Between the Past and Current Complaints

Caseworkers must evaluate historical incidents in relation to current circumstance to determine if there is relationship between past concerns and the current circumstance, or a demonstration of repetitive behavior.

Vulnerability of Child

Caseworkers must consider the vulnerability of the child. A child may be more vulnerable due to age, mental capacity, a disability, etc.

**FAMILY
ASSESSMENT OF
NEEDS AND
STRENGTHS (FANS)
AND CHILD
ASSESSMENT OF
NEEDS AND
STRENGTHS
Overview**

In most cases where a preponderance of evidence of child abuse/neglect (CA/N) is found to exist, and ongoing services are provided to a family, a family assessment of needs and strengths (FANS-CPS) and a child assessment of needs and strengths (CANS-CPS) need to be completed. These assessments are completed with family input and are used to identify areas which the family needs to focus on to reduce risk of future CA/N. These assessments are used to:

- Develop a service agreement with the family that prioritizes the needs that contributed most to the maltreatment as identified by the FANS-CPS and CANS-CPS.
- Identify services needed for cases that are opened for service provision or closed and referred to other agencies for service provision.
- Identify gaps in resources for client services.
- Identify strengths that may aid in building a safe environment for families.

See PSM 714-1, Post-Investigative Services, for information on service provision and service agreements.

