

Step 1- Defining the Problem: Mental and Behavioral Needs of California's Foster Youth

Our population: Children/Youth who had an open foster care case during the time for which we pulled the data.

Observations: Due to a lawsuit in California ACL 15-11 was created to address the unmet mental and behavioral health needs of California's foster youth. For this presentation we focused on a small pool of counties in California and pulled their case review data to see if they were meeting the mental and behavioral needs of the foster children in their counties. Based on data pulls we were able to begin the CQI process of defining the problem; now that we have our population and proposed observation

Sub-Item A: Based on the provided data from a small pool of counties, **75%** did not accurately assess the children's mental/behavioral health needs while **25%** did accurately assess the children's mental/behavioral health needs.

- After seeing the data, what potential problems can you identify regarding accurate assessments of children's mental/behavioral health needs?
 - a. Are screenings being conducted accurately and timely?
 - i. Are children being screened timely and accurately?
 - b. If a referral is submitted, are referrals being addressed timely?
 - i. Are children being misdiagnosed?
 - c. Are children AWOL (on run away status) the reason they are not being assessed/referred timely and accurately?

Sub-Item B: Based on the provided data from a small pool of counties, **57.15%** did not provide appropriate oversight of prescribed medications for mental/behavioral issues. **14.3%** did provide appropriate oversight while **28.6%** marked this an N/A. N/A could very well mean that the child was not receiving any medication.

- After seeing the data, what potential problems can you identify regarding appropriate oversight of prescribed medications for mental/behavioral health issues?
 - a. Is there an issue with the appropriate oversight over children's medication?
 - b. Are children receiving the proper medication(s) for their identified need(s)?
 - c. Are children receiving the appropriate dosages of medication?
 - i. Are the dosages too high or too low?
 - d. Are the children's JV220 reports being updated timely and accurately?
 - e. Are caretakers (in home, foster homes, Short Term Residential Treatment Centers, etc.) making sure the children are taking their medication as prescribed?

Sub-Item C: Based on the provided data from a small pool of counties, **100%** did not provide appropriate services to address the children's mental/behavioral health needs.

- After seeing the data, what potential problems can you identify regarding appropriate services being provided to address children's mental/behavioral health needs?
 - a. Why are children not receiving the appropriate services to meet their needs?
 - b. Are children's needs not being appropriately diagnoses?
 - c. Was there a lack of follow up (no oversight of diagnosis and no reassessments)?
 - i. Was the child assessed initially but not on an ongoing basis?
 - d. Were the resources limited?

- i. The child requested a male therapist but only a female therapist was available.
- e. Are caseworkers and clinicians overworked?
 - i. Caseworker- Is their case load too high and they are not making it to the home as they should (informal assessments)
 - ii. Clinician- Is there one worker who sees all of the foster children in that county?
 - 1. Is the clinicians case load too high?
 - 2. Does the clinician give a general diagnosis for many of their patients?

Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5	Column6	Column7	Column8	Column9
A. During the period under review, did the agency conduct an accurate assessment of the children's mental/behavioral health needs either initially (if the child entered foster care during the period under review or if the in-home services case was opened during the period under review) and on an ongoing basis to inform case planning decisions?		B. For foster care cases only, during the period under review, did the agency provide appropriate oversight of prescription medications for mental/behavioral health issues?			C. During the period under review, did the agency provide appropriate services to address the children's mental/behavioral health needs?			Area Needing Improvement
Yes	No	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	NA	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
2	2	1	1	2	0	4	0	4
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
2	6	1	1	6	0	8	0	8
25.0%	75.0%	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%