

Appendix A: Children’s Court Initiative (CCI) Performance Measures

Safety: Children are safe from abuse and neglect, and maintained in their own home whenever possible.

Goal	Indicators	Data Source ¹
S1. Court properly determines if continued placement in the home is “contrary to the welfare” whenever the child is removed from home. ²	a. Percentage of written orders authorizing removal that include the “contrary to the welfare” finding.	FR
	b. Percentage of written orders authorizing removal that include a sufficiently detailed ³ , child-specific “contrary to the welfare” finding.	FR
	c. Whether the court makes a sufficiently detailed “contrary to the welfare” finding on the record.	CO, FG
S2. Court properly determines whether “reasonable efforts” or “active efforts” were made to prevent removal.	a. Percentage of written orders authorizing removal that include the “reasonable efforts” or “active efforts” to prevent removal finding.	FR
	b. Percentage of written orders authorizing removal that include a sufficiently detailed, child-specific “reasonable efforts” or “active efforts” to prevent removal finding.	FR
	c. Whether the court makes a sufficiently detailed “reasonable efforts” or “active efforts” to prevent removal finding on the record.	CO, FG
S3. Children do not experience subsequent abuse or neglect.	a. Percentage of children who experience repeat maltreatment in accordance with the national standard. ⁴	WiSACWIS

¹ FR=court file review, CO=court observation, S=surveys and/or pre-visit worksheet, FG=focus groups, WiSACWIS=Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems, CCAP=Consolidated Court Automation Programs

² Wisconsin statutes **also** require the contrary to the welfare finding and reasonable efforts to prevent removal finding at the dispositional hearing, regardless of even if the child was removed an earlier hearing. While this is not included as a performance measure, the report will note practices inconsistent with statute.

³ “Detailed, child-specific” means the finding cannot be merely a reference to state or federal law and it must include relevant case facts specific to the child.

⁴ The national standard is met if 6.1% or fewer children had another substantiated or indicated report of child abuse or neglect within six months.

Permanency: Children have permanence and stability in their living situation.

Goal	Indicators	Data Source
P1. Evaluations of the permanency plan are held timely and in accordance with statutory and federal rule requirements.	a. Percentage of cases where the permanency plan is reviewed (court or admin.) no later than 6 months after removal.	FR, FG, agency file
	b. Percentage of cases where a permanency plan hearing is conducted no later than 12 months after removal.	FR, FG
	c. Percentage of cases where the permanency plan review summaries are filed with the court.	FR
	d. Percentage of cases where the permanency plan review summaries are filed timely.	FR
P2. Court properly determines whether “reasonable efforts” were made to achieve the goal(s) of the permanency plan.	a. Percentage of written orders that include the “reasonable efforts” to achieve the goal of the permanency plan finding.	FR
	b. Percentage of written orders that include a sufficiently detailed, child-specific “reasonable efforts” to achieve goal of the permanency plan finding.	FR
	c. Whether the court makes a sufficiently detailed “reasonable efforts” to achieve goal of permanency plan finding on the record.	CO, FG
P3. Children achieve timely permanence.	a. Percentage of children who re-enter out of home care after being returned home in accordance with the national standard. ⁵	WiSACWIS
	b. Percentage of children achieving reunification in accordance with the national standard. ⁶	WiSACWIS
	c. Percentage of children achieving adoption in accordance with the national standard. ⁷	WiSACWIS

⁵ The national standard is met if 8.6% or fewer children re-enter foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.

⁶ The national standard is met if 76.2% or more children were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

⁷ The national standard is met if of those children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, 32.0% or more exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

Due Process: Proceedings are conducted in a fair, thorough manner with effective judicial oversight.

Goal	Indicators	DATA SOURCE
D1. Due process is provided to all parties through timely notice, hearings, and decisions.	a. Whether parents and foster parents are given the opportunity to be heard in court.	CO, FG
	b. Percentage of cases in which notice of hearing is given in writing or orally to parents, guardian, caregiver, and tribe (if applicable) for designated hearings. ⁸	FR
D2. Changes of placement occur with proper notice and in accordance with statutory requirements.	a. Percentage of changes of placement that occur with notice or a hearing to the court.	FR, FG
	b. Percentage of changes of placement that have an associated written order.	FR
	c. Percentage of changes of placement where the placement is not changed until a hearing or 10 days after the notice of change of placement is sent to the court.	FR
D3. Parties are timely represented by counsel or GAL.	a. Percentage of children who have a GAL, adversary counsel, or both present at the first hearing.	FR, P, FG, CCAP
	b. Attendance of the GAL/adversary counsel at key hearings.	FR, CO, FG
	c. What procedure the court has in place for monitoring required GAL training.	S, FG
	d. What procedure the court has in place for appointing counsel for parents in CHIPS cases.	S, FG
D4. The number of judicial officers presiding over a child's case is kept at a minimum.	a. Percentage of cases where one, two, and three or more judicial officers preside over the hearings in a child's case. ⁹	FR, FG, CCAP

⁸ Procedures used for providing notice, including when mail returned, will also be examined, using focus groups.

⁹ Procedures a county employs for assigning cases, including intake and judicial rotation, will also be examined, using pre-visit worksheet and focus groups.

Timeliness: Children's permanence and stability are met through timely proceedings and decision-making.

Goal	Indicators	Data Source
T1. Orders are prepared properly, signed, and distributed shortly after hearings are completed.	a. Percentage of orders filed within 30 days.	FR, FG
	b. Whether orders are distributed at the end of the hearing.	CO, FG
	c. Percentage of orders from designated hearings that use current, standard circuit court forms. ¹⁰	FR
T2. Cases are heard and completed consistent with statutory requirements, without unnecessary delay.	a. Length of time between filing of the CHIPS petition and CHIPS disposition.	FR, CCAP
	b. Length of time between filing of the TPR petition and the TPR disposition.	FR, CCAP
	c. Frequency of continuances prior to disposition. ¹¹	CO, S, FG
	d. Length of time between filing of the agency court report and CHIPS disposition hearing.	FR, S, FG

¹⁰ Procedures for providing parties with copies of the written orders will also be examined, using file review, focus groups, and court observation.

¹¹ Reasons for continuances and delay, requesting party, stage/hearings continuances occur, and suggestions for reducing number of continuances/delay will also be examined, using file review, pre-visit worksheet, focus groups, and court observation.