

NM Family Advocacy Program
 Child & Family Services Reviews Round One Report Summary (9/8/22)



The New Mexico Family Advocacy Program (NMFAP) is administered by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The objective of the NMFAP is to improve parent engagement with the child welfare system and outcomes related to child permanency and child well-being through implementation of an interdisciplinary model of legal representation. This program is funded through the Strengthening Child Welfare Systems through Interdisciplinary Practice federal grant awarded by the Children’s Bureau. A comprehensive review of the program was conducted for the purpose of grant evaluation and continuous quality improvement. The review included three components: case review, supplemental parent interview, and stakeholder group interview. This is a summary of the review results. The complete report is available upon request.

Case Review

NMFAP Rating Summary			
Performance Item	Performance Item Ratings / Cases=30		
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement	60% (n=18)	40% (n=12)	n=0
Item 5: Permanency Goal for the Child	70% (n=21)	30% (n=9)	n=0
Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	60% (n=18)	40% (n=12)	n=0
Item 7: Placement with Siblings	81.25% (n=13)	18.75% (n=3)	n=14
Item 8: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care	63.33% (n=19)	36.67% (n=11)	n=0
Item 10: Relative Placement	66.67% (n=20)	33.33% (n=10)	n=0
Item 12B: Needs and Services to Parents	46.67% (n=14)	53.33% (n=16)	n=0
Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning	56.67% (n=17)	43.33% (n=13)	n=0
Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	36.67% (n=11)	63.33% (n=19)	n=0

Overall NMFAP and NMFAP Client Only Rating Comparison

Table 6: NMFAP Client Only and Overall NMFAP Rating Comparison			
Performance Item	Performance Item Ratings		
	NMFAP Client Only Strength Rating	Overall NMFAP Strength Rating	Difference
Item 8: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care	75.86%	63.33%	12.53%
Item 12B: Needs and Services to Parents	56.66%	46.67%	9.99%
Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning	73.33%	56.67%	16.66%

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Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents	50.00%	36.67%	13.33%
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Supplemental Parent Interview

Activities Supported by the NMFAP Team	
	n=30
Helping to communicate with CYFD worker	96.66% (29)
Explaining and helping to understand court proceedings	93.33 % (28)
Helping to access services I need	93.33% (28)
Helping to have input into my case plan	90.00% (27)
Attending Meetings with CYFD	86.66% (26)
Ensuring visitation with the child	70.00% (21)
Transporting to assessments and/or services	63.33% (19)
Helping to advocate for relative placement	63.33% (19)
Helping to identify relatives who are potential supports	63.33% (19)
Helping to access visitation with my child	53.33% (16)
Other *	16.66% (5)

Stakeholder Group Interviews

Focus group meetings were convened with key stakeholder groups concurrent to the case review process. The purpose of these meetings was to gather the perspective and feedback of child welfare stakeholders who work with NMFAP or are engaged in cases served by the program. The groups were asked open-ended questions related to their understanding of the NMFAP, their experience with the program, the impact of the program on cases, trainings and orientation related to the program, and the Case Review systemic factor as defined by the CFSR.

Strengths

- Improved parent engagement
- Enhanced advocacy for parents
- Better communication between the parties
- Support linking parents to services
- Increased parent involvement

Challenges

- Assignment of NMFAP team and equity of services
- Communication triangulation between CYFD and NMFAP and Parent
- Deficit of local contractors in less urban/rural site counties
- A perception that the program prioritizes parent rights over best interest of the child
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Summary

There is agreement among the stakeholder groups and parents interviewed that the child welfare system is complex and that families engaged in the system are experiencing significant stress and trauma. Parents reported feeling fearful, angry, overwhelmed, and confused after their children were removed and they began working with CYFD, service providers, and the courts. The New Mexico Family Advocacy Program effectively provides support and advocacy for these parents during this time.