



FCRB REPORT FINDINGS & ELEMENTS

Agenda

- Introductions
- Background – the Why
- FCRB Findings and Recommendations Report
- Findings and Elements Guidebook
- Next Steps
- Q & A



Honorable Anna Young

WHY A NEW REPORT?

WHY REVISE FINDINGS &
ELEMENTS?

Sunset Audit

Judges Workgroup

Helpful – Add Value



Timeline Milestones

- 2023 Audit (included surveying judges)
 - September 2023 Auditor Report and Legislative Hearings
 - Renewed for four years
 - 12 Recommendations and Annual Legislative Report
 - February 2024 – October 2024 Judges Workgroup
 - Reviewed other state's report formats and findings
 - Reviewed board frequency and cases heard
 - Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
 - Preparing report and flow for new database
 - Revising findings, elements and overall guidebook

Court

County: [Leaving area blank]
Presiding Judge: Clerk of Court Stamp]
Assigned Judge:
Next Court Hearing: (Date AND Time)

Report



**Arizona Supreme Court
Foster Care Review Board
Findings and Recommendations Report**

www.azfcrb.org

Review

Review Information
FCRB Case Name:
FCRB Case Number:

Board #:
Review Date:
Next Review Date:

Children

Child(ren) Information

Name	Birthdate	Age	SWID	JD#	Initial Placement	Current Placement	Permanency Plan	Legal Status

FCRB Findings and Recommendation Report

Reports Considered

Interested Parties	Notified By:	Present or Statement

Reports Considered

Attendance

Statements
next page(s)

DCS's Response to the Board's Prior Recommendations

The Board reviewed and considered DCS's response to its prior recommendations.

DCS agreed to (#agree) of the prior (total #rec) recommendations from FCRB. They disagreed with (#disagree); stating the reasons: _____, _____).

Board Findings *(Findings are based on Federal and State mandates and initiatives).*

If the Finding does not pertain to all children being reviewed, only the name of the child to whom the Finding pertains will be listed.

The Board finds continuation of the child(ren) in out-of-home placement is necessary.	Yes	No	NA
All Children	x		
The Board finds the placement is safe, appropriate, least restrictive and provides normalcy.	Yes	No	NA
All Children	x		
The Board finds there is a current, written case plan which includes each case participants' tasks, behavior change goals, and/or services.	Yes	No	NA
DCS	x		
The Board finds each case participant is engaging in tasks, behavior change goals, and/or services outlined in the case plan.	Yes	No	NA
DCS	x		
Name (Mom)	x		
Name (Dad of X, XX)	x		
Add line for any IPs			

Comments, Concerns, and Recommendations for the Court

Comments, Concerns, and Recommendations for DCS

Comments, Concerns, and Recommendations to Parents, Youth, and Interested Parties

Commendations

Administrative Notes

**Break out of Recommendations
Commendations and Administrative Notes**

Improving the Findings and Elements Guidebook

- Updated language
- New numbering system
- New order of findings → flow that builds
- Layout easier to see more information on same finding at one time
- A few new findings
- Flexibility to answers that allows for elements regardless of finding answer
- Ability to apply directly to each interested party
- Ability to formulate the recommendations at the same time
- Samples for considerations and recommendations provided
- Resource links simplified

Final order	Revised Finding Question	Prior No.
1	The Board finds the child's health care, developmental, and/or education services are being implemented.	9 (part 10)
2	The Board finds the placement is safe, appropriate, least restrictive, and provides normalcy.	3
3	The Board finds there is a current, written case plan which includes each case participant's tasks, behavior change goals, and/or services.	4b
4	The Board finds each case participant is engaging in tasks, behavior change goals, and/or services outlined in the case plan and/or ordered by the Court.	5
5	The Board finds the youth is being engaged in their own transition planning and service implementation to assist with their successful transition from foster care to adulthood.	na
6	The Board finds protocols for identifying, documenting, locating, and providing appropriate responses for children who may be at risk of or are confirmed victims of sex trafficking, and/or those who run away from foster care, are being implemented.	na
7	The Board finds progress is being made toward primary permanency goal for the child.	6

8	The Board finds the Court ordered, primary permanency goal for the child is appropriate.	4a
9	The Board finds continuation of out-of-home placement is necessary for the child.	2
10	The Board finds there is a documented target date, and on-going efforts and assessments are being made toward achieving timely permanence.	7
11	The Board finds reasonable efforts, or active efforts in an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) case, are being made to implement the permanency goal for the child(ren).	8
12	The Board finds [TBD service gaps, and/or system coordination challenges] is impacting the case.	10
	Removed this question	
	Reasonable efforts, or active efforts in an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) case, were made to prevent the removal of the child(ren) from the home and that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of the child(ren).	1

Cross reference of the Findings numbers

Findings Build

F1 → Status of the children and services for them

F2 → Placement is appropriate

F3 through F6 → Case plan tasks, services, participation, needs

F7 → Overall progress toward goal

F8 → Goal still appropriate

F9 → Out of home care still necessary

F10 → Target date and timely permanence on track for the goal

F11 → Reasonable/active efforts by agency

Finding 1: The Board finds the child's healthcare, developmental, and/or education services are being implemented.

- Behavioral Health will be addressed here as it relates to the child's overall health.
- It is required to maintain a child's health and education record & DCS must have procedures to regularly review and update health and education records.

Finding 1

FINDING 2: The Board finds the placement is safe, appropriate, least restrictive, and provides normalcy.

- Understand placement preference hierarchy for least restrictive placements
- Understand "normalcy" and guidance provided under the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard

Questions to Consider

- Efforts to explore relative/fictive kin placements? Efforts to place siblings together?
- Efforts for a family-like setting
- Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, other areas of interest and socialize with peers?

Finding 2

FINDING 3: The Board finds there is a current, written case plan which includes each case participant's tasks, behavior change goals, and/or services.

- Written case plan should:
 - Be current (within 6mos)
 - Include tasks and services for all involved, include visitation plan, include youth 14+ in the planning, include educational stability plan

Finding 3

Finding 4

FINDING 4: The Board finds each case participant is engaging in tasks, behavior change goals, and/or services outlined in the case plan and/or ordered by the Court.

- Participation is assessed for all interested parties
- Elements are no longer grouped by party.



Finding 5

Finding 5: The Board finds that a successful transition plan from foster care to adulthood has been completed and is being implemented.

- Engaging youth in their own case planning and outlining programs and services necessary to help them transition to successful adulthood begins at age 14. This is assessed in Finding 3.
- For Finding 5, the primary focus is on the completion of the transition plan tasks for youth that are 17 years old and will soon be transitioning from foster care to adulthood. The completion of all tasks should be done prior to the last 90 days the youth is in care.
- This finding may also apply to youth that are entering foster care at an older age (16 or older) and have not yet begun their transition planning.

Finding 6



FINDING 6: The Board finds protocols for identifying, documenting, locating, and providing appropriate responses for children who may be at risk of or are confirmed victims of sex trafficking, and/or those who run away from foster care, are being implemented.

- The elements for Finding 6 are broken out into two sections: Runaway Youth and Returning Youth.

The protocols in place have some similarity and/or overlap but also have unique requirements to be assessed. Our goal is to do a high-level assessment of whether the protocols are being followed.

Chapter 4 : Section 8

Locating Runaway Children

Policy

The Department shall make reasonable efforts to locate a child who is a ward of the court, placed in the care, custody and control of the Department and who has run away from an out-of-home placement.

Within 24 hours of receiving information that a child has left an out-of-home placement, and is determined to be on runaway status, the Department ensures immediate written and telephonic notification to the child's parents, attorney, guardian ad litem, court appointment special advocate (CASA), judicial officer, caregiver and tribe, if applicable, and of the child's disappearance.

The Department shall report immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after receiving, information on missing or abducted children or youth, to:

- law enforcement authorities for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database; and
- the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Procedures

Implementation

Upon notification that a child has runaway, the DCS Specialist shall immediately notify the Hotline, if not already notified.

Upon notification that a child has runaway, the Hotline will generate the Missing Person Detail in Guardian and notify the Missing, Abducted and Runaway Children (MARC) Unit.

Within 24 hours of receiving notification that a child has runaway, the Department will ensure that a report has been made to the local law enforcement agency and obtain the DR number of the law enforcement report.

The MARC Specialist shall provide the following information to the law enforcement agency:

- a complete physical description of the child, such as height, weight, sex, ethnicity, race, hair color, eye color and other identifying characteristics and a description of the clothing the child was last known to be wearing;
- information that a youth may be at an increased risk including pregnancy status, prescription medications, mental health conditions, suicidal ideation, and substance use.

04 Out-of-Home Care

Chapter 04 : Out of Home Care

Out-of-Home Dependency

Locating Missing Parents & Family for Notification

Kinship Care

Placement Needs of Children in Out-of-Home Care

Selecting An Out-of-Home Caregiver

Placing Children in Out-of-Home Care

Caregiver Stability for Children in Out-of-Home Care

Locating Runaway Children

Locating Children Abducted from State Custody

Out-of-Home Care Rates, Allowances & Payments

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

Respite Care for Children in Out-of-Home Care

Discipline in Foster Care

Finding 7

FINDING 7: The Board finds *progress* is being made toward the primary permanency goal for the child.

- Only assess the court approved, primary permanency goal for each child

Reminders:

- Progress can be made on a case even where there are concerns with lack of engagement
- If a youth with a goal of APPLA is engaged in their case planning and actively participating in their tasks, we answer Yes to the finding for them.

Finding 8

FINDING 8: The Board finds the Court ordered, primary permanency goal for the child is appropriate.

- Understand permanency goals in order of preference
 - Remain w/family
 - Reunification
 - Adoption
 - Guardianship
 - APPLA
- Understand legal grounds for termination of parental rights



Finding 9



Finding 9 - The Board finds continuation of out of home placement is necessary for the child.

- The interested party identified for this finding should be DCS (it may also be the Court)
- SAFE AZ model guides reunification practices
- Understand Conditions for Return

Questions to Consider:

- Have the original threats of danger been reduced or eliminated?
- Is the child no longer vulnerable to the threats?
- What are the conditions for return? Have they been met?

Finding 10

FINDING 10: The Board finds there is a documented target date, and on-going efforts and assessments are being made toward achieving timely permanence.

- Two assessment pieces – target date & timely permanence
- DCS should have a documented target date, and the Court should establish a target date on record.
- The Board will consider DCS's ongoing assessment of the Conditions for Return (SAFE AZ Model)



Finding 11

Finding 11: The Board finds reasonable efforts, or active efforts in an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) case, are being made to implement the permanency goal for the child.

- This finding applies to DCS as an interested party. When DCS is not involved, this will apply to a private petitioner.
- Yes or No responses require elements to be chosen and detailed support in the recommendations
- Unknown can be used when there is limited information to answer the question



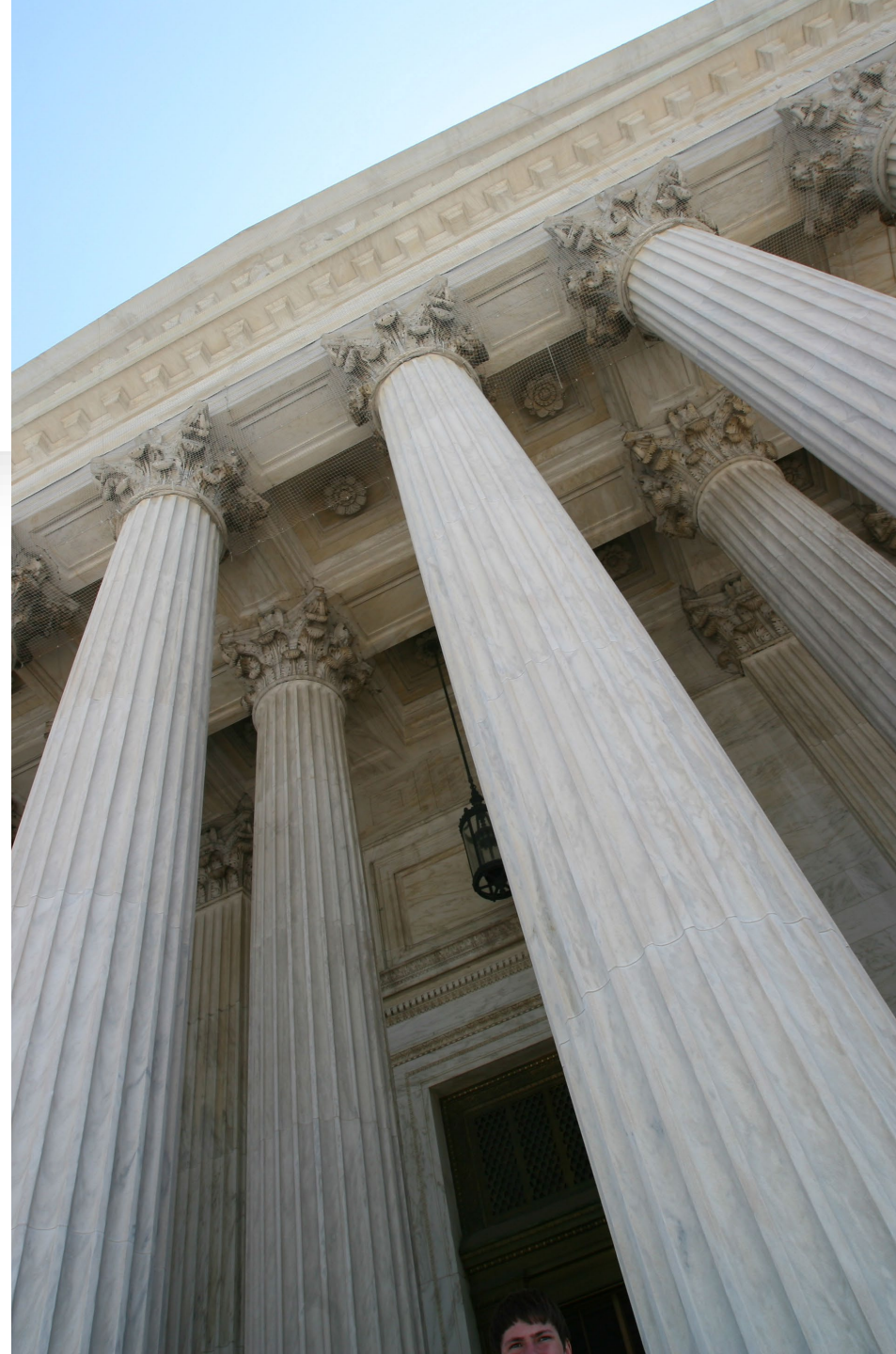
Finding 10 & 11

- Timely Permanence (F10) vs. Reasonable Efforts (F11)
 - Timely permanence assesses *overall* efforts as outlined in SAFE AZ (ongoing assessment of the Conditions For Return (CFR))
 - Is DCS reviewing the safety plan and conditions for return with the family monthly?
 - Reasonable or Active Efforts (ICWA) assess overall efforts *by DCS or the private agency* to provide the children and family with needed services to achieve case plan goals

Finding 12

Finding 12: The Board finds [TBD service gaps, and/or system coordination challenges] is impacting the case.

- Finding 12 will be used when there is a specific directive, area or concern (county or statewide) FCRB is asked to assess during our reviews (like our current finding 10).
- Specific elements will be developed for that specific purpose.



Finding 12a

Finding 12a: The Board finds the parent and/or youth are reporting satisfaction with their legal representation.

- Our first request is to gather information about quality legal representation.
- We will be asking any parent or youth with an appointed attorney or Guardian ad Litem (GAL) qualitative type questions.
- Placements can answer the *frequency of contact* question if the child is under age 12 or not present to ask.



Next Steps and Resources

- Training Rollout
 - June 24th initial Report and Guidebook Training kicks off at Volunteer Conference
 - Overview trainings offered throughout July and August (2 hours each, more time for Q & A)
 - Future training modules per finding
- Volunteer Site
 - Resources

Q & A



THANK YOU