

CALIFORNIA
DATA ANALYSIS – Identifying the
State-identified Measurable Result
State Systemic Improvement Plan
Child and Family Outcomes
October 2014

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



Overview: State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

The SSIP is about identifying the areas in need of change/improvement, evaluating possible actions that may provide solutions, learning about what is necessary to effectively implement the actions chosen, developing an implementation team and pursuing stakeholder input, assessing and creating an atmosphere for change, and deciding how to proceed.

The proposed SSIP will be developed in two phases and then implemented and evaluated in a third phase. These phases cover the Annual Performance Report (APR) reporting period of 2015-2020.

Phase I—FFY 2013 due in April, 2015

Phase II—FFY 2014 due with APR submission in February, 2016

Phase III—FFY 2015-18 due with APR submission in February, 2017 through February, 2020

Phase I

- Data Analysis
- Identification of the focus for improvement
- Description of infrastructure to support improvement and build capacity
- Theory of Action

Phase II

- Development of the multi-year plan which includes:
 - Infrastructure Development
 - Supports for EIS programs/LEAs in implementing evidence-based practices
 - Evaluation Plan

Phase III

- Evaluation of the plan and reporting of progress:
 - Results of the ongoing evaluation
 - Extent of progress
 - Revisions to the plan

This report will focus on the data analysis portion of Phase I, and the selection of a State-identified Measureable Result (SiMR). Beginning with the analysis of Child and Family outcomes, the data will be analyzed to determine if California is performing lower in some outcome areas than others.

As part of the SSIP process, a broad data analysis of Child and Family Outcomes was the first step in understanding California's performance. Relevant data was explored to identify areas that merited further examination.

The purpose of this analysis is to continue the data breakdown for the SSIP by examining child outcomes data relative to Summary Statement 1, (Substantially Increased Rate of Growth) – Outcomes Area C, (Actions to Meet Needs), as well as Family Outcomes. By comparing Summary Statement 1, Outcomes Area C (Outcome C) against the results of the Family Survey, it may be possible to find correlations between the data.

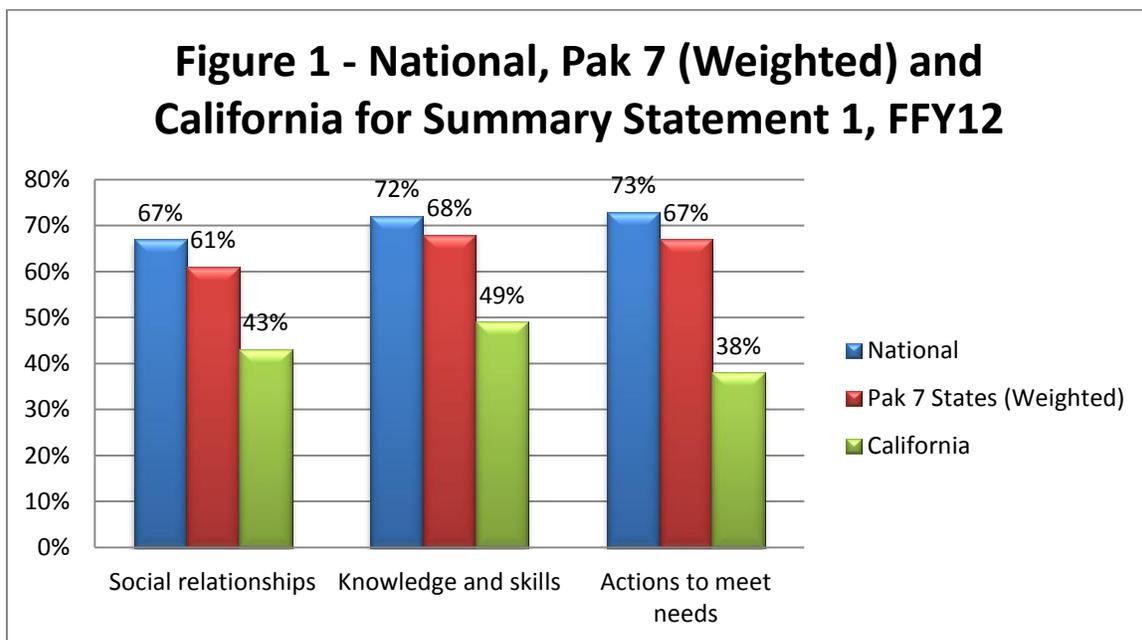
Step 1: Comparison of Outcome C to National Data and Pac 7

The broad data analysis for Child Outcomes told us that California performed at or above the National average in all three outcome areas in Summary Statement 2. The same was true when compared to other large state averages (Pak 7¹ – the seven most populous states).

California performed below national averages² in all three outcome areas. Outcome C, Self Help/Adaptive, performed at the lowest level; 38 percent of children that substantially increased their rate of growth in Outcome C, as compared to the overall national level of 73 percent. When compared to the Pak 7 states. California performed below the Pak 7 averages of 67 percent.

See Figure 1³ for a comparison between California and national data in the percentage of children who substantially increased their rate of growth (Summary Statement 1). In Outcome A, Social Relationships and Outcome B, Knowledge and Skills, California is 24 and 23 percentage points below the national averages, respectively; and 18 percentage points below the Pak 7 average in both areas.

California's percentage for Outcome C is 35 percentage points below the national average, and 29.2 percentage points below the Pak 7 average. This makes Outcome C, California's lowest performing Child Outcome area in Summary Statement 1.



¹ Pak 7 States: California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas

² National data based on 40 states with highest-quality data

³ Part C State Annual Performance Report for FFY 2012

Step 2: Comparison of Family Outcomes Survey Reponses

In California, Department of Developmental Services (DDS) employed an adapted version of the *Family Outcomes Survey* (FOS Revised Part C, 2010)⁴ to gather and analyze data for the APR. Beginning in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012, DDS expanded the survey to include seventeen questions in a self-report survey for families. The expanded survey allows DDS to compile more accurate data with regard to early intervention services. The survey results for both FFY12 and FFY13 exceeded the sample necessary to achieve a 90% Confidence Interval, which is the measure of the reliability of an estimate or sample.

The broad data analysis for Family Outcomes told us that California's families rated our performance above average (percentage of questions scoring a 4 or a 5, out of a possible 5 points) in most categories. With an expanded survey used in FFY12 and FFY13, areas that ranked below average were identified.

Five questions received consistently lower marks on both surveys.

FIGURE 2 - INDICATOR 4 – TARGET MEASUREMENTS FFY12 & FFY 13 COMBINED	
Q4. Providing information about options upon child's program exit.	67.3%
Q12. Providing information about the child interacting with others.	70.4%
Q14. Providing information about helping the child fulfill his/her needs.	75.6%
Q2. Providing information about their rights.	76.2%
Q8. Connecting them with other helpful services.	76.7%

Step 3: Analysis of State Performance

In order to narrow down the data results into one SiMR, an overview of anything unique or outstanding about the data findings must be addressed.

One area that has proved difficult for California to address has been the transition of children from the DDS Early Start Program to the California Department of Education (CDE) educational system. Survey Question 4 for Transition data is reported in the APR under Indicator 8. This transition has been a challenge as reflected also by low monitoring scores on the transition portion of the APR. While this is not viable as a sole focus for the SiMR per SSIP Guidelines⁵, it is important to note that

⁴ Bailey, D.B., Hebbler, K., & Bruder, M.B. (2006). *Family Outcomes Survey*. Retrieved October 18, 2009 from, <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~eco/pages/tools.cfm#SurveyVersions>

⁵ FFY 2013-2018 Part C SPP/APR Part C SPP/APR Instruction Sheet

transition garnered the lowest approval rating amongst all questions in the Family Survey for both FFY12 and FFY13.

Another important aspect of the data is the correlation between the Family Survey Results and those of Child Outcomes. The second lowest scoring response on the survey related to the State's failure to provide information about helping the child fulfill his/her needs. In a parallel, the lowest scoring child outcome was related to children's ability to adapt and help themselves.

Step 4: SiMR Concentration Selection Possibilities

Based on the data analyzed, there appear to be the following potential SiMR configurations:

1. Family Outcomes – With the consistent lower performing areas indicated by the Family Survey, California shows potential for improvement in several categories: Providing information about transitions; parents' rights; helping children to fulfill their needs; children's interactions; and connecting children and their families with other services.
2. Child Outcomes – California ranked 37% in the Self Help/Adaptive area of Child Outcomes. Lagging 23 percentage points behind the national average, this is clearly an area that could be focused on for a SiMR.
3. Family Outcomes with complementary focus – the Family Outcomes survey could be narrowed to just two pivotal questions: Question 4, Providing information about options upon child's program exit (transitions), and Question 14, providing information about helping the child fulfill his/her needs (Actions to Meet Needs). By focusing on these two survey questions, California could potentially see results for Outcome C, Indicator 8, as well as its focus, Indicator 4, Family Outcomes.
4. Choose another area for analysis and consideration. (Note - this will increase time frames)

Step 5: Identifying the SiMR

As we work to identify the SiMR, the goal is to select a SiMR for the SSIP that can make a significant impact on results for children with disabilities and their families. To confirm or narrow the SiMR, CA will:

- Use the information from in-depth data and infrastructure analyses
- Evaluate whether the SiMR is a feasible result to focus on in the SSIP.

When considering a focus for the SiMR, the following questions should be considered:

1. Is there a body of evidence from the data that substantiates the rationale behind the SiMR?
2. Can California have a reasonable expectation of achieving the goal? Does the State have the capacity to address a specific measurable result more readily than another potential result?
3. Is the outcome measurable within the context of APR reporting mandates? If so, how will that measurement be accomplished?

4. Will the SiMR make a significant impact on results?
5. Will changes in practices and improvement in child and family (for Part C) outcomes be achievable
6. What resources will be necessary to implement the SiMR and design an effective SSIP?
 - Stakeholder engagement?
 - Data analysis?
 - Infrastructure analysis?
 - Coherent improvement strategies?
 - Local/State/Federal Initiatives?
7. What assistance does the State need to apply research related to effective implementation (including effective TA and professional development) and systems change?
8. Is there adequate leadership support around the SiMR?
9. Is there stakeholder support around the SiMR?
10. Can existing resources, funding and support be leveraged to address this focus?
11. What are the barriers that need to overcome:
 - Information?
 - Local involvement/cooperation?
 - Administrative?
 - Funding?
 - Cohesion of group and agreement on direction?

The next part of the SSIP process focuses on identifying coherent improvement strategies that build the capacity of the state system and of Early Start programs/providers in order to improve results for children with disabilities and their families. It includes researching and evaluating solutions that support improvement in the area of focus, which involves identifying evidence-based practices that can make a difference for children and families, and exploring effective practices related to the SiMR that will need to be scaled up to improve results. This will then be followed by the development of a theory of action.

The goal of the theory of action is to illustrate how the implementation of the coherent improvement strategies will demonstrate the State's capacity to lead meaningful change in the Early Start programs, and achieve improvement in the SiMR. General action steps will need to be developed that address challenges by removing barriers, using leverage points and incorporating resources. It also involves defining an outcome statement that showcases the improvement the SSIP State team hopes to show within the SiMR, including both short and long-term outcomes. This closes out Phase I of the SSIP.