



DCF ChildStat-Case Presentation

The purpose of ChildStat is to encourage a culture of learning through self-reflective and self-diagnostic processes. ChildStat is a case conferencing model, where examining the work with one family is seen as an opportunity to critically analyze practice, policy, and procedures from a systems perspective. The ChildStat process helps identify specific steps that can be taken to enhance practice within the Local Office. In addition, ChildStat can help identify critical decision-making elements and themes statewide. ChildStat consists of three primary components; the case presentation, group learning activities and the case and practice update.

Case Presentation. ChildStat currently focuses on analyzing in-home case practice with families whose cases have been open for eighteen months or longer. The Office of Performance Management and Accountability (PMA) selects a permanency case of a family whose child or children receive services and supports while remaining in their own home. The Local Office working with the family gives a presentation on the quality of the practice and the services offered to the family. The presentation team consists of DCF staff and external partners (e.g., CMO staff, therapists or other provider agencies). The presentation highlights the family history, case history, key decision points, and quantitative data.

Group Learning Activities. ChildStat offers three group learning activities following the case presentation:

- *Case Presentation Question and Answer.* After the presentation, the audience asks questions and offers comments about the case to the panel of internal and external presenters.
- *Round Table.* Following the Question and Answer period, the audience breaks into small groups to answer questions developed by the presenting local office and PMA. The larger group reconvenes to discuss the questions and lessons learned from the case analysis.
- *Debrief.* Following the Round Table, leadership from Child Protection & Permanency (CP&P), PMA and select staff from the Local Office have an opportunity to debrief the morning session. The purpose of the debrief session is to discuss the ChildStat process, themes, next steps, and Local Office concerns in a smaller group setting.

Case and Practice Update. Approximately six months following the ChildStat presentation, Area and/or Local Office staff meet with PMA's Office of Quality for an update discussion. This update focuses on lessons learned from the audience evaluations completed at the presentation. The update also determines if lessons learned from the ChildStat process resulted in improvements to office systems or systemic factors, and examines what was done following the presentation to improve case practice and outcomes for the family. Information from the update meetings is shared at subsequent ChildStat sessions.

