Infolink Consulting
AFCARS BI Solution

IBM

Solution Description

Infolink Consulting teamed with the Colorado Department of Human Services to develop the AFCARS (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) Business Intelligence (BI) Solution as one way to improve Child Welfare Services. An easy-to-use offering, the AFCARS BI Solution provides states with a way to use data indicators to better meet federally mandated Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) compliance standards and program improvement plan (PIP) requirements. State agencies work collaboratively with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to help ensure quality services are provided to children and families through state child welfare systems. The CFSR is one collaborative method to help states improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families.

The AFCARS BI Solution monitors performance on the CFSR permanency composites, measures at a state and county level, and promotes greater availability and understanding of data for current and prior time periods. The solution provides data that administrators, supervisors and line staff can use to quickly and easily assess their performance.

Features & Benefits

The AFCARS BI Solution is divided into state and county performance on each permanency composite and measure. Trend data allows a user to analyze state or county performance over a number of years on any particular permanency measure. It also provides drill down capability to explore cases that contribute to particular scores as a means of improving services to families and helping states meet compliance standards.

States can efficiently process AFCARS data and deliver it in a meaningful format to managers and supervisors throughout the state. A key benefit is same day delivery of the extract file and having data transformed to usable information that is accessible in a matter of hours to staff throughout the state.

InfoLink Consulting's AFCARS BI Solution is an easy-to-use tool for use by heads-down data analysts as well as senior management. It also provides a sharable visual view to users that may not understand data analysis but need the information to perform their responsibilities to provide timely benefits to children, families and and child welfare cases

Value Proposition

The complex logic of each CFSR measure is programmed into the AFCARS BI Solution to allow an even comparison with CFSR national standards and PIP goals. This provides critical child welfare information within hours versus months to state and county employees. Each data set is always available, allowing for trend analysis at the state and county level.

The bottom line is that every state is held accountable for its foster care and adoption services and evaluated against the same national standards. This makes it necessary for states to evaluate their performance trends in a way that duplicates and matches how the Federal Government evaluates performance. Additionally, states need to understand their performance versus national standards in a timely manner that allows evaluation and possible redirection of policy and procedures to effect positive change. The AFCARS BI Solution has the federal logic built in and is ready for states to use for monitoring and managing CFSR performance.

IBM Segment
- Cognos

Business Function
- Business Intelligence

Target Industry
- Government

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