

August/September 2023 – Phase 3 Monthly Update Event-Based Measurement

IFSD recognizes that not all research collaborators will participate in this exercise or adopt this approach. IFSD hopes to share promising practices from collaborators on their intended approaches to monitoring.

Organizing the child and family service data needed to monitor performance in CFS service delivery means tracking a range of events and recording information relating to children and families in need of support (the drivers of involvement with CFS), including the services received and the community context (e.g., the location of the community).

Research collaborators are currently engaged in piloting the Measuring to Thrive framework as a part of IFSD's Phase 3 research. The approach used in the pilot presents an opportunity to experiment with an events-based method with readily available case-level data. An overview of the data organization structure for the pilot is described below. The appendix demonstrates the data structure of the Measuring to Thrive pilot, which includes examples of: the physical structure of a case file, example event type codes, and associated event records.

In the approach used by Phase 3 research collaborators, information about the person receiving supports is captured by coding the events and corresponding date as well as related activity descriptors. The benefits of using this approach is premised on understanding the trajectory of the service recipient from a starting point, with a series of events that supports the assessment of child and family wellness, through to exiting care of the agency.

Four elements are key to this approach:

- 1) There is a record of the person/persons receiving supports.
- 2) Events related to the person/persons are relevant and are tracked in chronological order.
- 3) The First Nation or FNCFS agency defines the events to be tracked, e.g., an assessment or evaluation, a service received, opportunities to connect culture and language, a change in living arrangement, or protection intervention.
- 4) Data is captured and organized for analysis.

Data can help assess how services are affecting a child's overall wellbeing. For example, a child in out-of-home care may experience changes to levels of exposure to their language as their living arrangements change. By capturing these changes within the event-driven organization structure, it becomes possible to evaluate how the services provided relate to changes in the well-being of the child, and gain insight into what works and what doesn't work for specific individuals and for the service community at large. This is one of the ways in which service providers can monitor the impact of their service investments.



DRAFT – For discussion only

IFSD recognizes that not all collaborators have case-level data, that some collaborators will not be engaging in protection-related activities. IFSD hopes to share promising practices from collaborators on their intended approaches to monitoring in the near future.

**Data organization structure overview
Measuring to Thrive pilot**

Physical structure of file:

Each child has at least one record and may have as many records as needed to capture the event history.

| CIN | DOB | Gender | Geographic information (on event location, e.g., placement, exit, etc.) | Event date | Event type | Event sequence | Event modifier |
|-----|-----|--------|--|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | <i>Note: Geographic information can be coded to a specific First Nation and linked to a separate data sheet with community level information</i> | | | | |

Information about the child

CIN Unique child identifier
 DOB Date of birth (D/M/Y)
 Gender

Information about the community

Place/Geographic Information Information about the community at the time the living arrangement changed

Information about the history of service involvement

Event date The date an event of interest happened (D/M/Y)
 Event type Events types of interest include – changes in living arrangements (specifically entry into and out of out-of-home care, services received, assessments)
 Event sequence The event number – keeps a sequential counter of the number of events.
 Event modifier Additional information about the event: reason for placement, reason for discharge, results of assessment, etc.

Event type codes:

Placement events
 PHP Home of parent
 PHM Parents no longer living at home
 PKC Kinship home
 PGH Group home
 POT Other living arrangement

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| Leaving care event | XRF | Reunification with parents |
| | XRL | Placement with kin |
| | XRM | Reached age of majority |
| | XRY | Runaway |
| | XDT | Death |
| | XOT | Other reasons |
| | XPW | Permanent wardship |
| | ZTC | Still in care |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Assessment events | AST | Assessment completed |
|-------------------|-----|----------------------|

Event modifiers

Placement event modifiers

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| PA | Physical abuse |
| SA | Sexual abuse |
| NGL | Neglect |
| EMT | Emotional maltreatment |
| IPV | Intimate partner violence |
| ADD | Substance misues |
| OTH | Other |

Placement change modifiers

| | |
|-----|---|
| DIS | Service plan complete (i.e., discharge) |
| CAR | Caretaker unable to provide care |
| REL | Kin identified |

Assessment modifiers

| | |
|-----|---|
| LND | Connection to land reported |
| LNG | Engagement in learning and/or speaking Indigenous language observed |
| APA | Active participation in First Nation's community |
| ASP | Spiritual practice observed |

Sample records

| CIN | DOB | Gender | Geographic information on event location | Event date | Event type | Event sequence | Event modifier | Clarification |
|-----|---------|--------|--|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| 001 | 2/17/20 | Male | On reserve | 4/12/22 | PKC | 1 | ADD | Change in living arrangement for reason of caregiver substance misuse |
| 001 | 2/17/20 | Male | On reserve | 9/2/22 | POH | 2 | CAR | Change in living arrangement because caretaker unable to provide care |
| 001 | 2/17/20 | Male | On reserve | 2/10/23 | AST | 3 | ALN | Sense of connection to traditional land |
| 001 | 2/17/20 | Male | On reserve | 5/15/23 | PKC | 4 | REL | Change in living arrangement - kin identified |
| 001 | 2/17/20 | Male | On reserve | 7/17/23 | AST | 5 | APA | Participation in First Nation's activity |
| 001 | 2/17/20 | Male | On reserve | 7/31/23 | XRF | 6 | DIS | Service plan complete |