

## Reimagining NSCAW

### Collaborator Discussion Guide

*A tailored introduction will be provided for each of the sessions. Below is a list of anticipated questions to be asked of more than 9 individuals.*

*We expect each session to last about 60 minutes. We estimate that individuals will spend about 45 minutes responding to questions, dependent on the amount of information they choose to share. Participation in this feedback session is completely voluntary. The data collected in this session will not be shared outside of the federal and project staff directly involved with the project.*

### General Introductory Script

NSCAW is the only source of nationally representative, longitudinal data on the well-being of children and families in the child welfare system. The study examines child and family well-being outcomes in detail and seeks to relate those outcomes to experience with the child welfare system and to family characteristics, community environment, and other factors. NSCAW includes first-hand reports from children, parents, and other caregivers, and caseworkers. There have been three cohorts of NSCAW to date – each about 10 years apart. NSCAW survey data has been linked to other data sources, including data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), and Medicaid claims.

In 2021, the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established the Reimagining NSCAW Project — to carry out preliminary activities to guide potential future NSCAW data collections. These include (a) developing potential design options, (b) actively engaging with various collaborators and experts, (c) conducting preliminary or pilot data collections, and (d) disseminating findings from these efforts.

The strong partnership and ongoing support of child welfare agencies is key to the success of potential future NSCAW data collections, as the study relies on information submitted voluntarily by state and county child welfare agencies. Therefore, our time together will dive into technical details and capacity of ongoing participation in addition to child welfare agencies' priorities, motivations, and any other factors that impact participation. This input will directly be incorporated into RTI's design of the next iteration of NSCAW, and aid RTI's ability to generate actionable insights for the Administration of Children and Families' current and potential future initiatives.

Participants can expect each session will last approximately 60 minutes, during which we estimate that to spend about 45 minutes responding to questions, depending on the amount of information they choose to share. Participation in this feedback session is completely voluntary. The data collected in this session will not be shared outside of the federal and project staff directly involved with the project.

*PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BURDEN: Through this information collection, ACF is gathering information to solicit feedback on future National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being data collections. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per respondent. This is a voluntary collection of information. Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB # is #0970-0356 and the expiration date is XX/XX/XXXX. If you have any comments on this collection of information, please contact Melissa Dolan:*

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### Agency Efforts to Track Child/Family Well-Being

1. Do you systematically collect or obtain from another data source(s) information about child or parent well-being? If yes:

- a. What type of well-being data does it include? (e.g., child physical health, child developmental milestones, child mental/behavioral health, educational outcomes, parent physical health, parent mental/behavioral health, or parent substance abuse).
  - b. If you collect this information:
    - i. At what level is the information collected (agency, county, state)?
    - ii. How frequently do you collect this information?
    - iii. Who is the respondent/source of data? A caseworker, parent/caregiver, child/youth, or some other source? Do you use any standardized instruments or assessment tools (e.g., Child Behavioral Checklist/CBCL, Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths/CANS, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire/SDQ)?
    - iv. Do you use it to create dashboards, conduct analyses, produce analytic files or other reports?
    - v. Who has access to this data (e.g., research partners, agencies)?
    - vi. What are some of the barriers or challenges of collecting well-being data that is not currently being collected but that would be informative?
    - vii. Did you need to engage with local IRBs/Unions/other organizations to ensure collections took place?
  - c. If you obtain the information from another data source(s) such as a partnering entity:
    - i. Who are the partnering entities?
    - ii. Does the partnering entity transfer data to the agency or are findings only shared?
  - d. If you receive data from a partnering entity:
    - i. At what frequency is data provided?
    - ii. Is the data integrated into the agency's child welfare data system or is it stored separately?
    - iii. How long is data stored/maintained?
    - iv. What are some best practices you engaged in to partner with these entities to obtain this information?
2. Could the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) contribute well-being data or findings from data collections that you don't currently have or that you need to help with operations or decision-making at your agency? What questions of interest would this data help to address? What feasibility concerns may you have with NSCAW obtaining, sharing, and reporting the well-being data to agencies?

### Agency Perspectives on Potential Sampling Strategies and Data Sharing

3. We are considering broadening the NSCAW sampling frame to include children and youth who are at-risk of being involved in the child welfare system (CWS). To identify this population, we are considering looking at screened out cases, or cases that are referred to the CWS but do not get investigated. Do you retain information on screened out cases?
 

If yes:

  - a. How long do you retain information on screened out cases?
  - b. What type of information is included (e.g., contact information, linkable case ID, case disposition)?
4. We are aware that some states open a resource referral case for families that have been screened out at the report stage. Does your state engage in a similar formal process, and if so, what does it look like?
5. For states whose child welfare confidentiality laws prohibit the sharing of family contact information, could Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) data stripped of identifiers be provided? What data, if any, can be provided to a third party beyond National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data? Can that data be merged with AFCARS and NCANDS data?

6. In your experience in your state, how likely is it that an outside party can get Personally Identifying Information (PII) rosters of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid enrolled participants?
  - a. What data would you need to be able to link an external sample to your CCWIS system?
  - b. If you do not have experience or knowledge on getting PII rosters of SNAP or Medicaid enrolled participants, do you have suggestions on someone we might reach out to who has expertise in this area?
  - c. One idea for a future NSCAW is to include a state identifier for every state so we can better understand the larger state policy context in which child welfare agencies are operating. Would you have any concerns about a state's participation in NSCAW being disclosed?
  - d. Another idea is to include a county identifier for every county to better understand local policy context in which child welfare agencies are operating. Would you have any concerns about a county's participation in NSCAW being disclosed?

#### Agency Perspectives on Potential Study Activities

7. What might be potential research capacity issues that could impact your agency's study participation?
  - a. Any anticipated challenges related to data and technology staffing capacity?
8. How might your agency's broader infrastructure support impact its participation? This includes anything related to design, data, fiscal, and technology infrastructure?
9. Tell me about the process and feasibility (ease and/or burden) of:
  - a. Facilitating and securing Memorandums of Understanding/Data Use Agreements to allow for study participation and data sharing.
  - b. Providing data files needed for sampling on a monthly basis for 12 months. Sampling files would contain information on closed maltreatment investigations extracted from a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) or Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS), including demographic and other child welfare variables for the child and parent/caregiver.
    - i. Providing contacting information (PII) for sampled cases each month, either within the sampling files or after cases are sampled each month.
  - c. Providing National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) files covering the data collection period (typically about 18 months per data collection wave) on sampled children with a linkage identifier to allow survey data to be linked to NCANDS/AFCARS data.
  - d. Providing Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Title IV-E Prevention Program Data and other services data (extracted from SACWIS/CCWIS) covering the data collection period on sampled children and parents/caregivers with a linkage identifier to allow survey data to be linked to services data.
10. What regulations does your agency follow related to the retention of records for different types of cases (e.g., substantiated, unsubstantiated, screened out)?

#### Agency Perspectives on Potential Future NSCAW Data Collection Efforts that May Add Value and/or Facilitate Participation

11. What might your agency find valuable about participating in future NSCAW data collection efforts?
12. What might your agency find as barriers to participating in future NSCAW data collection efforts?
13. How might participation in NSCAW data collection support your agency's ongoing work and advance your agency priorities?
14. How might NSCAW's well-being data connect with your current data needs/interests?

- a. What information would be helpful to inform policy and practice decisions that you do not currently collect or don't have sufficient data on? More specifically:
    - i. What type (e.g., entries, child well-being, caregiver well-being data) and level of data would you be most interested in receiving (e.g., state, county, agency-level data)?
    - ii. What child or parent well-being outcomes is your agency particularly interested in learning more about (e.g., child physical health, child developmental milestones, child mental/behavioral health, educational outcomes, parent physical health, parent mental/behavioral health, or parent substance abuse)?
    - iii. Are there subpopulations that you regularly serve that you would be interested in learning more about (e.g., a specific racial/ethnic minority group, screened-out cases)?
      - Are there any emerging [or overlapping] issues they are seeing among the population they are working with that may not yet be widely known or currently being systematically captured?
    - iv. Are there specific data needs around FFPSA that are currently unmet?
    - v. Would you be interested in child welfare workforce data collected directly from your frontline caseworkers and/or supervisors?
    - vi. Would you be interested in any type of customized data analyses or the development of a real-time portal dashboard that makes integrated and rigorous well-being data from multiple systems more easily accessible?
    - vii. Are there ways we could share the data to make them more user friendly and accessible to your ongoing work?
      - Co-developing and possibly user testing a prototype online data portal through which data can be shared, accessed, and visualized?
      - Developing customizable visuals and files (e.g., sharing a presentation or memo of findings, de-identified data file, etc.)?
15. Beyond the data itself, what else might be a motivator for your agency to participate in NSCAW data collection?
- a. If it were possible, how might payments, funds, or in-kind compensation affect your state's likelihood of participation?
    - i. (If applicable) If payments, funds, or in-kind compensation are not sufficient, what would be a motivator for your participation?
    - ii. Are there regulations that limit your ability to accept funds or payments as compensation for study participation?
    - iii. One idea is a tiered compensation structure, by which the type and amount of compensation received would be contingent on level of effort. Would this approach be something of interest?
      - How might that tiered compensation structure look?
  - b. In what ways could a designated NSCAW liaison facilitate study participation and reduce burden? A designated NSCAW liaison's role would be to facilitate study participation and reduce burden on state/agency personnel. For example, an agency staff member with time will be supported by the study, or a study team member assigned to work closely with your agency.

#### Agency Perspectives on Child Welfare System Data Structure and Data Sharing Capabilities

16. Are you able to provide access to identifiable child welfare records/data for research purposes?

- a) Are you able to share contact information for the parent/caregiver and child? Does that include biological parent contact information for children in out of home placements?
17. What is your state's CCWIS status?
- a. Are there multiple systems being used to collection child welfare data throughout the state? If so, how do those systems interact with each other?
  - b. What linkages to other data/systems are in place or planned? If no linkages are in place, what are some of the challenges/barriers to making those linkages?
18. Where is your needs assessment and/or risk assessment data stored? Could those data be shared for research purposes with the intent of reducing burden by asking for that information from individual caseworkers?
19. Do you routinely collect any child and/or parent/caregiver well-being data?
20. Do you use well-being data to create dashboards, conduct analyses, produce analytic files or other reports?
21. What is the process and timeline by which data use agreements can be established?

*Thank you so much for participating in this session and sharing your helpful input.*