ASSESSMENT BREAKOUT:
USING DATA TO DRIVE IMPROVEMENT IN CHILD WELL-BEING

Nebraska Child Welfare Forum

September 13, 2012
Considerations in choosing assessments

- Purpose
- Source of data
- Focus
- Informant
- Well-being domains covered
- Appropriateness for age/developmental status
- Cost
- Other issues
Considerations in choosing assessments: 
*Purpose*

- Screening/identification of children
- Informing direct practice (caregivers, health, mental health, and education professionals)
- Case management
- Program improvement/performance management
- Program evaluation
Considerations in choosing assessments: **Source**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing administrative data</th>
<th>New data collection/assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• SACWIS data elements and case notes</td>
<td>• Brief surveys (self-report)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medicaid claims</td>
<td>• Clinical screenings/assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Linked records from other partner systems (education,</td>
<td>• New links to other data systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>justice, health, etc.)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Considerations in choosing assessments: Focus

- Child/youth
- Parent
- Parent-child relationship
- Family/household
- Birth, foster
- More than one of these?
Considerations in choosing assessments:

**Informant**

- Child/youth
- Parent
- Caregiver
- Case worker
- Teacher, pediatrician, etc.
- More than one of these?
Considerations in choosing assessments: 
*Domains Covered*

- Physical health & safety
- Psychological health
- Social health
- Cognitive development & education
- Relationships
Consider well-being outcomes appropriate for child’s age/developmental stage

For infants/preschoolers (ages 0-5):
- Percent with complete immunizations
- Percent whose caregivers regularly read to them or tell them stories

For elementary-school-age children (ages 5-12):
- Percent engaged in school (multiple measures)
- Percent regularly eating meals together with family
- Percent with appropriate self-help skills

For adolescents and older youth (12-24):
- Percent avoiding unhealthy behaviors
- Percent engaged in school
- Percent contributing to community
- Percent with connections with positive adults
Other considerations in choosing assessments

- Who will administer the assessment?
- What prior training is required?
- How long does an assessment take?
- How frequently will it be repeated?
- Is it culturally sensitive?
- Are processes in place to see that the information is used to improve practice? (including capacity to refer for indicated services)
## Sample free assessments for child welfare systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Informant</th>
<th>Training Req.?</th>
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