

**Bamberg County DSS**  
**Child Welfare Services Review**  
**April 2005**

During the week of April 11-15, 2005 a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an on-site review of child welfare services in Bamberg County. A sample of open and closed foster care and treatment cases was reviewed. Also reviewed were screened-out intakes, foster home licensing records, and unfounded investigations. Stakeholders interviewed for this review included foster parents, Bamberg DSS supervisor, representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health, Guardian Ad Litem, law enforcement, legal representatives, foster children, and biological parents.

**Period included in Case Record Review: October 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005**

**Period included in Outcome Measures: April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005**

**Purpose**

The Department of Social Services engages in a review of child welfare services in each county to:

- a) Determine to what degree services are delivered in compliance with federal and state laws and agency policy; and
- b) Assess the outcomes for children and families engaged in the child welfare system.

State law (sec 43-1-115) states, in part:

The state department shall conduct, at least once every five years, a substantive quality review of the child protective services and foster care programs in each county and each adoption office in the State. The county's performance must be assessed with reference to specific outcome measures published in advance by the department.

The information obtained by the child welfare services review process will:

- a) Give county staff feedback on the effectiveness of their interventions.
- b) Direct state office technical assistance staff to assist county staff with their areas needing improvement.
- c) Inform agency administrators of which systemic factors impair county staff's ability to achieve specific outcomes.
- d) Direct training staff to provide training for county staff specific to their needs.

**Quantitative and Qualitative Data Sources**

The county-specific review of child welfare services is both quantitative and qualitative.

The review is **quantitative** because it begins with an analysis of every child welfare outcome report for that county for the period under review. The outcome reports reflect the performance of the county in all areas of the child welfare program: Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake, CPS Investigations, CPS In-Home Treatment, Foster Care, Managed Treatment Services (MTS), and Adoptions.

The review is **qualitative** because it assesses the quality of the services rendered and the effectiveness of those services. The review seeks to explain why a county's performance data looks the way it does.

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Section One

Safety Outcome 1: Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.

**Summary of Findings**

**Overall Finding: Substantially Achieved**

-Safety Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations.

**Finding: Strength**

-Safety Item 2: Repeat maltreatment.

**Finding: Strength**

Analysis of Safety Item 1 Findings

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

**Measure S1.1: Timeliness of initiating investigations** on reports of child maltreatment

Data Time Period: 04/01/04 to 03/31/05

	Number of Reports Accepted	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Number of Investigations Objective $\geq 99.99\%*$	Number of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	16,676	15,626	16,674.33	(1,048.33)
Bamberg	36	36	36.0	0.00

\* This standard is based on state law. It is not a federally established objective.

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Safety Item 1 : Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	0	0	7	0
Treatment	6	100	0	0	4	0
Total Cases	6	100	0	0	11	0

**Explanation of Item 1**

**This is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** State law requires that an investigation of all accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours. The outcome report indicates that, for the 12-month period under review, Bamberg initiated all investigations of alleged abuse and neglect within 24-hours. Reviewers determined the standard was also met.

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Analysis of Safety Item 2 Findings

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

**Measure S1.2: Recurrence of Maltreatment** – Of all children who were victims of indicated reports of child abuse and/or neglect during the reporting period, the percent having another indicated report within a subsequent 6 month period.

Indicated Report Between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2004

	Number of Child Victims	Number of Child Victims In Another Founded Rept	Number of Children Objective <= 93.90%	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	8,757	55	8,222.82	479.18
Bamberg	9	0	8.45	0.55

Note: This is a federally established objective.

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Safety Item 2 : Repeat Maltreatment.**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	17	100	0	0	0	0

**Explanation of Item 2**

**This is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** According to CAPSS data none of the nine cases indicated for abuse or neglect during the period under review were victims in a previously founded report. None of the seventeen cases reviewed onsite involved repeat maltreatment. Consequently, Bamberg DSS met the federally established standard for this item.

Stakeholders interviewed stated DSS is very effective in preventing the recurrence of maltreatment. One stakeholder commented Bamberg County has a great CPS staff and benefits from the high quality of supervision available from the Human Services Program supervisor.

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Section Two

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

**Summary of Findings**

-Safety Item 3: Services to prevent removal.  
-Safety Item 4: Risk of harm to child (ren).

**Overall Finding: Substantially Achieved**

**Finding: Strength  
Finding: Strength**

Analysis of Safety Item 3 Findings

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Safety Item 3: Services to family to protect child (ren) in home and prevent removal.</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	5	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	12	100	0	0	5	0

**Item 3**

**This is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** This item assesses the appropriateness of the agency’s interventions to prevent the removal of children from their family. Reviewers rated all of the applicable cases “strength” for this item. In 100% of the applicable cases, services to protect children in the home were appropriately applied.

Stakeholders rated Bamberg DSS as being very effective in providing services, when appropriate, to prevent removing children from their homes. Cases are completed and services are well documented. One stakeholder stated DSS was so determined to help him/her that the supervisor provided transportation to several appointments.

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Analysis of Safety Item 4 Findings

<b>Site Visit Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Safety Item 4: Risk of harm.</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	1	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	16	100	0	0	1	0

<b>Strategic Outcome Report Findings</b>				
Measure S2.2: <b>Risk of harm to child</b> – Of all unfounded investigations during the reporting period, the percent receiving subsequent reports within six months of the initial report.				
	Number Alleged Child Victims in an Unfounded Rept 10/01/03 to 09/30/04	Number With Another Rept Within 6 Months of Unfounded Determination	Number of Cases Met Objective >= 91.50%*	Number of Cases Above (Below) Objective
State	14,142	1,167	12,939.93	35.07
Bamberg	49	0	44.84	4.17

\* This is a DSS established objective.

**Explanation of “Risk of Harm” measure**

**This is a “Strength”.** The standard for the outcome report in CAPSS is that no more than 8.5% of alleged child victims have another report within 6 months of the initial report. According to CAPSS, Bamberg DSS met the objective for this item. It must be understood that “Subsequent reports of abuse” is a proxy measure for “Risk of harm” since additional, unsubstantiated reports of abuse do not always mean that a child remains at risk.

On-site reviewers are able to assess what CAPSS cannot. Reviewers determine how effective the county DSS office is at managing the risks of harm that necessitate continued involvement by DSS. By these criteria, none of the 16 applicable cases reviewed (0%) had another report in the specified time frame.

DSS staff constantly assesses risk, makes visits, and monitors services. If the plan is not being adhered to, the case is taken to court.

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Section Three

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

**Summary of Findings**

**Overall Finding:**

**Substantially Achieved**

-Item 5: Foster care re-entries

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 6: Stability of foster care placemt.

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 7: Permanency goal for child

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 8: Reunification, plmt w/ relatives

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 9: Adoption

**Finding: Area Needing Improvement**

-Item 10: Perm goal of other planned arrangmt

**Finding: Strength**

Analysis of Safety Permanency Item 5 Findings

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Permanency Item 5:** Foster care re-entries.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	0	0	7	0

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.1: **Foster Care Re-entries** – Of all children who entered care during the year under review, the percent that re-entered foster care Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.

	Number Children Entering Care 04/01/04 to 03/31/05	Number That Were Returned Home Within The Past 12 Months From Previous Fos Care Episode	Number of Children Objective >= 91.40%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,307	249	3,022.60	35.40
Bamberg	8	0	7.31	.69

\* This is a federally established objective.

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**Explanation**

**Foster Care Re-entries is a Strength for Bamberg DSS.** According to CAPSS, none of the eight children who entered care in Bamberg County during the period under review had been returned home in the prior 12 months. All of the children in the cases reviewed on-site entered foster care prior to the period under review. Therefore these cases were rated not applicable.

Analysis of Safety Permanency Item 6 Findings

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 6: Stability of foster care placement.</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	86	1	14	0	0

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.2: **Stability of Foster Care Placement** – Of all children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, the percent that had not more than 2 placement settings.

	Number of Children In Care Less Than 12 Months	Number of Children With No More Than 2 Placements	Number of Children Objective $\geq 86.70\%*$	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,778	3,081	3,275.53	(194.53)
Bamberg	9	8	7.80	.20

Note: This is a federally established objective.

**Explanation**

**Stability of foster care placement is a “Strength”.** The outcome report shows eight of the nine children (89%) in care less than 12 months had no more than two foster care placements. This surpassed the standard of 86.7%. On-site reviewers not only counted the number of moves children in foster care experienced but looked at the reasons for those moves. Reviewers determined one of the children had three (3) placements from the end of the review period. However, there were only seven children in foster care during the period under review. When the total population of foster care children is taken into consideration, the county met this objective.

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Analysis of Safety Permanency Item 7 Findings

<b><u>Strategic Outcome Report Findings</u></b>				
Measure P3.5: <b>Permanency Goal for Child</b> – Of all children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, the percent for which a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petition has been filed.				
	Children in Care At Least 15 of Last 22 Months 04/04 –03/05	Number Children With TPR Complaint	Number of Children Objective ≥ 53.00%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,565	1,656	1,889.45	(233.45)
Bamberg	19	11	10.07	0.93

\* This is DSS established objective. The federal agency, Administration for Children & Families, gathers data on this measure, but has not established a numerical objective.

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 7: Permanency goal for children.</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	0	0

**Explanation**

**This is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** To meet the criteria established in the CAPSS report 53.00% or more of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months must have a TPR petition filed. In Bamberg DSS 57.89% (11/19) of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months had a TPR petition filed. Consequently, the objective for this item was met.

On-site reviewers rated this item based on two criteria: 1) is the permanency goal appropriately matched to the child’s need? And 2) is the agency acting to cause the goal to be achieved timely? All of the seven cases reviewed onsite were rated “Strength” for this item.



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Analysis of Safety Permanency Item 8 Findings

<b><u>Strategic Outcome Report Findings</u></b>				
Measure P3.3: <b>Length of Time to Achieve Reunification</b> – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caregiver, at the time of discharge from foster care, the percent reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.				
	Number of Children Where Fos Care Services Closed. Last Plan Was Return Home 04/01/04– 03/31/05	Number of Children In Care Less Than 12 Months	Number Of Children Objective >= 76.20%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,072	1,697	1,578.86	118.14
Bamberg	6	6	4.57	1.43

\* This is a federally established objective.

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 8:</b> Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	100	0	0	4	0

**Explanation**

**This is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** To meet this federally establish criteria at least 76.20% of the children returned to their parents from foster care must be returned within 12 months of their removal from home. In Bamberg County 100% of the children returned home within a year of removal. The agency average is 82% of the children entering foster care return home within one year. All of the applicable cases reviewed on-site met the established standard.

Stakeholders reported DSS is very effective in helping children in foster care return home safely to their families, when appropriate. The quarterly meetings with Foster Care Review Board (FCRB), Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), the Foster Parent Association and Adoptions to discuss problems and solutions have helped to ensure children in foster care are returned safely to their parents.

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Analysis of Permanency Item 9 Findings

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.4: **Length of Time to Achieve Adoption** – Of all children who exited from foster care during the year under review to a finalized adoption, the percent that exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

	Number of Children With Finalized Adoption W/in Past 12 Months	Number of Children Where Adoption Was Finalized Within 24 Months of Entering Care	Number of Children Objective $\geq 32.00\%$ *	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	361	70	115.52	(45.52)
Bamberg	4	1	1.28	(0.28)

Note: This is a federally established objective.

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Permanency Item 9: Adoption.**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	0	0	7	0

**Explanation**

**This is an “Area Needing Improvement”.** According to the outcome report one of the four adoptions completed during the period under review was completed within 24 months. To meet this standard, at least two of the four adoptions would need to be completed within 24 months.

None of the seven cases reviewed on-site had a plan of adoption. However, stakeholder interviews indicated all children are assessed for adoption. Staff meets regularly with Adoptions to continuously assess case plans. The agency petitions to terminate the parental rights once it appears there are no other options.

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Analysis of Permanency Item 10 Findings

<b><u>Strategic Outcome Report Findings</u></b>				
Measure P3.6: <b>Permanency Goal of “Other Planned Living Arrangement”</b> – Of all children in foster care, the percent with a permanency goal of emancipation (Indep Liv Services) or a planned permanent living arrangement other than adoption, guardianship, or return to family.				
	Number of Children In Care at Least One Day 04/01/04 – 03/31/05	Number of Children In Care With Perm Plan “Other Planned Living Arrangement”	Number of Children Objective >= 85.00%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	8,129	1,075	6,909.65	144.35
Bamberg	23	9	19.55	(5.55)

\* This is a DSS established objective.

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 10:</b> Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	100	0	0	4	0

**Explanation**

**This is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** The standard for this objective is that no more than 15% of the children in foster care should have this plan. The outcome data shows approximately 20% of the children in Bamberg DSS custody had this plan. CAPSS is measuring a percentage of the children in care.

On-site reviewers looked at 100% of the foster care cases in Bamberg County. A qualitative approach was taken in assessing Item 10. Reviewers determined the plans were appropriate for all of the children with this permanency goal.

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Section Four

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

**Summary of Findings**

**Overall Finding:**

**Substantially Achieved**

-Item 11: Proximity of placement

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 12: Placement with siblings.

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 13: Visiting w/ parents & siblings

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 14: Preserving connections

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 15: Relative placement

**Findings: Area Needing Improvement**

-Item 16: Relationship of child w/ parents

**Findings: Strength**

Analysis of Permanency Item 11 Findings

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P4.1: **Proximity of Foster Care Placement** – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), the percent placed within their county of origin.

	Number of Children In Care 04/01/04 – 03/31/05	Number of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Number of Children Objective >= 70.00%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	6,062	3,985	65.74	4,243.40	(258.40)
Bamberg	23	11	47.83	16.10	(5.10)

\* This is a DSS established objective.

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<b>Site Visit Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 11:</b> Proximity of foster care placement.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	100	0	0	2	0

**Explanation**

**This is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** To meet this objective 70%, or more, of the children in care must be placed in Bamberg County. The outcome report indicates 48% (11/23) of the children in care are placed in the county. CAPSS data reflects the number of children who came into care during a 12-month period.

On-site reviewers rated this item “Strength” since 100% of the applicable cases met the requirement during the period under review. At the time of the on-site review Bamberg had only seven children in foster care. Reviewers considered those factors that were not captured in CAPSS. If a child was placed out of county because of a need for therapeutic services the item was rated “Strength”. If maintaining a relationship with parents/relatives was not an issue the item received a rating of “Not Applicable”.

Stakeholders commented Bamberg DSS is very effective in placing foster children close to their birth parents or to their own communities.

<b>Site Visit Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 12:</b> Placement with siblings						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	3	0

**Explanation**

**Item 12 is a “Strength” for Bamberg DSS.** Children in sibling groups in all applicable cases were placed together. One member of a sibling group was placed out of county due to a need for a Level II placement.

Stakeholders stated DSS is very effective in keeping siblings together in foster care. Children’s needs are assessed and the agency looks for a home to take all children in a sibling group.

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<b>Site Visit Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	3	0

**Explanation**

**This item is a “Strength” for Bamberg.** Visits with parents and siblings in foster care occurred on a regular basis. Children were taken to visit an incarcerated parent. The agency put forth great efforts to assist the families with maintaining contact.

One stakeholder stated the visits with his/her child occurred twice a month.

<b>Site Visit Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 14: Preserving connections</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	1	0

**Explanation**

**Preserving connections is a “Strength”.** This item addresses the agency’s ability to preserve a child in foster care’s connection to his/her community, family, and faith. All applicable cases reviewed were rated “Strength” for this item. Visits with extended family members were arranged by the agency. Foster parents were also instrumental in helping to preserve family connections by assisting with transportation and telephone calls.

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<u>Site Visit Findings</u> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 15: Relative placement</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	80	1	20	2	0

**Explanation**

**This is an “Area Needing Improvement”.** This item addresses the agency’s effectiveness in identifying and assessing the relatives of children in foster care as possible caregivers. In four of the applicable cases the agency explored placements with other relatives, including grandmothers and an aunt. However, in the one case rated “Needing Improvement” there was no supporting documentation to indicate maternal or paternal relatives had been assessed for placement.

<u>Site Visit Findings</u> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	5	0

**Explanation**

**Item 16 is a “Strength”.** This item addresses the agency’s effectiveness in promoting or maintaining a strong emotionally supportive relationship between children in care and their parents.

In the two applicable cases, reviewers determined visitation was occurring frequently and the children were bonded with the parents. One parent was attending counseling with the child. In the cases rated “Not Applicable” the parents’ whereabouts were not known, the agency was relieved of providing services to the parent, the child had been in care for over 15 years, or the parent was deceased.

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Section Five

Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

**Summary of Findings**

**Overall Finding:**

**Substantially Achieved**

-Item 17: Needs & services

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 18: Involvement in case planning

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 19: Worker visits with child

**Finding: Strength**

-Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)

**Finding: Strength**

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Well Being Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	16	94	1	6	0	0

**Explanation**

This item asks two questions: 1) Were the needs of the child, parents, and foster parents assessed, and 2) Did the agency take steps to meet the identified needs? This item is a “**Strength**” for Bamberg DSS. Bamberg DSS is effective in assessing the needs of children, their parents and foster parents. Case managers make referrals for services and conduct appropriate follow-up to make sure the services are being received. All of the foster care cases were rated “Strength”. One treatment case was rated “Area Needing Improvement” for this item. The case dictation indicated a biological father was visiting in the home regularly, however he had not been assessed. There had not been any contact with this individual.



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<u>Site Visit Findings</u> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	16	94	1	6	0	0

**Explanation**

This item is a **“Strength” for Bamberg County**. Documentation in the case records indicated the agency regularly involved the child and family in case planning. Children were involved as appropriate. The foster parent participated in the development of the treatment plan for a child who is in an extended foster care placement. In some circumstances where the parents’ location was not known, plans were mailed to the last known address. In the one treatment case rated “Area Needing Improvement” there was no documentation to indicate an attempt had been made to involve the father in the treatment planning process.

<u>Site Visit Findings</u> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 19: Worker visits with child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	17	100	0	0	0	0

**Explanation**

This is a **“Strength”**. This rating is based on two questions: 1) is Bamberg DSS staff visiting children according to policy, and 2) do the visits focus on issues related to the treatment plan? In foster care as well as and treatment cases the answer to both questions is “Yes”.

Stakeholders indicated DSS is very effective in conducting face-to-face visits as often as needed with children in foster care and those who receive services in their own homes. One foster child stated visits occur at least one a month with the case manager and a phone number is provided if contact is needed prior to the monthly visit.

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<u>Site Visit Findings</u> Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	5	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	11	92	1	8	5	0

**Explanation**

This is a “**Strength**” for Bamberg DSS. In all but one of the applicable cases visits were being made according to agency policy. In once case visits with the child’s father were not being documented. In addition, there was no documentation to rule the father out (correspondence to last known address, diligent search efforts, etc.).

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Section Six

Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

**Summary of Findings**

**Overall Finding:**

**Substantially Achieved**

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Well Being Item 21: Educational needs of child**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	1	0
Treatment	9	100	0	0	1	0
Total Cases	15	100	0	0	2	0

**Explanation**

Reviewers rated this item “**Strength**”. This item asks two questions: 1) Did DSS assess the educational needs of the children under their supervision, and 2) Were identified educational needs addressed? The answer to both questions is “Yes” in 100% of the applicable cases reviewed. School records and the child assessment worksheets were filed in the case records. Case managers held regular meetings with school officials to discuss attendance and progress. School progress was also discussed with the children, parents and foster parents.

A stakeholder commented DSS provides an updated case managers list and quarterly meetings are held to discuss problems and solutions.

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Section Seven

Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

**Summary of Findings**

**Overall Finding:**

-Item 22: Physical health of the child  
-Item 23: Mental health of the child

**Substantially Achieved**

**Finding: Strength**  
**Finding: Strength**

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Well Being Item 22:** Physical health of the child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	8	89	1	11	1	0
Total Cases	15	93	1	7	1	0

**Explanation**

This item is a “**Strength**”. All of the applicable foster care cases were rated “Strength”. Documentation filed indicated children’s health was being assessed with routine medical and dental care provided. Copies of health assessments and medical exam reports were filed. This item was rated “Area Needing Improvement” in one treatment case. During a face-to-face visit the case manager discussed an injury with the foster child, however there was no corroborating documentation from a health professional on file.

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<b>Site Visit Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 23:</b> Mental health of the child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	1	0
Treatment	6	100	0	0	4	0
Total Cases	12	100	0	0	5	0

**Explanation**

Item 23 is a “**Strength**”. In the treatment cases assessments were made on the entire family, as appropriate. Copies of correspondence from Mental Health and the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) were filed in case records. All children were assessed to determine the need for further services or intervention.

Stakeholders stated DSS is very effective in identifying and addressing the emotional needs of children receiving in home and foster care services. Stakeholders reported referrals are made by phone with a follow-up letter requesting a written report. DSS makes contact if information is not received.

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Section Eight – Foster Home Licenses

Ten of the fifteen open foster home records were reviewed. These records were up-to-date and the information was filed correctly. All foster home regulations are being met. There were no deficiencies noted. The documentation is excellent and records are organized. The foster home licensing reviews are documented on the Foster Care Home Licensing/Case Record Review instrument (DSS 30225).

**FINDINGS:**

1. All licenses were renewed prior to expirations.
2. All adult members of the foster homes were seen at each quarterly home visit.
3. All re-licensing and amended license information was on file.
4. Foster Home Quarterly Home Visit guides were on file and documented in CAPSS.
5. All files were current in CAPSS.
6. One foster home indicated there were no placements. CAPPS indicates two placements; this needs to be updated.
7. A deceased individual's name needs to be removed from one foster home license.

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**Section Nine – Unfounded Investigations**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Investigation Initiated Timely?	5	0
Assessment Adequate?	5	0
Case Decision Appropriate?	5	0

**Analysis:** The assessment tool was completed thoroughly in all cases reviewed. The documentation supported the case decision. Collaterals were contacted as appropriate.

**Section Ten – Screened Out Intakes**

**Explanation**

Not all calls made to DSS meet the legal definition of child abuse or neglect. Each DSS office must have an intake process that accurately determines which calls should be accepted for investigation and which should be screened out. Ten screened out intakes were reviewed. Screened out intakes are evaluated solely on the information contained in the agency database CAPSS.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Cannot Determine</b>
Screen-Out Decision Appropriate?	7	0	3
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
Necessary Collaterals Contacted?	0	0	10
Appropriate Referrals Made?	2	0	8

**Analysis:** Seven of the intakes were appropriately screened-out. A determination could not be reached on three of the intakes. In one intake involving an allegation of physical abuse, the reviewer determined the case manager should have gathered more information on the child’s medical history and daily care regime. Inquiry should also have been made about the four-year-old sibling in the home. In another case of alleged physical neglect involving a two-year-old child, the case manager should have explored issues around father’s concern about the caretaker.

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**Case Rating Summary**

The performance and outcome ratings below show the number of cases receiving that rating, followed by the percent of the total that number represents. Not Applicable (N/A) cases do not factor in the percentage.

Performance Item or Outcome	Perf. Item Ratings			Outcome Ratings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	N/A*	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	N/A*
Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				17 (100%)	0	0	0
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	6 (100%)	0	11				
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	17 (100%)	0	0				
Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				17 (100%)	0	0	
Item 3: Services to family to protect child (ren) in home and prevent removal	11 (100%)	0	6				
Item 4: Risk of harm to child (ren)	16 (100%)	0	1				
Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				7 (100%)	0	0	0
Item 5: Foster care re-entries	0	0	7				
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement	6 (86%)	1 (14%)	0				
Item 7: Permanency goal for child	7 (100%)	0	0				
Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	3 (100%)	0	4				
Item 9: Adoption	0	0	7				
Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement	3 (100%)	0	4				
Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				6 (86%)	1 (14%)	0	0
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement	5 (100%)	0	2				
Item 12: Placement with siblings	4 (100%)	0	3				
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	4 (100%)	0	3				
Item 14: Preserving connections	5 (100%)	0	2				
Item 15: Relative placement	4 (80%)	1 (20%)	2				
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents	2 (100%)	0	5				
Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				16 (94%)	1 (6%)	0	0
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents	16 (94%)	1 (6%)	0				
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	16 (94%)	1 (6%)	0				
Item 19: Worker visits with child	17 (100%)	0	0				
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)	11 (92%)	1 (8%)	5				
Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				15 (100%)	0	0	2
Item 21: Educational needs of the child	14 (100%)	0	3				
Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				16 (94%)	1 (6%)	0	0
Item 22: Physical health of the child	15 (94%)	1 (6%)	1				
Item 23: Mental health of the child	12 (100%)	0	5				