

**Saluda County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
December 2009**

During the week of November 30 - December 4, 2009, a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Saluda County. A sample of open and closed foster care and treatment cases were reviewed. Also reviewed were screened out intakes, foster home licensing records, and unfounded investigations. Stakeholders interviewed for this review included foster parents, foster child, Saluda DSS supervisor and workers, representative from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

**Period under Review: November 1, 2008 to October 31, 2009**

**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 (§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, and Foster Care.

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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**Ratings**

The standard that must be met for all items reviewed onsite is 95%. Each outcome report has its own standard. To be rated an area of **Strength** most items must meet both the qualitative onsite review standard **and** the quantitative outcome report standard.

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

**Agency Data**

**Performance Measure 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations on Reports of Child Maltreatment** - Of all reports of child maltreatment that were accepted for investigation during the reporting period, what percentage had a dictation type contact of initial contact where the action date is within 24 hours of accepting the report?  
Report Period: September 1, 2008 to August31, 2009

**Objective:** 100% in <= 24 hours (state law)

	Number of Investigations	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Percent of Investigations Initiated Timely	Numbers of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	17,908	17,547	97.98%	(361)
Saluda	74	74	100%	

The county's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of two items:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1) Timeliness of initiating investigations | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 2) Repeat Maltreatment                     | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |

**Explanation of Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations**

This is an area of **Strength** for Saluda DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours. Agency data indicates that for the 12-month period under review, Saluda DSS initiated all 74 of its 74 investigations (100%) of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours. Reviewers determined that the agency was appropriately assigning risk ratings to investigations.

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	70%	3	30%	0	0
Treatment	9	90%	1	10%	0	0
Total of Cases	16	80%	4	20%	0	0

**Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item measures the occurrence of maltreatment among children under agency supervision, or within a year of having their case closed by the agency. Reviewers determined that in 20% of the cases, the children under agency supervision did experience additional maltreatment. The repeat maltreatment occurred when the children were in in-home treatment cases. In three of the cases the repeat maltreatment caused the children to enter foster care.

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

The county's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of two items:

- 3) Services to family to protect children & prevent removal      **Strength**
- 4) Risk of Harm      **Area Needing Improvement**

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<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	9	100%	0	0	1	0
Treatment	9	90%	1	10%	0	0
Total Cases	18	95%	1	5%	1	0

**Explanation of Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Children and Prevent Removal**

This is an area of **Strength** for Saluda DSS. This item assesses whether services were adequate to protect children in their home and prevent their removal and placement into foster care. In 100% of the foster care cases, the decision to remove the children from their homes and place them in foster care was appropriate. In 90% of the treatment cases reviewed, appropriate services were being offered to safely maintain the children in their home.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Safety Item 4: Risk of Harm</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100%	0	0	0	0
Treatment	4	40%	6	60%	0	0
Total Cases	14	70%	6	30%	0	0

**Explanation of Item 4: Risk of Harm**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item assesses whether the agency's interventions reduced risk of harm to children. In 100% of the foster care cases reviewed, risk of harm was adequately managed. Reviewers rated 60% of the in-home treatment cases as needing improvement. In those cases, risk of harm to children in the home was not properly managed because the agency failed to complete criminal background checks on all adults who had access and a role in the children's lives or on alternate caregivers.

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

The county's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of six items:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 5) Foster care re-entries  | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 6) Stability of foster care placement  | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 7) Permanency goal for child   | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 8) Reunification/ permanent placement with relatives                                 | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 9) Adoption  | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 10) Permanency goal of <b>Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)</b> | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |

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<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 7: Foster Children Who do Not Re-Enter Care</b> - Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12 month period prior to reporting period, what percentage did Not re-enter foster care within 12 months of the date of their discharge from the prior foster care episode.				
<b>Objective:</b> 90.1% (Federal Standard)				
	Number of Foster Children Reunified during Reporting Period	Number of Children Who Did Not Re-enter Foster Care Within 12 Months	Percent of Children Who Did Not Re-Enter Foster Care Within 12 Months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,953	2,711	91.80%	
Saluda	14	12	85.71%	(0.6)

**Explanation of Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item measures the frequency of children re-entering foster care within a year of discharge. To meet the objective for this item, 90.1% of children must not re-enter foster care within a year of discharge. Agency data shows that 85.71% of the children who entered care during the period under review had not had a recent foster care episode.

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 6: Stability of Foster Care Placements</b> – Of all children who had been in foster care at least 8 days but less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, the percentage that had no more than two placement settings.				
<b>Objective:</b> >= 86.0% (federal standard)				
	FC Services Open >7 days and < 12 months	Number with No More than 2 placements	Percent with No More than 2 placements	Number Above (Below) Objective
State	3,878	2,907	74.96%	(222.5)
Saluda	24	2	91.67%	1.4

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100%	0	0	0	0

**Explanation of Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement**

This is an area of **Strength** for Saluda DSS. This item measures the frequency of placement changes for children in foster care, and assesses the reasons for those changes. The objective is that at least 86% of the children in care have two or fewer placements within 12 months. Agency data shows that 91.67% of Saluda County children had no more than two placements during the past 12 months. All of the foster care cases reviewed onsite involved children in stable placements, or experienced placement changes made to help children achieve permanency.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 7: Permanency Goal for Child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80%	2	20%	0	0

**Explanation of Item 7: Permanency Goal for Children**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness of permanency goals for children in foster care and the timeliness of those permanency decisions. Reviewers determined that in 80% of the foster care cases reviewed, the agency quickly identified the appropriate goal. However, two cases were rated an area needing improvement because the permanency goal for the children was not appropriate. In one case, the goal of APPLA was established for a child prematurely. In the other case, a child had the goal of reunification for more than more 24 months. The court granted the parents a six-month extension because the agency failed to offer services to the father.

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 8: Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement with Relatives</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	50%	3	50%	4	0

**Explanation of Item 8: Reunification or Permanent Placement with Relatives**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the activities and processes necessary to accomplish the goal of reunification with caregivers or placement with relatives. Reviewers determined that in 50% of the foster care cases the goal of reunification was achieved timely. However, in the other 50% of the cases improvement was needed because of continued merit hearings and delays in connecting parents to services required in their service plans.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 9: Adoption</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100%	0	0	8	0

**Explanation of Item 9: Adoption**

This is an area of **Strength** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. Every applicable case reviewed was rated an area of strength because the children in those cases with the plan of adoption had been in care less than 12 months, and the agency was on track to finalize those adoptions within the required timeframe.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 10: Permanency Goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	50%	1	50%	8	0

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**Explanation of Item 10: Permanency Goal of APPLA**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided to children with the permanency plan of APPLA. Reviewers also rate whether the agency attempted to locate and reassess relatives or non-relatives that were willing to commit to the youth's long-term care every six months. One case needed improvement because the goal of APPLA was assigned prematurely and the agency was not seeking permanency for the child.

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

The county's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of six items:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 11) Proximity of foster care placement                | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 12) Placement with siblings in foster care            | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 13) Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 14) Preserving connections                            | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 15) Relative placement                                | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 16) Relationship of child in care with parents        | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |

**Agency Data**

**Performance Measure 13: Foster Children Placed Within county of Origin** – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), what percentage are placed within the county of origin?

**Objective:** >= 70% (Agency established objective)

	Number of Children in Foster Care	Number of Children Placed <b>Within</b> County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed <b>Within</b> County of Origin	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	5,987	4,063	67.86%	(127.9)
Saluda	27	13	48.15%	(5.9)

**Explanation of Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep children close enough to their families so that essential relationships can be maintained. One measure used to evaluate this item is the percentage of children who are placed within the county. The objective is that at least 70% of the children in care be placed within the county. Agency data shows that 48.15% of Saluda DSS children were placed within the county. It should be noted that Saluda County has a total of 5 foster homes serving 27 foster children during the period under review. Of the 27 children, 14 were placed in adjacent Edgefield and Newberry counties.



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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	63%	3	37	2	0

**Explanation of Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. In 63% of the cases reviewed, siblings group were kept together when appropriate. The cases needing improvement involved sibling groups of three or more that were separated because of the lack of a suitable placement resource.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 13: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	20%	8	80%	0	0

**Explanation of Item 13: Visiting with Siblings in Foster Care and with Parents**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to ensure that visits occur between children in foster care and their siblings and parents. The practice in the Saluda office was to arrange once-per-month visits between children and parents. Policy requires a minimum of two visits per month.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	80%	1	20%	5	0

**Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to preserve children's connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. Reviewers found that in 80% of the cases reviewed, the agency did a good job of

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preserving the relationships that were important to children in foster care. This area needed improvement because in 20% of the cases those connections were not maintained, even though the agency identified numerous relatives of the children.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 15: Relative Placement</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	8	100%	2	0

**Explanation of Item 15: Relative Placement**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to identify and assess relatives as potential placement resources for children in foster care. Every applicable case reviewed needed improvement because the agency failed to assess paternal relatives as placement options.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 16: Relationship of Child in Care with Parents</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	10	100	0	0

**Explanation of Item 16: Relationship of Child in Care with Parents**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to promote a supportive relationship between children in care and their parents, beyond the twice-minimum visitation requirement. Every applicable case reviewed needed improvement because the agency failed to consider the needs of the child when developing visitation plans. The plans developed by caseworkers failed to meet minimum agency standards.

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

The agency's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of four items:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 17) Needs and services of child, parents and caregivers | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 18) Child and family involvement in case planning       | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 19) Worker visits with child                            | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 20) Worker visits with parents                          | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 17: Needs and Services of Child, Parents and Caregivers</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	40%	6	60%	0	0
Treatment	4	40%	6	60%	0	0
Total Cases	8	40%	12	60%	0	0

**Explanation of Item 17: Needs and Services of Child, Parents and Caregivers**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item asks two questions: 1) Were the needs of the child, parents, and caregivers assessed, and 2) Did the agency take steps to meet the identified needs? This is a weak area for both foster care and treatment cases because in 60% of the cases assessments ignored fathers and alternate caregivers, and focused almost exclusively on the mothers of children.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 18: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	30%	7	70%	0	0
Treatment	1	10%	9	90%	0	0
Total Cases	4	20%	16	80%	0	0

**Explanation of Item 18: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to involve parents and children in the case planning process. Onsite reviewers found that 90% of the foster care cases and 70% of the treatment cases needed improvement. In the foster care cases, the mother, father and age-appropriate children were not involved in the case planning process. In the treatment cases, the plans were incomplete, not current, or not signed by the parents. Also in the treatment cases, the agency was consistently focusing on engaging the mother rather than the custodian father or the male perpetrator in the case planning process.

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<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 14: Face-to-Face Visits With Children</b>				
<b>Objective:</b> >= 100% (Agency Policy)				
	Number of Children Under Agency Supervision at Least One Complete Calendar Month	Number of Children Visited Every Month	Percent of Children Visited Every Month	Number of Children Above or (Below) Standard
Foster Care	27	25	93%	(2)
Treatment	86	56	65.12%	(1.7)

**Explanation of Item 19: Worker Visits with Child**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with children under agency supervision, and evaluates the quality of those visits. State law and agency policy requires that children under agency supervision be seen each month. Agency data shows that 65.12% of the children in treatment cases and 93% of the children in foster care cases were visited monthly.

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Well Being Item 20: Worker Visits with Parent(s)**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	22%	7	78%	1	0
Treatment	6	60%	4	40%	0	0
Total Cases	8	42%	11	58%	1	0

**Explanation of Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with parents, and evaluates the quality of those visits. Reviewers identified significant problems in 78% of the foster care cases and in 40% of the treatment cases. The agency consistently failed to assess or engage the fathers of children. In addition, there were no reasonable efforts made by the workers to visit the parents in the home even when the plan was reunification.

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

The agency's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of one item:

21) Educational needs of the child

**Area Needing Improvement**

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	71%	2	29%	3	0
Treatment	6	60%	4	40%	0	0
Total Cases	11	65%	6	35%	3	0

**Explanation of Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the educational needs of children under agency supervision. This is an area needing improvement in 29% of the foster care cases and 40% of the treatment cases because there caseworkers did not followed-up to determine if the identified educational needs were being addressed. Caseworkers often assessed children's school performance by questioning the children or caregiver, but failed to make direct contact with the school to verify the information received from clients.

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

The agency's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of two items:

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 22) Physical health of the child | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 23) Mental health of the child   | <b>Strength</b>                 |

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	50%	5	50%	0	0
Treatment	5	50%	5	50%	0	0
Total Cases	10	50%	10	50%	0	0

**Explanation of Item 22: Physical Health of the Child**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the medical needs of children under agency supervision. In 50% of the cases children's dental needs were not assessed or addressed, even though staff acknowledged that dental problems were prevalent among the children under agency supervision.

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	86%	1	14%	3	0
Treatment	6	67%	3	33%	1	0
Total Cases	12	75%	4	25%	4	0

**Explanation of Item 23: Mental Health of the Child**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the mental health needs of children under agency supervision. In 75% of the cases, the children's mental health needs were assessed and met as needed. Three treatment cases and one foster care case needed improvement because the children's mental health needs were not assessed.

<b>Unfounded Investigations</b>
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	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Was the investigation initiated timely?	4	1
Was the assessment adequate?	2	3
Was the decision appropriate?	3	2

**Explanation of Item 24: Unfounded Investigations**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the agency's investigative process and determines if decisions were supported by the facts of the cases. Three of the five assessments reviewed were not thorough because the agency failed to interview all of the relevant parties. One case required a forensic examination on a child to determine if abuse had occurred. That examination was not conducted. Two of the cases should have been indicated and the families should have been offered services to ensure the safety of the children in the home.

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<b>Screened Out Intakes</b>
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	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Cannot Determine</b>
Was the Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	10	0	0
			<b>Not Applicable</b>
Were Necessary Collaterals Contacted?	4	1	5
Were Appropriate Referrals Made?	1	0	9

**Explanation of Item 25: Screened Out Intakes**

This is an area of **Strength** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the process by which the agency screens out reports of abuse and/or neglect to determine if the intakes were appropriately screened out. Reviewers determined that all of the intakes were appropriately screened out and the necessary collaterals were contacted regarding the reported allegations.

<b>Foster Home Licenses</b>
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<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 4: Foster Homes/Facilities with Current Licenses</b>				
<b>Objective:</b> >= 100% (Agency Policy)				
	Number of Open Homes & Facilities	Homes with Current License	Percent of Homes with Current License	Above or (Below) Standard
State	3,563	3,529	99.05%	
Saluda	5	3	60%	(1.9)

**Explanation of Item 26: Foster Home Licenses**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Saluda DSS. This item evaluates the process by which the agency ensures that all foster homes comply with licensing requirements and are valid. All five of the foster home licenses reviewed were not valid. Reviewers found that safety checks were not completed on all adults living in the foster homes, as required by policy.

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<b>Saluda County DSS Summary Sheet</b>				
<b>Performance Item or Outcome</b>		<b>Performance Item Ratings</b>		
		<b>Strength</b>	<b>Area Needing Improvement</b>	<b>N/A*</b>
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				
Item 1: *Str	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	13/15=87%	2/15=13%	5
Item 2: ANI	Repeat maltreatment	16/20=80%	4/20=20%	0
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				
Item 3: Str	Services to family to protect child (ren) in home and prevent removal	18/19=95%	1/19=5%	5
Item 4: ANI	Risk of harm to child (ren)	14/20=70%	6/20=30%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Item 5: *ANI	Foster care re-entries	7/7=100%	0	3
Item 6: Str	Stability of foster care placement	10/10=100%	0	0
Item 7: ANI	Permanency goal for child	8/10=80%	2/10=20%	0
Item 8: ANI	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	3/6 =50%	3/6 =50%	4
Item 9: Str	Adoption	2/2=100%		8
Item 10: ANI	Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	1/2=50%	1 /2=50%	8
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				
Item 11: *ANI	Proximity of foster care placement	10/10=100%	0	0
Item 12: ANI	Placement with siblings	5/8=63%	3/8=37%	2
Item 13: ANI	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	2/10=20%	8/10=80%	0
Item 14: ANI	Preserving connections	8/9=89%	1/9=11%	0
Item 15: ANI	Relative placement		8/8=100%	2
Item 16: ANI	Relationship of child in care with parents		10/10=100%	0
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				
Item 17: ANI	Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	12/20=60%	8/20=40%	0
Item 18: ANI	Child and family involvement in case planning	4/20=20%	16/20=80%	0
Item 19: ANI	Worker visits with child	9/20=45%	11/20=55%	0
Item 20: ANI	Worker visits with parent(s)	9/19=47%	10/19=53%	1
Item 21: ANI	Educational needs of the child	11/17=65%	6/17=35	3
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Item 22: ANI	Physical health of the child	10/20=50%	10/20=50%	0
Item 23: ANI	Mental health of the child	12/16=75%	4/16=25%	4

The objective is that 95% of cases be rated "Strength"

Str = Strength

ANI = Area Needing Improvement

\* = Rating based on agency data, not onsite review findings