

# **Williamsburg County DSS Child Welfare Services Review August 2007**

During the week of August 6 – 10, 2007 a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Williamsburg 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, Williamsburg DSS supervisors, and representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

**Period Under Review: August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2007**

## **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, 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.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

**Ratings**

The standard that must be met for all items reviewed onsite is 90%. 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.

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

- 1) Timeliness of initiating investigations **Strength**
- 2) Repeat Maltreatment **Strength**

**Agency Data**

**Measure S1.1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations on Reports of Child Maltreatment**

\*Objective:  $\geq 100\%$  in  $\leq 24$  hours (state law)

	Number of Reports Accepted	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Percent of Investigations Initiated Timely	Number of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	17,903	17,572	98.2%	-331
Williamsburg	90	90	100.0%	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours of the intake. The outcome report indicates that for the 12-month period under review Williamsburg initiated 100% of its investigations of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours of accepted intakes.

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	8	88	1	12	1	0
Total Cases	18	95	1	5	1	0

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

**Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment**

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item measures the occurrence of maltreatment among children under agency supervision during the period under review. Williamsburg DSS met the standard applied to both agency data and onsite review findings. In general, children under supervision were protected from additional maltreatment.

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 and prevent removal      **Strength**
- 4) Risk of harm      **Area Needing Improvement**

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Safety Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal.**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	0%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	8	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	12	100	0	0	8	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item assesses whether services were adequate to protect children in their homes and prevent their removal and placement into foster care. Every foster care case reviewed showed that the decision to remove the children from their homes and place them in foster care was appropriate. The families in every treatment case reviewed were being offered the type of services needed to reduce risk of harm to the children in the home.

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Safety Item 4: Risk of harm**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0
Total Cases	17	85	3	15	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item assesses whether the agency's interventions reduced risk of harm to children. Onsite reviewers found that the risk of harm was reduced in 100% of the foster care cases. However, risk of harm was not adequately managed in 30% of the treatment cases reviewed. In those cases the agency did not appropriately intervene when it became evident that the family was not complying with or benefiting from the services prescribed in their treatment plan.

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>Strength</b>                 |
| 6) Stability of foster care placement   | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 7) Permanency goal for child  | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 8) Reunification or permanent placement w/ relatives                            | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 9) Adoption   | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 10) Permanent goal of Alternate Planned<br>Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) | <b>Strength</b>                 |

**Agency Data**

**Measure P1.1: 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.

Objective: <=8.6% (federal standard)

	Number Children Entering Care 8/01/06 to 7/31/07	Number Entering Care After Returning Home within Past 12 Months from Previous Foster Care Episode	Percent of Children Entering Care After Returning Home within Past 12 months from previous Foster Care Episode	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,703	222	6.00%	96.5
Williamsburg	15	0	0.00%	

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

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item measures the frequency of foster children re-entering foster care within a year of discharge. Based on agency data and findings from the onsite review foster children were not re-entering foster care within a year of discharge.

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Measure P3.2: Stability of Foster Care Placement --</b> Of all the children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, the percent that had more than 2 placement settings.				
Objective: >= 86.7% (federal standard)				
	Number of Children in Care Less Than 12 Months	Number of Children with No More than 2 Placements	Percent of Children with No More than Two Placements	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	4,284	3,441	80.32%	-273.2
Williamsburg	20	14	70.0%	-3.3

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Permanency Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement.</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	60	4	40	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item measures the frequency of placement changes for children in foster care, and assesses the reasons for those changes. Agency data shows that 70.0% of the children in foster care in Williamsburg County had less than two placements. Four cases were rated as needing improvement because the children had more than two placement changes during a 12 month period. In those cases, the children had multiple placement changes due to their disruptive behavior and the agency was not able to place those children in homes that could manage their behavior.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Measure P1.5: 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.				
Objective: >=53.00% (agency established objective)				
	Number of Children in Care At Least 15 8/1/2006 – 7/31/2007	Number of Children With TPR Complaint Filed	Percent of Children with TPR Compliant Filed	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,597	1,659	46.1%	-247.4
Williamsburg	38	29	76.3%	8.9

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 7: Permanency Goal for Children.</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness of permanency goals for children in foster care and the timeliness of those permanency decisions. To meet the agency objective for this item 53% or more of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months must have a TPR petition filed. In Williamsburg County the outcome report shows that TPR petitions were filed timely on 76.3% of the children in foster care. Reviewers found that permanency goals for children in foster care were appropriate. Reviewers also found that the agency quickly determined appropriate goals for the children in care.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

**Agency Data**

**Measure P1.3: Length of Time to Achieve Reunification** -- Of all the 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.

Objective >=76.2% (federal standard)

	Number of Children Returned to Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) home 08/01/06 to 07/31/07	Number of Children Returned to Parent(s)/Caretaker in < Than 12 Months	Percent of Children Returned to Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) after in Care <12 Months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,279	1,915	84.03%	178.4
Williamsburg	10	10	93.75%	2.8

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Permanency Item 8: Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement with Relatives.**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	0	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the activities and processes necessary to accomplish the goal of reunification with caregivers or placement with relatives. To meet this federally established outcome, 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. According to the agency data all of children who entered care during the period under review returned home within 12 months of entering foster care. Reviewers looked at the activities and processes used by caseworkers to accomplish the goal of reunification or placement with relatives. Onsite reviewers determined that the decisions to return children home were appropriate in 100% of the foster care cases reviewed.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Measure P1.4: Length of Time to Achieve Adoption</b> – 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.				
Objective: >=32.0% (federal standard)				
	Number of Children With Finalized Adoption during 8/1/06-7/31/07	Number of Children Whose Adoption Was Finalized in <24 Months	Percent of Children Whose Adoption was Finalized in <24Months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	383	58	15.1%	-64.6
Williamsburg	2	1	50.0%	0.4

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 9: Adoption</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	33	4	67	4	0

**Explanation of Item 9: Adoption**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the effectiveness of the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. Agency data shows that two adoptions were completed in the past 12 months. One of those two adoptions was completed within 24 months of the child entering care. Reviewers assessed the cases of children with a plan of adoption. Two cases were rated strength because the parental rights were terminated, the children were in pre-adoptive placement, and could potentially be adopted in less than 24 months. Four cases were rated as needing improvement because a host of delays prevented TPR pleadings from being filed timely. As a result, those children had no chance of being adopted within 24 months of entering care.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Measure P1.6: Permanency Goal of “Alternate Planned Permanent 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.				
Objective: <= 15% (DSS established objective)				
	Number of Children In Care at Least One Day	Number of Children In Care With Perm Plan “Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement”	Percent of Children with Permanency Plan of Other Planned Living Arrangement	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	8,771	1,518	17.3%	-202.4
Williamsburg	39	4	10.3%	1.9

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided to children with the permanency plan of APPLA. One standard applied to this objective is that no more than 15% of the children in foster care should have this plan. Agency data shows that only 10% of the children in Williamsburg County custody have this plan. Reviewers determined those children were receiving appropriate independent living services.

**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>Strength</b>                 |
| 12) Placement with siblings in foster care            | <b>Strength</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>Strength</b>                 |
| 16) Relationship of child in care with parents        | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Measure P2.1: Proximity of Foster Care Placement</b> – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), the percent placed within their county of origin.				
Objective: >=70.0% (DSS established objective)				
	Number of Children In Care 8/01/06 to 7/31/07	Number of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	6,122	3,847	62.8%	-438.4
Williamsburg	35	28	80.0%	3.5

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg 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 were 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 80% of Williamsburg DSS children were placed within the county. Most children placed outside of the county were in therapeutic placements.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	4	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the effectiveness of the agency’s efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. In every case reviewed the county did an excellent job of placing and keeping siblings together.

<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	6	60	4	40	0	0

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the effectiveness of the agency's efforts to ensure that visits occur between children in foster care and their siblings and parents. In 40% of the cases children were not allowed to visit their siblings in care or their non-custodial parents.

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	86	1	14	3	0

**Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. Whereas Item 13 addressed parents and siblings, this item evaluates the agency's efforts to preserve children's connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. The agency met the children's needs in most (86%) instances. One case was rated an area needing improvement because the agency made no attempt to help the child maintain her relationship with paternal relatives.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 15: Relative Placement</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	89	1	11	1	0

**Explanation of Item 15: Relative Placement**

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to identify and assess relatives as potential placement resources for children in foster care. Reviewers found that both maternal and paternal relatives were consistently assessed as placement options for the children in foster care.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

<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	4	80	1	20	5	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to promote a strong emotionally supportive relationship between children in care and their parents, beyond the twice minimum visitation requirement. Eighty percent of the cases reviewed were rated strength. One case was rated as needing improvement because the record had no evidence of the agency's efforts in supporting the parent-child relationships of child in foster care.

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

The county'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>Strength</b>                 |
| 20) Worker visits with parents                          | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 17: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0
Total Cases	17	85	3	15	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg 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? Reviewers rated 100% of the foster care cases as strong in

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

this area. In 30% of the treatment cases, the needs of the fathers were not assessed. This was due to the agency was not consistently conducting Diligent Search on absent fathers, even when the names and possible location of the fathers were known to the agency.

<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	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	15	75	5	25	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to involve parents and children in the case planning process. Reviewers rated 100% of the foster care cases as strong for this item. Only half of the treatment showed involvement of children and parents in case planning. In those cases reviewers could not determine why the fathers were not involved in the case planning process.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 19: Worker Visits with Child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	18	90	2	10	0	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with children under agency supervision, and evaluates the quality of those visits. In 90% of the foster care and treatment cases reviewed, the children were seen as required by policy. The content of those visits adequately addressed safety and risk issues.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Well Being Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	85	1	15	3	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	11	65	6	35	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with parents, and evaluates the quality of those visits. Reviewers found that caseworkers conducted face-to-face visits with parents most months, but not every month as required by policy. Visits focused on mothers. Some fathers were never seen.

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

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

- 21) Educational needs of the child **Strength**

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 21: Educational Needs of Child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	100	0	0	2	0
Treatment	6	100	0	0	4	0
Total Cases	14	100	0	0	6	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and attend to the educational needs of children under agency supervision. Williamsburg caseworkers did an excellent job in this area. Workers visited the schools and communicated directly with school officials to monitor the performance of the children in their cases. Copies of school attendance records and progress reports were in case records.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

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

The county'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>                 |

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and attend to the physical and dental health needs of children under agency supervision. With an overall rating of 85% the county did not miss the 90% standard by much. However, there is still room for improvement, particularly in treatment cases. The treatment cases needing improvement failed to address the medical needs of all of the children in the family.

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	0	0	0
Treatment	6	100	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the mental health needs of children under agency supervision. The mental health needs of the children in treatment and foster care cases were generally well attended to. The needs were consistently assessed, and identified needs were referred to mental health providers for services.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

**Foster Home Licenses**

**Explanation of Item 24: Foster Home Licensing**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. A review of licensing records showed that documentation both in the files and in CAPSS was generally in compliance. The three problems most often cited were 1) inconsistencies between the CAPSS record and the hard copy files, 2) sexual offenders and sled checks completed after license was issued. 3) children not interviewed during the quarterly visits, and 4) all required training hours not on the certificate.

**Unfounded Investigations**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Was the investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was the assessment adequate?	3	2
Was the decision appropriate?	4	1

**Explanation of Item 25: Unfounded Investigations**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the effectiveness of the agency's investigative process and determines if the decisions were supported by the facts of the cases. In all five of the investigations, the initial contacts were made within the required timeframe. Assessments were not adequate in two of the five cases because investigators did not assess all of the children in the household. The facts gathered during the assessment of one case should have led the agency to indicate the case for neglect rather than unfound the case.

**Screened Out Intakes**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Cannot Determine</b>
Was Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	8	1	1
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
Were Necessary Collaterals Contacted?	1	0	9
Were Appropriate Referrals Made?	1	1	8

**Explanation of Item 26: Screened Out Intakes**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Williamsburg DSS. This item evaluates the effectiveness of the process by which the agency screens out reports of incidents that the agency does not have the legal authority to investigate. The facts presented at the time of one of the intakes reviewed should have led the agency to accept the case for investigation rather than screen out the intake. In another intake the documentation was not sufficient to determine if the intake should or should not have been screened out. This is a problem because there should be sufficient documentation to support the agency's decision.

**Williamsburg County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
August 2007**

Onsite Review Rating Summary					
Performance Item or Outcome		Performance Item Ratings			
		Strength	Area Needing Improvement	N/A*	
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	9/10= 90%	1/10= 10%	10
Item 2:	Str	Repeat maltreatment	18/19= 95%	1/19= 5%	1
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	12/12= 100%	0	8
Item 4:	ANI	Risk of harm to child(ren)	17/20 = 85%	3/20 = 15%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.					
Item 5:	Str	Foster care re-entries	1/1 = 100 %	0	9
Item 6:	ANI	Stability of foster care placement	6/10 = 60%	4/10 =40%	0
Item 7:	Str	Permanency goal for child	10/10 = 100%	0	0
Item 8:	Str	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	2/2 = 100%	0	8
Item 9:	ANI	Adoption	2/6= 33%	4/6= 67%	4
Item 10:	Str	Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	2/2= 100%	0	8
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.					
Item 11:	Str	Proximity of foster care placement	9/9 = 100%	0	1
Item 12:	Str	Placement with siblings	6/6 = 100%	0	4
Item 13:	ANI	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	6/10= 60%	4/10=40%	0
Item 14:	ANI	Preserving connections	6/7 = 86%	1/7= 14%	3
Item 15:	Str	Relative placement	8/9 = 89%	1/9 = 11%	1
Item 16:	ANI	Relationship of child in care with parents	4/5= 80%	1/5= 20%	5
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	17/20 = 85%	3/20 = 15%	0
Item 18:	ANI	Child and family involvement in case planning	15/20= 75%	2/20 = 10%	0
Item 19:	Str	Worker visits with child	18/20 = 90%	2/20 = 10%	0
Item 20:	ANI	Worker visits with parent(s)	11/17= 65%	6/17= 35%	3
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.					
Item 21:	Str	Educational needs of the child	14/14=100%	0	6
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.					
Item 22:	ANI	Physical health of the child	17/20 = 85%	3/20 = 15%	0
Item 23:	Str	Mental health of the child	15/26= 94%	1/6= 6%	4

The objective is that 90% of cases be rated "Strength".

Str = Strength

ANI = Area Needing Improvement

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