

Chester County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
April 2009

During the week of April 6 - 10, 2009, a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Chester 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, Chester DSS supervisor and workers, representative from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Period under Review: April 1, 2008 to March 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, 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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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.

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

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1) Timeliness of initiating investigations | Area Needing Improvement |
| 2) Repeat Maltreatment | Area Needing Improvement |

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 of the investigations were initiated within 24 hours of accepting the report?

Report Period: February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009

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

	Number of Determinations	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Percent of Investigations Initiated Timely	Numbers of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	17,233	16,834	97.68%	-399
Chester	125	123	98.40%	-2

Explanation of Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all (100%) accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours. Agency data indicates that for the 12 month period under review, Chester initiated 123 of its 125 investigations (98.40%) of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours. Reviewers found that risk ratings were assigned appropriately in all cases.

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Agency Data				
Performance Measure 3: Treatment Cases With No New Indicated Reports – Of all treatment cases that were closed during the year reporting period, what percentage did NOT have a new founded intake within 12 months of the treatment case being closed? Report Period: February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009				
Objective: \geq Agency Average				
	Number of Treatment Cases Closed	Number of Treatment Cases with no founded intake within 12 months	Percent of Treatment Cases that did not have a new founded intake within 12 months	Number of Cases Above (Below) State Average
State	5,702	5,046	88.50%	
Chester	37	3	81.08 %	-2.7

Onsite Review Findings						
Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
Total Cases	16	80	4	20	0	0

Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester 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. Agency data shows that 81.08% of the treatment cases closed were not involved in a subsequent indicated incident of maltreatment. Reviewers determined that an equal number of children in foster care and treatment cases experienced additional or ongoing maltreatment because of the agency's failure to resolve risk of harm issues. Reviewers also found that not all subsequent incidents of maltreatment resulted in a new report. Consequently, those incidents were not captured by the agency's child welfare database, CAPSS.

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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 **Area Needing Improvement**
- 4) Risk of Harm **Area Needing Improvement**

Onsite Review Findings						
Safety Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in Home and Prevent Removal						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	100	0	0	7	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	8	62	5	38	7	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester 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, reviewers determined that the decision to remove children from their homes and place them in foster care was appropriate. In 50% of the treatment cases reviewed, appropriate services were being offered to safely maintain the children in their home. Half of the treatment cases needed improvement because of inadequate safety plans and failure to provide services to the fathers or paramours who reside in the home.

Onsite Review Findings						
Safety Item 4: Risk of Harm						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	0
Treatment	0	0	10	100	0	0
Total Cases	9	45	11	55	0	0

Explanation of Item 4: Risk of Harm

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item assesses whether the agency's intervention reduced risks of harm to children. In 90% of the foster care cases reviewed, risk of harm was adequately managed. Reviewers rated 100% of the treatment cases as needing improvement because risk of harm to children in the home was not properly managed.

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In those cases the agency failed to complete criminal background checks and assessments on alternate caregivers or on other adults in the home who had an active role in the children's lives. There was also a lack of diligent follow-up to address concerns once the agency became aware of them to ensure that the children remained safe.

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

Agency Data

Performance Measure 7: Foster Children Who do Not Re-Enter Care - 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.

Report Period: 02/01/08 to 01/31/09

Objective: 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	2799	2590	92.53%	68.1
Chester	8	8	100%	0.8

Explanation of Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester DSS. This item measures the frequency of children re-entering foster care within a year of discharge. To meet the minimum requirement for this item, 90.1% of children must not re-enter foster care within a year of discharge. Agency data shows that no children re-entered foster care within 12 months of the date of their discharge from the previous foster care episode.

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Agency Data

Performance Measure 6: Stability of Foster Care Placements - 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 placements settings.
Report Period: 02/01/08 to 01/31/09

Objective: >=86% (Federal Standard)

	Foster Care 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	3883	2912	74.99%	-221.6
Chester	14	12	85.71%	0.0

Explanation of Item 6: Stability of foster care placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester DSS. This item measures the frequency of placement changes for children in foster care, and assesses the reasons for those changes. The objective for this item is that at least 86% of the children in care have two or fewer placements within 12 months. Agency data shows that 85.71% of Chester DSS children had two or fewer placements. Onsite reviewers saw some planned placement changes (example: children moved into pre-adoptive placements) that were rated “Strength” because the moves were in the child’s best interest.

Onsite Review Findings

Permanency Item 7: Permanency Goal for Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	0

Explanation of Item 7: Permanency Goal for Children

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness of permanency goals for children in foster care and the timeliness of those permanency decisions. Reviewers found that in 90% of the cases, the agency identified the appropriate goal timely. One case needed improvement because it took the agency more than 18 months to establish the permanency goal of TPR/Adoption for a child after several attempts at reunification failed.

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Agency Data				
Performance Measure 8: Time to Achieve Reunification – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care and had been in care for 8 days or more, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of their latest removal from home? Report Period: 02/01/08 to 01/31/09				
Objective: >= 75.2% (Federal standard)				
	Number of Children Returned to Parents/Caretakers	Number of Children Returned to Parents/Caretakers after in Care <12 months	Percent of Children Returned to Parents/Caretakers after in Care < 12 months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2576	1947	75.58%	9.8
Chester	13	7	53.85%	-2.8

Explanation of Item 8: Reunification or Permanent Placement with Relatives

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the activities and processes necessary to accomplish the goal of reunification with caregivers or placement with relatives. Agency data shows that 53.85% of the children who entered foster care in Chester returned home within a year. This performance was below the federal standard of 75.2%. This means that 5 of the 13 children who entered care were there more than 12 months before they were able to be returned to their parents.

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 9: Time to Finalize Adoption – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care and had been in care for 8 days or more, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of their latest removal from home? Report Period: 02/01/08 to 01/31/09				
Objective: >= 36.6% (National 75 th Percentile)				
	Total Number of Finalized Adoptions	# of Adoptions finalized < 24 months	Percent of Adoptions Finalized < 24 months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	503	1947	75.58%	-77.1
Chester	3	0	0.00%	-1.1

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Explanation of Item 9: Adoption

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. Agency data shows that Chester DSS completed three adoptions during the period under review. However, none were finalized within 24 months of the child entering care. The onsite review revealed that 50% of the children with a plan of adoption had already been in care for more than 24 months. Reviewers found two causes for the delays: 1) the agency taking too long to change a child’s plan from “Return Home” to “Adoption,” and 2) delays in scheduling of the TPR hearing after the court approved the plan of adoption.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 10: Permanency Goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	100	0	0	7	0

Explanation of Item 10: Permanency Goal of APPLA

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester 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. Reviewers found that in 100% of the cases reviewed, there is documentation to support that a child with the plan of APPLA was receiving the appropriate Independent Living services and had an identified resource to assist them in obtaining this goal.

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 | Strength |
| 12) Placement with siblings in foster care | Strength |
| 13) Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care | Area Needing Improvement |
| 14) Preserving connections | Strength |
| 15) Relative placement | Area Needing Improvement |
| 16) Relationship of child in care with parents | Area Needing Improvement |

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0

Explanation of Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester County 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. Reviewers found children were placed either within the county or in therapeutic placements in other counties.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0

Explanation of Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. In every case, sibling groups were kept together when appropriate.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 13: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	67	3	33	1	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to ensure that visits occur between children in foster care and their siblings and parents. In 33% of the cases reviewed, visits between children in foster care and their parents were not occurring as required by policy. In those cases, the agency either failed to arrange visits between children and their fathers, or failed to assess the appropriateness of such visits.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0

Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester 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. In 100% of the cases reviewed, the agency worked to keep children within their same communities, and to help children maintain their relationships with family and friends.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 15: Relative placement						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	1	0

Explanation of Item 15: Relative Placement

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to identify and assess relatives as potential placement resources for children in foster care. In 90% of the cases reviewed, reviewers found that the agency consistently assessed maternal and paternal relatives as placement options. One case needed improvement because the maternal and paternal relatives were not assessed as a placement option.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	33	4	67	4	0

Explanation of Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester 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. In 67% of the cases reviewed, reviewers found no

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evidence of the agency’s efforts in supporting the parent-child relationships beyond the minimum required twice a month visitation, especially with the fathers. Agency policy encourages this; especially when infants and preschool aged children are involved and when the children are transitioning back into their home.

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 | Area Needing Improvement |
| 18) Child and family involvement in case planning | Area Needing Improvement |
| 19) Worker visits with child | Area Needing Improvement |
| 20) Worker visits with parents | Area Needing Improvement |

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 17: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0
Treatment	1	10	9	90	0	0
Total Cases	9	45	11	55	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester 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. In 20% of the foster care cases and 90% of the treatment cases reviewed, needs and services of the parents, caretakers, and foster parents were not adequately assessed. The absence of quality assessments limited the agency’s ability to address the needs of the child, parents and foster parents.

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Onsite Review Findings						
Well Being Item 18: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	50	4	50	2	0
Treatment	2	20	8	80	0	0
Total Cases	6	33	12	67	2	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to involve parents and children in the case planning process. Onsite reviewers found that in 50% of the foster care cases and 80% of the treatment cases, parents, caregivers and the age appropriate children were not involved in the case planning process. Parents were not actively engaged even if the agency had knowledge of their whereabouts. In some of the cases, the treatment plans were completed and signed by the parents but there is no documentation to support that the agency actively engaged the parents and the age appropriate children in the case planning process.

Agency Data

Performance Measure 14: Face-to- Face Visits with Children (<18 years of age) Of all children in foster care and treatment for at least one full calendar month during the reporting period, what percentage of children had a documented face-to-face visit every full calendar month during the reporting period?

Report Period: 02/1/08 to 01/31/09

Objective: >= 100% (Agency established objective)

	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 (Below) Objective
Foster Care	26	23	88.46%	81.0
Treatment	154	123	79.87%	30.2

Explanation of Item 19: Worker Visits with Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester 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 88.46% of the children in foster care and 79.87% of the children in treatment were visited monthly.

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Onsite Review Findings

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

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	67	2	33	6	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
Total Cases	12	71	4	24	5	0

Explanation of Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with parents, and evaluates the quality of those visits. Reviewers found that 33% of the foster care and 20% of the treatment cases needed improvement because the agency failed to complete diligent searches for fathers or notify fathers that their children were under the agency's protective supervision.

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 **Area Needing Improvement**

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 21: Educational Needs of Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	4	0
Treatment	5	71	2	29	3	0
Total Cases	11	85	2	15	7	0

Explanation of Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and address the educational needs of children under agency supervision. This was an area of strength for all of the foster care cases reviewed. Reviewers found that, in most cases, workers made direct contact with the school and there were also copies of grade reports and attendance records in both foster care and treatment cases. However, 29% of the treatment cases reviewed needed improvement because the agency identified significant educational needs

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but failed to document whether or not the identified needs were met. For example, one case that was indicated for educational neglect due to the child's truancy from school needed improvement because the agency failed to contact the school to monitor the child's attendance.

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 | Strength |
| 23) Mental health of the child | Area Needing Improvement |

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	20	100	0	0	0	0

Explanation of Item 22: Physical Health of the Child

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and address the medical needs of children under agency supervision. This was an area of strength for all of the foster care and treatment cases reviewed. Reviewers determined that the medical and dental needs of the children were assessed and the identified medical needs were met. Copies of medical, dental and immunizations records were also in the case files.

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0
Treatment	7	78	2	22	1	0
Total Cases	14	88	2	12	4	0

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Explanation of Item 23: Mental Health of the Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the mental health needs of children under agency supervision. In 100% of the foster care cases and 78% of the treatment cases, the children's mental health needs were assessed and address. Reviewers determined that the treatment cases needed improvement because the agency failed to request mental health assessments when it had evidence that the behavior of two children was causing significant problems in school.

Unfounded Investigations

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>	Yes	No
Was the investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was the assessment adequate?	3	2
Was the decision adequate?	5	0

Explanation of Item 24: Unfounded Investigations

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the agency's investigative process and determines if decisions were supported by the facts of the cases. All five investigations were initiated timely. All of the case decisions were appropriate. Two of the assessments showed that DSS did not have the legal grounds to intervene, but revealed significant risk factors in the home that may have required intervention by other agencies. No referrals were made.

Screened Out Intakes

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>	Yes	No	Cannot Determine
Was Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	7	2	1
Were necessary Collaterals Contacted?	6	2	2
Were Appropriate Referrals made?	3	1	7

Explanation of Item 25: Screened Out Intakes

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chester 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 could not determine whether or not one report was screened appropriately due to insufficient gathering of information from the reporter and a lack of follow-up with collaterals regarding the alleged incidents. Two other intakes that were screened out should have been accepted for investigation.

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Foster Home Licenses

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 4: Foster Homes/Facilities with Current Licenses				
Objective: >= 100% (Agency Policy)				
	Number of Open Homes & Facilities	Homes with Current License	Percent of Homes with Current License	Above or (Below) Standard
State	3452	3429	99.3%	
Chester	12	12	100%	0.1

Explanation of Item 26: Foster Home Licenses

This is an area of **Strength** for Chester DSS. This item evaluates the process by which the agency ensures that all foster homes comply with licensing requirements. Agency data and the onsite review indicate that Chester County foster homes are at a 100% compliance level with licensing requirements.

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Foster Care & Treatment Combined Case 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: ANI	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	5/6=83%	1/6=17%	14
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: ANI	Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	8/13=62%	5/13=38%	7
Item 4: ANI	Risk of harm to child(ren)	9/20=45%	11/20=55%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Item 5: *Str	Foster care re-entries	3/3=100%	0	7
Item 6: Str	Stability of foster care placement	10/10=100%	0	0
Item 7: ANI	Permanency goal for child	9/10=90%	1/10=10%	0
Item 8: *ANI	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	5/5 = 100%	0	5
Item 9: ANI	Adoption	1/2=50%	1/2=50%	8
Item 10: Str	Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	3/3=100%	0	7
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				
Item 11: *Str	Proximity of foster care placement	7/7= 100%	0	3
Item 12: Str	Placement with siblings	7/7=100%	0	3
Item 13: ANI	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	6/9=66%	3/9=33%	1
Item 14: Str	Preserving connections	7/7=100%	0	3
Item 15: ANI	Relative placement	9/10= 90%	1/10=10%	0
Item 16: ANI	Relationship of child in care with parents	2/6=33%	4/6=67%	4
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	9/20=45%	11/20=55%	0
Item 18: ANI	Child and family involvement in case planning	6/18=33%	12/18=67%	2
Item 19: ANI	Worker visits with child	15/20=75%	5/20=25%	0
Item 20: ANI	Worker visits with parent(s)	12//17=71%	4/17=24%	4
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				
Item 21: ANI	Educational needs of the child	11/13=85%	2/8=15%	7
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Item 22: Str	Physical health of the child	20/20=100%	0	0
Item 23: ANI	Mental health of the child	14/16=88%	2/16=12%	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