During the week of October 23-27, 2006 a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an on-site review of child welfare services in Pickens 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, DSS attorney, Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center, Family Court, representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health, Sheriff's Office and Guardian Ad Litem Program.)

Period included in Case Record Review: April 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006 Period included in Outcome Measures: October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006

#### **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.

#### **Ouantitative and Oualitative 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.

#### **Ratings**

The standard that must be met for all items reviewed onsite is 90 percent. Each Outcome report has its own standard. To be rated a Strength an item must meet both the qualitative onsite review standard and the quantitative outcome report standard.

#### **Section One**

Safety Outcome1: Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.

Strategic Outcome Report Findings									
Measure S1.1: Timeliness of initiating investigations on reports of child maltreatment									
Data Time Period: 10/01/05 to 09/30/06									
	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of					
	Reports Accepted	Investigations	Investigations	Investigations					
		Initiated Timely	Objective	Above (Below)					
			100%*	Objective					
Pickens	367	365	100.0%	-1.96					

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

Onsite Review	<u>Findings</u>	Performa	nce Item Rati	ngs		
Safety Item 1:	Timeliness	of initiation	ng investigati	ons of report	s of child mal	treatment.
		Area Needing		leeding		
	Stre	ength	Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	8	0
Treatment	3	100	0	0	7	0
Total Cases	5	100	0	0	15	0

#### **Explanation of Item 1**

**This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County.** The outcome report shows that the county initiated 365 of 367 investigations within the mandated 24 hours. Consequently, this component of Safety 1 is an area needing improvement.

#### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

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

Indicated Reports Between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006

1110100000 110 ports 200 v 001 1 pri 1, 2000 viito 1 1101 01 01 , 2000								
	Number of Child	Number of Child	Number of	Number of				
	Victims	Victims in	Children	Children Above				
		Another Founded	Objective	(Below)				
		Rept	<= 93.90%	Objective				
State	10231	62	0.61%	562.09				
Pickens	346	0	0.00%	21.11				

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings										
Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment.										
			Area N							
	Strength		Improvement		Not Applicable					
	#	%	#	%	#	%				
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0					
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0					
Total Cases	18	90	2	10	0					

#### **Explanation of Item 2**

This is a Strength for Pickens County. According to the outcome measure report, there were no repeat maltreatment incidents found between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006 for Pickens County. However, onsite reviewers found that there was repeat maltreatment in one treatment and one foster care case reviewed. Both treatment and foster care cases had an indicated case within a few months of the first reports which were substantiated for physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Overall, the agency does a good job in reducing the recurrence of maltreatment.

#### **Section Two**

Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings										
Safety Item 3: Services to family to protect child (ren) in home and prevent removal.										
			Area N							
	Stre	ngth	Improvement		No	t Applicable				
	#	%	#	%	#	%				
Foster Care	0	0	1	10	9					
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0					
Total Cases	7	64	4	36	9					

#### **Explanation of Item 3**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. Seven out of the ten treatment cases reviewed were rated strength. Three treatment cases were rated area needing improvement due to inadequate services provided in the home. In foster care, one case was rated as an area needing improvement. In that case, the onsite reviewer found no supporting documentation in the case record of services being provided to the parents prior to the child returning home.

#### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure S2.2: Risk of harm to child -- Of all unfounded investigations during the reporting period, the percent receiving subsequent reports within six months of the initial report.

	Number of	Number With	Number of Cases	Number of
	Alleged Child	Another Rept	Met Objective	Cases Above
	Victims in an	Within 6 months	>= 91.50%	(Below)
	Unfounded Rept	of Unfounded		Objective
	04/01/05 to	Determination		
	03/31/06			
State	14,488	1,123	7.75%	108.48
Pickens	231	12	5.19%	7.63

<sup>\*</sup>This is a DSS established objective.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Safety Item 4: Risk of harm.									
			Area N						
	Strength		Improvement		Not Applicable				
	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	0			
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0			
Total Cases	16	80	4	20	0	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 4**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. According to the outcome report, the county met the state standard for this measure. However, the onsite review found that risk of harm was reduced in 90% of the foster care cases and only 70% of the treatment cases. The deficiencies in the three treatment cases were due to the mother's drug abuse and unstable living situation which placed the children at risk of harm.

#### **Section Three**

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

Strategic Outcome Report Findings									
Measure P3.1: <b>Foster Care Re-entries</b> – Of all children who entered care during the year under review, the percent that re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.									
	Number of	Number That	Number of	Number of Children					
	Children	Were Returned	Children	Above (Below)					
	Entering Care	Home Within	Objective	Objective					
	10/01/05 to	The Past 12	>= 91.40%*						
	09/30/06	Months From							
		Previous Fos							
		Care Episode							
State	3,453	257	3,156.04	39.96					
Pickens	48	4	8.33	0.13					

<sup>\*</sup> This is a federally established objective.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings								
Permanency Item 5: Foster care re-entries.								
		Area Needing						
	Strength		Improvement		Not	t Applicable		
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Foster Care	0	0	1	10	9	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 5**

This is a Strength for Pickens County DSS. According to the outcome report, four of the 48 children (8%) who entered foster care in Pickens County during the period under review had been returned home in the prior 12 months. The federal standard is that no more than 8.6% of the children entering foster should be re-entries. The state average for this item is 7.4%. Therefore the county met this standard.

### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

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

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	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of Children					
	Children in	Children with	Children	Above (Below)					
	Care Less Than		Objective	Objective					
	12 Months	2 Placements	>= 86.70%*	-					
State	3,994	3,221	3,462.80	-241.80					
Pickens	52	47	45.08	1.92					

Note: This is a federally established objective.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Permanency Item 6: Stability of foster care placement.									
			Area N	leeding					
	Stre	ngth	Improvement		Not	t Applicable			
	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 6**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. The outcome report shows that 47 of the 52 children in care less than 12 months had less than two foster care placements. Therefore, Pickens County met the federal standard for this item. However, onsite reviewers looked at all the children in care, not just those in care less than 12 months. Eighty percent of the cases reviewed were rated as strength. The deficiencies identified in this item were in two cases, one Adoption record and one MTS record. In the adoption record, the child was removed due to an OHAN investigation on the pre-adoptive parent causing more than two placement changes for that child within 12 months. In the MTS record, the child had several placement changes because of her defiant behaviors and low self-esteem issues.

#### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.5: **Permanency Goal for Child** – 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.

petition has been fried.									
	Children in	Number Number of		Number of Children					
	Care At Least	Children With	Children	Above					
	15 of Last 22	TPR Complaint	Objective	(Below) Objective					
	Months	_	>= 53.00%*	-					
	10/05 -09/06								
State	3,616	1,697	1,916.48	-219.48					
Pickens	79	35	44.30	-6.87					

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

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Permanency Item 7: Permanency goal for children.									
			Area Needing						
	Stre	Strength Impr		vement	Not Applicable				
	#	%	# %		#	%			
Foster Care	5	50	5	50	0	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 7**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. To meet the criteria established in the outcome report 53% or more of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months must have a TPR petition filed. The outcome report shows that 35 of the 79 (44%) children in care at least 15 of the 22 months had TPR complaints filed. Of the five cases rated area needing improvement by onsite reviewers, two cases were managed by the MTS office and three cases were managed by the county. In all five of those cases, the permanency goal had not been established and the children had been in foster care at least two years or more. Furthermore, in all five cases TPR pleadings had not been filed timely.

#### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.3: **Length of Time to Achieve Reunification** – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caregiver, at the time of discharge from foster care, the percent reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

1000 1111111 12 1110111									
	Number of	Number of	Number Of	Number of Children					
	Children Where	Children in	Children	Above (Below) Objective					
	Fos Care	Care Less Than	Objective	-					
	Services	12 Months	>= 76.20%*						
	Closed. Last								
	Plan Was								
	Return Home								
	09/01/05-								
	08/31/06								
State	2,463	2003	1,876.81	126.19					
Pickens	30	25	22.86	2.14					

<sup>\*</sup> This is a federally established objective.

**Permanency Item 8:** Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives.

	Strength			leeding vement	Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	33	2	67	7	0

#### **Explanation of Item 8**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. To meet this federally establish criteria at 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 outcome report, Pickens County was at 83%. Onsite reviewers found that the plan of return home for one of the three children reviewed was appropriate. The two cases rated an area needing improvement were due to the children being in foster care for more than two years and the goal of reunification not achieved.

#### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

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

	Number of Children	Number of	Number of	Number of Children
	with Finalized	Children Where	Children	Above
	Adoption W/in Past	Adoption was	Objective	(Below) Objective
	12 Months	Finalized	>= 32.00%*	
		Within 24		
		Months of		
		Entering Care		
State	417	66	133.44	-67.44
Pickens	15	4	4.80	-0.80

Note: This is a federally established objective.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Permanency Item 9: Adoption.									
		Area Needing							
	Stre	ngth	Improvement		Not Applicable				
	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Foster Care	0	0	3	30	7	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 9**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. The outcome report shows 15 adoptions completed in the past 12 months. Only four of those adoptions were done within 24 months of the child entering care which is 27% compared to the federal standard of 32%. In item 9, three of the 10 foster care cases reviewed had the plan of Adoption. None of those three potential adoptions could be completed within 24 months of the children entering care because the children in those cases had exceeded the 24 months of being in care prior to establishing the plan of Adoption.

### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.6: **Permanency Goal of "Other Planned Living Arrangement"** – Of all the 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.

of a planned permanent in mig arrangement outer than adoption, guardianomp, of retain to running							
	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of Children			
	Children in	Children in	Children	Above			
	Care at Least	Care with Perm	Objective	(Below) Objective			
	One Day	Plan "Other	<= 85.00%*				
	09/01/05 -	Planned Living					
	08/31/06	Arrangement"					
State	8467	1,468	7,196.95	-197.95			
Pickens	104	12	88.40	3.60			

<sup>\*</sup> This is a DSS established objective.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Permanency Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement.									
	Area Needing								
	Strength		Improvement		Not	t Applicable			
	#	%	# %		#	%			
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	8	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 10**

**This is a Strength for Pickens County.** The standard for this objective is that no more than 15% of the children in foster care should have this plan, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). The outcome report shows that only 11% of the children in care had this plan. Two of the cases reviewed onsite had the plan of APPLA. In each case the plan was appropriate and the youth were receiving independent living services as required by policy.

#### **Section Four**

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

#### **Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

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

	Number of	Number of	Percent of	Number of	Number of Children
	Children in	Children	Children	Children	Above (Below)
	Care	Placed	Placed	Objective	Objective
	10/01/05 -	Within	Within	>= 70.00%*	
	09/30/06	County of	County of		
		Origin	Origin		
State	6,317	3,914	61.96	4,421.90	-507.90
Pickens	105	30	28.57	73.50	-43.50

<sup>\*</sup> This is a DSS established objective.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings								
Permanency Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement.								
			Area N	leeding				
	Stre	ngth	Improvement		Not	t Applicable		
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Foster Care	6	86	1	14	3	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 11**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County DSS. To meet the standard for this item at least 70% of the children in must be placed within the county. According to the outcome measure report 30 of 105 (29%) foster children were placed within the county. The onsite review found that 86% of the foster care children reviewed were either placed within Pickens County or were placed out of the county due to their need for therapeutic placement.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Permanency Item 12: Placement with siblings									
			Area N	leeding					
	Strength		Improvement		Not Applicable				
	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Foster Care	3	75	1	25	6	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 12**

**This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County.** Onsite reviewers found that sibling groups were placed together in 75% of the foster care cases reviewed. One case was rated an Area Needing Improvement because a sibling group of three was not placed together.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings								
Permanency Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care								
	Area Needing							
	Strength		Improvement		Not Applicable			
	#	%	#	# %		%		
Foster Care	5	83	1	17	6	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 13**

**This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County.** Onsite reviewers found that in 83% of the foster care cases reviewed, visitations between parents and siblings were occurring as required by policy. The one case rated an area needing improvement was due to no documentation of visits occurring between the foster child and his siblings.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings								
Permanency Item 14: Preserving connections								
	Area Needing							
	Stre	ngth	Improv	vement	Not	t Applicable		
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Foster Care	4	80	1	20	5	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 14**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. Onsite reviewers found that in 80% of the cases reviewed, the agency did a good job of preserving the relationships that are important to children in foster care. One case rated an area needing improvement was due to the agency not following through with keeping the child connected to extended family members as requested by the foster child and other family members.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings  Permanency Item 15: Relative placement								
Area Needing Strength Improvement Not Applicable								
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Foster Care	4	50	4	50	2	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 15**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Pickens County. Onsite reviewers found that in 50% of the cases reviewed there was no evidence that maternal and paternal relatives were assessed for placement options for the children in foster care.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings							
Permanency Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents							
	Area Needing						
	Stre	ngth	Improv	vement	Not	t Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Foster Care	4	80	1	20	5	0	

#### **Explanation of Item 16**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. Onsite reviewers found that 80% of the foster care cases reviewed contained documentation to support the agency's efforts in promoting a supportive relationship between the parent and the child in foster care. The one case rated an area needing improvement was due to the agency not arranging contacts outside of the required visits between the child and his father.

#### **Section Five**

Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Well Being Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents									
			Area N	leeding					
	Strength Improvement Not Applicable								
	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Foster Care	5	50	5	50	0	0			
Treatment	6	6 60 4 40 0 0							
Total Cases	11	55	9	45	0	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 17**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. This item asks two questions:

1) Were the needs of the child, parents, and foster parents assessed, and 2) Did the agency take steps to meet the identified needs? This measure was rated strength in 60% of the treatment cases and in 50% of the foster care cases reviewed. The practice most identified as needing improvement was the need for more thorough assessments of all the appropriate family members. Deficiencies were prevalent in both treatment and foster care cases. In the four treatment and five foster care cases rated an area needing improvement; documentation did not support that the parent's needs were assessed and appropriate services were implemented.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings								
Well Being Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning								
			Area N	leeding				
	Strength Improvement Not Applicable							
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Foster Care	4	40	6	60	0	0		
Treatment	Treatment         6         60         4         40         0         0							
Total Cases	10	50	10	50	0	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 18**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. Only 40% of the foster care cases reviewed were rated a strength and in treatment 60% of the cases reviewed were rated strength. Onsite reviewers determined that in both treatment and foster care, workers were not consistently involving the children and parents in the case planning process. In the treatment and foster care cases rated an area needing improvement, the practice most identified as needing improvement was the need to include the age appropriate child and the fathers in the development of the case plan.

Site Visit Finding	s Perfo	Performance Item Ratings							
Well Being Item 19: Worker visits with child									
		Area Needing							
	Stre	ngth	Improv	Not	Not Applicable				
	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	0			
Treatment	7	7 70 3 30 0 0							
Total Cases	16	80	4	20	0	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 19**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. Ninety percent of the foster care cases reviewed were rated strength for item 19 and in treatment 70% of the cases reviewed were rated strength. There were cases in treatment where the monthly face-to-face visits with the children were sporadic, inconsistent, often not in accordance to agency policy.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings							
Well Being Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)							
			Area N	leeding			
	Strength Improvement Not Applicable						
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Foster Care	3	60	2	40	5	0	
Treatment	5 50 5 50 0						
Total Cases	8	53	7	47	5	0	

#### **Explanation of Item 20**

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. In 30 percent of the foster care cases reviewed, visitation between the worker and the parents were occurring monthly. In 50% of the treatment cases reviewed, there were monthly contacts made with the family during the period under review. In those cases the documentation supports whether the fathers were seen, the agency's attempts to engage him, or the agency's attempts to locate him. Overall, the review found that monthly contacts with the parents were sporadic in treatment and foster care cases.

#### **Section Six**

#### Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings								
Well Being Item 21: Educational needs of child								
			Area N	leeding				
	Strength Improvement Not Applicable							
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Foster Care	8	100	0	0	2	0		
Treatment	7	7 88 1 12 2 0						
Total Cases	15	94	1	6	4	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 21**

This is a Strength for Pickens County. Onsite reviewers found that in 100% of the foster care cases reviewed, the children's educational needs were adequately assessed. Reviewers saw documentation of frequent visits with children in their schools, discussions with the parents about their children's performance in school. Copies of school records, i.e., report cards and attendance records were in the case files.

#### **Section Seven**

Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings									
Well Being Item 22: Physical health of the child									
			Area N	leeding					
	Strength Improvement Not Applicable								
	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0			
Treatment	8	8 80 2 20 0 0							
Total Cases	18	90	2	10	0	0			

#### **Explanation of Item 22**

**This is a Strength for Pickens County.** This measure was substantially achieved in 100% of the foster care cases and 80% of the CPS treatment cases reviewed. The children's medical needs in 20% of the treatment cases were either not assessed, or when assessed, not attended to as appropriate.

Site Visit Findings Performance Item Ratings								
Well Being Item 23: Mental health of the child								
			Area N	leeding				
	Strength Improvement Not Applicable							
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0		
Treatment	Treatment 5 56 4 44 1 0							
Total Cases	12	75	4	25	4	0		

#### **Explanation of Item 23**

**This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County DSS.** This measure was substantially achieved in 100% of the foster care cases and 50% of the CPS treatment cases reviewed. The children's mental health needs in 44 % of the treatment cases were either not assessed, or when assessed, not attended to as appropriate.

### **Section Eight – Foster Home Licenses**

**This is a Strength for Pickens County.** The county has 22 licensed foster homes. Ten of foster home records were reviewed.

- 1. Relicensing was completed timely in all reviewed records.
- 2. Quarterly visits were done in all reviewed record.
- 3. Quarterly visit checklists were in all records ensuring that all required areas were covered during the visits.
- 4. CAPSS documentation was good.
- 5. Training hours were documented and continually tracked.
- 6. All placements complied with foster parent documented preferences.
- 7. All inspections were done timely.
- 8. Sexual Offenders record checks completed as required.
- 9. All licensing records contained documentation of current fire drills.

#### **Section Nine – Unfounded Investigations**

	Yes	No
Investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was assessment adequate?	5	0
Was decision appropriate?	4	1

This is a Strength for Pickens County. The reviewers found that all five unfounded investigations reviewed had an adequate assessment during the investigation, and it appeared that the decision to unfound the reports was appropriate with the exception of one case. In that investigation, the report alleges that the mother who speaks Spanish failed to meet the medical needs of the child because of her inability to speak and understand English. The reviewers found that the decision to unfound the case was made without interviewing the father who lives in the home; following up with the doctor's office regarding the interpreter who accompanied the mother on each medical visit to ensure her ability to meet the medical needs of the child.

#### **Section Ten – Screened Out Intakes**

	Yes	No	<b>Cannot Determine</b>
Was Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	6	4	0
	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Were Necessary Collaterals Contacted?	0	0	10
Were Appropriate Referrals Made?	1	0	9

This is an Area Needing Improvement for Pickens County. Out of the 10 referrals reviewed, the reviewers determined that four of those referrals were not appropriately screened-out. In one of those referrals, the agency had received multiple reports on the family over the past four years. Overall, the review found that there were significant maltreatment issues in all four reports that required the referrals to be screened and investigated.

Onsite Review Rating Summary				
		Performance Item Ratings		
Performance Item or Outcome		Strength	Area Needing Improvement	N/A*
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				
Item 1:	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	5/5 = 100%	0	15
Item 2:	Repeat maltreatment	18/20 = 90%	2/20 = 10%	
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				
Item 3:	Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	7/11 = 64%	4/11=36	9
Item 4:	Risk of harm to child(ren)	16/20 = 80%	4/20 = 20%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Item 5:	Foster care re-entries	0	1/1=10%	9
Item 6:	Stability of foster care placement	8/10 = 80%	2/10=20%	0
Item 7:	Permanency goal for child	5/10 = 50%	5/10=50%	0
Item 8:	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	1/3 = 33%	2/3=67%	7
Item 9:	Adoption	0	3/3 = 30%	7
Item 10:	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:	Proximity of foster care placement	7/7 = 86%	1/7=14	3
Item 12:	Placement with siblings	3/4 = 75%	1/4=25	6
Item 13:	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	5/6 = 83%	1/6 = 17%	4
Item 14:	Preserving connections	4/5 = 80%	1/5=20%	5
Item 15:	Relative placement	4/8 = 50%	4/8 = 50%	2
Item 16:	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:	Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	11/20 = 55%	9/20 =45%	0
Item 18:	Child and family involvement in case planning	10/20 = 50%	10/20= 50%	0
Item 19:	Worker visits with child	16/20 = 80%	4/20 = 20%	0
Item 20:	Worker visits with parent(s)	8/15 = 53%	7/15 = 47%	5
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				
Item 21:	Educational needs of the child	15/16 = 94%	1/16=6%	4
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Item 22:	Physical health of the child	18/20 = 90%	2/20 = 10%	0
Item 23:	Mental health of the child	12/16 = 75%	4/16=25%	4