

# Addendum to the South Carolina 2017 Annual Progress and Services Report

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## CAPTA Program Improvement Plan, PL 111-320

**A1 – Tracking policies and procedures revisions. Does the September 29<sup>th</sup> date cover this item? In addition, is the state tracking to have all policies revised by this date as proposed?**

State Response:

- September 29, 2016, does not cover Section A1, of the CAPTA Program Improvement Plan, submitted April 28, 2016. On Page 67 of the 2017 APSR, “The Agency is also committed to a successful implementation of PL 111-320, Section 106(b)(2)(B) (ii) and (iii), by no later than one year after the Children Bureau’s approval of the Program Improvement Plan.” This would require implementation by July 31, 2017.
- In A3, the State is tracking the steps to have all policies and procedures revised by the required implementation date of July 31, 2017.

**CAPTA PIP Updates. We understand that the state is currently under a CAPTA PIP. However, we need an update on the action items that should have been completed during this APSR reporting period based on what is outlined in the PIP.**

State Response:

- **A1 (Objective 1 and Objective 2) - Determine what sections in SCDSS Human Services Policy Manual require revisions/additions.**
  - Target: 5/31/16
  - Status 6/30/16: Incomplete.
  - Barriers to targeted completion.
  - Revised Target Date: 7/31/16
  - Plan to complete objective/action step: Policy Unit Supervisor to review.
  - Status: Complete 7/31/16. Chapter 2-Intake/Child Protective Services, Chapter 4-Family Preservation Services, Chapter 5-Foster Care, Chapter 6-Adoption Services, Chapter 7-Foster Care Licensing.
- **A2 (Objective 1 and Objective 2) - “Develop a list of implementation supports, information resources, needed to develop revised policies and procedures, to include policies and best practices/procedures from other states, Capacity Building Center for States, CAPTA Questions and Answers from the Children’s Bureau Child Welfare Policy Manual, input from stakeholders.”**
  - Target: 6/15/16
  - Status: Incomplete
  - Barriers to targeted completion: It required more time than anticipated to develop the complete list of required stakeholders and to gather the representatives who were essential to a successful implementation of the Program Improvement Plan.
  - Revised Target: 8/31/16
  - Status: Complete 8/30/16. Required Stakeholders are committed to Implementation Team, and information gathered to begin developing policies and procedures draft. Candice Lively, Baby Net, American Academy of Pediatricians, SBIRT / SC Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Jennifer Hudson (Greenville Hosp.), Michelle Greco (Greenville Hosp. System- Manager- Child Abuse Prevention), Dr. John Emmel American Society of Addiction Medicine, American Academy of Family Physicians, NOFAS- National Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, SC Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Collaborative, Julie Cole and Jennifer Buster SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (Chair), Capacity Building Center for States, Ken DeCerchio, Children and Family Futures- National Center on Substance

Abuse and Child Welfare (information on website), Sara Beth Martin- SC Children's Trust-Visiting Nurse Program (Nurse Family Partnership), Frankie Long – SC DAODAS, Lucy Gibson-Early Childhood Comprehensive System, SC Department of Health and Environment Control, Dave Annibale- Neo-Natal Consortium (NICU) and Dr. Julie Ross-Head of Neo-Natology, SC Maternal Children's Neo-Natal Testing, Rick Foster- SC Hosp. Assoc., Dr. Berry Campbell-OB/GYN Assoc., Select Health Liaison- Diane Rowan, Carolyn Nance- Nurse Mgr., Erin Laughter-EPSTD Director-SCDSS Liaison for Medicaid, BZ Giese - SCDHHS – Birth Outcomes Initiative, Maudra Brown- LogistiCare SC (Transport for Treatment) Medicaid Funded, Virginia Barry-White-Palmetto Healthy Start of the Lowcountry, Dr. Elizabeth Wallis (Medical University of South Carolina), Max Dorssey-SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Charlie Cunningham-Greenville County Sheriff's Dept., Dr. Nancy Young-Family Futures Project and National Center for Substance and Child Welfare.

- **B1 (Objective 1) - “Determine if a Memorandum(s) of Understanding (MOU) is needed with health care providers to support implementation of revised policies and procedures.”**
  - Target: 5/31/16
  - Status 6/30/16: Incomplete.
  - Barriers to targeted completion: The CAPTA PIP Team initially determined that a Memorandum of Understanding with all significant health care providers was both not realistic due to the large number of providers, and would not accomplish the objective. The decision was made to focus on increased training across multiple systems on mandated reporting laws. However, subsequent to that decision, PL 114-198 was signed into law on July 22, 2016, and the Information Memorandum ACYF-CB-IM-16-05 included as one of the best practices “Memorandum of Agreement that allows for timely information sharing and monitoring infants and families across multiple systems.”
  - Revised Target Date: 9/9/16
  - Status: Complete 9/8/16. The State will recommence the process of developing appropriate MOUs.
  
- **B2 (Objective 1) - “Develop a list of prior SCDSS MOUs, MOUs from other states, The Capacity Building Center for States, and obtain from stakeholders.”**
  - Target: 5/31/16
  - Status: Incomplete.
  - Barriers to targeted completion: See B1 above.
  - Revised Target Date: 10/15/15
  - Plan to complete action step: The State will recommence the process of gathering information from prior SCDSS and other States’ MOUs. 9/18/16-Requested from Children’s Bureau any MOUs from other states in Region 4 between states and major health care providers related to reporting to CPS.
  
- **C1 (Objective 1 and Objective 2) - “Determine if additions/revisions are required in SC Code of Laws or Regulations”**
  - Target: 5/1/16
  - Status: Incomplete.
  - Barriers to completion: Need for extended review and discussion in the SCDSS Office of General Counsel.
  - Revised Target Date: 10/30/16
  - Plan to complete objective/action step: 9/14/16, initial determination that a revision in SC Mandatory Reporter statute is recommended, and recommended that other SC

statutes are not essential to be changed. The recommendations are being reviewed by the SCDSS Office of General Counsel for a final determination.

- **C2 (Objective 1 and Objective 2) - “Research Code of Laws in other states.”**
  - Target: 6/15/16
  - Status: Complete 6/15/16. Reviewed and the Code of Laws in other states has been determined to not be applicable to the development of revisions or additions to the SC Code of Laws.

## **2017 APSR Program Instructions**

**There are places where there are duplications. Please streamline. Recommend for future submissions to follow the PI in organizing your APSR. APSRs should include update from last year’s submission (June 30, 2015) to current submission.**

State Response:

- The State will avoid duplications of information in the future. We will cite page references where duplicate information can be reviewed that applies to more than one area in the CFSP/APSR.
- The State endeavored to follow the Program Instructions in organizing the 2017 APSR. Please indicate where we failed to follow the PI in organizing our APSR and we will make that correction for the 2018 APSR.
- It was the State’s intention to provide the update from the prior submission of the APSR. There were parts of the APSR that were repeated from a prior submission because the inclusion was believed to be helpful to the reader in determining the value of the update information. The State will limit the amount of information from prior submissions that will be included. Additionally, there are examples in the 2017 APSR where the current submission includes some information from the prior May and/or June, prior to submission of the prior APSR, because that period of information was not included in prior submission.

## **CAPTA 114 Implementation Plan, PL 114-22**

**Required Policy and Procedure Revisions, SC Child Welfare Policy Manual. On Page 177-178 of the 2017 APSR, CAPTA Implementation Team, PL 114-22, the state identified the creation of a workgroup around the new provision, but did not identify what changes are needed.**

State Response:

- At the time that the 2017 APSR was submitted on 6/30/16, the Implementation Team had not identified the changes in the SC Child Welfare Policy Manual that were needed.

**Extending age beyond 18 years old. 2017 APSR, Program Instructions, Page 20. Indicate whether the state is electing to apply the sex trafficking portion of the definition of “child abuse and neglect” and “sexual abuse” to persons who are over age 18 but have not yet attained age 24. SC CAPTA Plan. PL 114-22, there is no indication of whether the state is electing to extend beyond the age of 18.**

State Response:

- To date, the State has not elected to extend the age beyond the age of 18 years old.

**CAPTA 114 Plan of Intention. A written plan of intention is needed regarding PL 114-22. Though workgroups are in place no statement regarding efficacy of implementation by the May 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 deadline is documented.**

State Response:

- In the 2017 APSR, Pages 177-178, the State indicates “The State has formed an initial CAPTA 114-22 Implementation Team, comprised of SCDSS staff including attorneys in the SCDSS Office of General Counsel (OGC), and the SCDSS Legislative Liaison, and the Supervisor of the SCDSS Policy Unit. It is the responsibility of the Implementation Team to develop an action plan relating to sex trafficking in order to implement the provisions by May 29, 2017.”
- Additionally, in the CAPTA Implementation Plan, PL 114-22, the following is indicated:
  - **Goal:** South Carolina will be in compliance with the requirements of Public Law 114-22 by **May 29, 2017.**
  - **Objective 1-** Develop and implement provisions and procedures regarding identifying and assessing all reports involving known or suspected child sex trafficking victims (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) (22 U.S.C. 7102); by **May 29, 2017.**
  - **Objective 2-** Develop and implement provisions and procedures for training CPS workers about identifying, screening and assessment tool and providing comprehensive services to children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with state law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters, by **May 29, 2017.**
  - **Objective 3-** Develop and implement provisions and procedures to collect and report, to the maximum extent practicable, the number of children who are victims of sex trafficking as part of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), by **May 29, 2017.**
  - **Objective 4-** Develop and implement provisions and procedures for the state to consider any child who is identified by a state as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking (as defined in sections 103(9)(A) and (10) of the TVPA) as a victim of “child abuse and neglect” and “sexual abuse” by **May 29, 2017.**

**Technical Assistance. Share any technical assistance needs the state has identified relating to implementation of the amendments to CAPTA made by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015.**

State Response:

- 2017 APSR, Page 178, “The state will be requesting information, and technical assistance if needed, from the Capacity Building Center for States, and information from the Children’s Bureau of which states have successfully implemented PL 114-22, and/or have an approved action plan for implementation.”

- The State has received information from the Capacity Building Center for States, and from other states through contacts with states during a webinar on PL 113-183, focusing on preventing sex trafficking and identifying child sex trafficking victims.
- At this time the State is requesting the following technical assistance:
  - What States in Region 4 are currently developing an implementation plan or have implemented PL 114-22?
  - What assessment screening tools are being used in Region 4 at Intake of reports of abuse and neglect, and/or are being used during the CPS investigation, to identify known or possible child victims of sex trafficking?
  - What states have established comprehensive processes to collect and report, to the maximum extent practicable, the number of children who are victims of sex trafficking as part of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)?

### **Meeting the needs of LGBTQ youth.**

#### **Targeted Foster Home Recruitment for needs of LGBTQ youth- Is there any targeted recruitment for foster homes to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth? If so, please include in APSR.**

State Response:

- There is no targeted recruitment for foster homes to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth. The Agency is researching “All Children-All Families” as used by the State of New Jersey to develop targeted recruitment strategies and cultural competency related to the needs of LGBTQ youth.

#### **What policies and procedures are in place, what training and services are provided that are related to and supportive of serving the needs of LGBTQ youth, and developing and nurturing cultural competency in serving LGBTQ youth.**

State Response:

- There are no policies and procedures in the SC Child Welfare Policy Manual that specifically address the needs of LGBTQ youth, developing and nurturing cultural competency in serving LGBTQ youth. The SCDSS has planned to review the Policy Manual for any needed revisions and additions.

#### **Children’s Bureau- Is there a date for this item?**

**State Response:** The SCDSS has targeted 10/31/2016 for the completion of the review of the Policy Manual for any needed revisions and additions related to and supportive of serving the needs of LGBTQ youth, and developing and nurturing cultural competency in serving LGBTQ youth.

- The SCDSS is in the process of reviewing the training curriculums of Child Placing Agencies, Group Homes, and any other institutions that are placements for children and youth in Foster Care related to training foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes and case managers to support and affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ) youth and/or address the unique issues confronting LGBTQ youth.
- 2017 APSR. Page 202.  
(The SCDSS Independent Living Unit) Collaborated with external stakeholders to provide training for SCDSS staff and youth regarding cultural competency and awareness for LGBTQ youth.

- The following are training activities that the State knows are being provided that support serving the needs of LGBTQ youth in the Child Welfare System.

Title: Achieving Permanence: The Brown Case: Session Four of National CASA Pre-service Flex Training

Syllabus: This session addresses issues related to resilience and permanence, children’s educational needs, the unique issues in advocating for older youth and the challenges faced by LGBTQ youth in the system. By the end of this session, the prospective volunteer will be able to describe the concept of resilience and identify protective factors, describe what is meant by concurrent planning, explain why expediency in establishing permanence is especially important for older youth, describe the importance of involving older youth in the permanency planning process (in an age-appropriate way), identify educational challenges faced by children in the child welfare system, explain some of the issues faced by LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system, describe one federal law related to education and youth aging out of the system, identify strategies for writing effective recommendations in a volunteer court report, identify age-appropriate behavior for children from birth through adolescence.

Title: More than “Alphabet Soup”: Serving LGBTQ Youth and Families

Syllabus: Basic introduction to the LGBTQ community and people, overview of statistics and vulnerabilities (including sexual and intimate partner violence), suggestions for creating more inclusive environments for LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care.

Title: How Providers can Support LGBTQI Youth

Syllabus: Participants will learn 3 key educational barriers for LGBTQI youth, bullying, family rejection and homelessness. Participants will learn recent research and findings that affect this population. Participants will gain an understanding of our LGBTQI youth in school, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems. Participants will be given resources to advocate for LGBTQI youth that they interact with on a daily basis.

- Child Placing Agencies (CPA): The SCDSS Office of General Counsel is reviewing the policies and procedures of CPAs to ensure that the policies and procedures do not limit their ability to recruit foster and adoptive families that reflect the diversity of children in care, including any statewide bans, restrictions or limitations, as well as any practices to restrict same-sex couples or lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals from becoming resource parents.

## **APPENDIX G. Update to the Targeted Training Plan.**

**Are all trainings new? Only an update new training is required.**

State Response:

- In an e-mail to Karla Richardson, Children’s Bureau, Region 4, in response to a question of what Training Funding Checklists are included in the 2017 APSR Update to the Targeted Training Plan, the

SCDSS Division of Knowledge Management and Practice Standards indicated that it “not include any Training Funding Checklists that had complete information submitted in any prior training plans. For example, the 2015-2019 CFSP Targeted Training Plan included almost no financial information that was required, which then led to the period of intensive technical assistance to us in order to come into compliance. For those training titles, when the training was provided in FFY 2016 or might be provided in FFY 2017, I have gathered the required information and included them in the training plan. There are some Training Funding Checklists that were approved by you and Jill after the 6/30/16 submission of the 2016 APSR training plan, and it was my understanding that I needed to also include those in this submitted plan. One of the other reasons for the volume is we and our training providers made a great effort to include training funding checklists for all training that will be or might be provided in FFY 2017, which were new or for which we needed information to make the Training Funding Checklists in compliance with Program Instructions requirements.”

Karla Richardson subsequently requested that the SCDSSS “put together the list of training activities that the Children’s Bureau approved after the submission of the 2016 APSR on 6/30/16 (that were included in the 2017 APSR) and send it” to her. That was provided.

## Juvenile Justice Transfers

### Information not gathered by the state:

***Juvenile Justice Transfers:*** Report the number of children under the care of the state child protection system who were transferred into the custody of the state juvenile justice system in FY 2015 (specify if another time period is used). Describe the source of this information, how the state defines the reporting population, and any other relevant contextual information about the data. (See section 106(d)(14) of CAPTA).

2017 APSR Pg. 211. “The CAPSS system does not track transfers of children in Foster Care coming from and going to the Juvenile Justice System, as the child remains in the custody of the SCDSS.”

Please explain further the custody piece.

### State Response:

- Children in Foster Care remain in the legal custody of DSS, even if they are placed in a DJJ facility. Therefore, legal custody of a Foster Child is not transferred to any other agency. Therefore the number of children transferred into the custody of the SC Department of Juvenile Justice during DDY 2015 was 0 children.
- The SCDSS has the following Policy and procedures related to children in SCDSS custody who also enter the Juvenile Justice System, and those not in SCDSSS custody but with an open case file who enter the Juvenile Justice System.

821.02 Service Coordination with the Department of Juvenile Justice

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Family Preservation and Child Welfare Services

Policy and Procedure Manual

These procedures are to clarify situations in which a youth requires the services of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and DSS when youth move from one agency to the other, and when youth and their families need the services of both agencies. Coordination of services will be facilitated through treatment teams consisting of workers and managers of the local/county DJJ and DSS/MTS offices and when deemed appropriate by either agency, staff from state DJJ and DSS/MTS offices. The teams will be developed through efforts of county/regional directors from both agencies, who are



ultimately responsible for ensuring that the joint cases are staffed on a regular basis. When it is known prior to court that DJJ is recommending DSS involvement, DJJ should staff with DSS prior to court. DJJ should not recommend that a child be placed in the physical or legal custody of DSS without previously staffing the case. Activities set out here are subject to DJJ's agreement to the staffing process and to the roles of DSS and DJJ towards the family and child.

### **Responsibility Action**

DSS Contact Person 1. If a youth is in foster care and is committed to a DJJ institution, a joint staffing will be held within 30 days of commitment in accordance with an established interagency protocol.

2. For cases in which DSS has a child in foster care and DJJ is recommending the child in foster care be committed to a DJJ facility, coordinate a joint staffing between both agencies to:

- a) Involve the parents, GAL and other concerned parties in the treatment planning process;
- b) Coordinate permanent plans with the family;
- c) Coordinate resources to serve the child and family;
- d) Share medical, psychological evaluations, court orders or any other relevant information necessary for DJJ to serve the youth.

3. For youth for whom DSS does not hold custody but continues to maintain an open case (Child Protective Services), DSS will coordinate quarterly staffings to obtain updates regarding the status of the child's placement and pending release.

4. If a youth placed in a DJJ facility has an open foster care case (and there are no siblings remaining in the home), DSS will provide background information within 30 days relating to the family's involvement with the agency and make a recommendation as to the likelihood that the child can be reunited with the family upon release from the DJJ facility. DJJ will coordinate quarterly staffings (multi-discipline team meetings) to apprise the local DSS office of the status of the child's placement and pending release.

5. For youth who remain in the custody of DSS and are placed in a DJJ facility, DSS will be responsible for:

- a) Maintaining monthly face-to-face contact with the youth;
- b) Maintaining monthly contact with DJJ facility staff to obtain a progress report on the child including: educational, behavioral, medical, social and psychological information;
- c) Involving DJJ staff in permanency planning for the child;
- d) Sending a written invitation to DJJ County Director/ DJJ Case Manager for scheduled Foster Care Review Board hearings (at least 3 weeks advance notice).

6. If a home evaluation/family assessment is needed or ordered by a court the following are recommended:

- a) DSS will conduct home evaluations for youth in the custody of DSS or if there is an open treatment case.

Note: DJJ should be responsible for conducting home evaluations if DSS has not had any recent involvement, or if DSS does not have legal custody of youth.

- b) Results of family home evaluations should be shared between DSS and DJJ prior to submitting their findings to a court.

7. If a foster child reaches age eighteen while in a DJJ facility, the child's case will not automatically close unless emancipation is stipulated in a court order. (This is to ensure the child has access to Independent Living Services if needed.)

8. If DSS determines that the family's case is to be closed and a child is in a DJJ facility, the local DJJ office should be contacted to schedule a staffing.

9. Disputes regarding services should be resolved by the county/regional directors of the respective agencies (when DSS retains custody of youth). If resolution is not obtained, the county/regional director may refer the matter to the Children's Case Resolution System after receiving written approval from the State Director of Social Services.

10. If a youth is residing in a DJJ facility and the custodian or parent is non-compliant or not in agreement with the treatment or services, an interagency planning staffing shall be held at least 30 days prior to the youth's anticipated release date. DJJ shall be responsible for scheduling and facilitating the staffing. The staffing should be attended by representatives from every agency that might serve youth upon his/her release. The product of the staffing shall be a Service Delivery Plan which lists the services each agency will deliver upon the youth's release, and the recommendations of the agencies.

11. For situations in which DSS is not involved with a child at a DJJ facility, if the parents or caretakers refuse to pick up or make arrangements for their child upon their release, the agency will conduct children's protective services investigation.

## Inter-Country Adoptions

**2017 APSR- Page 212. Report the number of children who were adopted from other countries and who entered into state custody in FY 2015 as a result of the disruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption, the agencies who handled the placement or the adoption, the plans for the child, and the reasons for the disruption or dissolution.**

**When will this item be implemented? There is a potential for a PIP for this item?**

State Response:

- Work has been ongoing on multiple items related to this requirement. The Supervisor of the Unit responsible to collaborate with the SCDSS CAPSS (SACWIS) Unit retired and work has not recommenced. It is anticipated that work on this project will recommence in late September or early October. With the recommencement of work on this project, it is anticipated that the State could have this tracking implemented by January 2017.

**Children's Bureau -What Policies or procedures have been developed so far.ie., will a questionnaire be made, will updates be made in the CAPSS system that tease out questions to workers, will training be provided to field staff?**

State Response:

- No policies and procedures have been developed to date. The required policies and procedures, including any questionnaires and updates to CAPSS to obtain and track the information is to be determined. Training will be provided on the new policies and procedures.

## SC IV-E Amendments Program Improvement Plan, PL 113-183

Update on the Objectives / Strategies / Action Items that should have been completed during the 2017 APSR reporting period based on what is outlined in the PIP submitted to the Children's Bureau, April 29, 2015.

State Response:

- The State has scheduled all required Policy and Procedure additions and revisions to be approved, published in the SC Child Welfare Policy Manual, and implemented by September 29, 2016. All proposed Policy and Procedure revisions and additions are being reviewed by the SCDSS Executive Staff.

**Line 10- A- TRANSFER OF A CHILD TO A TRIBAL AGENCY - The case plan developed pursuant to section 475(1) and 475A of the Act, including health and education records of the child pursuant to section 475(1)(C) of the Act**

- Target: 6/27/16
- Status 6/27/16: Complete. Policy changes to SCDSS Executive Staff for review.

**Line 13- B- CASE REVIEW SYSTEM 1. Case Plan. To meet the case plan requirements of sections 471(a)(16), 475(1), 475(5)(A), (D) and (H), and 475 (1) A of the Act, the State/Tribal agency has promulgated policy materials and instructions for use by State/Tribe and local agency staff to determine the appropriateness of and necessity for the foster care placement of the child.**

- Target: 6/27/16
- Status 6/27/16: Complete. Policy changes to SCDSS Executive Staff for review.

**Line 16 – C - CASE REVIEW SYSTEM 1. Case Plan. i. where appropriate for a child 14 or over: includes a written description of the programs and services which will help such child prepare for the transition from foster care to successful adulthood. With respect to a child who has attained 14 years of age, any revision or addition to the plan must be developed in consultation with the child and, at the option of the child, with up to 2 members of the case planning team who are chosen by the child and who are not a foster parent of, or caseworker for, the child. A State/Tribal agency may reject an individual selected by a child to be a member of the case planning team at any time if the agency has good cause to believe that the individual would not act in the best interests of the child. One individual selected by a child to be a member of the child's case planning team may be designated to be the child's advisor and as necessary, advocate, with respect to the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard to the child;**

**Line 18 - 22 – C - Coordinate with Internal and External Stakeholders; and review forms.**

- Target: 10/31/2015
- Status: 10/31/2015. Complete. Policy Changes and Revised Forms to SCDSS Policy Unit.
- This also applies to Line 41 E.

**Line 23 – C- Draft Policy changes to SCDSS Policy Unit**

- Target: 12/01/2015
- Status: 12/01/2015. Complete. Policy Changes and Revised Form to Policy Workgroup for review
- This also applies to Line 43 E, Line 62 G, Line 78 H, Line 96 I, Line 113 J, Line 129 K, Line 149 L, Line 172 M, Line 189 N, Line 225 P, Line 226 P, Line 241-242 Q, Line 256-

257 R, Line 271 & 273 S, Line 287 & 289 T, Line 304 U, Line 305 U, Line 323 V, Line 337 & 338 W.

**Line 24 – C - Assign review of ACF-provided technical assistance/training modules**

- Target: 02/01/2016
- Status: 02/01/2016. Complete. Material for Curriculum Development submitted to Training Partners and Agency Staff Involved in Development of this training.
- This also applies to Line 44 E, Line 63 G, Line 79 H, Line 97 I, Line 114 J, Line 130 K, Line 150 L, Line 173 M, Line 190 N, Line 227 P, Line 243 Q, Line 258 R, Line 274 S, Line 290 T, Line 306 U, Line 324 V, Line 339 W.

**Line 25 – C - Development of training activity plan with other training modules for PL 113-183, presentations, dates, submit training funding checklists for pre-approval to ACF.**

- Target: 03/01/2016
- Status: 03/01/2016. Complete. Training for Leadership to be conducted between 07/01/2016 and 09/01/2016. Training to consist of 3 modules: APPLA, Transition Planning, Case Review, Permanency, RPPS and Preventing Child Sex Trafficking. This training to be mandatory for Leadership of SCDSS Child Welfare and CPAs, Group Homes and other External Child Welfare Stakeholders.
- This also applies to Line 45 E, Line 64 G, Line 80 H, Line 98 I, Line 115 J, Line 131 K, Line 151 L, Line 174 M, Line 191 N, Line 228 P, Line 229 P, Line 244 Q, Line 259 R, Line 275 S, Line 291 T, Line 307 U, Line 325 V, Line 340 W.

**Line 26 – C- Publicize new policy, training dates, and registration**

- Target: 04/01/2016
- Status: 04/01/2016 Training Dates and Registration Publication. Complete. 1 session in each region and 1 makeup in Columbia. APPLA, Transition Planning, Case Reviews, Permanency and RPPS are held on same day. July 21, Florence, July 26, Greenville, August 4, Columbia, August 11, Aiken, August 17, Charleston and September 1, Columbia (Makeup). Preventing Child Sex Trafficking July 25, Columbia, July 26, Florence, July 27, Aiken, July 28, Spartanburg, August 17 Columbia (Makeup) and August 18, Charleston.
- This also applies to Line 46 E, Line 65 G, Line 81 H, Line 100 I, Line 117 J, Line 132 K, Line 152 L, Line 192 N, Line 226 P, Line 245 Q, Line 260 R, Line 276 S, Line 292 T, Line 308 U, Line 326 V, Line 341 W.

**Line 27 – C - Policy changes to SCDSS Executive Staff**

- Target: 04/01/2016
- Status: 04/01/2016 Complete.
- This also applies to Line 47 E, Line 66 G, Line 82 H, Line 101 I, Line 118 J, Line 133 K, Line 153 L, Line 175 M, Line 193 N, Line 226 P, Line 231 P, Line 246 Q, Line 261 R, Line 277 S, Line 293 T, Line 309 U, Line 327 V, Line 342 W.

**Line 28 – C - Policy changes signed by SCDSS Executive Staff**

- Target: 05/01/2016
- Status: Incomplete.
- Barriers to targeted completion: New staff added to Executive Staff delayed review and approval.
- Revised Target Date: 9/23/16

- Plan to complete objective/action step: Policies and Forms being reviewed by SCDSS Executive Staff.
- This also applies to Line 48 E, Line 67 G, Line 83 H, Line 102 I, Line 119 J, Line 134 K, Line 154 L, Line 176 M, Line 194 N, Line 226 P, Line 232 P, Line 247 Q, Line 262 R, Line 278 S, Line 294 T, Line 310 U, Line 328 V, Line 343 W.

**Line 29 – C – Publish New Policy**

- Target: 06/15/2016
- Status: Incomplete.
- Barriers to targeted completion: Arrival and orientation of new staff added to Executive Staff delayed review and approval for publishing.
- Revised Target Date: 9/28/16
- Plan to complete objective/action step: Policies and Forms being reviewed by SCDSS Executive Staff.
- This also applies to Line 49 E, Line 68 G, Line 84 H, Line 103 I, Line 120 J, Line 135 K, Line 155 L, Line 177 M, Line 196 N, Line 232 P, Line 248 Q, Line 263 R, Line 279 S, Line 295 T, Line 311 U, Line 329 V, Line 344 W.

**Line 37 – D - Documents the steps to finalize a placement when the case plan goal is or becomes adoption or placement in another permanent home in accordance with sections 475(1)(E), (5)(E), and 475A(a)(1) of the Act. When the case plan goal is adoption, at a minimum such documentation shall include child-specific recruitment efforts such as the use of Tribal, State, regional, and national adoption exchanges including electronic exchange systems to facilitate orderly and timely in-State/Tribal service area and inter-State/Tribal service area placements;**

- Target: Complete at IV-E PIP submission 9/28/15.

**Line 40 – E- Case Review "for a child for whom another planned permanent living arrangement has been determined as the permanency plan, determine the steps the state/tribal agency is taking to ensure the child's foster family home or child care institution is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard and to ascertain whether the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities; and" (See Line 42)**

**Line 42 – E - Develop monitoring tool and process**

- Target: 11/15/2015
- Status: Incomplete
- Revised Target Date: 6/63/16
- Status: Complete 6/30/16 Policy and Form changes to SCDSS Executive Staff for review.

**Line 57 – F - Case Review- The State/Tribal agency has a case review system which meets the requirements of sections 475(5), 475(6) and 475A of the Act and assures that:**

- Target: Complete at IV-E PIP submission, 9/29/15.

**Line 77 – H - Determine if Policy needs to be updated by adding "in accordance with 475A.**

- Target: 10/31/2015
- Status: Complete Updated Policy Presented to Executive Staff.

**Line 92 – I - Policy - 2D.6 Annual Credit Reports. Each child in foster care under the responsibility of the State/Tribal agency who has attained 14 years of age receives without cost a copy of any consumer report (as defined in section 603(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act) (See Line 94)**

**Line 94 – I - New staff Position Description submitted**

- Target: 08/15/2016
- Status: Complete

**Line 95 – I - Hire new staff for Annual Credit Reports in Independent Living Unit**

- Target: 11/30/2015
- Status: Incomplete
- Barriers to targeted completion: The Agency has been in the process of adding a significant number of staff to its workforce.
- Revised Target Date: 8/1/16
- Status: Complete. SCDSS Identity Theft Coordinator hired 7/18/16.

**Line 99 – I – Credit Report Start Date**

- Target: 03/15/2016
- Status: Incomplete
- Barriers to targeted completion: Identity Theft Coordinator position not filled until 7/18/16 and policy and procedures to support incomplete.
- Revised Target Date: 9/29/16
- Plan to complete Objective / Strategy / Action Step: Procedures under review by Executive Staff, Office of General Counsel Reviewing Agreements with Credit Reporting Agencies, IT and State Cyber Security Developing Cyber Security Procedures.
- This also applies to Line 116 J.

**Line 111 – J - Official Documents. Each child leaving foster care by reason of having attained 18 years of age or such greater age as the State has elected under 475(8), unless the child has been in foster care for less than 6 months, must be discharged from care with an official or certified copy of the United States birth certificate of the child, a social security card issued by the Commissioner of Social Security, health insurance information, a copy of the child's medical records and a driver's license or identification card issued in accordance with the requirements of section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005. (See Line 112)**

**Line 112- J – Revise Exit Checklist**

- Target: 12/1/15
- Status: Complete. 4/16/16. [DSS Form 1598 \(APR 16\).pdf](#)

**Line 147 – L - Revise Court Report to include new required information that will be presented to the court.**

- Target: 10/31/2015
- Status: Complete 8/16/16. [DSS Form 3058 \(AUG 16\).doc](#)

**Line 148 – L - Develop and provide SCDSS Legislative Liaison statute for 2016 Session**

- Target: 11/11/2015
- Status: Complete. SC House Bill 4546 contains all required State Statute additions. [4546.docx](#)
- [This also includes Line 272 S, Line 288 T](#)

**Line 164 – M - ABSENCES FROM CARE - The State/Tribal agency has protocols for:**

1. Expediently locating any child missing from foster care,
2. Determining the primary factors that contributed to the child's running away or otherwise being absent from care, and to the extent possible and appropriate, responding to those factors in current and subsequent placements,
3. Determining the child's experiences while absent from care, including screening the child to determine if

the child is a possible sex trafficking victim, and

4. Reporting such related information as required by the Secretary. (See Line 165)

**Line 165 – M - Consult with Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center regarding protocols developed from “Lowcountry Task Force on Preventing Sex Trafficking”**

- Target: 08/14/2015
- Status: Complete – Reviewed protocol developed by taskforce for use when a child returns to care after an absence from care to determine if child was a victim of sex trafficking during this absence. Consulted with Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center regarding development of a protocol for use by caseworkers when a child is absence from care and when an absent child is located. Reviewed Commercial Sex Exploitation of Children Protocol established by Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center. Submitted this information to Policy Unit for review and submission to Executive Staff for review.
- This line also applies too line 169 M, Line 172 M

**Line 166 – M - Consult with DSS Law Enforcement Liaison regarding DSS LE protocol**

- Target: 08/14/2015
- Status: Complete 1/1/16- Following was discussed as SCDSS LE Protocol for child missing from care. Child to be placed into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) Missing Person File and into National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Database as indicated in Policy 834 to be Policy 550.04 in revised policy manual. Revise MOA with local law enforcement agencies.
- Plan to complete Objective / Strategy / Action Step: Revised MOA with local law enforcement being reviewed by Executive staff for 9/29/16 implementation.
- This also applies to Line 172 M.

**Line 167 – M - Review DSS Form 30233 (Endangered Runaway Checklist for Case Managers)**

- Target: 08/14/2015
- Status: Complete 3/1/16 .Form 30233 has been updated and submitted to Policy Unit for inclusion in proposed policies which have been presented to Executive Staff for review.
- This line also applies to line 170 M, line 172 M.

**Line 168 – M - Develop suggested policy change to policy number 834, changing "immediately" to "within 24 hours"**

- Target: 10/31/2015
- Status: Complete 6/30/16 - This policy has been updated and submitted to Policy Unit for inclusion in proposed policies which have been presented to Executive Staff for review.
- This line also applies to line 172 M.

**Line 171 – M - Add "Risk Factors and Possible Indicators of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" to the reference section in the DSS Intranet Home Page, Unite Page**

- Target: 11/30/2015
- Status: Complete 2/19/16- [CSEC Graphic v 2.pdf](#)
- This also applies to line 165 M.

**Line 185 – N - The State/Tribe must include in the case plan for any child in foster care who has attained 14 (or 13?) years of age: 1. A document that describes the rights of the child with respect to education, health visitation, and court participation, the right to be provided with the documents specified in section 475(5)(I) in accordance with that section, and the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation; and 2. a signed acknowledgement by the child that the child has been provided with a copy of the documentation and that the rights contained in the document have been explained to the child in an age-appropriate way. (See Line 186)**

**Line 186 – N - With assistance from key stakeholders, define foster youth's rights with respect to education, health care, visitation and court participation.**

- Target: 10/16/15
- Status: Complete 12/4/16 - Received Feedback from Stakeholders at 12/4/2015 Statewide Stakeholders Meeting.

**Line 187 – N - Create document explaining youth's rights.**

- Target: 10/31/2015
- Status: Complete 2/15/16 - This form has been updated and submitted to Policy Unit for inclusion in proposed policies which have been presented to Executive Staff for review. Document is titled Youth Right's Case Plan Addendum.
- This also applies to line 188 N.

**Line 195 – N - Add approved document to Agency's Master Forms Index.**

- Target: 05/15/2016
- Status: Incomplete.
- Barriers to targeted completion: This Form is part of the SC Child Welfare Policy Manual re-write and publishing
- Revised Target Date: 9/28/16
- Plan to complete Objective / Strategy / Action Step: Being reviewed by Executive Staff.

**Line 204 – 208 - O - Eligibility For adoption Incentive Funding. 1. States that are eligible for adoption incentive funds must be in compliance with the data requirements in section 473A(b)(2) of the Act; and 473A(b)(3) the State is in compliance with subsection (c) for the fiscal year; c) DATA REQUIREMENTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—A State is in compliance with this subsection for a fiscal year if the State has provided to the Secretary the data described in paragraph (2)— (A) for fiscal years 1995 through 1997 (or, if the first fiscal year for which the State seeks a grant under this section is after fiscal year 1998, the fiscal year that precedes such first fiscal year); and (B) for each succeeding fiscal year that precedes the fiscal year. (2) DETERMINATION OF NUMBERS OF ADOPTIONS BASED ON AFCARS DATA —The Secretary shall determine the numbers of foster child adoptions, of special needs adoptions that are not older child adoptions, .and of older child adoptions in a State during a fiscal year, and the foster child adoption rate for the state for the fiscal year for purposes of this section, on the basis of data meeting the requirements of the system established pursuant to section 479, as reported by the State and approved by the Secretary by August 1 of the succeeding fiscal year. (3) NO WAIVER OF AFCARS REQUIREMENTS.—This section shall not be construed to alter or affect any requirement of section 479 or of any regulation prescribed under such section with respect to reporting of data by States, or to waive any penalty for failure to comply with such a requirement. (See Line 209)**



**Line 209 – O - Review if need to draft Policy and practice changes to SCDSS Policy Unit**

- Target: 12/01/2015
- Status: Complete – No policy or practice change needed.
- This also includes line 212 O, line 213 O, line 214 O and line 215 O.

**Line 210 – O - Assign review of ACF-provided technical assistance/training modules**

- Target: 12/01/2015
- Status: Complete – No additional training or technical assistance needed for this item.
- This also includes line 211 O and line 212 O.

**Line 223 and 224 – P - STANDARDS FOR FOSTER FAMILY HOMES AND CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS-** The agency has established or designated a State/Tribal authority(ies) ... and which shall permit use of the reasonable and prudent parenting standard. The standards so established are applied by the State/Tribe to any foster family home or child-care institution receiving funds under titles IV-E or IV-B. The standards shall require, as a condition of each contract entered into by a child care institution to provide foster care, the presence on-site of at least 1 official who, with respect to any child placed at the child care institution, is designated to be the caregiver who is authorized to apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard to decisions involving the participation of the child in age or developmentally-appropriate activities, and who is provided with training in how to use and apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard in the same manner as prospective foster parents are provided the training pursuant to paragraph 471(a)(24). The standards for foster family homes and child care institutions shall include policies related to the liability of foster parents and private entities under contract by the State involving the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard, to ensure appropriate liability for caregivers when a child participates in an approved activity and the caregiver approving the activity acts in accordance with the reasonable and prudent parent standard. ... The State/Tribal agency may provide waivers of such standards .... (See Line 226)

**Line 226 – P - Establish certification process for meeting the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard.**

- Target: 05/01/2016
- Status: Complete – Policy, Practice and Forms to document how Foster Home, Group Home or Other Facility type are following the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard have been included in proposed policy and forms which have gone to the Policy Unit and proposed to Executive Staff for review.

**Line 230 – P - Implement standard into licensing standards and in the residential services contracts.**

- Target: 06/30/2016
- Status: Complete – Change Order was developed to be included standards in contracts. [Change Order for RPPS.docx](#)

**Line 303 – U - The term ‘sibling’ means individual who satisfies at least one of the following conditions with respect to a child: a. The individual is considered by state/tribal law to be a sibling of the child. b. The individual would have been considered a sibling of the child under State/Tribal law but for a termination or other disruption of parental rights, such as the death of a parent. (See Line 304)**

**Line 304 – U - Develop and provide SCDSS Legislative Liaison statute for 2016 Session**

- Target: 11/11/2015
- Status: South Carolina Legislature did not need to update the definition of sibling. SCDSS Policy will include definition of “sibling.”

**Line 319 - 321 – V - Sex Trafficking Victims and Missing Children- 1. The State/Tribal agency has developed, in consultation with State and local law enforcement, juvenile justice, health care providers, education agencies, and organizations with experience in dealing with at-risk youth, policies and procedures (including relevant**

training for caseworkers) for identifying, documenting in agency records, and determining appropriate services for: a. any child or youth over whom the State/Tribal agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision and who the agency has reasonable cause to believe is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim (including children for whom an agency has an open case file but who have not been removed from the home, children who have run away from foster care and who have not attained 18 years of age or such older age as the State has elected under section 475(8) of this the Act, and youth who are not in foster care but are receiving services under section 477 of this the Act); and b. at the option of the State/Tribal agency, any individual who has not attained 26 years of age, without regard to whether the individual is or was in foster care under the responsibility of the agency; Policy; 2. For each child and youth described in 471(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of the Act, the State/Tribal agency shall report immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after receiving, information on missing or abducted children to the law enforcement authorities for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. 3. For each child or youth described in 471(a)(9)(C)(i)(I), the state/tribal agency shall report immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours after receiving information on children or youth who have been identified as being a sex trafficking victim, to local law enforcement. (See Line 322)

**Line 322 – V - Develop and provide SCDSS Legislative Liaison statute for 2016 Session**

- Target: 11/11/2015
- Status: Complete – SCDSS Office of General Counsel determined this item does not require a statute change.

**Line 337 – W – Safeguarding Information. f. the disclosure of information pursuant to 471(a)(34)(A) to the appropriate authorities with respect to children or youth identified in 471(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of the Act who have been identified as being a sex trafficking victim; and g. the disclosure of information pursuant to 471(a)(35)(B) to appropriate authorities with respect to children identified in 471(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of the Act who are missing or abducted.**

- Target: 11/30/16
- Status: Complete – SCDSS Office of General Counsel determined this item does not require a statute change, see SC 63-7-1990(B)(4). See Line 168, Section M.