

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

During the week of February 14-18, 2011, a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Fairfield 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, Fairfield DSS supervisors and workers, representative from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health, Family Court Judge, Law Enforcement and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Period under Review: February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011

Purpose

The Department of Social Services engages in a review of child welfare services in each county to:

- a) Determine to what degree services are delivered in compliance with federal and state laws and agency policy; and
- b) Assess the outcomes for children and families engaged in the child welfare system.

State law (§43-1-115) states, in part:

The state department shall conduct, at least once every five years, a substantive quality review of the child protective services and foster care programs in each county and each adoption office in the State. The county's performance must be assessed with reference to specific outcome measures published in advance by the department.

The information obtained by the child welfare services review process will:

- a) Give county staff feedback on the effectiveness of their interventions.
- b) Direct state office technical assistance staff to assist county staff with their areas needing improvement.
- c) Inform agency administrators of which systemic factors impair county staff's ability to achieve specific outcomes.
- d) Direct training staff to provide training for county staff specific to their needs.

Quantitative and Qualitative Data Sources

The county-specific review of child welfare services is both quantitative and qualitative.

The review is **quantitative** because it begins with an analysis of every child welfare outcome report for that county for the period under review. The outcome reports reflect the performance of the county in all areas of the child welfare program: Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake, CPS Investigations, CPS In-Home Treatment and Foster Care.

The review is **qualitative** because it assesses the quality of the services rendered and the effectiveness of those services. The review seeks to explain why a county's performance data looks the way it does.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

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 | Strength |
| 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 had a dictation type contact of initial contact where the action date is within 24 hours of accepting the report? Report Period: 01/1/2010 to 12/31/2010				
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	18,670	18,184	97.4%	-486
Fairfield	93	92	98.9%	-1

Explanation of Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours. Agency data indicates that for the 12-month period under review Fairfield initiated 92 of its 93 investigations (98.9%) of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours. The one investigation that appeared to be late was due to a data entry error. Reviewers also found that risk ratings were assigned accurately.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	78	2	22	0	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	16	84	3	16	0	0

Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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. In 78% of the foster care and 90% of the treatment cases reviewed, there was no additional maltreatment. Two foster care cases and one treatment case needed improvement because there was an additional report received subsequent to the first report and both reports were indicated.

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**

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Safety Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	5	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	13	93	1	7	5	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item assesses whether services were adequate to protect children in their home and prevent their removal and placement into foster care. In 93% of the foster care and treatment cases, appropriate services were being offered to safely maintain the children in their home when it was appropriate to do so. However, one treatment case needed improvement due to the workers not acting decisively when risk

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

factors were identified and the services provided by the agency were not sufficient to address the safety issues in the home.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Safety Item 4: Risk of Harm						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	14	73	5	27	0	0

Explanation of Item 4: Risk of Harm

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item assesses whether the agency's interventions reduced risk of harm to children. Although none of the children in foster care were at risk of harm, risk was not well managed for 50% of the children in in-home treatment cases. In those cases the agency failed to complete background checks and assessments on all adults in the home who had an active role in the children's lives. Workers did not act decisively when risk factors were identified.

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 | Strength |
| 10) Permanency goal of Alternate Planned
Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) | Area Needing Improvement |

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Safety Item 5: Foster care re-entries						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	5	0

Explanation of Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item measures the frequency of children re-entering foster care within a year of discharge. Reviewers determined that in 100% of the foster care cases reviewed, the children did not re-enter foster care within 12 months of the date of their discharge from a previous foster care episode.

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 placement settings.				
Report Period: 01/01/10 to 12/31/10				
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	3476	2757	79.3%	-232.4
Fairfield	6	6	100.0%	0.8

Explanation of Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item measures the frequency of placement changes for children in foster care, and assesses the reasons for those changes. The objective is that at least 86% of the children in care have two or fewer placements within 12 months. Agency data shows that 100% of Fairfield DSS children had two or fewer placements; this is above the established objective. Reviewers determined that onsite findings were consistent with agency data.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 7: Permanency Goal for Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	89	1	11	0	0

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

Explanation of Item 7: Permanency Goal for Children

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness of permanency goals for children in foster care and the timeliness of those permanency decisions. Reviewers determined that 89% of the children in foster care, the agency quickly identified the appropriate permanency goal. In one case, the agency disregarded facts in a case regarding a 14 years old child who had never resided with the mother, did not have a supportive relationship with any other family members and no desire by either parties to establish a relationship; gave the child entering care, the unrealistic plan of "Return Home."

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, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? Report Period: 01/01/10 to 12/31/10				
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	2394	1758	73.4%	-42.3
Fairfield	4	2	50.0%	-1.0

Explanation of Item 8: Reunification or Permanent Placement with Relatives

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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 50.0% of Fairfield DSS children were reunified with their parents, which is below the 75.2% federal standard.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 9: Time to Finalize Adoption – Of all children who left foster care due to finalized adoption during the reporting year, what percentage left foster care in less than 24 months from the date of their latest removal from home? Report Period: 01/01/10 to 12/31/10				
Objective: >= 36.6% (National 75 th Percentile)				
	Total Number of Finalized Adoptions	Number of Adoptions finalized < 24 months	Percent of Adoptions Finalized < 24 months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	572	137	24.0%	-74.4
Fairfield	2	1	50.0%	0.3

Explanation of Item 9: Adoption

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. Agency data shows that Fairfield DSS completed 2 adoptions in SFY2009/2010. Fifty percent of the two adoptions was finalized within 24 months of the child entering care which surpasses the national percentile of 36.6%

Onsite Review Findings

Permanency Item 10: Permanency Goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	75	1	25	5	0

Explanation of Item 10: Permanency Goal of APPLA

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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 75% of the cases reviewed, the children were receiving the appropriate independent living services and the agency attempted to find an adult who was committed to supporting the children as they grew into adulthood.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

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

Onsite Review Findings

Permanency Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	2	0

Explanation of Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep children close enough to their families so that essential relationships can be maintained.

Reviewers determined that in 100% of the cases reviewed, the children were placed close enough to their families to maintain relationships that were important to them.

Onsite Review Findings

Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	60	2	40	4	0

Explanation of Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. In 60% of the cases reviewed, sibling groups were kept together when appropriate. Two cases needed improvement because of system issues, not because of the needs of the children.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 13: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	7	100	2	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to ensure that visits occur between children in foster care and their siblings and parents. Improvement was needed in all of the cases reviewed because the agency either failed to arrange visits between children and their non-custodial fathers or failed to assess the appropriateness of such visits. There was also a lack of diligent search and establishment of paternity for the fathers and failure by the agency to arrange visitation with siblings.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	50	8	50	1	0

Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to preserve children's connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. Improvement was needed in half of the cases reviewed because the agency did not give attention to the relationships that were important to the child.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 15: Relative Placement						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	13	7	87	1	0

Explanation of Item 15: Relative Placement

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to identify and assess relatives as potential placement resources for children in foster care. In 87% of the cases reviewed, reviewers found that the agency did not look for or assess

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

maternal and paternal relatives as placement options. This item was also impacted by the agency's lack of establishing paternity and diligent search for the fathers.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 16: Relationship of Child in Care with Parents						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	4	100	5	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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 100% of the cases reviewed, the visitation plans were exactly the same, without regard for the age and needs of the child, the permanency plan or any other factor that should have been considered.

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	4	44	5	56	0	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	9	47	10	53	0	0

Fairfield County DSS
 Child Welfare Services Review
 February 2011

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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 56% of the foster care cases and in 50% of the treatment cases reviewed, needs and services of the child and parents were not adequately assessed. In most of the cases that needed improvement, the agency failed to assess the parents, paramours, age-appropriate children and non-custodial parents' needs. The agency failed to communicate with non-custodial fathers even when the agency was aware of their whereabouts. The lack of establishing paternity in the foster care cases when requested also affected this item.

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 18: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	38	5	62	1	0
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0
Total Cases	10	56	8	44	1	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to involve parents and children in the case planning process. Reviewers found that 62% of the foster care cases and 30% of the treatment cases needed improvement because the parents and the age-appropriate children were not involved in the case planning process. This rating was affected by the agency's failure to diligently look for and engage the fathers of children in care. This rating was also affected by the lack of diligent search, establishment of paternity and consistent follow-up by the agency with the parents even when they had knowledge of their whereabouts.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

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: 01/01/10 to 12/31/10

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	13	12	92.3%	1
Treatment	113	98	86.7%	15

Explanation of Item 19: Worker Visits with Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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 require that children under agency supervision be seen each month. Agency data shows that 92.3% of the children in foster care and 86.7% of the children in in-home treatment cases were visited monthly.

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	3	100	6	0
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0
Total Cases	7	54	6	46	6	0

Explanation of Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with parents, and evaluates the quality of those visits. Improvement was needed in 100% of the foster care cases and 30% of the treatment cases due to the agency's failure to visit both parents during the period under review, especially when the plan was to return the child home to their parents. Reviewers noted that caseworkers did not consistently use their visits with the parents to discuss treatment or permanency related topics or follow up on requests to establish paternity or to pursue diligent search for missing fathers. Also, once information was obtained on the fathers by the agency there was a lack of follow-up to utilize the information to contact the fathers. In the treatment cases, the caseworkers did not visit the

Fairfield County DSS
 Child Welfare Services Review
 February 2011

alternative caregivers as required to ensure the safety of the children for whom they were responsible for.

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	5	71	2	29	2	0
Treatment	7	100	0	0	3	0
Total Cases	12	86	2	14	5	0

Explanation of Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and address the educational needs of children under agency supervision. In 71% of the foster care cases and in 100% of the treatment cases, reviewers found that workers made direct contact with the school and there were also copies of grade reports and attendance records in the files. This item failed to achieve the 95% objective due to the agency failing to follow-up on information that indicated that the foster child needed assistance with some education-related issue.

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 **Area Needing Improvement**
 23) Mental health of the child **Area Needing Improvement**

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	89	1	11	0	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	17	89	2	11	0	0

Explanation of Item 22: Physical Health of the Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the medical needs of children under agency supervision. In 89% of the foster care cases and in 90% of the treatment cases, the physical health and dental needs of the children were assessed and the identified medical needs were addressed. In the majority of the cases reviewed, the agency did a good job of assessing medical needs but failed to assess the dental needs of the children involved. In some of the foster care cases that needed improvement the agency failed to communicate with service providers to confirm that the medical or dental needs of the children were being met. In one treatment case, the agency failed to assess the medical needs of all the children that lived in the home. Copies of medical, dental and immunizations records were in most of the cases.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	67	2	33	3	0
Treatment	4	57	3	43	3	0
Total Cases	8	62	5	38	6	0

Explanation of Item 23: Mental Health of the Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the mental health needs of children under agency supervision. In 62% of the foster care cases and treatment cases, the children's mental health needs were assessed and met. However, this fell short of the 95% objective because children did not consistently receive services called for in their mental health assessments nor did the agency follow-up or obtain medical records on the identified services that the children received.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

Unfounded Investigations

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

Explanation of Item 24: Unfounded Investigation

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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. In 60% of the cases reviewed, the assessment was inadequate and in 40% of the cases, the decision to unfound was inappropriate. These cases should have been indicated for abuse or neglect and the agency should have intervened to ensure the safety of the children in those homes.

Screened Out Intakes

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>	Yes	No	Cannot Determine
Was Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	8	1	1
Were necessary Collaterals Contacted?	4	6	0
Were Appropriate Referrals made?	0	0	10

Explanation of Item 25: Screened Out Intakes

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield 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. Eleven percent of the Intakes that were screened out should have been accepted for investigation because the allegations listed in the report met the legal definition of Child Abuse and Neglect and warranted an investigation. Also, reviewers could not determine whether or not one intake was screened appropriately due to the lack of information that should have been obtained from collaterals.

Foster Home Licenses

Explanation of Item 26: Foster Home Licenses

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the process by which the agency ensures that all foster homes comply with licensing requirements. Four of the 10 licenses reviewed, reviewers determined that they expired prior to the re-issuance of the

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

current license. Most of the quarterly visits were conducted but were not being completed consistently as required. Documentation in the hard files and in CAPSS was not consistent.

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
February 2011

Fairfield County DSS Summary Sheet				
Performance Item or Outcome		Performance Item Ratings		
		Strength	Area Needing Improvement	N/A*
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				
Item 1: *STR	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	13/13=100%	0	6
Item 2: ANI	Repeat maltreatment	16/19=84%	3/19=16%	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	13/14=93%	1/14=7%	5
Item 4: ANI	Risk of harm to child(ren)	14/19=73%	5/19=27%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Item 5: STR	Foster care re-entries	4/4=100%	0	5
Item 6: *STR	Stability of foster care placement	9/9=100%	0	0
Item 7: ANI	Permanency goal for child	8/9=89%	1/9=11%	0
Item 8: *ANI	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	0	3/3=100%	6
Item 9: *STR	Adoption	4/6=67%	2/6=33%	3
Item 10: ANI	Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	3/4=75%	1/4=25%	5
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	2
Item 12: ANI	Placement with siblings	3/5=60%	2/5=40%	4
Item 13: ANI	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	0	7/7=100%	2
Item 14: ANI	Preserving connections	4/8=50%	4/8=50%	1
Item 15: ANI	Relative placement	1/8= 13%	7/8=87%	1
Item 16: ANI	Relationship of child in care with parents	0	4/4=100%	5
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				
Item 17: ANI	Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	9/19=47%	10/19=53%	0
Item 18: ANI	Child and family involvement in case planning	10/18=56%	8/18=44%	1
Item 19: *ANI	Worker visits with child	16/19=84%	3/19=16%	0
Item 20: ANI	Worker visits with parent(s)	7/13=54%	6/13=46%	6
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				
Item 21: ANI	Educational needs of the child	12/14=86%	2/14=14%	5
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Item 22: ANI	Physical health of the child	17/19=89%	2/19=11%	0
Item 23: ANI	Mental health of the child	8/13=62%	5/13=38%	6

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