

State of South Carolina 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan, 2016 Annual Progress and Services Report

Strategic Action Plan



Mission:

To effectively and efficiently serve the citizen of South Carolina by ensuring the safety of children and adults who cannot protect themselves and helping families achieve stability through child support, child care, financial, and other temporary benefits transitioning into employment

Child Welfare Vision:

Improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families who receive services through the child welfare system

- Safe and thriving children with life-long families sooner (Safety, Permanency and Well-being)
- Immediate safety from significant harm
- Enduring safety with a significant person who will make a lasting, legal commitment to be there for them no matter what

Child Welfare System Imperatives:

- At all times, the child’s immediate and enduring safety and well-being must take precedence over the comfort of adults.
- Children must never be left to protect or provide for themselves or others; that is the role of all responsible adults.
- Children do not “disrupt”; adults fail to provide the adequate level of response to meet the children’s needs.
- Child safety will always improve when the adults who care for them work together and support each other.
- Shared understanding and meaning always propel actions and drive results.

Safety	Well-being	Permanency	
GOALS	GOALS	GOALS	GOALS
Goal 1: Improve the quality of Risk Assessment and Safety Management of children in Child Protective Services, Family Preservation, and Foster Care cases.	Goal 2: Children will thrive when involved with SCDSS.	Goal 3: Children will have meaningful and lifelong connections with family and in the community	Goal 4: Build System Capacity to support safe and thriving children in lifelong families.
OBJECTIVES	OBJECTIVES	OBJECTIVES	OBJECTIVES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the timeliness of initiating investigations and reduce repeat maltreatment. 2. Improve the initial and ongoing assessments of safety and risk to children to protect children in the home and prevent removal; provide services to the family to prevent children’s entry into foster care or re-entry after reunification. 3. Full, statewide implementation of the Signs of Safety (SOS) in Child Protective Services, Family Preservation, and Foster Care cases, by the end of FFY 2019. 4. Improve the quality of Abuse and Neglect Report Intake decisions through the implementation of Regional Abuse and Neglect Intake Hubs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the capacity of families to provide for their children’s needs; ensure the needs and services for the child, parents, and foster parents are identified, recommended and put into place. 2. Ensure the physical and mental health needs of children (including dental health), are addressed. 3. Improve the placement stability of children in foster care; ensure that any changes in placement that occur are in the best interest of the child, and consistent with achieving the child’s permanency goals. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the permanency and stability of children in their living situation. 2. Improve the continuity of family relationships and connections with the neighborhood community, faith, extended family, Tribe, school, and friends for children. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and implement caseload standards to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children while involved with the SCDSS. 2. Provide Leadership Development opportunities for SCDSS middle managers and executive leadership across all disciplines to enhance the implementation of child welfare practices that support permanency, safety, and well-being for children involved with the SCDSS. 3. Strengthen SCDSS Workforce Development through hiring, retention, training, and support efforts to sustain consistency in provision of critical services that promote safety, permanency, and well-being for children involved with the SCDSS. 4. Establish and maintain a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) System.

			<p>5-6. Improve the collection of accurate and consistent information and data of Independent Living Services.</p> <p>7. Improve the knowledge of Resource Families, other providers, and youth of Independent Living Services available for youth.</p> <p>8. Improve Independent Living transition planning casework for youth exiting foster care.</p> <p>9-11. Improve the amount and quality of SC National Youth In Transition Survey information from youth.</p> <p>12-14. Improve the understanding and use by the SCDSS leadership and caseworkers of the SC National Youth In Transition Survey outcomes and data in order to provide direction for actions of the SCDSS and youth.</p> <p>15. Improve youth involvement in meetings and discussions related to youth in the SC Child Welfare Services System.</p>
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