

Fairfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
April 2008

During the week of March 29 – April 4, 2008 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, Fairfield DSS supervisors, representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Period under Review: March 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008

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. Agency data reflect the performance of the county in all areas of the child welfare program: Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake, CPS Investigations, CPS In-Home Treatment, Foster Care, Managed Treatment Services (MTS), and Adoptions.

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

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Ratings

The standard that must be met for all items reviewed onsite is 90%. Each outcome report has its own standard. To be rated an area of **Strength** most items must meet both the qualitative onsite review standard **and** the quantitative outcome report standard.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

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

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

Agency Data

Performance Measure 1: Initiating CPS Investigations

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

Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008

	Number of Investigations	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Percent of Investigations Initiated Timely	Number of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	18,899	17,906	94.75	(933)
Fairfield	69	68	97.10	(1)

Explanation of Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all (100%) accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours. Agency data indicates that for the 12 month period under review, Fairfield initiated 68 of its 69 investigations of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours. Reviewers determined that the agency was appropriately assigning risk ratings to investigations.

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Agency Data				
Performance Measure 3: Treatment Cases With No New Indicated Reports – Of all treatment cases that were closed during the year reporting period, what percentage did Not have a new founded intake within 12 months of the treatment case being closed?				
Objective: $\geq 87.55\%$ Agency Average				
Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008				
	Number of Treatment Cases Closed	Number of Treatment Cases with no founded intake within 12 months	Percent of Treatment Cases that did not have a new founded intake within 12 months	Number of Cases Above (Below) State Average
State	4,949	4,333	87.55	N/A
Fairfield	27	26	96.30	2.4

Onsite Review Findings						
Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	18	90	2	10	0	0

Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment

This is an area of **Strength** 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. Agency data shows that 96.30% of the treatment cases closed were not involved in a subsequent indicated incident of maltreatment. Looking at foster care and treatment cases, reviewers found that 90% of the children under agency supervision did not experience additional maltreatment.

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Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

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

- 3) Services to family to protect children and prevent removal **Area Needing Improvement**
- 4) Risk of Harm **Area Needing Improvement**

Onsite Review Findings

Safety Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	20	4	80	5	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
Total Cases	9	60	6	40	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. Reviewers rated 80% of the foster care cases as needing improvement for two reasons: 1) some cases involved siblings who remained in the home without services needed to ensure the safety of those children, and 2) some cases involved children in foster care with several identified relatives who were not assessed as possible caregivers for those children. In 80% of the treatment cases reviewed, families received services needed to ensure the safety of the children who remained with their parents or relatives.

Onsite Review Findings

Safety Item 4: Risk of harm

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	50	5	50	0	0
Treatment	4	4	6	60	0	0
Total Cases	9	45	11	55	0	0

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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 risks of harm to children. Reviewers rated 50% of the foster care cases and 60% of the in-home treatment cases as needing improvement. In addition to the areas of concern described in Item 3 above, the risk of harm to children in several treatment cases was not properly managed because the agency failed to assess risks posed by live-in paramours. Additionally, criminal background record checks were not completed on alternative caregivers.

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

Agency Data

Performance Measure 7: Foster Care Re-entries – Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12 month period prior to the reporting period, the percent that did not re-enter foster care within 12 months of the date of their discharge.

Objective: $\geq 90.1\%$ (national 25th percentile)

Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008

	Number Children Reunited During Reporting Period	Number of Children Discharged Who Did Not Re-enter Foster Care	Percent of Children Discharged Who Did Not Re-enter Foster Care	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,450	2,306	94.12	98.5
Fairfield	16	16	100	1.4

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	6	0

Explanation of Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries

This is area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item measures the frequency of children re-entering foster care within a year of discharge. To meet the minimum requirement for this item, 90.1% of children must not re-enter foster care within a year of discharge. Agency data and onsite review findings indicate that none of the children entering care during the period under review had been in foster care previously.

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, what percentage had no more than two placement settings?

Objective: $\geq 86\%$ (national 75th percentile)

Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008

	Foster Care Services Open > 7 days and < 12 Months	Number With No More than 2 Placements	Percent with No More than 2 Placements	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	4,559	3,616	79.32	(336.7)
Fairfield	16	11	68.75	(2.9)

Explanation of Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item measures the frequency of placement changes for children in foster care, and assesses the reasons for those changes. The federal standard is that 86% of the children in care have no more than two placements in a year. Agency data shows that 68.75% of children managed by the county office had no more than two placements.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 7: Permanency Goal for Children						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0

Explanation of Item 7: Permanency Goal for Children

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness of permanency goals for children in foster care and the timeliness of those permanency decisions. Reviewers found that in all of the cases, the agency identified the appropriate goal timely.

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 8: Length of Time to Until Reunification – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, the percentage that were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal.				
Objective: \geq 75.2% (federal standard)				
Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008				
	Number of Children Returned to Parents/Caretakers	Number of Children Reunified in < 12 months	Percent of Children Reunified in < 12 Months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,314	1,788	77.27	47.9
Fairfield	10	10	100.00	2.5

Explanation of Item 8: Reunification or Permanent Placement with Relatives

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the activities and process to accomplish the goal of reunification with caregivers or placement with relatives. Agency data shows that all of the children who entered foster care during the period under review returned to their parents or relatives within a year of entering care.

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Agency Data				
Performance Measure 9: Length of Time to Finalized Adoption – Of all children who left foster care due to finalized adoption during the reporting year, what percentage left foster care within 24 months from the date of their latest removal from home?				
Objective: $\geq 36.6\%$ (national 75 th percentile)				
Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008				
	Number of Adoptions Finalized	Number of Adoptions Finalized in < 24 months	Percent of Adoptions Finalized in < 24 Months	Number of Adoptions Above (Below) Objective
State	428	71	16.59	(85.6)
Fairfield	0	0	0	0

Onsite Review Findings						
Permanency Item 9: Adoption						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	2	100	8	0

Explanation of Item 9: Adoption

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. The federal standard is that at least 36% of adoptions be completed within 24 months of a child entering care. Fairfield DSS completed no adoptions during the period under review. Fairfield DSS had only two children with the plan of adoption because a) the county had only 11 children in foster care, and b) most children returned home within a year of entering care.

The pre-adoptive placement of one child disrupted due to the mother's failing health. The other child's prospects for adoption were delayed because of late merit and permanency hearings.

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Onsite Review Findings

Permanency Item 10: Permanency Goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	6	0

Explanation of Item 10: Permanency Goal of APPLA

This is area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided to children with the permanency plan of APPLA. Reviewers found that children with this plan were receiving appropriate independent living and foster care services.

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

This outcome is based on the rating of 6 items:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 11) Proximity of foster care placement | Area Needing Improvement |
| 12) Placement with siblings in foster care | Strength |
| 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 |

Agency Data

Performance Measure 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage is placed within the county of origin?

Objective: $\geq 70\%$ (Agency established objective)

Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008

	Number of Children in Foster Care	Number of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	6,790	4,362	64.24%	(391.0)
Fairfield	21	8	38.10	(6.7)

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Explanation of Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield County DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep children close enough to their families so that essential relationships can be maintained. One measure used to evaluate this item is the percentage of children who are placed within the county. The objective is that at least 70% of the children in care be placed within the county. Agency data shows that 38.10% of Fairfield DSS children were placed within the county. Even though the county had 17 foster homes to serve the 21 existing and new children entering care, there remained a reliance on short and long-term placements in Richland County.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	0	0

Explanation of Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. In all of the cases reviewed, sibling groups of two or more were kept together. The need to keep children together contributed to the reliance on Richland County placements mentioned in Item 11 above.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 13: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	44	5	56	1	0

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

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. Reviewers found that in 44% of the cases visits between children in foster care and their parents were occurring as required by policy. Reviewers found instances when scheduled visits were cancelled because no state car was available for the worker to transport family members to DSS for their visit.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	71	2	29	3	0

Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Fairfield DSS. Whereas Item 13 addressed parents and siblings, this item evaluates the agency's efforts to preserve children's connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. Onsite reviewers found that in 71% of the cases reviewed, the agency did a good job of preserving the relationships that are important to children in foster care. The county failed to meet the 90% objective because reviewers found cases in which the county failed to help children maintain contact with former relative caregivers who posed no risk of harm to those children.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 15: Relative Placement						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	22	7	78	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. This was an area of strength in 22% of the cases reviewed. Reviewers found instances of relatives who expressed interest in caring for the children, but no evidence that those relatives were assessed. For example, in one case, there were several maternal uncles, aunts, grandparents and a godparent involved, yet there was no evidence that those relatives were assessed for potential placement. In addition, the father was involved in the case, but none of his relatives were assessed.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 16: Relationship of Child in Care with Parents						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	67	2	33	4	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 33% percent of the cases reviewed, this item was rated as an area needing improvement. Reviewers did not consistently find increased parental involvement when the needs of children clearly called for it.

Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

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	5	50	5	50	0	0
Treatment	3	30	7	70	0	0
Total Cases	8	40	12	60	0	0

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 was an area needing improvement in 70% of the treatment cases and in 50 % of the foster care cases. The most common deficiencies were a) failure to address the needs of the fathers, and b) failure to assess non-custodial parents and paramours who were significant persons in the child's life.

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Onsite Review Findings						
Well Being Item 18: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	50	4	40	1	0
Treatment	1	10	9	90	0	0
Total Cases	6	32	13	68	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. This item was rated an area needing improvement in 90% of the treatment cases and 40% of the foster care cases. In those cases, the general practice was for caseworkers to write treatment plans and "go over" the plan with a parent.

Agency Data				
Well Being Item 19: Face-to-Face Visits with Children (<18 years of age)				
Objective: 100% (state law and agency policy)				
Report Period: February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008				
	Number of Children Under Agency Supervision at Least One Complete Calendar Month	Number of Children Visited Every Month	Percent of Children Visited Every Month	Children Without a Documented Face-to-Face Visit Every Month
Foster Care	18	15	83.33	3
Treatment	104	50	48.08	54

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 requires that children under agency supervision be seen each month. Agency data shows that 83.33% of the children in foster care and 48% of the children in in-home treatment cases were seen each month during the period under review. Reviewers found that the majority of worker contacts with children were in the DSS office during visits and in the schools, not in the children's place of residence.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 20: Worker Visits with Parent(s)						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	17	5	83	4	0
Treatment	3	30	7	70	0	0
Total Cases	4	25	12	75	4	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. Worker visits with parents, caregivers and paramours were sporadic in some cases, and did not occur in other cases.

Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

21) Educational need of the child

Area Needing Improvement

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 21: Educational Needs of Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	86	1	14	3	0
Treatment	6	75	2	25	2	0
Total Cases	12	80	3	20	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. This was an area of strength for 80% of the cases reviewed, which falls short of the agency's 90% compliance objective. In the deficient cases workers relied on the word of the child or caregiver to assess school performance, but failed to make direct contact with the school to verify that information.

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Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

- 22) Physical health of the child
- 23) Mental health of the child

Area Needing Improvement
Area Needing Improvement

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	10	9	90	0	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
Total Cases	9	45	11	55	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 attend to the medical needs of children under agency supervision. This was an area needing improvement in 90% of the foster care cases reviewed. Two of those cases were managed by MTS and seven cases were managed by the county office. The one case rated strength for this item was managed by the Adoptions office. In the MTS cases, the dental needs of the children were identified but the record contained no evidence of follow-up to ensure those needs were met. In the foster care cases, the children did not receive their annual or bi-annual physical examinations as required by policy, or there was no follow-up on identified medical problems. Several treatment cases needed improvement because workers failed to follow up with medical providers treating the children.

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	78	2	23	1	0
Treatment	4	43	3	57	3	0
Total Cases	11	69	5	31	4	0

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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. This was an area of strength for 69% of the cases reviewed. The most common deficiency was a failure to assess the mental health needs of the children. When those assessments did not occur the children did not receive the services needed to address any possible emotional or behavioral needs.

Unfounded Investigations

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

Explanation of Item 24: Unfounded Investigations

This is an area of **Strength** for Fairfield DSS. This item evaluates the agency's investigative process and determines if decisions were supported by the facts of the cases. In every instance, the decision to unfound the case was supported by evidence gathered during assessments. Most assessments were thorough. One assessment was deemed inadequate because the worker did not see all of the children. However, the worker did interview all of the caregivers, including the mother, the grandmother, the mother's fiancé, and the children's father.

Screened Out Intakes

	Yes	No	Cannot Determine
Was the Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	8	2	0
			Not Applicable
Were Necessary Collaterals Contacted?	2	4	4
Were Appropriate Referrals Made?	0	2	8

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 incidents of abuse and/or neglect to determine if the intakes were appropriately screened out. Two of the 10 intakes screened out should have been accepted for investigation.

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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. A review of licensing records showed some areas of strength, and many areas needing attention. There was one expired license. Most of the quarterly visits were conducted as required. The records were not set up according to policy. Documentation in the hard files and in CAPSS was not consistent. Specific deficiencies are listed below.

- In most of the licensing files, the fire escape plans were posted, but there was no information regarding the fire drills.
- In one case reviewed, the reference checks did not meet the policy standard. The individual that provided the reference checks had only known the family for one year and not the policy standard of three years.
- In two of the cases reviewed, the documentation does not support that the foster parents received the required 28 hours of training per policy for license renewal.
- In one case reviewed, the CPS checks were conducted late. Fire inspection had expired.

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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: ANI*	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	8/8=100%	0	12
Item 2: Str	Repeat maltreatment	18/20=90%	2/20=10%	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	9/15=60%	6/15=40%	5
Item 4: ANI	Risk of harm to child(ren)	9/20=45%	11/20=55%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Item 5: Str	Foster care re-entries	4/4=100%	0	6
Item 6: ANI*	Stability of foster care placement	10/10=100%	0	0
Item 7: Str	Permanency goal for child	10/10=100%	0	0
Item 8: Str*	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	2/4 = 50%	2/4 = 50%	6
Item 9: ANI	Adoption	0	2/2=100%	8
Item 10: Str	Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	3/3=100%	0	7
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				
Item 11: ANI	Proximity of foster care placement	6/7=86%	1/7=14%	3
Item 12: Str	Placement with siblings	6/6=100%	0	4
Item 13: ANI	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	4/9=44%	5/9=56%	1
Item 14: ANI	Preserving connections	5/7=71%	2/7=29%	3
Item 15: ANI	Relative placement	2/9= 22%	7/9=78%	1
Item 16: ANI	Relationship of child in care with parents	4/6=67%	2/6= 33%	4
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				
Item 17: ANI	Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	8/20=40%	12/20=60%	0
Item 18: ANI	Child and family involvement in case planning	6/19=32%	13/19=68%	1
Item 19: ANI	Worker visits with child	10/50=50%	10/20=50%	0
Item 20: ANI	Worker visits with parent(s)	4/16=25%	12/16=75%	4
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				
Item 21: ANI	Educational needs of the child	12/15=80%	3/15=20%	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	9/20=45%	11/20=55%	0
Item 23: ANI	Mental health of the child	11/16=69%	5/16=31%	4

The objective is that 90% of cases be rated "strength."

Str = Strength

ANI = Area Needing Improvement

* = Rating based on agency data, not onsite review findings