

South Carolina Department of Social Services
Child Welfare Quality Assurance Review: Hampton County
Summary Report

This summary report describes the results of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) Hampton County Quality Assurance Review, conducted December 1, 2014 to December 5, 2014. The period under review was December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014.

DSS Child Welfare Quality Assurance Reviews are conducted using the *Onsite Review Instrument* (OSRI) finalized by the federal Administration for Children & Families (ACF) in July 2008. This instrument is used to review foster care and family preservation services cases. Thirteen cases were reviewed including three foster care and 10 family preservation cases.

The OSRI is divided into three sections: safety, permanency, and child and family well-being. There are two safety outcomes, two permanency outcomes, and three well-being outcomes. Reviewers collect information on a number of *items* related to each of the outcomes through case file review, the use of the Child and Adult Protective Services System (CAPSS), and case related interviews. CAPSS is South Carolina’s Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), which contains all case related information. This information is detailed on the OSRI as support for rating selection.

The ratings for each *item* are combined to determine the rating for the outcome. The *items* are rated as *strength*, *area needing improvement*, or not applicable. Outcomes are rated as being substantially achieved, partially achieved, not achieved, or not applicable. Ratings for each of the outcomes are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Child Welfare QA Onsite Reviews – Ratings by Outcome

Outcome	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved
Safety 1 CHILDREN ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PROTECTED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT	88% (7)	12% (1)	0% (0)
Safety 2 CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE	31% (4)	38% (5)	31% (4)
Permanency 1 CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS	0% (0)	67% (2)	33% (1)
Permanency 2 THE CONTINUITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS IS PRESERVED FOR CHILDREN	67% (2)	33% (1)	0% (0)
Well-Being 1 FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN’S NEEDS	23% (3)	54% (7)	23% (3)
Well-Being 2 CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS	75% (3)	25% (1)	0% (0)
Well-Being 3 CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS	58% (7)	25% (3)	17% (2)

Results for outcomes and *items* are reported by the number of cases and the percentage of total cases given each rating. In addition, the percentage of *strengths* is calculated for each *item*. This percentage is calculated by adding the number of *strengths* and the number of *areas needing improvement*. The number of *strengths* is divided into this total to determine the *percentage of strengths*. Appendix 1 provides more detailed analysis of issues impacting the ANI ratings.

SECTION I: REVIEW FINDINGS

SAFETY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, PROTECTED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Two *items* are included under Safety Outcome 1. Ratings for the two *items* are shown in Table 2.

Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether responses to all accepted child maltreatment reports received during the period under review were initiated and face-to-face contact with the child made, within the timeframes established by agency policies or State statute.

Table 2.

Rating	Item 1	Item 2
<i>Strength</i>	54% (7)	62% (8)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	8% (1)	0% (0)
<i>Not Applicable</i>	38% (5)	38% (5)
Total	100% (13)	100% (13)
<i>% Strengths</i>	87.5% (7)	100% (8)

Item 2: Repeat maltreatment

Purpose of Assessment: To determine if any child in the family experienced repeat maltreatment within a 6-month period.

SAFETY OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE

Two *items* are included under Safety Outcome 2. Ratings for the *items* are shown in Table 3.

Item 3: Services to family

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to provide services to the family to prevent children’s entry into foster care or re-entry after a reunification.

Table 3.

Rating	Item 3	Item 4
<i>Strength</i>	39% (5)	46% (6)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	39% (5)	54% (7)
<i>Not Applicable</i>	22% (3)	0% (0)
Total	100% (13)	100% (13)
<i>% Strengths</i>	50% (5)	46.2% (6)

Item 4: Risk assessment and safety management

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to assess and address the risk and safety concerns relating to the child(ren) in their own homes or while in foster care.

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN HAVE PERMANENCY AND STABILITY IN THEIR LIVING SITUATIONS

Six *items* are included under Permanency Outcome 1. Ratings for the *items* are shown in Table 4.

Item 5: Foster Care reentries

Purpose of Assessment: To assess whether children who entered foster care during the period under review were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.

Item 6: Stability of foster care placement

Purpose of Assessment: To determine if the child in foster care is in a stable placement at the time of the onsite review and that any changes in placement that occurred during the period under review were in the best interest of the child and consistent with achieving the child’s permanency goal(s).

Item 7: Permanency goal for child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether appropriate permanency goals were established for the child in a timely manner.

Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether concerted efforts were made, or are being made, during the period under review, to achieve reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives in a timely manner.

Item 9: Adoption

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made, or are being made, to achieve a finalized adoption in a timely manner.

Item 10: Other planned permanent living arrangement (OPPLA)

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to ensure:

- That the child is adequately prepared to make the transition from foster care to independent living (if it is expected that the child will remain in foster care until he or she reaches the age of majority or is emancipated).
- That the child, even though remaining in foster care, is in a “permanent” living arrangement with a foster parent or relative caregiver and that there is a commitment on the part of all parties involved that the child remain in that placement until he or she reaches the age of majority or is emancipated.
- That the child is in a long-term care facility and will remain in that facility until transition to an adult care facility.

Table 4.

Rating	Item 5	Item 6	Item 7	Item 8	Item 9	Item 10
Strength	0% (0)	8% (1)	8% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Area needing improvement	0% (0)	15% (2)	15% (2)	23% (3)	15% (2)	0% (0)
Not Applicable	100% (13)	77% (10)	77% (10)	77% (10)	85% (11)	100% (13)
Total	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)
% Strengths	N/A	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	N/A

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2: THE CONTINUITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS IS PRESERVED FOR CHILDREN

Six items are included under Permanency Outcome 2. Ratings for the items are shown in Table 5.

Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to ensure that the child’s foster care placement was close enough to the parent(s) to facilitate face-to-face contact between the child and the parent(s) while the child was in foster care.

Item 12: Placement with siblings

Purpose of Assessment: To determine if, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to ensure that siblings in foster care are placed together unless a separation was necessary to meet the needs of one of the siblings.

Item 13: Visiting with parents & siblings in foster care

Purpose of Assessment: To determine if, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to ensure that visitation between a child in foster care and his or her mother, father, and siblings is of sufficient frequency and quality to promote continuity in the child’s relationship with these close family members.

Item 14: Preserving connections

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to maintain the child’s connections to his or her neighborhood, community, faith, extended family, tribe, school, and friends.

Item 15: Relative placement

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to place the child with relatives when appropriate.

Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made to promote, support, and/or maintain positive relationships between the child in foster care and his or her mother and father or other primary caregiver(s) from whom the child had been removed through activities other than just arranging for visitation.

Table 5.

Rating	Item 11	Item 12	Item 13	Item 14	Item 15	Item 16
Strength	8% (1)	0% (0)	8% (1)	23% (3)	8% (1)	15% (2)
Area needing improvement	8% (1)	0% (0)	15% (2)	0% (0)	15% (2)	8% (1)
Not Applicable	84% (11)	100% (13)	77% (10)	77% (10)	77% (10)	77% (10)
Total	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)
% Strengths	50% (1)	N/A	33.3% (1)	100% (3)	33.3% (1)	66.7% (2)

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1: FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN’S NEEDS

Four items are included under Well-Being Outcome 1. Ratings for the items are shown in Table 6.

Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, & foster parents

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to assess the needs of children, parents, and foster parents (both at the child’s entry into foster care [if the child entered during the period under review] or on an ongoing basis) to identify the services necessary to achieve case goals and adequately address the issues relevant to the agency’s involvement with the family, and provided the appropriate services.

Item 18: Child & family involvement in case planning

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, concerted efforts were made (or are being made) to involve parents and children (if developmentally appropriate) in the case planning process on an ongoing basis.

Item 19: Caseworker visits with the child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the child(ren) in the case are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals.

Item 20: Caseworker visits with parents

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the mothers and fathers of the children are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the children and promote achievement of case goals.

Table 6.

Rating	Item 17	Item 18	Item 19	Item 20
Strength	23% (3)	23% (3)	77% (10)	31% (4)
Area needing improvement	77% (10)	77% (10)	23% (3)	69% (9)
Not Applicable	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Total	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)	100% (13)
% Strengths	23.1% (3)	23.1% (3)	76.9% (10)	30.8% (4)

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

One item is included under Well-Being Outcome 2. Ratings for the item are shown in Table 7.

Item 21: Educational needs of child

Purpose of Assessment: To assess whether, during the period under review, the agency made concerted efforts to assess children’s educational needs at the initial contact with the child (if the case was opened during the period under review) or on an ongoing basis (if the case was opened before the period under review), and whether identified needs were appropriately addressed in case planning and case management activities.

Table 7.

Rating	Item 21
Strength	23% (3)
Area needing improvement	8% (1)
Not Applicable	69% (9)
Total	100% (13)
% Strengths	75% (3)

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Two items are included under Well-Being Outcome 3. Ratings for the items are shown in Table 8.

Item 22: Physical health of child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency addressed the physical health needs of the child, including dental health needs.

Item 23: Mental/behavioral health of child

Purpose of Assessment: To determine whether, during the period under review, the agency addressed the mental/behavioral health needs of the child(ren).

Table 8.

Rating	Item 22	Item 23
<i>Strength</i>	46% (6)	62% (8)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	31% (4)	15% (2)
Not Applicable	23% (3)	23% (3)
Total	100% (13)	100% (13)
<i>% Strengths</i>	60% (6)	80% (8)

Table 9. Hampton County *Percentage of Strengths* on 23 Quality Assurance Items Across Two Reviews

Item	Aug. 2013 (PUR 8-1-2012 to 7-31-2013)	Dec. 2014 (PUR 12-1-2013 to 11-30-2014)
1. Timeliness of Initiating Investigations	100%	87.5%
2. Reoccurrence of Maltreatment	100%	100%
3. Services to Family	58.3%	50%
4. Risk Assessment and Safety Management	66.7%	46.2%
5. Foster Care Re-Entries	100%	N/A
6. Stability of Foster Care Placement	60%	33.3%
7. Permanency Goal for Child	40%	33.3%
8. Reunification, Guardianship, or Perm. Placement with Relatives	66.7%	0%
9. Adoption	100%	0%
10. Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	100%	N/A
11. Proximity of Foster Care Placement	75%	50%
12. Placement with Siblings	100%	N/A
13. Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care	25%	33.3%
14. Preserving Connections	80%	100%
15. Relative Placement	100%	33.3%
16. Relationship of Child in Care with Parent	25%	66.7%
17. Needs and Services for Child, Parents, and Caregivers	60%	23.1%
18. Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning	66.7%	23.1%
19. Worker Visits with Child	93.3%	76.9%
20. Worker Visits with Parents	57.1%	30.8%
21. Educational Needs of the Child	100%	75%
22. Physical Health of the Child	75%	60%
23. Mental Health of the Child	69.2%	80%

SECTION II: FOSTER HOME LICENSE REVIEW

As part of the Quality Assurance Review Process in Hampton County, five Foster Home Licenses were reviewed, which were all of the licenses issued or renewed for the county during the period under review. These licenses are reviewed using the *South Carolina Department of Social Services Quality Assurance Foster Home License Review Instruments*. There is one instrument for issuance of initial licenses and another instrument for the renewal of licenses. Each instrument contains a section of deficiencies, namely agency oversight, data entry, and qualitative issues. Deficiencies noted in this section may not invalidate the license but still require attention and correction by county management. Each instrument includes the appropriate agency, state, and federal requirements.

Initial License review criteria include the following *items*:

- Information related to firearms and ammunition in the house
- Pet vaccination information
- Background checks
- Convictions
- Required trainings
- Medical reports
- Fire inspections/re-inspections
- DHEC/Lead inspections
- Central registry check on alternative caregiver, if applicable
- A review of any conflicts noted between file documents and CAPSS
- Completion and issuance of the 1513 prior to the license being issued
- Guidelines regarding in-ground swimming pools

Renewal License review criteria include the following *items*:

- Convictions
- Training hours
- Medical reports if a new household member has been added or if there is a change in foster parent's medical status
- Fire inspections
- FBI checks, if applicable
- Guidelines regarding in-ground swimming pools
- 1513 completed prior to issuance of the license
- Any amendments to the license, if applicable
- Documentation regarding if there are more than five children in the home
- Annual firearms location update
- Safety checks of alternative caregivers
- A review of child protective service allegations
- Pet vaccination information
- A review of any regulatory infractions
- A review of any conflicts noted between file documents and CAPSS

Possible *deficiencies* found in Initial and Renewal cases include:

- Updated home studies
- Discipline Agreements
- Fire drills
- Quarterly home visits
- Disaster Preparedness Plans
- Information concerning the alternative caregivers
- Alternative caregiver forms
- Applications
- Autobiography information
- Financial information
- Child factor's checklists
- Initial home assessment studies
- References

Areas noted as having occurred as required on the assessment are rated as *strengths*. Those *items* that were not met are rated as *area needing improvement (ANI)*. If the issue is not applicable, it is rated N/A.

Additionally, the percentage of *strengths* is also calculated for each *item*. This percentage is calculated by adding the number of *strengths* and the number of *ANIs*. The number of *strengths* is divided into this total to determine the percentage of *strengths*. Results of the review are noted in Table 10.

Foster Home Licensing Findings for Hampton County

Initial License Cases. One foster home issuance for an initial/standard license was reviewed. Information for ratings was obtained by reviewers through case file documentation, which includes the use of CAPSS. The case reviewed was rated as *strength* because all pieces of the licensing requirements were met prior to authorization of the license issuance.

Renewal License Cases. Four foster home renewal licenses were reviewed. Information for ratings was obtained by reviewers through case file documentation, which includes the use of CAPSS. Three cases reviewed were rated as *ANI* because some pieces of the licensing requirements were not met prior to authorization of the license renewal. Issues identified that led to the rating of *ANI* for five cases include:

Table 10. Summary of Ratings for Initial and Renewal Cases

Rating	Initial	Renewal
<i>Strength</i>	1 (100%)	1 (25%)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	0 (0%)	3 (75%)
Total	1 (100%)	4 (100%)
<i>% Strengths</i>	1 (100%)	1 (25%)

- There was not documentation in the case file to verify that FBI and/or sex offender registry checks for all applicable individuals were completed in a timely manner, or were completed at all. (2 cases)
- There was not documentation to verify that the agency completed all fingerprints for a family. (1 case)

Deficiencies found in Initial and Renewal Cases. Deficiencies were noted for four files reviewed. Issues identified by the reviewers include:

Initial Case Deficiencies

Documentation

- The required date was not located next to the foster mother’s signature to verify that the form was completed prior to the issuance of the initial license. (1 case)

Renewal Case Deficiencies

Fire Drills:

- Documentation verifying that fire drills were conducted within 24 hours of a child’s placement was not located in the case file. (4 cases)

- Documentation verifying that quarterly fire drills were conducted while children were placed in foster homes was not located in the case file. (2 cases)

Documentation:

- Documentation did not provide verification that quarterly home visits were either timely or completed at all. (2 cases)
- The re-licensure study located in the case file was not signed by the agency, nor was a completion date located on the study. (1 case)

SECTION III: CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE NO ACTION REPORTS REVIEW

A review of seven no action reports was completed to determine whether agency policy and procedures were followed. These were all of the reports on which no action was taken by the county during the period under review. The *South Carolina Department of Social Services Quality Assurance Review No Action Reports Instrument* was used to conduct the review. This instrument includes a description of the allegation and fourteen questions regarding the no action decisions and processes (see Table 11).

Table 11. Summary of Item Ratings for No Action Reports Review

	Yes	No	NA	Total
1. Illegal substance use alleged AND reason for safety threatened with harm	0	7	0	7
2. Use of CAPSS and/or other systems for prior involvement	6	1	0	7
3a. Did the intake worker thoroughly complete the Sufficiency tab in CAPSS	6	1	0	7
3b. If question 1 or 2 is answered no, did worker provide explanation	0	0	7	7
4a. Maltreatment tab in CAPSS completed	6	1	0	7
4b. If yes to maltreatment, did worker provide an explanation	1	0	6	7
4c. If yes to maltreatment, did supervisor provide additional information	1	0	6	7
5. Safety factors documented on Intake Assessment not discovered by intake worker	0	6	1	7
6. Assessment made utilizing SCDSS Risk Matrix	7	0	0	7
7a. Risk Matrix results included statements contradictory to allegation	6	1	0	7
7b. Risk Matrix results failed to include all statements that support allegation	5	2	0	7
8. Contact with necessary collaterals prior to screen-out decision	1	2	4	7
9. Another intake referral on same perpetrator and/or child within 12 months	3	4	0	7
10. Intake Supervisor ensured consultation with another supervisory-level authority	1	2	4	7

*Note: A single case may have more than one issue identified.

The percentage of *strengths* is also calculated for the cases reviewed. This percentage is calculated by adding the number of *strengths* and the number of *ANIs*. The number of *strengths* is divided into this total to determine the percentage of *strengths*. Findings of these reviews are noted in Table 12.

In seven cases, pieces of agency policy and procedures were not followed. Information for ratings was obtained by reviewers through case file documentation, which includes the use of CAPSS. Issues identified that led to the rating of *ANI* include:

- Some of the areas in the Risk Matrix, and/or other documentation, did not include statements to address all documented allegations made by the reporter, with no reconciliation of facts documented. (5 cases)
- Statements documented in the Risk Matrix were contradictory to documentation of the allegations, with no reconciliation of facts documented. (4 cases)

Table 12. Summary of Ratings for No Action Reports Review

Rating	Were agency policy and procedures followed?
<i>Strength</i>	0 (0%)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	7 (100%)
Total	7 (100%)
<i>% Strengths</i>	0 (0%)

- Documentation did not verify that all indicated and appropriate collateral contacts were made. (2 cases)
- The documentation of the allegation stated that the caregiver failed to provide adequate supervision to the minor child, but the agency answered “No” in the Maltreatment Tab documentation indicating that the allegation did not meet the legal definition of maltreatment, with no reconciliation of the facts documented. (1 case)
- The Intake documentation indicated that the family had prior history with the agency, but the Records Check Tab and CAPSS documentation did not contain this information. (1 case)
- The agency documented in the Sufficiency Tab that the maltreater was the caregiver and listed the biological mother as the caregiver. The family history documentation, however, indicated that the biological mother was not the caregiver of the child, which meant the mother could not have been the maltreater, with no reconciliation of the facts documented. (1 case)

SECTION IV: CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNFOUNDED REPORTS REVIEW

Five unfounded reports were reviewed to determine whether agency policy and procedures were followed. The five unfounded reports were randomly selected from the list of all reports unfounded by the county during the period under review. The review was conducted using the *South Carolina Department of Social Services Quality Assurance Review Unfounded Report Instrument*. This instrument includes a description of the allegation and items regarding three primary areas (see Table 13):

- Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment,
- Repeat maltreatment, and
- Risk assessment and safety management.

Table 13. Summary of Item Ratings for Unfounded Review

1A. Investigation not initiated in accordance with timeframes and requirements. Total cases issue is present: 0				
1B. Face-to-face contact not made in accordance with timeframes and requirements. Total cases issue is present: 1				
	Yes	No	N/A	Total
1C. Delays in investigation initiation or face-to-face contact beyond control of agency	1	0	4	5
2A. At least one substantiated or indicated maltreatment report	0	5	0	5
2B. One substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within six months before or after	0	0	5	5
2C. Repeat maltreatment involving the same or similar circumstances	0	0	5	5
3A. Initial assessment of risk to the children and family in the home	5	0	0	5
3B. Ongoing assessment(s) of risk to the children and family in the home	3	2	0	5
3C. Safety concerns that were not adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency	0	5	0	5

*Note: A single case may have more than one issue identified.

The percentage of *strengths* is calculated for each decision to unfound. This percentage is calculated by adding the number of *strengths* and the number of *ANIs*. The number of *strengths* is divided into this total to determine the percentage of *strengths*. Findings of these reviews are noted in Table 14.

Table 14. Summary of Ratings for Unfounded Review

Rating	Were agency policy and procedures followed?
<i>Strength</i>	3 (60%)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	2 (40%)
Total	5 (100%)
<i>% Strengths</i>	3 (60%)

Information for ratings was obtained by reviewers through case file documentation, which includes the use of CAPSS. Reasons that two unfounded cases reviewed violated pieces of agency policy and procedures include:

- Documentation did not indicate that the agency conducted thorough and comprehensive ongoing risk assessments of all the minor child(ren) in the home. (2 cases)

SECTION V: FAMILY STRENGTHENING SERVICES REVIEW

A review of five allegations was completed to determine whether agency policy and procedures were followed for reports referred to Family Strengthening Services (FSS). These were all of the reports referred to a FSS Community-Based Prevention Services Provider by the county during the period under review. The *South Carolina Department of Social Services Quality Assurance Review Community-Based Prevention Services Assessment Instrument* was used to conduct the review. This instrument includes a description of the allegation and sixteen questions regarding the referral to the FSS Community-Based Prevention Services Provider and processes (see Table 15). The percentage of *strengths* is also calculated for the cases reviewed. This percentage is

Table 15. Summary of Item Ratings for Assessment

	Yes	No	NA	Total
1. Illegal substance use alleged AND reason for safety threatened with harm	0	5	0	5
2. Use of CAPSS and/or other systems for prior involvement	5	0	0	5
3a. Did the intake worker thoroughly complete the Sufficiency tab in CAPSS	5	0	0	5
3b. If question 1 or 2 is answered no, did worker provide explanation	0	0	5	5
4a. Maltreatment tab in CAPSS completed	4	1	0	5
4b. If yes to maltreatment, did worker provide an explanation	1	3	1	5
4c. If yes to maltreatment, did supervisor provide additional information	0	1	4	5
5. Existing Safety Factors not seen by intake worker or documented	0	5	0	5
6. Assessment made utilizing SCDSS Risk Matrix	5	0	0	5
7a. Results of SCDSS Risk Matrix contradicted allegation made by reporter	5	0	0	5
7b. Did results fail to include statements to support allegations made by reporter	5	0	0	5
8. Agency contacted collaterals for Community-Based Prevention Services	0	1	4	5
9. Additional intake referral made on same perpetrator AND/OR child	0	5	0	5
10. Family received community-based prevention services	0	0	5	5
11. Community-based provider entered an account in CAPSS	5	0	0	5
12. Family accepted services from Community-Based Prevention Services Provider	3	0	2	5

*Note: A single case may have more than one issue identified.

calculated by adding the number of *strengths* and the number of *ANIs*. The number of *strengths* is divided into this total to determine the percentage of *strengths*. Findings of these reviews are noted in Table 16.

Table 16. Summary of Ratings for FSS Review

Rating	Were agency policy and procedures followed?
<i>Strength</i>	0 (0%)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	5 (0%)
Total	5 (100%)
<i>% Strengths</i>	0 (0%)

Information for ratings was obtained by reviewers through case file documentation, which includes the use of CAPSS. In five cases reviewed, there were pieces of agency policy and procedures that were not followed. Issues identified that led to the rating of *ANI* include:

- Statements documented in the Risk Matrix were contradictory to documentation of the allegations, with no reconciliation of facts documented. (5 cases)

- Some of the areas in the Risk Matrix, and/or other documentation, did not include statements to address all documented allegations made by the reporter, with no reconciliation of facts documented. (5 cases)
- The allegation and Risk Matrix documentation did not indicate that the children had been maltreated or that there was substantial risk, but the agency stated that the allegation met the legal definition of maltreatment, with no reconciliation of the facts documented. (1 case)

SECTION VI: VOLUNTARY CASE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

A review of two allegations was completed to determine whether agency policy and procedures were followed for reports referred to Voluntary Case Management (VCM). These were all of the reports referred to a VCM Community-Based Prevention Services Provider by the county during the period under review. The *South Carolina Department of Social Services Quality Assurance Review Community-Based Prevention Services Assessment Instrument* was used to conduct the review. This instrument includes a description of the allegation and sixteen questions regarding the referral to the VCM Community-Based Prevention Services Provider and processes (see Table 17).

Table 17. Summary of Item Ratings for Assessment

	Yes	No	NA	Total
1. Illegal substance use alleged AND reason for safety threatened with harm	0	2	0	2
2. Use of CAPSS and/or other systems for prior involvement	2	0	0	2
3a. Did the intake worker thoroughly complete the Sufficiency tab in CAPSS	2	0	0	2
3b. If question 1 or 2 is answered no, did worker provide explanation	0	0	2	2
4a. Maltreatment tab in CAPSS completed	1	1	0	2
4b. If yes to maltreatment, did worker provide an explanation	0	1	1	2
4c. If yes to maltreatment, did supervisor provide additional information	0	0	2	2
5. Existing Safety Factors not seen by intake worker or documented	0	2	0	2
6. Assessment made utilizing SCDSS Risk Matrix	2	0	0	2
7a. Results of SCDSS Risk Matrix contradicted allegation made by reporter	2	0	0	2
7b. Did results fail to include statements to support allegations made by reporter	1	1	0	2
8. Agency contacted collaterals for Community-Based Prevention Services	0	0	2	2
9. Additional intake referral made on same perpetrator AND/OR child	0	2	0	2
10. Family received community-based prevention services	0	0	2	2
11. Community-based provider entered an account in CAPSS	2	0	0	2
12. Family accepted services from Community-Based Prevention Services Provider	0	0	2	2

*Note: A single case may have more than one issue identified.

The percentage of *strengths* is also calculated for the cases reviewed. This percentage is calculated by adding the number of *strengths* and the number of *ANIs*. The number of *strengths* is divided into this total to determine the percentage of *strengths*. Findings of these reviews are noted in Table 18.

Table 18. Summary of Ratings for VCM Review

Rating	Were agency policy and procedures followed?
<i>Strength</i>	0 (0%)
<i>Area needing improvement</i>	2 (100%)
Total	2 (100%)
% <i>Strengths</i>	0 (0%)

Information for ratings was obtained by reviewers through case file documentation, which includes the use of CAPSS. In two cases reviewed, pieces of agency policy and procedures were not followed. Issues identified that led to the rating of *ANI* include:

- Statements documented in the Risk Matrix were contradictory to documentation of the allegations, with no reconciliation of facts documented. (2 cases)
- Some of the areas in the Risk Matrix, and/or other documentation, did not include statements to address all documented allegations made by the reporter, with no reconciliation of facts documented. (2 cases)

APPENDIX 1. SUMMARY OF ISSUES CAUSING AN AREA NEEDING IMPROVEMENT (ANI) RATING FOR APPLICABLE CASES

The following is an overview of strengths and weaknesses that were found in the cases for Hampton County conducted December 1-5, 2014. The period under review December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014.

Positives:

Items 2 (Repeat Maltreatment) and 14 (Preserving connections) were identified as *strengths* of the agency; all applicable cases reviewed were rated as *strength* with no *area needing improvement* (ANI).

Concerns:

The following examines the *items* that had the highest ANI ratings.

- *Item 3 (Services to family)* - 5 of 10 (50%) applicable cases rated as ANI
 - The agency did not make concerted efforts to provide services to the following individuals to prevent the children's entry into foster care: (4 cases)
 - Family (2 cases)
 - Father (2 cases)
 - Mother (1 case)
 - The agency did not thoroughly assess the parents for safety-related services. (1 case)

- *Item 4 (Risk assessment and safety management)* - 7 of 13 (53.8%) applicable cases rated as ANI
 - The agency did not make concerted efforts to assess the following individuals to address the risk and safety concerns related to the children in their home: (4 cases)
 - Children (2 cases)
 - Father (1 case)
 - Paramour (1 case)
 - The agency did not conduct all of the required risk and safety assessments of the foster home during the PUR. (2 cases)
 - The agency did not initiate a new report based when a new incident occurred. The agency did, however, address the concerns in the case that

- was already opened to reduce any risk/safety issues from the new incident. They also should have initiated a new report at that time, however. (1 case)
- The child was returned to the mother prematurely during the PUR. (1 case)
 - The mother was noncompliant with the identified services.
- *Item 6 (Stability of foster care cases)* – 2 of 3 (66.7%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The target child had multiple placements during the PUR. (2 cases)
 - *Item 7 (Permanency goal for child)* – 2 of 3 (66.7%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The permanency goal was not appropriate for the child. (2 cases)
 - The stated goals of adoption and reunification were not appropriate because the agency was not working those goals and the agency did not have a plan for preparing the child for emancipation as the child turned 18 during the PUR. (1 case)
 - The reviewers could not clearly ascertain what the permanency goals were for the child. Reunification was stated as the permanency goal but was not appropriate because it was not being working with either parent. The goal of APPLA was not stated in the file, however, it was the permanency goal evident in casework practice. (1 case)
 - *Item 8 (Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives)* – 3 of 3 (100%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The agency did not make concerted efforts to achieve the goal of reunification in a timely manner. Children had been in care for the following months: (2 cases)
 - 33 months (1 case)
 - 24 months (1 case)
 - The child was not placed with a fit and willing relative in the 12 month timeframe. (1 case)
 - The paternal aunt that was interested changed her mind due to financial reasons. There were no other identified relative placements available for the child.
 - *Item 9 (Adoption)* – 2 of 2 (100%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The agency did not make concerted efforts to achieve the concurrent plan of adoption in a timely manner. (2 cases)
 - The agency did not make concerted efforts to file for TPR in a timely manner and there were no stated barriers. (1 case)

- The agency has not made concerted efforts to achieve the adoption with 24 months. The target child had been in case for 14 months. The TPR petition has not been filed because of a delay in obtaining information from another state. The child does not want to be involved in recruitment and the agency is not working with the child to address the barrier. At the time of the review, the agency had not followed up with the foster parents concerning their interest in adopting the child. (1 child)
- *Item 11 (Proximity of Foster Care Placement)* – 1 of 2 (50%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The child was placed in a different county from his family due to capacity issues. (1 case)
- *Item 13 (Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care)* – 2 of 3 (66.7%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The frequency of the visits with the following family members was not sufficient: (2 cases)
 - Mother (2 cases)
 - Stepfather (1 case)
- *Item 15 (Relative placement)* – 2 of 3 (66.7%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The agency did not make concerted efforts to identify, locate, and evaluate potential relative placements for the target child. (2 cases)
 - Maternal relatives (2 cases)
 - Paternal relatives (1 case)
- *Item 17 (Needs and services of child, parents, & foster parents)* – 10 of 13 (76.9%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - Assessments were not conducted for the following individuals: (8 cases)
 - Father (5 cases)
 - Mother (4 cases)
 - Children (1 case)
 - Stepfather (1 case)
 - Paramour (1 case)
 - Concerted efforts were not made to provide services for the following individuals: (4 cases)
 - Mother (3 cases)
 - Father (3 cases)

- Diligent searches were not conducted for missing parents, which prevented the agency from assessing and providing necessary services to meet identified needs. (2 cases)
- The agency did not seek court intervention in a timely manner to address a mother's noncompliance with achieving treatment goals. (1 case)
- *Item 18 (Child & family involvement in case planning)* – 10 of 13 (76.9%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The agency failed to make concerted efforts to involve the following individuals in the case planning process: (10 cases)
 - Father (7 cases)
 - Mother (6 cases)
 - Oldest child (1 case)
 - Stepfather (1 case)
 - Paramour (1 case)
 - A diligent search was not conducted to allow for the parent to be included in the case planning process. (3 cases)
- *Item 20 (Caseworker visits with parents)* – 9 of 13 (69.2%) applicable cases rated as *ANI*
 - The frequency of the visits was insufficient with the following individuals: (7 cases)
 - Mother (4 cases)
 - Father (3 cases)
 - Paramour (1 case)
 - Stepfather (1 case)
 - The quality of visits was insufficient between the agency and the following individuals: (5 cases)
 - Mother (4 cases)
 - Father (3 cases)
 - Paramour (1 case)
 - Diligent searches were not conducted for missing parents, which prevented the required visits with the caseworker. (4 cases)