

Chesterfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
April 2007

During the week of April 30 - May 4, 2007 a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Chesterfield 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, Chesterfield DSS supervisors, and representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Period included in Case Record Review: April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Period included in Outcome Measures: April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

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, 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.

Section One

Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure S1.1: Timeliness of initiating investigations on reports of child maltreatment

***Objective: 100% in <= 24 hours**

	Number of Reports Accepted	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Percent of Investigations Initiated Timely	Number of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	16,893	16,494	97.6%	-399
Chesterfield	212	212	100.0%	0

*This standard is based on state law. It is not a federally established objective.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings

Safety Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	100	0	0	9	0
Treatment	8	100	0	0	2	0
Total Cases	9	100	0	0	11	0

Explanation of Item 1

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours of the intake. The outcome report indicates that for the 12 month period under review Chesterfield initiated 100% of the investigations of alleged abuse and neglect within the 24 hours of accepted intakes. Onsite reviewers determined that risk ratings were properly assigned to intakes, and that high risk cases were consistently investigated in two hours or less.

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Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure S1.2: Recurrence of Maltreatment -- Of all the children who were victims of indicated reports of child abuse and/or neglect during the reporting period, the percent having another indicated report within a subsequent 6 month period.

Indicated Reports Between April 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007

***Objective: <=6.1%**

	Number of Child Victims	Number of Child Victims In Another Founded Report	Percent of Children in Another Founded Report	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	10,323	57	0.55%	572.7
Chesterfield	45	0	0.00%	2.7

*This is a federal established objective

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings

Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	20	100	0	0	0	0

Explanation of Item 2

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. This item measures the frequency with which children under agency supervision experience additional maltreatment. The outcome report counts cases with additional indicated reports within the period under review. However, onsite reviewers use information documented in the case file to determine if the children under agency care are experiencing additional abuse or neglect, whether that additional abuse results in another indicated report or not. Onsite reviewers found no incidents of children experiencing repeat maltreatment after the agency's involvement.

Section Two

Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

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Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	100%	0	0	9	0
Treatment	8	80%	2	20%	0	0
Total Cases	9	82%	2	18%	9	0

Explanation of Item 3

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. This item measures whether services were adequate to protect children (in the home) to prevent their removal. The two treatment cases rated area needing improvement were a result of the agency not making the appropriate referrals for services or following up to address the ongoing safety needs of the children and family. Onsite reviewers found no deficiencies in the foster care cases reviewed for this item.

Strategic Outcome Report Findings				
Measure S2.2: Risk of harm to child -- Of all unfounded investigations during the reporting period, the percent receiving subsequent reports within six months of the initial report.				
* Objective: <=8.5%				
	Number of Alleged Child Victims after Unfounded Reports 10/01/05 to 09/30/06	Number With Another Report Within 6 months of Unfounded Determination	Percent of Alleged Victims within 6 months of the Unfounded Determination	Number of Cases Above (Below) Objective
State	14,280	1,141	7.99%	72.8
Chesterfield	270	17	6.30%	6.0

*This is a DSS established objective.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 4: Risk of harm.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	
Total Cases	15	75	5	25	0	

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Explanation of Item 4

This is an area of **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. This item determines whether or not the agency's interventions reduced risks of harm to children. Onsite reviewers found that the risk of harm was reduced in 100% of the foster care cases. However, risk of harm was adequately managed in only 50% of the treatment cases reviewed. In those treatment cases not adequately managed, case workers describe serious risk factors and the files do not reflect how DSS is working to reduce those risk factors.

For example, in one case the agency received a report of physical abuse involving an 18 month who sustained a severe injury (fracture). That case was indicated for threat of harm of physical abuse. Also, the agency had a previous founded report on the same family involving the older sibling for the same injury who is now four years old. Since the case has been open there have been numerous incidents that may be related to continued physical abuse in the home involving those girls, yet the agency is planning to close this case.

Section Three

Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations

Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure P3.1: Foster Care Re-entries - Of all the children who entered care during the year under review, the percent that re-entered foster care within a 12 month of a prior foster care episode.

***Objective: <=8.6%**

	Number of Children entering care 04/01/06 to 03/31/07	Number That Were Returned Home Within The Past 12 Months From Previous Foster Care Episode	Percent Entering Care After Returning Home Within The Past 12 Months from Previous Foster Care Episode	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,578	270	7.55%	37.7
Chesterfield	35	1	2.86%	2.0

*This is a federally established objective.

Explanation of Item 5

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. This item measures foster children re-entering foster care within 12 months of a previous foster care episode. The outcome report indicates that only one of 35 children entered foster care within 12 months of a previous foster care episode. Onsite reviewers determined that one foster care case reviewed rated area needing improvement.

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In that case, the re-entry into care took place within 12 months from a previous foster care episode. Overall, Chesterfield does a good job of returning children in care to appropriate caregivers.

Stakeholder Comment: “The agency is cautious in letting children go back home. Foster care workers do follow up to ensure compliance with the treatment plan.”

Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure P3.2: Stability of Foster Care Placement -- Of all the children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, the percent that had more than 2 placement settings.

***Objective: >=86.7%**

	Number of Children in Care Less Than 12 Months	Number of Children with No More than 2 Placements	Percent of Children with No More than Two Placements	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	4,102	3299	80.42%	-257.4
Chesterfield	41	34	82.93%	-1.5

*This is a federally established objective.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings

Safety Item 6: Stability of foster care placement.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	70	3	30	0	0

Explanation of Item 6

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. The federal standard for stability measured by the outcome report applies only to children in care less than 12 months. However, onsite reviewers assess the stability of children regardless of their length of time in care. Three cases were rated area needing improvement due to the children having more than two placement changes during a 12 month period. In those cases the children were moved because of their need for therapeutic placement. Based on the outcome report and the onsite review findings stability of foster care placement is rated area needing improvement.

Stakeholder Comments: “The agency does minimize placement changes, and it does handle disruptions with regular foster care. If identified through ISCEDC in Chesterfield – the county does not have arrangements with Therapeutic Foster Care providers. Children with problematic issues have to be placed outside of the county because there are no Therapeutic Foster Care slots available in Chesterfield County.”

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Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure P1.5: Permanency Goal for Child -- Of all the children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most 22 months, the percent for which a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petition has been filed.

***Objective: >=53%**

	Children in Care At Least 15 of Last 22 Months 04/01/06 to 03/31/07	Number of Children with TPR Compliant	Percent of Children with TPR Compliant	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,603	1650	45.8%	-259.6
Chesterfield	31	20	64.5%	3.6

*This is a federally established objective.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings

Safety Item 7: Permanency goal for children.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	

Explanation of Item 7

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. To meet the criteria established in the CAPSS report 53% or more of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months must have a TPR petition filed. In Chesterfield the outcome report shows that TPR petitions were filed timely on 20 of the 31 children (65%) in foster care. Reviewers found that permanency goals for children in foster care were appropriate. Reviewers also found that the agency quickly determined appropriate goals for the children in care.

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Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure P1.3: Length of Time to Achieve Reunification -- Of all the children who were reunified with their parents or caregiver, at the time of discharge from foster care, the percent reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

***Objective** >=76.2%

	Number of Children Returned to Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) home 04/01/06 to 03/31/07	Number of Children Returned to Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) after in < Than 12 Months	Percent of Children Returned to Parent(s)/Caretaker (s) after in Care <12 Months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,145	1,767	82.38%	132.5
Chesterfield	16	15	93.75%	2.8

*This is a federally established objective.

Explanation of Item 8

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. To meet this federally established criteria at least 76.20% of the children returned to their parents from foster care must be returned within 12 months of their removal from home. According to the outcome data 94% (15 out of the 16) children who entered care during the 12 month reporting period returned home within 12 months of entering foster care. Onsite reviewers determined that the decisions to return children home were appropriate.

Stakeholder Comments: "The agency does a pretty good job with relative placement; a lot of kids are with relatives."

Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure P1.4: Length of Time to Achieve Adoption -- Of all the children who exited from foster care during the year under review to a finalized adoption, the percent that exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

***Objective:** >=32%

	Number of Children Adoption Was Finalized during 04/01/06-03/31/07	Number of Children Adoption was Finalized < 24 Months of Entering Care	Percent of Children Adoption Was Finalized in < 24 Months.	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	399	63	15.8%	-64.7
Chesterfield	10	0	0.0%	-3.2

*This is a federally established objective.

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Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 9: Adoption.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	33	2	67	7	0

Explanation of Item 9

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. This item tracks the number of children where adoption was finalized within 24 months of the most recent foster care placement. This county's average daily foster care population is 36 children. During the period under review the agency completed 20 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) actions and finalized 10 adoptions. Fifteen of the 16 children entering care within the past 12 months were returned to a willing and able parent or relative within a year. Chesterfield has one of the highest rates of permanency in the state. However, the 10 completed adoptions were all of children who had been in foster care

Strategic Outcome Report Findings				
Measure P1.6: Permanency Goal of "Other Planned Living Arrangement" – Of all the children in foster care, the percent with a permanency goal of emancipation (Indep Living Services) or a planned permanent living arrangement other than adoption, guardianship, or return to family.				
*Objective: <=15%				
	Number of Children in Care at Least One Day 04/01/06 to 03/31/07	Number of Children with Permanency Plan of Other Planned Living Arrangement	Percent of Children with Permanency Plan of Other Planned Living Arrangement	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	8,557	1519	17.8%	-235.5
Chesterfield	58	11	19.0%	-2.3

more than 24 months.

*This is a DSS established objective.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0

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Explanation of Item 10

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. The standard for this objective is that no more than 15% of the children in foster care should have the plan, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). According to the outcome report the county missed this objective by 1.2%. However, reviewers determined that APPLA was the appropriate plan for all of the children. Additionally, onsite reviewers found that children with APPLA as a permanency plan were receiving appropriate independent living services.

Section Four

Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Strategic Outcome Report Findings

Measure P2.1: Proximity of Foster Care Placement – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), the percent placed within their county of origin.

***Objective: >=70%**

	Number of Children in Care 04/01/06 to 03/31/07	Number of Children Placed within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed within County of Origin	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	6,455	4,041	62.6%	-477.5
Chesterfield	58	40	69.0%	-0.6

*This is a DSS established objective.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings

Safety Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	89	1	11	1	0

Explanation of Item 11

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. The outcome standard is that at least 70% of the children in care must be placed within the county. According to the outcome report 40 of 58 (69.0%) foster children were placed within the county. Although the county missed this standard of 70% by one percentage point, onsite reviewers determined that Chesterfield did a good job of placing children within in the county when it was in the child's best interest. Most children placed outside of the county were in therapeutic placements.

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Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 12: Placement with siblings.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	100	0	0	9	0

Explanation of Item 12

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. This item addresses the agency's ability to keep siblings together when it is in their best interest to be placed together. Only one of the cases reviewed onsite involved a sibling group. In that case, a sibling group of three children were all placed together.

Stakeholder Comments: "Agency tries to keep siblings together when possible. One reason a child might be moved if it's possible to reunite with siblings."

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	50	2	50	6	0

Explanation of Item 13

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. This item addresses the agency's ability to keep siblings together when it is in their best interest to be placed together. Reviewers found that visits between the children and parents were not consistently occurring as required by policy. The agency has a very active foster parent association. Based on interviews with that group, it is likely that foster parents are overseeing contact between parents and the children in their care. However, case records do not capture that activity.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 14: Preserving connections.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0

Explanation of Item 14

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. This item addresses the agency's ability to preserve a child in foster care's connection to the people, places, and things that are important to the child. Eighty-nine percent of the cases reviewed were rated strength. Chesterfield does a

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very good job of preserving the relationships that are important to children in foster care. Reviewers saw many examples of relative involvement in the children's lives beyond the minimum required visitation. There were documented instances of foster parents facilitating contacts between the children in their care and relatives.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 15: Relative placement.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	67	3	33	1	0

Explanation of Item 15

This is an **Area Needing Improvement for** Chesterfield DSS. This item addresses the agency's effectiveness in identifying and assessing the relatives of children in foster care as possible caregivers. In 67% of the cases reviewed there was evidence that both maternal and paternal relatives were assessed as placement options for the children in foster care. In 33% of the foster care cases reviewed, there was no indication that paternal or maternal relatives were assessed as placement resources.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Safety Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	50	1	50	8	0

Explanation of Item 16

This is an **Area Needing Improvement for** Chesterfield DSS. This item addresses the agency's effectiveness in promoting or maintaining a strong emotionally supportive relationship between children in care and their parents. Reviewers determined that the agency did not offer the support and reminders needed by a parent facing multiple complex problems to maintain her relationship with her child in foster care. That lack of support could cause a failure to comply with a court ordered visitation schedule. Although reviewers did not find this to be a pervasive problem, improvement is still needed.

Section Five

Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

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Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0
Treatment	2	20	8	80	0	0
Total Cases	10	50	10	50	0	0

Explanation of Item 17

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. This item asks two questions: 1) Were the needs of the children, parents, and foster parents assessed, and 2) Did the agency take steps to meet the identified needs? Reviewers rated 80% of the foster care cases as strong in this area. Reviewers determined that treatment cases showed significant deficiencies. The practice most identified as needing improvement was the need for more thorough assessments of all the appropriate family members. Case records did not contain evidence that the fathers and the grandparents who had physical custody of the children were assessed or offered needed services to ensure that the needs of the children would be met.

Stakeholder Comments: “There are few to no resources available in Chesterfield County. They can’t do drug screens on males in the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services office, because there are no males available to supervise.”

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	75	2	25	2	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	11	61	7	39	2	0

Explanation of Item 18

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. This item measures whether parents and children are actively involved in the case planning process. Onsite reviewers found that in 50% of the treatment cases parents were not involved in the case planning process. The general practice is that plans are written by the case worker then sent to the parents. Most case plans are not signed by the parents or the age appropriate child. In 20% of the foster care cases reviewed, the records contained no supporting documentation of involving the child and foster parents in the case planning process. Also, the review found that in the foster care cases, the treatment plans were completed but not signed by the age appropriate child.

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Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 19: Worker visits with child(ren).						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	10	1	0	0	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	14	70	6	30	0	0

Explanation of Item 19

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. This rating is based on two questions: 1) Were Chesterfield County DSS staff visiting children according to policy; and 2) Did the visits focus on issues related to the treatment plan? Onsite reviewers determined that in 50% of the treatment cases reviewed, monthly visits were not occurring with all of the children during the period under review. In treatment cases, the monthly face-to-face contacts were consistently made in places other than the home of children and parents. Also, the visits did not always assess risk and safety issues. However, in 90% of the foster care cases reviewed, the children were seen monthly as required by policy. The content of those visits adequately addressed risk and safety issues.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s).						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	100	0	0	9	
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	
Total Cases	6	55	5	45	9	

Explanation of Item 20

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. In foster care cases monthly contacts were occurring with the parents and the visits were relevant to agency involvement with the family. In 50% of the treatment cases reviewed monthly visits were not occurring with the fathers during the period under review. The content of those visits did not adequately address safety, risk and treatment issues.

Section Six

Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

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Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 21: Educational needs of child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	100	0	0	2	
Treatment	6	100	0	0	4	
Total Cases	14	100	0	0	6	

Explanation of Item 21

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. This item asks two questions: 1) Did DSS assess the educational needs of the children under their supervision; and 2) Were identified educational needs addressed? The answer to both questions was “Yes” for all of the foster care and treatment cases reviewed. Workers visited the schools and communicated directly with school officials to monitor the performance of the children in their cases. Copies of school attendance records and progress reports were in case records.

Section Seven

Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 22: Physical health of the child.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
Total Cases	18	90	2	10	0	0

Explanation of Item 22

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. This item determines if the physical and dental health needs of children are being assessed and appropriately met. Staff consistently assessed the needs of children in both foster care and treatment cases. When medical needs were identified workers assisted clients in accessing services when needed. Physical examinations for children in foster care were completed according to policy and medical records were in the files where appropriate.

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Onsite Review Findings Performance Item Ratings						
Well Being Item 23: Mental health of the child.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0
Treatment	2	33	4	67	4	0
Total Cases	9	69	4	31	7	0

Explanation of Item 23

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. All of the foster care cases reviewed were rated strength for this item. However, in 67% of the treatment cases reviewed, the children's mental health needs were not assessed. In those cases, the children had been exposed to severe domestic violence and displayed behaviors that may have been related to emotional trauma, but were not referred for a mental health assessment.

Section Eight -- Foster Home Licenses

This is an area of **Strength** for Chesterfield DSS. The licensing data reports reveal that the county is doing a good job of keeping licenses current and in good standing. The files were neat and orderly and quarterly licensing visits are timely and are assessing the necessary areas. There were only a few concerns noted during a review of the licensing records:

- The race of children that the foster parent is licensed to care for is not specified on the licensing forms (DSS forms – 3014, 1513, and 3059);
- There were missing signatures on (approved by management) several of the licensing forms (DSS form 1513);
- During quarterly visits, all parties were not visited. In one case, the foster father was not seen during a quarterly visit.

Only one licensing file had significant deficiencies:

- CPS checks were not found for foster parents
- Medicals were not found on three adopted children in the home.
- Address disparity between paperwork in the file and in the agency database (CAPSS).

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Section Nine -- Unfounded Investigations

	Yes	No
Investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was assessment adequate?	2	3
Was decision appropriate?	2	3

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. Three of the five cases reviewed should have been indicated for abuse or neglect rather than unfounded. One improperly unfounded investigation involved a 12 year old autistic child who suffered a spiral arm fracture. Other factors in the home suggested that there had been a history of abuse. Assessments were not adequate in three of the five cases because investigators did not interview all parties who would have had knowledge of the threats to the children, for example, hospital staff and non-custodial parents.

Section Ten -- Screened Out Intakes

	Yes	No	Cannot Determine
Was Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	8	1	1

	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Were Necessary Collaterals Contacted?			10
Were Appropriate Referrals Made?	1	1	8

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Chesterfield DSS. One of the 10 intakes screened out should have been accepted for investigation. The agency had received multiple reports on the family, and the mother had a history of drug abuse and of being neglectful to her children. In the other intake, inadequate dictation made it impossible for reviewers to determine if the report of abuse should have been screened out or accepted.

Chesterfield County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
April 2007

Onsite Review Rating Summary			
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: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	9/9 = 100%	0	11
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	20/20 = 90%	0	
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.			
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	9/11 = 82%	2/11=18%	0
Item 4: Risk of harm to child(ren)	15/20 = 75%	5/20 = 25%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.			
Item 5: Foster care re-entries		1/1=100%	9
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement	7/10 = 70%	3/10=30%	0
Item 7: Permanency goal for child	9/10 = 100%	1/10=10%	0
Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	0	0	10
Item 9: Adoption	1/3 = 33%	2/3 = 67%	7
Item 10: Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	7/7 = 100%	0	3
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.			
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement	8/9 = 89%	1/9=11%	1
Item 12: Placement with siblings	1/1 = 100%	0	9
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	2/4 = 50%	2/4 = 50%	6
Item 14: Preserving connections	7/7 = 100%	0	1
Item 15: Relative placement	6/9 = 67%	3/9 = 33%	1
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents	1/2 = 50%	1/2 =50%	8
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.			
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	10/20 = 50%	10/20 =50%	0
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	11/18 =61%	7/18 = 39%	2
Item 19: Worker visits with child	14/20 = 70%	6/20 = 30	0
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)	6/11 = 55%	5/11 = 45%	9
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.			
Item 21: Educational needs of the child	14/14 = 100%	0	6
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.			
Item 22: Physical health of the child	18/20 = 90%	2/20 = 10%	0
Item 23: Mental health of the child	9/13 = 69%	4/13=31%	7