

Calhoun County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
November 2008

During the week of November 17 -21, 2008, a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Calhoun 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, Calhoun DSS supervisors, and representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

**Period under Review: November 1, 2007 to October 31, 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. 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 95%. Each outcome report has its own standard. To be rated an area of **Strength** most items must meet both the qualitative onsite review standard **and** the quantitative outcome report standard.

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

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

- |                                            |                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Timeliness of initiating investigations | <b>Strength</b> |
| 2) Repeat Maltreatment                     | <b>Strength</b> |

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations on Reports of Child Maltreatment</b>				
<b>Objective:</b> 100% in <= 24 hours (state law)				
	Number of Determinations	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Percent of Investigations Initiated Timely	Numbers of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	18,570	18,002	96.94%	(568)
Calhoun	363	363	100%	0

**Explanation of Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun 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, Calhoun initiated all 41 of its 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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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	9	100	0	0	1	0
Total Cases	19	100	0	0	1	0

**Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item measures the occurrence of maltreatment among children under agency supervision. Agency data shows that 96% of the treatment cases closed were not involved in a subsequent indicated incident of maltreatment. Looking at foster care and treatment cases, reviewers determined that none of the children under agency supervision experienced additional maltreatment.

**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     **Strength**
- 4) Risk of Harm     **Area Needing Improvement**

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Safety Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in Home and Prevent Removal</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	100	0	0	9	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	11	100	0	0	9	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item assesses whether services were adequate to protect children in their home and prevent their removal and placement into foster care. In 100% of the foster care cases, reviewers determined that the decision to remove the children from their homes and place them in foster care was appropriate. Also in 100% of the treatment cases reviewed, appropriate services were being offered to safely maintain the children in their home.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Safety Item 4: Risk of Harm</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	9	90	1	10	0	0
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0
Total Cases	16	80	4	20	0	0

**Explanation of Item 4: Risk of Harm**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item assesses whether the agency's intervention reduced risks of harm to children. In 90% of the foster care cases reviewed, risk of harm was adequately managed. Reviewers rated 30% of the in-home treatment cases as needing improvement. In those cases, risk of harm to children in the home was not properly managed because the agency failed to complete criminal background checks on other adults in the home or on alternate 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                                                            | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 6) Stability of foster care placement                                                | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 7) Permanency goal for child                                                         | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 8) Reunification or permanent placement with relatives                               | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 9) Adoption                                                                          | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 10) Permanency goal of <b>Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)</b> | <b>Strength</b>                 |

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<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 7: Foster Care Re-entries</b> – 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.				
<b>Objective:</b> $\geq 90.1\%$ (National 25 <sup>th</sup> percentile)				
<b>Report Period:</b> July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008				
	Number Children Reunified 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	2,591	2,406	92.86%	71.5
Calhoun	34	34	100%	3.4

**Explanation of Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item measures the frequency of children re-entering foster care within a year of discharge. To meet the objective for this item 90.1% of children must not re-enter foster care within a year of discharge. Agency data shows that none of the children returned home during the previous 12 months re-entered foster care.

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 6: Stability of Foster Care Placements</b> – Of all children who had been in foster care at least 8 days but less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, the percentage that had no more than two placement settings.				
<b>Objective:</b> $\geq 86.0\%$ (federal standard)				
	Foster Care Services Open >7 days and < 12 months	Number with No More than 2 placements	Percent with No More than 2 placements	Number Above (Below) Objective
State	3,987	2,910	72.99%	(307.5)
Calhoun	49	35	71.43%	(4.5)

**Explanation of Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item measures the frequency of placement changes for children in foster care, and assesses the reasons for those changes. The objective is that at least 86% of the children in care have two or fewer placements within 12 months. Agency data shows that 71.43% of Calhoun children had two or fewer placements. The county does not have enough foster parents who are willing to accept the type of children entering care.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Permanency Item 7: Permanency Goal for Child</b>						
	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 Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness of permanency goals for children in foster care and the timeliness of those permanency decisions. Reviewers determined that in every foster care case, the agency quickly identified the appropriate goal.

<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 8: Time to Achieve Reunification</b> – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care and had been in care for 8 days or more, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of their latest removal from home?				
<b>Objective:</b> $\geq 75.2\%$ (federal standard)				
	Number of Children Returned to Parents/Caretakers	Number of Children Returned to Parents/Caretakers after in Care <12 months	Percent of Children Returned to Parents/Caretakers after in Care < 12 months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,506	1,933	77.13%	48.5
Calhoun	47	21	44.68%	(14.3)

**Explanation of Item 8: Reunification or Permanent Placement with Relatives**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the activities and processes necessary to accomplish the goal of reunification with caregivers or placement with relatives. Agency data shows that 44.68% of children who entered foster care in Calhoun County returned home within a year. This performance failed to meet the federal standard of 75.2%.

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<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 9: Time to Finalized Adoption</b> – 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?				
<b>Objective:</b> >= 36.6% (National 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)				
<b>Report Period:</b> July 1, 2007 – June 30, 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	515	100	19.42%	(88.5)
Calhoun	18	3	16.67%	(3.6)

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Permanency Item 9: Adoption</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	4	100	6	0

**Explanation of Item 9: Adoption**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. Agency data indicates that only three adoptions have been completed in Calhoun County in over three years, and those were completed during the past 12 months. Reviewers looked at the cases of four children with the plan of adoption. All had been in care more than two years. Reviewers saw continuances in the merit and permanency planning hearings which contributed to permanency delays.

**Stakeholder Comments:** “There were some problems with the attorney/paralegal in the past and there were a lot of changes that slowed down the process for obtaining permanency. These changes caused court orders to not be filed timely and a lot of continuances were present.”

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 10: Permanency Goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	8	0

**Explanation of Item 10: Permanency Goal of APPLA**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided to children with the permanency plan of APPLA. Reviewers also rate whether the agency attempted to locate and reassess relatives or non-relatives that were willing to commit to the youth's long-term care every six months. Reviewers found that in each case, youth with the plan of APPLA were receiving appropriate Independent Living services. Reviewers also found that the youth were living with foster parents who were committed to their long term care.

**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                | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 12) Placement with siblings in foster care            | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 13) Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 14) Preserving connections                            | <b>Strength</b>                 |
| 15) Relative placement                                | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 16) Relationship of child in care with parents        | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |



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<b>Agency Data</b>				
<b>Performance Measure 13: Foster Children Placed Within County of Origin</b> – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), what percentage are placed within their county of origin.				
<b>Objective:</b> >=70% (Agency Standard)				
	Number of Children in Care 08/03/07 – 08/02/08	Number of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	6,264	4,172	66.60%	(212.8)
Calhoun	98	75	76.53%	4.0

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Permanency Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0

**Explanation of Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun 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 76.53% of Calhoun DSS children were placed within the county. Reviewers found that children placed outside of the county were in adjacent Richland or Orangeburg Counties.

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100	0	0	3	0

**Explanation of Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency’s efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. Seventy percent of the cases reviewed involved sibling groups. In every case, siblings were kept together when appropriate. This was true even of large sibling groups.

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<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 13: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	33	4	67	4	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to ensure that visits occur between children in foster care and their siblings and parents. In 67% of cases reviewed the agency failed to look for and engage the fathers of children in foster care. Consequently, the agency did not offer the fathers the opportunity to visit, or determine if such visits were in the child's best interest.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	100	0	0	4	0

**Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to preserve children's connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. This was an area of strength in all cases. The agency worked to keep children within their same communities, and to help children maintain their relationships with family and friends. Reviewers saw instances of children seeing family members at school, and in other community locations on a daily basis.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 15: Relative Placement</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	50	5	50	0	0

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**Explanation of Item 15: Relative Placement**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to identify and assess relatives as potential placement resources for children in foster care. The agency's case management activities usually focused on the mothers of children in care, to the exclusion of non-custodial fathers. Consequently, in half of the cases reviewed the agency did not assess paternal relatives as placement options.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Permanency Item 16: Relationship of Child in Care with Parents</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	4	100	6	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun 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. Every applicable case reviewed needed improvement in this area. The agency consistently stuck to the twice-a-month minimum visitation requirement even when the needs of the child warranted more frequent visits.

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

The agency's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of four items:

- |                                                         |                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 17) Needs and services of child, parents and caregivers | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 18) Child and family involvement in case planning       | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 19) Worker visits with child                            | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 20) Worker visits with parents                          | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b>						
<b>Well Being Item 17: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	60	4	40	0	0
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0
Total Cases	13	65	7	35	0	0

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**Explanation of Item 17: Needs and Services of Child, Parents and Caregivers**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item asks two questions: 1) Were the needs of the child, parents, and caregivers assessed, and 2) Did the agency take steps to meet the identified needs? This is a weak area for both foster care and treatment cases. In 30% of treatment cases and 40% of foster care cases, the needs of fathers, foster parents, and alternate caretakers were not assessed. Consequently, the agency was in no position to address any needs that might exist.

**Onsite Review Findings**

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

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	50	5	50	0	0
Treatment	7	70	3	30	0	0
Total Cases	12	60	8	40	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to involve parents and children in the case planning process. Half of the foster care cases needed improvement because case plans were incomplete, not current, or not signed by the parents. In the treatment cases that needed improvement, the agency failed to involve the alternate caregivers of children who had been removed from their parents.

**Agency Data**

**Performance Measure 14: Face-to-Face Visits With Children**

**Objective:** >= 100% (Agency Policy)

	Number of Children Under Agency Supervision at Least One Complete Calendar Month	Number of Children Visited Every Month	Percent of Children Visited Every Month	Number of Children Above or (Below) Standard
Foster Care	92	90	97.83%	(2)
Treatment	337	225	66.77%	(32)

**Explanation of Item 19: Worker Visits with Child**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun 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. This is a relatively strong area for foster care in that 97.83% of those children received

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face-to-face visits each month. Only two children were not seen every month. Almost 80% of those visits occurred in the child's place of residence, which is well above the 50% requirement. However, the 66.77% of children in treatment cases visited each month fell below agency requirements. Reviewers found that the content of all visits addressed safety, permanency and child well-being issues.

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Well Being Item 20: Worker Visits with Parent(s)**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	7	100	3	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
Total Cases	9	53	8	47	3	0

**Explanation of Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with parents, and evaluates the quality of those visits. Although this was a relatively strong area in the treatment cases reviewed, every foster care case needed improvement. This was due to the agency's practice of ignoring the fathers of children in care. This practice has serious permanency implications when and if the agency sees the need to terminate parental rights.

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

The agency's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of one item:

- 21) Educational need of the child **Strength**

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Well Being Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	100	0	0	2	0
Treatment	9	100	0	0	1	0
Total Cases	17	100	0	0	3	0

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**Explanation of Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun 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 in every case. Reviewers found that workers made direct contact with the school and there were also copies of grade reports and attendance records in all foster care cases. The educational needs of all children in treatment cases were assessed during monthly visits.

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

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

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 22) Physical health of the child | <b>Area Needing Improvement</b> |
| 23) Mental health of the child   | <b>Strength</b>                 |

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0
Treatment	9	90	1	10	0	0
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Explanation of Item 22: Physical Health of the Child**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and address the medical needs of children under agency supervision. This was an area of strength for 85% of the cases reviewed. Copies of medical, dental and immunizations records were in all the cases. In 15% of the cases reviewed, the physical health assessments identified issues that needed attention. In those cases the agency failed to follow up to determine if the children's medical needs were met.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b>						
<b>Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	88	1	12	1	0
Treatment	7	100	0	0	3	0
Total Cases	15	94	1	6	4	0

**Explanation of Item 23: Mental Health of the Child**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the mental health needs of children under agency supervision. In 94% of the cases reviewed, the children's mental health needs were assessed and met.

**Unfounded Investigations**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was assessment adequate?	3	2
Was decision appropriate?	5	0

**Explanation of Item 24: Unfounded Investigations**

This is an area of **Strength** for Calhoun DSS. This item evaluates the agency's investigative process and determines if decisions were supported by the facts of the cases. All five investigations were initiated timely. The assessment was not adequate in two of the five cases reviewed because the other children in the home were not interviewed or assessed.

**Screened Out Intakes**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Cannot Determine</b>
Was Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	1	1	0
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
Were Necessary Collaterals Contacted?	0	1	1
Were Appropriate Referrals Made?	0	0	2

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**Explanation of Item 25: Screened Out Intakes**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun 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. One of the two intakes screened out should have been accepted for investigation. In one intake, the allegation was that a three year old complained that her private area hurts. The reviewers found that the documentation did not justifying screening out the report. According to CAPSS, seven days later, a second report of sexual abuse involving that same three old child was accepted and is being investigated.

Foster Home Licenses
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**Explanation of Item 26: Foster Home Licenses**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Calhoun 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 invalid license. Most of the quarterly visits were conducted but the Quarterly Home Visit Guide was not completed. The records were not set up according to policy. Documentation in the hard files and in CAPSS was not consistent. In most of the licensing files, safety checks were not completed or updated yearly on required household members.



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<b>Calhoun County DSS Summary Sheet</b>				
<b>Performance Item or Outcome</b>		<b>Performance Item Ratings</b>		
		<b>Strength</b>	<b>Area Needing Improvement</b>	<b>N/A*</b>
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				
Item 1: <b>Str</b>	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	9/9=100%	0	11
Item 2: <b>Str</b>	Repeat maltreatment	20/20=100%	0	0
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				
Item 3: <b>Str</b>	Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	11/11=100%	0	9
Item 4: <b>ANI</b>	Risk of harm to child(ren)	16/20=80%	4/20=20%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Item 5: <b>*Str</b>	Foster care re-entries	2/2 = 100%	0	8
Item 6: <b>ANI</b>	Stability of foster care placement	8/10 = 80%	2/10 = 20%	0
Item 7: <b>Str</b>	Permanency goal for child	10/10=100%	0	0
Item 8: <b>ANI</b>	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	3/4 = 75%	1/4 = 25%	6
Item 9: <b>ANI</b>	Adoption	0	4/4 = 100	6
Item 10: <b>Str</b>	Permanency goal of <b>Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)</b>	2/2= 100%	0	4
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				
Item 11: <b>Str</b>	Proximity of foster care placement	10/10= 100%	0	0
Item 12: <b>Str</b>	Placement with siblings	7/7 = 100%	0	3
Item 13: <b>ANI</b>	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	2/6 = 33%	4/6 = 67%	4
Item 14: <b>Str</b>	Preserving connections	6/6 = 100%	0	4
Item 15: <b>ANI</b>	Relative placement	5/10 = 50%	5/10 = 50%	0
Item 16: <b>ANI</b>	Relationship of child in care with parents	0	4/4 = 100%	6
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				
Item 17: <b>ANI</b>	Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	13/20=65%	7/20=35%	0
Item 18: <b>ANI</b>	Child and family involvement in case planning	12/20=60%	8/20=40%	0
Item 19: <b>ANI</b>	Worker visits with child	16/20=80%	4/20=20%	0
Item 20: <b>ANI</b>	Worker visits with parent(s)	9/17=53%	8/17=47%	3
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				
Item 21: <b>Str</b>	Educational needs of the child	17/17=100%	0	3
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Item 22: <b>ANI</b>	Physical health of the child	17/20=85%	3/20=15%	0
Item 23: <b>Str</b>	Mental health of the child	15/16=94%	1/16=6%	4

The objective is that 95% of cases be rated "Strength".

Str = Strength

ANI = Area Needing Improvement

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