

**Georgetown County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
January 2010**

During the week of January 25 - 29, 2010, a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Georgetown 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, foster child, Georgetown DSS supervisors and workers, representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health, Family Court Judge, Law Enforcement and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Period under Review: January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

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 and Foster Care.

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 | Strength |
| 2) Repeat Maltreatment | Area Needing Improvement |

Agency Data

Performance Measure 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations on Reports of Child Maltreatment - Of all reports of child maltreatment that were accepted for investigation during the reporting period, what percentage had a dictation type contact of initial contact where the action date is within 24 hours of accepting the report?

Report Period: 01/01/ 2009 to 12/ 31/ 2009

Objective: 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	18,185	17,542	96.5.%	-643
Georgetown	69	69	100.0%	0

Explanation of Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating investigations

This is an area of **Strength** for Georgetown DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours. Agency data indicates that for the 12-month period under review, Georgetown DSS initiated all of its investigations of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours. Reviewers found that in every case, risk ratings were assigned appropriately.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Safety Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	40	6	60	0	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	14	70	6	30	0	0

Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item measures the occurrence of maltreatment among children under agency supervision, or within a year of having their case closed by the agency. Sixty percent of the foster care cases reviewed involved children who entered foster care from an in-home treatment case in which the children experienced additional maltreatment while under agency supervision.

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**

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Safety Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in Home and Prevent Removal.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	100	0	0	7	0
Treatment	10	100	0	0	0	0
Total Cases	13	100	0	0	7	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Georgetown DSS. This item assesses whether services were adequate to protect children in their home and prevent their removal and placement into foster care. In every case reviewed, appropriate services were being offered to safely maintain the children in their home when it was appropriate to do so.

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Onsite Review Findings

Safety Item 4: Risk of Harm

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	70	3	30	0	0
Treatment	3	30	7	70	0	0
Total Cases	10	50	10	50	0	0

Explanation of Item 4: Risk of Harm

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item assesses whether the agency's interventions reduced risk of harm to children. In 70% of the foster care and 30% of the treatment cases reviewed risk of harm was adequately managed. Overall, in 50% of the cases the agency failed to recognize or manage risks posed by the conditions revealed in its assessments. In those cases, the agency failed to complete background checks and assessments on all adults in the home who had an active role in the children's lives, or disregarded the risk posed by the extensive criminal histories revealed when background checks were done.

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 | Area Needing Improvement |
| 6) Stability of foster care placement | Strength |
| 7) Permanency goal for child | Area Needing Improvement |
| 8) Reunification or permanent placement with relatives | Strength |
| 9) Adoption | Area Needing Improvement |
| 10) Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) | Area Needing Improvement |

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Agency Data				
Performance Measure 7: Foster Children Who do Not Re-Enter Care - Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12 month period prior to reporting period, what percentage did Not re-enter foster care within 12 months of the date of their discharge from the prior foster care episode. Report Period: 01/01/09 to 12/31/09				
Objective: 90.1% (Federal Standard)				
	Number of Foster Children Reunified during Reporting Period	Number of Children Who Did Not Re-enter Foster Care Within 12 Months	Percent of Children Who Did Not Re-Enter Foster Care Within 12 Months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3016	2801	92.9%	215
Georgetown	14	8	57.1%	-6

Explanation of Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown 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 57.1% of the children did not re-enter foster care within 12-months of the date of their discharge from the previous foster care episode. This is the highest rate of children re-entering foster care of any South Carolina county.

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 6: Stability of Foster Care Placements - Of all children who had been in foster care at least 8 days but less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, the percentage that had no more than two placement settings. Report Period: 01/01/09 to 12/31/09				
Objective: >= 86% (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	3723	2821	75.8%	-902
Georgetown	20	17	85.0%	.2

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Explanation of Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Georgetown 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 85% of Georgetown county children had two or fewer placements. Because of the relatively small number of children involved, the one percentage point below the objective represents less than one child (.02%).

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 7: Permanency Goal for Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0

Explanation of Item 7: Permanency Goal for Children

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown 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 80% of the foster care cases reviewed, the agency quickly identified the appropriate goal. However, in 20% of the cases reviewed the children had incorrect permanency plans. In one case the agency assigned a plan of return home for a child even though the parent's rights had been terminated for the child's siblings. In another case, the child had the plan of reunification for over 18 months even though the mother had failed to achieve any of her treatment goals.

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 8: Time to achieve Reunification - Of all children who were reunified with their parent(s) or caretaker(s) at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? Report Period: 01/01/09 to 12/31/09				
Objective: >= 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	2434	1843	75.7%	591
Georgetown	12	11	91.7%	1

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Explanation of Item 8: Reunification or Permanent Placement with Relatives

This is an area of **Strength** for Georgetown 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 91.7% of Georgetown county children were reunified with their parents, which surpasses the 75.2% federal standard. Even though agency data indicates that this is an area of strength for Georgetown DSS, the rate at which those children are re-entering care, calls such a rating into question (see Item 5).

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 9: Time to Finalize Adoption – Of all children who left foster care due to finalized adoption during the reporting year, what percentage left foster care in less than 24 months from the date of their latest removal from home? Report Period: 01/01/09 to 12/31/09				
Objective: >= 36.6% (National 75 th Percentile)				
	Total Number of Finalized Adoptions	Number of Adoptions finalized < 24 months	Percent of Adoptions Finalized < 24 months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	544	97	17.8%	-26.4
Georgetown	14	4	28.6%	-19.4

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 9: Adoption						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	33	2	67	7	0

Explanation of Item 9: Adoption

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. Agency data shows that Georgetown DSS completed 14 adoptions in SFY2009 – which is an exceptionally high number of adoptions for a county this size. However, 28.6% of those adoptions were completed within 24 months of the children entering care – which is well above the state average, but below the national standard. Two practice issues cause this to be an area needing improvement: 1) The consistent failure to diligently look for or engage non-custodial parents, and 2) delays in changing permanency plans from Return Home to TPR/Adoption.

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Onsite Review Findings

Permanency Item 10: Permanency Goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	67	1	33	7	0

Explanation of Item 10: Permanency Goal of APPLA

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown 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. Reviewers found that in one of the three cases reviewed, the child with the plan of APPLA was not receiving the appropriate Independent Living services.

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

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 11) Proximity of foster care placement | Strength |
| 12) Placement with siblings in foster care | Area Needing Improvement |
| 13) Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care | Area Needing Improvement |
| 14) Preserving connections | Area Needing Improvement |
| 15) Relative placement | Area Needing Improvement |
| 16) Relationship of child in care with parents | Area Needing Improvement |

Agency Data

Performance Measure 13: Foster Children Placed in county of Origin – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), what percentage are placed within the county of origin?

Report Period: 01/01/09 to 12/31/09

Objective: >= 70% (Agency established objective)

	Total Number of Children <18 and in care during report period	Number of Children Placed in County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed in County of Origin	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	5849	3986	68.1%	-1863
Georgetown	33	27	81.8%	6

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Explanation of Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Georgetown County DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep children close enough to their families so that essential relationships can be maintained. One measure used to evaluate this item is the percentage of children who are placed within the county. The objective is that at least 70% of the children in care be placed within the county. Agency data shows that 81.8% of Georgetown DSS children were placed within the county which surpasses the established objective.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	50	3	50	4	0

Explanation of Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. In 50% of the cases reviewed, sibling groups were kept together when appropriate. Also 50% of the cases needed improvement because sibling groups were separated due to a lack of placements willing to take all of the children.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 13: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	14	6	86	3	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to ensure that visits occur between children in foster care and their siblings and parents. Improvement was needed in 86% of the cases because the agency either failed to arrange visits between children and their mothers and non-custodial fathers or failed to assess the appropriateness of such visits. The agency also failed to arrange visits between sibling groups living in separate placements in any planned way.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	67	2	33	4	0

Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to preserve children's connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. In 67% of the cases reviewed, agency efforts were present to help children maintain their relationships with family and friends. However, in 33% of the cases, reviewers found no documentation to support the agency's efforts to preserve the child's connections to identified family members other than the child's mother, and sometimes the father.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 15: Relative Placement						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	11	8	89	1	0

Explanation of Item 15: Relative Placement

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to identify and assess relatives as potential placement resources for children in foster care. In 89% of the cases reviewed, reviewers found that the agency did not consistently look for or assess maternal and paternal relatives as placement options. This item was also impacted by the agency's lack of diligent search for the fathers.

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

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to promote a supportive relationship between children in care and their parents, beyond the twice-minimum visitation requirement. In no case did reviewers find evidence of the agency's efforts in supporting the parent-child relationships based on the needs of the child. Agency policy requires that child contact with parents take into consideration factors such as the age of the child, issues associated with transitioning a child back into the home, etc. These factors should have affected the content of visitation plans.

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

The county's performance on this outcome is based on the rating of four items.

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

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 17: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	70	3	30	0	0
Treatment	3	30	7	70	0	0
Total Cases	10	50	10	50	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown 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? In 70% of the foster care cases and 30% of the treatment cases reviewed, needs and services of the child and parents were adequately assessed. In most of the cases that needed improvement the agency failed to assess the parents, age appropriate children and non-custodial parent's needs. In cases that closed during the period under review the agency did not ensure that services were provided to address the identified needs of the families before closing the cases. This item's weakness may be attributed to the lack of quality assessments and documentation.

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 18: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	56	4	44	1	0
Treatment	4	40	6	60	0	0
Total Cases	9	47	10	53	1	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to involve parents and children in the case planning process. Reviewers found that 44% of the foster care cases and 60% of the treatment cases needed improvement because the parents and age-appropriate children were not involved in the case planning process. This rating was affected by the agency's failure to diligently look for and engage the fathers of children in care. This rating was also affected by the presence of incomplete and unsigned treatment plans in the case files. Reviewers found that most of the treatment plans contained the same objective for the parents (attend parenting classes) and none for the age appropriate children regardless of what the identified need was.

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 14: Face-to- Face Visits with Children (<18 years of age) Of all children in foster care and treatment for at least one full calendar month during the reporting period, what percentage of children had a documented face-to-face visit every full calendar month during the reporting period?				
Report Period: 01/01/09 to 12/31/09				
Objective: >= 100% (Agency established objective)				
	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 (Below) Objective
Foster Care	39	39	100.0%	0
Treatment	120	93	77.5%	-27

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 19: Worker Visits with Child(ren)						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	10	9	90	0	0
Treatment	3	30	7	70	0	0
Total Cases	4	20	16	80	0	0

Explanation of Item 19: Worker Visits with Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown 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 require that children under agency supervision be seen each month. Agency data shows that 100% of the foster children in foster care and 77.5% of the children in in-home treatment cases were visited monthly. Reviewers determined that even when the children were seen, the majority of the visits were not conducted in the child's home but at the agency. Also, the content of those visits did not always address safety, permanency and child well-being issues.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 20: Worker Visits with Parent(s)						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	6	100	4	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	5	31	11	69	4	0

Explanation of Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with parents, and evaluates the quality of those visits. Improvement was needed in 100% of the foster care and 50% of the treatment cases due to the agency's failure to visit both parents during the period under review; especially when the plan was to return the child home to their parents. Reviewers noted that the majority of the visits with the parents were conducted at the agency rather than in the parents' homes. Caseworkers did not consistently use their visits with the parents to discuss treatment or permanency related topics.

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

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

21) Educational needs of the child **Area Needing Improvement**

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 21: Educational Needs of Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	50	2	50	6	0
Treatment	4	57	3	43	3	0
Total Cases	6	55	5	45	8	0

Explanation of Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and address the educational needs of children under agency supervision. In 50% of the foster care cases and in 57% of the treatment cases reviewers found that workers made direct contact with the school and there were also copies of grade reports and attendance records in the files. However, in 45% of the cases the agency failed to obtain educational information directly from the child's school, but relied on word-of-mouth reports on the child's educational performance. In those cases the agency also failed to act upon information indicating that the child was experiencing academic or behavioral difficulty in school.

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

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

22) Physical health of the child **Area Needing Improvement**
 23) Mental health of the child **Area Needing Improvement**

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<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	40	6	60	0	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
Total Cases	12	60	8	40	0	0

Explanation of Item 22: Physical Health of the Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the medical needs of children under agency supervision. In 40% of the foster care cases and in 80% of the treatment cases the physical health and dental needs of the children were assessed and the identified medical needs were met. Copies of medical, dental and immunizations records were in most of the cases. However, in the cases that needed improvement the agency failed to follow-up on identified medical or dental needs.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	50	2	50	6	0
Treatment	3	50	3	50	4	0
Total Cases	5	50	5	50	10	0

Explanation of Item 23: Mental health of the child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the mental health needs of children under agency supervision. In half of the foster care and treatment cases the children's mental health needs were assessed and attended to. In the cases that needed improvement the children did not consistently receive services called for in their mental health assessments. Some of the delays were caused by a failure to connect the children to the appropriate providers.

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Unfounded Investigations

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>	Yes	No
Was the investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was the assessment adequate?	2	3
Was the decision adequate?	2	3

Explanation of Item 24: Unfounded Investigations

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the agency's investigative process and determines if decisions were supported by the facts of the cases. All five of the investigations were initiated timely. The decisions were appropriate in two of the five cases reviewed. The decision to unfound 60% of the cases was inappropriate because the assessments revealed that conditions existed that met the legal definition of abuse or neglect. Those children remained at risk of harm. One inappropriate practice in this county was to place children with an alternate caregiver, then close the case unfounded. Because of that practice the alternate caregiver had no legal authority to retain physical custody of the child, and none of the factors that caused the agency to intervene were resolved.

Screened Out Intakes

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>	Yes	No	Cannot Determine
Was Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	3	4	3
Were necessary Collaterals Contacted?	2	6	2
Were Appropriate Referrals made?	0	1	9

Explanation of Item 25: Screened Out Intakes

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. This item evaluates the process by which the agency screens out reports of abuse and/or neglect to determine if the intakes were appropriately screened out. Four intakes that were screened out should have been accepted for investigation because the allegations listed in the report met the legal definition of Child Abuse and Neglect and warranted an investigation. Also, reviewers could not determine whether or not three intakes were screened appropriately, due to the absence of information that should have been obtained from other collaterals.

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Foster Home Licenses

Explanation of Item 26: Foster Home Licenses

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Georgetown DSS. A review of licensing records showed some areas of strength, and many areas needing attention. There were six licenses reviewed that were not valid at the time of issuance. Most of the quarterly visits were conducted but were not being completed consistently as required. 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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GEORGETOWN COUNTY DSS Summary Sheet				
Performance Item or Outcome		Performance Item Ratings		
		Strength	Area Needing Improvement	N/A*
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				
Item 1: *Str	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	10/10=100%	0	10
Item 2: ANI	Repeat maltreatment	14/20=70%	6/20=30%	0
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				
Item 3: Str	Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	13/13=100%	0	7
Item 4: ANI	Risk of harm to child(ren)	10/20=50%	10/20=50%	0
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Item 5: *ANI	Foster care re-entries	3/4=75%	1/4=25%	6
Item 6: * Str	Stability of foster care placement	9/10=90%	1/10=10%	0
Item 7 ANI	Permanency goal for child	8/10=80%	2/10=20%	0
Item 8: *Str	Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	3/4 = 75%	1/4=25%	6
Item 9: * ANI	Adoption	1/3=33%	2/3=67%	7
Item 10: ANI	Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	2/3=67%	1/3=33%	7
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				
Item 11: *Str	Proximity of foster care placement	8/8= 100%	0	2
Item 12: ANI	Placement with siblings	3/6=50%	3/6=50%	4
Item 13: ANI	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	1/7=14%	6/7=86%	3
Item 14: ANI	Preserving connections	4/6=67%	2/6=33%	4
Item 15: ANI	Relative placement	1/9= 11%	8/9=89%	1
Item 16: ANI	Relationship of child in care with parents	0	6/6=100%	4
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				
Item 17: ANI	Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	10/20=50%	10/20=50%	0
Item 18: ANI	Child and family involvement in case planning	9/19=47%	10/19=53%	1
Item 19: ANI	Worker visits with child	4/20=20%	16/20=80%	0
Item 20: ANI	Worker visits with parent(s)	5/16=31%	11/16=69%	4
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				
Item 21: ANI	Educational needs of the child	6/11=55%	5/11=45%	9
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Item 22: ANI	Physical health of the child	12/20=60%	4/20=40%	0
Item 23: ANI	Mental health of the child	5/10=50%	5/10=50%	10

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