

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

During the week of March 15 - 19, 2010, a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Orangeburg 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, Orangeburg DSS supervisor and workers, representative from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Period under Review: March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010

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 child welfare outcome reports 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, Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services (IFCCS), 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.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

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 | Strength |

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: March 1, 2009- February 28, 2010

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

	Number of Investigations	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Percent of Investigations Initiated Timely	Numbers of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	18,541	18,028	97.2%	(513)
Orangeburg	232	226	97.4%	(6)

Explanation of Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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 Orangeburg DSS initiated 226 of its 232 investigations (97.4%) of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours. Reviewers were able to determine that all investigations were initiated timely. Data entry errors accounted for the six investigations that appeared to be late.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
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 of Cases	20	100%	0	0	0	0

Explanation of Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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. Both the onsite review and agency data show that children under agency supervision did not experience repeat maltreatment during the period under review.

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 assessment and safety management | Area Needing Improvement |

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Safety Item 3: Services to Family to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	100%	0	0	7	0
Treatment	9	90%	1	10%	0	0
Total Cases	12	92%	1	8%	7	0

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

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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 foster care case the decision to remove the children was appropriate. In 90% of the in-home treatment cases the services assigned to the family targeted the risk factors identified in the family's assessment.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

Onsite Review Findings

Safety Item 4: Risk of Harm

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100%	0	0	0	0
Treatment	6	60%	4	40%	0	0
Total Cases	16	80%	4	20%	0	0

Explanation of Item 4: Risk Assessment and Safety Management

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg DSS. This item assesses whether the agency's interventions reduced risk of harm to children. In 100% of the foster care cases reviewed, risk of harm was adequately managed. In 40% of the treatment cases the agency failed to complete criminal background checks and assessments on other adults in the home. The agency also failed to manage risk resulting from the behavior of 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 | Area Needing Improvement |
| 6) Stability of foster care placement | Strength |
| 7) Permanency goal for child | Area Needing Improvement |
| 8) Reunification/ permanent placement with relatives | Strength |
| 9) Adoption | Strength |
| 10) Permanency goal of Alternate Planned
Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) | Strength |

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

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: March 1, 2009- February 28, 2010				
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	2,997	2,778	92.70%	77.7
Orangeburg	44	39	88.6%	(0.6)

Explanation of Item 5: Foster Care Re-entries

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg 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 88.6% of the children did not re-enter foster care within 12-months of the date of their discharge from the previous foster care episode.

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 6: Stability of foster care placement - Of all children who been placed in foster care less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home, what percentage had no more than two placement settings? Report Period: March 1, 2009- February 28, 2010				
Objective: 86% (Federal Standard)				
	Number of Children in Care < 12 Months during 3/1/09 to 2/28/10	Number of Children with No More than Two Placement Settings	Percent of Children with No More than Two Placement Settings	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,704	2,785	75.2%	(400.4)
Orangeburg	57	49	86%	0

Explanation of Item 6: Stability of Foster Care Placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

months. Orangeburg DSS met the objective for this item. Orangeburg DSS had 62 foster homes to serve the 70 children in care. This gave caseworkers the opportunity to select foster homes that were willing and able to meet the individual needs of children entering care.

<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 Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the appropriateness of permanency goals for children in foster care and the timeliness of those permanency decisions. In 80% of the foster care cases reviewed, the agency quickly identified the appropriate goal. However, one case needed improvement because the plan of adoption should not have been ruled out for a 13 year old child. Another case needed improvement, because the chance of the child returning home was negligible, yet the child continued with that plan for over 18 months.

Agency Data				
Performance Measure 8: Time to Achieve Reunification - Of all children under the age of 18 who were reunified with their parent(s) or caretaker(s) 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?				
Report Period: March 1, 2009 - February 28, 2010				
Objective: 75.2% (Federal Standard)				
	Number of Children Reunified with Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) or Relatives	Number of Children Reunified in < 12 months	Percent of Children Reunified in < 12 Months	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,441	1,857	76.1%	21.4
Orangeburg	39	30	76.9%	0.7

Explanation of Item 8: Reunification or Permanent Placement with Relatives

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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 76.9% of the children in Orangeburg DSS were returned home to their parents or relatives within 12 months of entering foster care, which surpasses the 75.2% federal objective.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

Agency Data

Performance Measure 9: Time to Finalized Adoption – Of all children who left foster care due to finalized adoption during the reporting year, what percentage left foster care within 24 months from the date of their latest removal from home?

Report Period: March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010

Objective: $\geq 36.6\%$ (National 75th percentile)

	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	532	95	17.9%	(99.7)
Orangeburg	10	4	40.0%	0.3

Explanation of Item 9: Adoption

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the process within the child welfare system to achieve timely adoptions for children in foster care. Agency data shows that Orangeburg DSS completed 10 adoptions during the period under review. Forty percent of those adoptions were completed within 24 months of the children entering care. That exceeds the agency's objective for this item.

Onsite Review Findings

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

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	100%	0	50%	7	0

Explanation of Item 10: Permanency Goal of APPLA

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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. In every case reviewed, youth with the plan of APPLA were receiving appropriate Independent Living services or placed with a caregiver who was committed to the youth's long-term.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

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

Agency Data

Performance Measure 13: Foster Children Placed Within 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: April 3, 2009- April 2, 2010

Objective: >= 70% (Agency established objective)

	Number of Children in Foster Care	Number of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	5,870	4,011	68.3%	(98.0)
Orangeburg	105	89	84.8%	15.5

Explanation of Item 11: Proximity of Foster Care Placement

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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 84.8% of Orangeburg DSS children were placed within the county.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 12: Placement with Siblings						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	100%	0	0	5	0

Explanation of Item 12: Placement with Siblings in Foster Care

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to keep siblings together when it is appropriate to do so. In 100% of the cases reviewed, sibling groups were kept together when appropriate.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 13: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	5	63%	3	37%	2	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to ensure that visits occur between children in foster care and their siblings and parents. In 63% of the cases reviewed, visits between the children in foster care, the parents and their siblings in care were occurring as required. However, 37% of the cases needed improvement because the agency failed to attempt face-to-face contact with parents in an effort to arrange visits between the parents and their children in care. The practice in the Orangeburg office was to mail the Rights, Roles and Responsibility letter to parents once-a-month and schedule a visit only if the parent responded to the letter.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 14: Preserving Connections						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	75%	1	25%	6	0

Explanation of Item 14: Preserving Connections

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to preserve children's connections to the people, places and things that are important to

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

them. In 75% of the cases reviewed, the agency made diligent efforts to help children maintain their relationships with family and friends. The cases needing improvement identified relatives of the child with whom the child previously had a close relationship, but with whom the child now had no contact (for example, adult siblings).

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 15: Relative placement						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	25	6	75%	2	0

Explanation of Item 15: Relative Placement

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to identify and assess relatives as potential placement resources for children in foster care. In 75% of the cases reviewed, the agency did not consistently assess maternal and paternal relatives as placement options.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Permanency Item 16: Relationship of Child in Care with Parents						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	75%	1	25%	6	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg 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 75% of the cases, reviewers found an increased parental involvement when the needs of children clearly called for it. This was noteworthy in cases where teenagers were communicating with their parents by phone, even though their case plan was not "Return Home." However, one case needed improvement because the agency had twice-a-month visitation for an eight month old infant that had the plan of reunification with the mother. This meant that the infant might spend only two or three hours per month with its mother.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

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 | 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 and Caregivers

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80%	2	20%	0	0
Treatment	7	70%	3	30%	0	0
Total Cases	15	75%	5	25%	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg 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 80% of the foster care cases and in 70% of the treatment cases reviewed, the needs of parents and caregivers were assessed and addressed. The cases needing improvement were due to the agency's lack of assessment of live-in paramours who functioned in a parental role, and non-custodial parents.

Onsite Review Findings

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

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	88%	1	12%	1	0
Treatment	6	60%	4	40%	0	0
Total Cases	14	74%	5	26%	0	0

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

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's efforts to involve parents and children in the case planning process. Reviewers found that in 12% of the foster care cases and 40% of the treatment cases, age-appropriate children or non-custodial fathers were not involved in the case planning process.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

Stakeholder’s Comments: “Yes, clients are involved, but it doesn’t happen 100% of the time. Family meetings are held but the workers are not doing a good job at documenting the families’ involvement. Also the workers are actively engaging the family in various settings, but the case record doesn’t show it.”

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	100	98	98.0%	(2)
Treatment	224	190	84.8%	(45.7)

Explanation of Item 19: Worker Visits with Child

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg 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 98.0% of the children in care received face-to-face visits each month. Only two children were not seen every month. Almost 85% of those visits occurred in the child’s place of residence, which is well above the 50% requirement. The 84.8% of children in treatment cases visited each month fell below policy requirements.

<u>Onsite Review Findings</u>						
Well Being Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	60%	2	40%	1	0
Treatment	8	80%	2	20%	0	0
Total Cases	11	73%	4	27%	1	0

Explanation of Item 20: Worker Visits with Parents

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg DSS. This item measures the frequency of caseworker visits with parents, and evaluates the quality of those visits. Improvement was needed in 40% of the foster care cases and in 20% 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

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

return the child home to their parents. In the treatment cases, caseworkers did not consistently use their visits with parents to discuss issues related to the case.

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 needs of the child **Strength**

Onsite Review Findings

Well Being Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100%	0	0	3	0
Treatment	8	100%	0	0	2	0
Total Cases	15	100%	0	0	5	0

Explanation of Item 21: Educational Needs of the Child

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the educational needs of children under agency supervision. In every case reviewed workers made direct contact with the school and there were copies of grade reports and attendance records in both foster care and treatment cases.

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 **Strength**
 23) Mental health of the child **Strength**

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

Onsite Review Findings						
Well Being Item 22: Physical Health of the Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100%	0	0	0	0
Treatment	9	90%	1	10%	0	0
Total Cases	16	95%	1	5%	0	0

Explanation of Item 22: Physical Health of the Child

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the medical needs of children under agency supervision. In 95% of the foster care cases and treatment cases, reviewers determined that the physical health and dental needs of the children were assessed and the identified medical needs were met.

Onsite Review Findings						
Well Being Item 23: Mental Health of the Child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	100%	0	0	3	0
Treatment	9	100%	0	0	1	0
Total Cases	16	100%	0	0	4	0

Explanation of Item 23: Mental Health of the Child

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the agency's ability to assess and meet the mental health needs of children under agency supervision. In 100% of the foster care cases and treatment cases, the children's mental health needs were assessed and met. Copies of mental health assessments and progress notes were in all of the records.

Unfounded Investigations

	Yes	No
Was the investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was the assessment adequate?	2	3
Was the decision appropriate?	4	1

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

Explanation of Item 24: Unfounded Investigations

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg 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. However, in one of the reviewed cases, the assessment was inadequate because of the agency's failure to interview the alleged perpetrator and assess the stepfather living in the home prior to the decision to unfound. In the other case, the assessment was inadequate due to lack of medical information needed to support the decision to unfound.

Screened Out Intakes			
-----------------------------	--	--	--

	Yes	No	Cannot Determine
Was the Intake Appropriately Screened Out?	10	0	0
			Not Applicable
Were Necessary Collaterals Contacted?	3	1	6
Were Appropriate Referrals Made?	0	0	10

Explanation of Item 25: Screened Out Intakes

This is an area of **Strength** for Orangeburg 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. Reviewers determined that all ten of the intakes were appropriately screened out and the necessary collaterals were contacted regarding the reported allegations.

Foster Home Licenses			
-----------------------------	--	--	--

Explanation of Item 26: Foster Home Licenses

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Orangeburg DSS. This item evaluates the process by which the agency ensures that all foster homes comply with licensing requirements and are valid. Nine of the ten cases reviewed were well managed. One was not valid because the fire inspection was not completed yearly.

**Orangeburg County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
March 2010**

Orangeburg 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	8/8=100%	0	11
Item 2: Str	Repeat maltreatment	20/20=100%	0	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	12/13=92%	1/13=8%	7
Item 4: ANI	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: *ANI	Foster care re-entries	2/2=100%	0	8
Item 6: Str	Stability of foster care placement	10/10=100%	0	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	3/3 =100%	0	7
Item 9: *Str	Adoption	2/4=50%	2/4=50%	6
Item 10: Str	Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	3/3=100%	0	7
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				
Item 11: Str	Proximity of foster care placement	7/7=100%	0	3
Item 12: Str	Placement with siblings	5/5=100%	0	5
Item 13: ANI	Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	5/8=63%	3/8=37%	2
Item 14: ANI	Preserving connections	3/4=75%	1/4=25%	6
Item 15: ANI	Relative placement	2/8=25%	6/8=75%	2
Item 16: ANI	Relationship of child in care with parents	3 / 4=75%	1/ 4=25%	6
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	15/20=75%	5/20=25%	0
Item 18: ANI	Child and family involvement in case planning	14/19=74%	5/19=26%	1
Item 19: ANI	Worker visits with child	18/20=90%	2/20=10%	0
Item 20: ANI	Worker visits with parent(s)	11/15=73%	4/15=27%	5
Item 21: Str	Educational needs of the child	15/15=100%	0	0
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Item 22: Str	Physical health of the child	19/20=95%	1/20=5%	0
Item 23: Str	Mental health of the child	16/16=100%	0	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