

**Jasper County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
September 2006**

During the week of April 10, 2006 thru April 14, 2006 a team of DSS staff from state office and surrounding counties conducted an onsite review of child welfare services in Jasper 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, Jasper DSS supervisors, and representatives from the schools, Foster Care Review Board, Mental Health and Guardian Ad Litem Program.

**Period included in Case Record Review: October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006**

**Period included in Outcome Measures: April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006**

**Purpose**

The Department of Social Services engages in a review of child welfare services in each county to:

- a) Determine to what degree services are delivered in compliance with federal and state laws and agency policy; and
- b) Assess the outcomes for children and families engaged in the child welfare system.

State law (§43-1-115) states, in part:

The state department shall conduct, at least once every five years, a substantive quality review of the child protective services and foster care programs in each county and each adoption office in the State. The county's performance must be assessed with reference to specific outcome measures published in advance by the department.

The information obtained by the child welfare services review process will:

- a) Give county staff feedback on the effectiveness of their interventions.
- b) Direct state office technical assistance staff to assist county staff with their areas needing improvement.
- c) Inform agency administrators of which systemic factors impair county staff's ability to achieve specific outcomes.
- d) Direct training staff to provide training for county staff specific to their needs.

**Quantitative and Qualitative Data Sources**

The county-specific review of child welfare services is both quantitative and qualitative.

The review is **quantitative** because it begins with an analysis of every child welfare outcome report for that county for the period under review. The outcome reports reflect the performance of the county in all areas of the child welfare program: Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake, CPS Investigations, CPS In-Home Treatment, Foster Care, Managed Treatment Services (MTS), and Adoptions.

The review is **qualitative** because it assesses the quality of the services rendered and the effectiveness of those services. The review seeks to explain why a county's performance data looks the way it does.

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**Ratings**

The standard that must be met for all items reviewed onsite is 90%. Each outcome report has its own standard. To be rated an area of **Strength** most items must meet both the qualitative onsite review standard **and** the quantitative outcome report standard.

**Section One**

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

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

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

Data Time Period: 04/1/05 to 03/31/06

	Number of Reports Accepted	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Number of Investigations Objective 100%*	Number of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	16,548	15,883	16,546.35	(663.35)
Jasper	72	67	71.99	(4.99)

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

**Onsite Review Findings**

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

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	0	0	10	0
Treatment	1	0	0	0	9	0
Total Cases	1	100	0	0	19	0

**Explanation of Item 1**

This is an **Area needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. State law requires that an investigation of all accepted reports of abuse and neglect be initiated within 24 hours. The outcome report indicates that for the 12 month period under review Jasper initiated 93% of the investigations of alleged abuse and neglect within 24 hours. The sample reviewed onsite contained only one investigation that was initiated during the period under review.

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**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

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

Indicated Reports Between Oct. 1, 2005 to Sept 30, 2006

	Number of Child Victims	Number of Child Victims In Another Founded Report	Number of Children Objective ≤ 90%	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	10,218	52	9,594.70	571.30
Jasper	49	0	46.01	2.99

Note: This is a federally established objective.

**Onsite Review Findings**

**Safety Item 2:** Repeat Maltreatment.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	10	100	0	0	0	0
Treatment	8	80	2	20	0	0
Total Cases	18	90	2	10	0	0

**Explanation of Item 2**

This is an area of **Strength** for Jasper DSS. Onsite reviewers found two cases of repeat or ongoing maltreatment in treatment cases. In one case, a child who was originally reported as a subject of educational neglect was allowed to miss almost a month of school while under agency supervision. Both treatment cases with this rating had poor assessments. Onsite reviewers found no instances of repeat maltreatment in foster care cases. The outcome report counts cases with additional indicated reports within the period under review. Onsite reviewers use information documented in the case file to determine if children under agency care experience additional abuse or neglect, whether or not that additional abuse results in another indicated report.

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**Section Two**

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Safety Item 3:</b> Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	1	100	0	0	9	0
Treatment	6	60	4	40	0	0
Total Cases	7	64	4	36	9	0

**Explanation of Item 3**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. Most of the foster care cases were rated not applicable because the children entered care prior to the period under the review. However, the decision to remove those children from their homes and place them in foster care was consistently correct. Reviewers determined that services were effectively provided to families in 60% of the CPS treatment cases so that children could safely remain in their homes. However, in 40% of treatment cases the agency allowed parents too many chances to comply with treatment plans, especially in cases that involved drug and/or alcohol abuse.

<b>Strategic Outcome Report Findings</b>				
Measure S2.2: <b>Risk of harm to child</b> – Of all unfounded investigations during the reporting period, the percent receiving subsequent reports within six months of the initial report.				
	Number Alleged Child Victims in an Unfounded Report 11/1/05 to 10/31/06	Number With Another Report Within 6 Months of Unfounded Determination	Number of Cases Met Objective >= 91.50%*	Number of Cases Above (Below) Objective
State	14,600	1,178	13,359.00	63.00
Jasper	59	3	53.99	2.02

\*This is a DSS established objective.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Safety Item 4:</b> Risk of harm.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	89	1	11	1	0
Treatment	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	13	68	6	32	1	0

**Explanation of Item 4**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. Fifty percent of the treatment cases were deemed needing improvement because the agency's interventions were not reducing the risk of harm to the children in those families. In two cases, reviewers found a safety plan that was developed seven days after initiating the investigation which did not document how the child would remain safe in the home and did not address the responsibilities of the protector. Another safety plan was developed which required the perpetrator to leave the home but staff did not ensure that the perpetrator left. Consequently, the child was re-abused because the perpetrator never left the home.

**Section Three**

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

(Measure P3.1): **Foster Care Re-entries** – Of all children who entered care during the year under review, the percent that re-entered foster care Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.

	Number Children Entering Care 11/01/05 to 10/31/06	Number That Were Returned Home Within The Past 12 Months From Previous Foster Care Episode	Number of Children Objective $\geq 91.40\%$ *	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,213	243	2,936.68	33.32
Jasper	9	2	8.23	-1.23

\*This is a federally established objective.

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**Explanation of Item 5**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement for Jasper DSS**. CAPSS shows that two of the nine children who entered foster care in Jasper County during the period under review had been returned home in the prior 12 months. Consequently, Jasper DSS did not meet the Federal standard for foster care re-entries.

<b><u>Strategic Outcome Report Findings</u></b>				
Measure (P3.2): <b>Stability of Foster Care Placement</b> – Of all children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, the percent that had not more than 2 placement settings.				
	Number of Children In Care Less Than 12 Months	Number of Children With No More Than 2 Placements	Number of Children Objective $\geq 86.70\%*$	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,705	2,975	3,212.24	-237.24
Jasper	12	11	10.40	0.60

Note: This is a federally established objective.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 6:</b> Stability of foster care placement.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0

**Explanation of Item 6**

This is an area of **Strength** for Jasper DSS. The federal standard for stability measured by the outcome report applies only to children in care less than 12 months. Onsite reviewers assess stability for all children in care. Reviewers determined that 80% of the children in foster care had relatively stable placements. Children disrupting placements were teens with conduct disorders.

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**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

(Measure P3.5): **Permanency Goal for Child** – Of all children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, the percent for which a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petition has been filed.

	Children in Care At Least 15 of Last 22 Months 04/05 – 03/06	Number Children With TPR Complaint	Number of Children Objective >= 53.00%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,617	1,692	1,917.01	225.01
Jasper	11	8	5.83	2.17

\*This is DSS established objective. The federal agency, Administration for Children and Families, gathers data on this measure, but has not established a numerical objective.

**Onsite Review Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Permanency Item 7:** Permanency goal for children.

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

**Explanation of Item 7**

This is an area of **Strength** for Jasper DSS. To meet the criteria established in the CAPSS report 53% or more of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months must have a TPR petition filed. In Jasper 73% of the children in care 15 of the prior 22 months had TPR petitions filed. Onsite reviewers found that the case plans for 9 of the 10 cases reviewed were appropriate.

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.3: **Length of Time to Achieve Reunification** – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caregiver, at the time of discharge from foster care, the percent reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.

	Number of Children Where Foster Care Services Closed. Last Plan Was Return Home 11/01/05– 10/31/06	Number of Children In Care Less Than 12 Months	Number Of Children Objective >= 76.20%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,326	1,747	1,636.77	110.2
Jasper	10	10	7.62	2.38

\* This is a federally established objective.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 8:</b> Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	100	0	0	8	0

**Explanation of Item 8**

This is an area of **Strength** for Jasper DSS. To meet this federally established criteria at least 76.20% of the children returned to their parents from foster care must be returned within 12 months of their removal from home. All (100%) of the children who entered care in the past 12 months in Jasper County were returned home within a year of entry. Consequently, the children who remain in care beyond 12 months have permanency plans other than return home. Onsite reviewers found that all children with the plan of return home had appropriate plans.

<b>Strategic Outcome Report Findings</b>				
Measure P3.4: <b>Length of Time to Achieve Adoption</b> – Of all children who exited from foster care during the year under review to a finalized adoption, the percent that exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.				
	Number of Children With Finalized Adoption W/in Past 12 Months	Number of Children Where Adoption Was Finalized Within 24 Months of Entering Care	Number of Children Objective $\geq 32.00\%$ *	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	363	47	116.16	69.16
Jasper	1	1	0.32	0.68

Note: This is a federally established objective.

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 9:</b> Adoption.						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	0	0	1	100	9	0



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**Explanation of Item 9**

This is an area of **Strength** for Jasper DSS. At the time of the onsite review Jasper DSS had 13 children in foster care. The agency had filed Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petitions on 73% of its children in care over 22 months (see Item 7 on page 7). The one adoption completed during the period under review was done in less than 24 months of the child entering care. However, the case reviewed onsite with a plan of adoption had no chance of being completed timely. That case involved a child placed with a relative in another state. Missteps on the part of the resident state and Jasper DSS created unnecessary delays.

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P3.6: **Permanency Goal of “Other Planned Living Arrangement”** – Of all children in foster care, the percent with a permanency goal of emancipation (Indep Liv Services) or a planned permanent living arrangement other than adoption, guardianship, or return to family.

	Number of Children In Care at Least One Day 11/01/05 – 10/31/06	Number of Children In Care With Perm Plan “Other Planned Living Arrangement”	Number of Children Objective $\geq 85.00\%$ *	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	7,860	1,240	6681.00	-61.00
Jasper	21	7	17.85	-3.85

\* This is a DSS established objective.

**Onsite Review Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Permanency Item 10:** Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement.

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	57	3	43	3	0

**Explanation of Item 10**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. All 10 of the children who entered foster care in the past 12 months were returned home within a year. The remaining children generally have plans of adoption or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). That is why the outcome report shows that a disproportionately large number of children (one third) have that plan. Seven of the cases reviewed onsite had this plan. For six of those children the plan was appropriate. This item was rated an area needing improvement for one child because the child was slated for permanent foster care yet only nine years old.

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This item was rated an area needing improvement for two other cases because the youth were not receiving the assistance needed to achieve their goals. For example, one child was a senior in high school who planned to attend college. The caseworker was not helping this youth access the services that were available through DSS.

**Section Four**

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

**Strategic Outcome Report Findings**

Measure P4.1: **Proximity of Foster Care Placement** – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), the percent placed within their county of origin.

	Number of Children In Care 11/01/05 – 10/31/06	Number of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Number of Children Objective >= 70.00%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	6,039	3,915	64.83	4,227.30	-312.30
Jasper	21	11	52.38	14.70	-3.70

\* This is a DSS established objective.

**Explanation of Item 11**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. To meet this objective 70% or more of the children in care must be placed in Jasper County. Although Jasper DSS had eight foster homes to serve the 13 children in care, half of its children were placed out of county. Jasper DSS allowed the licenses to expire on four of the eight foster homes. Jasper DSS relied heavily on Beaufort DSS foster homes.

**Onsite Review Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Permanency Item 12: Placement with siblings**

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	6	0

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**Explanation of Item 12**

This is an area of **Strength** for Jasper DSS. Jasper DSS managed several sibling groups with five or more children. Every effort was made to place as many siblings in the same home as possible. In most cases when sibling groups had to be separated they were placed close to each other so that relationships could be maintained through formal visits and casual encounters within the community. One child was separated from her sibling because the sibling needed a therapeutic placement.

<b><u>Onsite Review Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	38	5	62	2	0

**Explanation of Item 13**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. One of the five cases needing improvement involved a child whose sibling was in a therapeutic placement and managed by Managed Treatment Services (MTS). Those children had not seen each other since entering care – over a year. The other four cases needing improvement in this area resulted from a failure of the agency to offer the non-custodial fathers the opportunity to be involved in their child’s life.

<b><u>Site Visit Findings</u></b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 14: Preserving connections</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	3	43	4	57	3	0

**Explanation of Item 14**

This is an **Area needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. This item addresses the agency’s ability to preserve a child’s connection to the people, places and things that are important to him. In three of the cases reviewed the children in care were able to maintain contact with the people and places that were important to them because the children were teenagers and managed their own contacts. However, younger children who were not able to maintain connections by their own initiative were isolated from significant family members. The agency focused on helping foster children visit their mothers the minimum amount of times required by policy. Little consideration was given to the children’s need to maintain their relationships with other relatives.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 15:</b> Relative placement						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	44	5	56	1	0

**Explanation of Item 15**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. This item addresses the agency's effectiveness in identifying and assessing the relatives of children in foster care as possible caregivers. In half of the cases reviewed there was no evidence that both maternal and paternal relatives were assessed as placement options for the children in foster care. Half of the reviewed cases needed improvement because the focus appeared to be on the mother's family, to the exclusion of the father's family.

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Permanency Item 16:</b> Relationship of child in care with parents						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	2	29	5	71	3	0

**Explanation of Item 16**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. This item addresses the agency's effectiveness in promoting or maintaining a strong emotionally supportive relationship between children in care and their parents. This item was rated as needing improvement because the agency focused on mothers and did not offer fathers an opportunity to be involved in their children's lives.

There also appeared to be an effort to comply with policy without understanding its intent. For example, one large sibling group was having monthly visits with the mother and with each other. Those visits appeared to be successful and beneficial for the children. The mother was not participating in treatment and the court relieved DSS of providing services to her. At that point all formal visits stopped, even among the siblings. Since "Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement" was the goal for these children, DSS was not required to provide services for the mother, the court did not prohibit visitation and visitation was probably in the children's best interest.

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**Section Five**

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

**Site Visit Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**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	5	50	5	50	0	0
Total Cases	12	60	8	40	0	0

**Explanation of Item 17**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper 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? Treatment cases were more likely to be rated as needing improvement because the agency failed to attend to the needs of fathers. The agency did not consistently document effort to find or engage them. Treatment cases were also deficient in the oversight of children placed with relatives, whose needs were not consistently assessed or attended.

Deleted:

**Onsite Review Findings** Performance Item Ratings

**Well Being Item 18:** Child and family involvement in case planning

	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	6	67	3	33	1	0
Treatment	6	60	4	40	0	0
Total Cases	12	63	7	37	1	0

**Explanation of Item 18**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. For this item there were deficiencies in the foster care and treatment cases. Fathers were not consistently involved in case planning or seen by the agency. In those cases in which fathers were not involved, the agency did not consistently document efforts to find or engage them.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 19: Worker visits with child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	70	3	30	0	0
Treatment	4	40	6	60	0	0
Total Cases	11	55	9	45	0	0

**Explanation of Item 19**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. This rating is based on two questions: 1) Were Jasper DSS staff visiting children according to policy; and 2) did the visits focus on issues related to the treatment plan? In both treatment and foster cases this were rated an area needing improvement, due to children not being seen consistently. In treatment cases involving sibling groups, workers were likely to see the victim child each month, while several months passed without other children in the family being seen.

<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	4	100	0	0	6	0
Treatment	4	40	6	60	0	0
Total Cases	8	57	6	43	6	0

**Explanation of Item 20**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. Agency contact with parents of children in foster care was regular and focused on treatment issues. However, that was true of only 40% of treatment cases. As was the case in Item 18, most casework was with the mothers of children, to the exclusion of the children's fathers.

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**Section Six**

Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 21: Educational needs of child</b>						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	7	70	3	30	0	0
Treatment	6	67	3	33	1	0
Total Cases	13	68	6	32	1	0

**Explanation of Item 21**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. This item asks two questions: 1) Did DSS assess the educational needs of the children under their supervision; and 2) Were identified educational needs addressed? Reviewers found that workers assessed the educational needs of children in foster care, but failed to follow-up on identified issues in 30% of the cases. Because of focusing on the victim child in treatment cases involving sibling groups, the educational needs of the other children in families were sometimes ignored.

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**Section Seven**

Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.
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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 22: Physical health of the child</b>						
	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 22**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. Reviewers saw a pattern of staff assessing the medical needs of clients by asking the children or a parent about their health needs. Even when a parent had proven to be an unreliable reporter, workers often failed to verify parent statements by contacting medical providers directly. Consequently, few cases contained medical records.

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<b>Onsite Review Findings</b> Performance Item Ratings						
<b>Well Being Item 23:</b> Mental health of the child						
	Strength		Area Needing Improvement		Not Applicable	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Foster Care	8	80	2	20	0	0
Treatment	3	33	6	67	1	0
Total Cases	11	58	8	42	6	0

**Explanation of Item 23**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. The mental health needs of children in foster care were generally managed. Even though children in treatment cases were exposed to domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, they usually were not referred for mental health assessments or counseling.

**Section Eight – Foster Home Licenses**

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. Stakeholders expressed a concern that Jasper County DSS did not have enough foster homes to serve their children; and that children were placed in foster homes based on the availability, not because the homes fit the children’s needs. Stakeholders stated that they see recruitment efforts but they said it does not seem to be bringing in more foster homes. Stakeholders also expressed concern that foster parents were not adequately trained and prepared for the children they serve.

In March 2006, CAPSS indicated the Jasper County DSS had eight foster homes licensed, four current and four expired. Four of the 13 children in foster care were placed in those four homes with current licenses. The other children were placed in Beaufort County.

All four current licenses were selected for review. The following are the findings from the records reviews.

**Strengths**

- Quarterly visits were conducted and documented in the records.
- Sex offender and other background checks were completed on all the age appropriate residents.

**Areas Needing Improvement**

- Quarterly licensing visits did not document specifically what was discussed (i.e., firearms, fire escape plan, disaster plans, etc.).
- Not all cases had a checklist but the case manager documented that forms was completed, signed and checks completed in CAPSS.

Deleted: were



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- One case did not have a current signed license. The license was sent to the state office several times. Forms were completed and CAPSS was updated. There was one foster child in that home.

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**Section Nine – Unfounded Investigations**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Investigation initiated timely?	5	0
Was assessment adequate?	1	4
Was decision appropriate?	1	4

This is an **Area Needing Improvement** for Jasper DSS. The assessments deemed inadequate failed to obtain critical information from other parties, like law enforcement, schools, and medical care providers. Without that information the decision to unfound was not supported by the evidence in the file.

Workers often failed to assess the protective capacity of adults during investigations.

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**Section Ten – Screened Out Intakes**

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

**Not Applicable.** Jasper County DSS did not screen out any reports of abuse or neglect during the period under review.

**Jasper County DSS  
Child Welfare Services Review  
September 2006**

<b>Jasper County DSS Case Rating Tally</b>			
<b>Performance Item or Outcome</b>	<b>Performance Item Ratings</b>		
	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Area Needing Improvement</b>	<b>N/A*</b>
<b>Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.</b>			
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	1/1 = 100%	0	19
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	18/20 = 90%	2/20 = 10%	0
<b>Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.</b>			
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	7/11 = 64%	4/11 = 36%	9
Item 4: Risk of harm to child(ren)	13/19 = 68%	6/19 = 32%	1
<b>Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.</b>			
Item 5: Foster care re-entries	1/2 = 50%	1/2 = 50%	8
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement	8/10 = 80%	2/10 = 20%	0
Item 7: Permanency goal for child	7/10 = 70	3/10 = 30	0
Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	2/2 = 100%	0	8
Item 9: Adoption	0	5/5 = 100	5
Item 10: Permanency goal of Alternate Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	3/4 = 75	1/4 = 25	6
<b>Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.</b>			
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement	8/8 = 100	0	2
Item 12: Placement with siblings	4/4 = 100	0	6
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	3/5 = 60	2/5 = 40	5
Item 14: Preserving connections	6/7 = 86	1/7 = 14	3
Item 15: Relative placement	7/10 = 70	3/10 = 30	0
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents	5/7 = 71	2/7 = 29	3
<b>Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.</b>			
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, caregiver	12/20 = 60	8/20 = 40	0
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	11/16 = 69	5/16 = 31	4
Item 19: Worker visits with child	15/20 = 75	5/25 = 25	0
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)	6/15 = 40	9/15 = 60	5
<b>Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.</b>			
Item 21: Educational needs of the child	12/16 = 75	4/16 = 25	4
<b>Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.</b>			
Item 22: Physical health of the child	15/20 = 75	5/20 = 25	0
Item 23: Mental health of the child	13/19 = 68	6/19 = 32	1