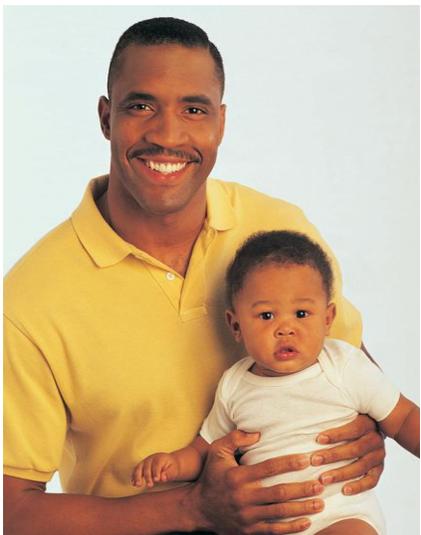




Evaluating Minnesota's Child Welfare System:

A Review of Safety,
Permanency and Well-Being
Outcomes for Children and
Families in Wabasha County



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Child Safety and Permanency Division

August 2009

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) conducted a Minnesota Child and Family Service Review (MnCF SR) in Wabasha County in March 2009. The county participated in an initial MnCF SR in March 2003, after which they implemented a Program Improvement Plan to address areas identified as needing improvement. The 2009 MnCF SR re-examined the agency's child welfare performance, and assessed the effectiveness of the agency's efforts to achieve improved outcomes for children and families. This cycle of MnCF SRs provides a framework for continuous quality improvement for child welfare practice.

Findings for each review are derived from three sources:

- A county self assessment of eight systemic factors, and analysis of county performance on federal child welfare indicators
- A case review process that examines child welfare practice in seven outcome areas and 23 specific performance items. In Wabasha County, eight cases were reviewed, including five placement and three non-placement/in-home cases.
- Stakeholder interviews enhanced information from the self assessment and case review process. Three stakeholder focus group interviews were completed, including the county's Children's Justice Initiative (CJI), Child Protection Team, agency administration and caseworkers.

Some modifications were made to the MnCF SR process between the first and second round of reviews. Changes include: enhanced review criteria for involving fathers across the life of the case; new requirements for children's mental health screenings in child welfare cases; and case sampling that ensures an increased sample of cases with adolescents in foster care. These changes can factor into ratings, and may make it more difficult to compare ratings across both reviews.

Performance Summary

Performance in the case review process is measured through the evaluation and rating of 23 performance items and seven outcomes. Performance items are specific practices that support achievement of broader outcomes. Wabasha County had the strongest performance in Safety Outcome 1 (Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect), Safety Outcome 2 (Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate), and Well-being Outcome 2 (Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs).

Outcome areas and performance items rated most often as needing improvement included Permanency Outcome 1 (Children have permanency and stability in their living situations), and Well-being Outcome 1 (Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs), and Well-being Outcome 3 (Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs).

Key Findings

Key findings from the Minnesota Child and Family Service Review in Wabasha County included:

- The agency demonstrated improved performance in a number of practice areas as a result of implementing Program Improvement Plan strategies following their initial review in 2003.

- Timely screenings, skilled and experienced caseworkers, and positive working relationships with law enforcement supported timely face-to-face contacts with children in response to child maltreatment reports. Practices and systems are in place to support continued strength in this area.
- The agency works collaboratively with community partners and families to avoid unnecessary out-of-home placements, as well as supports timely reunification and management of ongoing risk and safety. The agency uses a variety of innovative strategies that result in children being safely maintained in their home with a strong safety network.

Other findings from the Minnesota Child and Family Service Review in Wabasha County include:

Permanency Findings:

- Concurrent Permanency Planning supported timely reunification
- Placement practices were seen as strengthening and preserving family connections, which supported timely reunification
- Children with a goal of adoption or an alternative permanency goal experienced delays in achieving permanency.

Well-being Findings:

- Performance on achieving well-being outcomes improved since the 2003 MnCFSR
- The needs of foster parents were not adequately assessed and services were not provided
- Delays were seen in ensuring that children receive mental health screenings within 30 days of case opening.

Systemic Factor Findings:

- The court system in Wabasha County supports timely and permanent placement for children.
- An array of services is available and accessible within the county to assist families in maintaining children in their homes. Mental health services have been expanded and strengthened.
- Responsiveness to community partners benefits families working within this complex system by ensuring that children and families receive a more prompt response to services through needs assessment and provision of services, thereby ensuring safety.
- The agency could benefit from development of a training protocol specific to initial and ongoing assessment of foster parent needs.
- Staff training specific to the adoption process would contribute to achievement of permanency goals.

Program Improvement Plan

The success of the Minnesota Child and Family Service Review is ultimately demonstrated by changes in practice that support improved outcomes for children and families. The county will prepare a Program Improvement Plan to address key areas needing improvement. Capitalizing on systemic strengths and effective child welfare practices will provide a strong foundation for program improvement to promote positive outcomes for children and families in Wabasha County.

Complete copies of Minnesota Child and Family Service Review self assessments, county reports and program improvement plans are available on the DHS Web site at: http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/CPSupervisors/id_059503.

SAFETY FINDINGS

The Minnesota Child and Family Service Review measures two safety outcomes:

- **Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect**
- **Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.**

The following table reflects agency performance on safety outcomes and performance items.

Outcome or Performance Item	Performance Item Ratings			Outcome Ratings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	NA	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	NA
Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				7	0	0	1
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating assessments/ investigations of reports of child maltreatment	7	0	1				
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	6	0	2				
Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate				8	0	0	0
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	7	0	1				
Item 4: Risk assessment and safety management	8	0	0				

Performance Summary

Improvements in timely screening and response to reports of child maltreatment have promoted safety for children. As a result of the 2003 MnCFSR Program Improvement Plan requirements, Wabasha County adopted Minnesotas child protection screening guidelines. The agency assigned one intake worker to ensure consistent and timely screening of child protection reports, reducing the number of repeat maltreatment cases. Mandated reporters were offered training on the screening tool, and guidelines for screening were dispersed to various schools, clinics and other mandated reporters. These changes have greatly improved understanding of the screening process, and improved safety outcomes for children. Strong working relationships with law enforcement also contributed to the timely assessment of risk and safety.

According to the county self assessment and the *Timeliness to Child Contact 2008 Annual Report*, Wabasha County has a higher rate of timely face-to-face contact in substantial endangerment cases than the statewide average.

Stakeholders view workers as skilled, experienced, and able to conduct quality interviews with children and families. One concern is that mandated reporters are not consistently notified of decisions and/or outcomes of reported cases as required by Minn. Statute 626.556, subd. 10(j).

Stakeholders also report the need for a better understanding of the Family Assessment process to support the agency's work with children and families being investigated/assessed.

The agency works collaboratively with community partners to assess ongoing risk and safety to prevent unnecessary out-of-home placements. In all applicable cases, children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible. A variety of services are provided to families to either prevent removal or re-entry into care, and safety plans are frequently implemented with input from all family members. Caseworkers involve children in the planning process by using developmental-level and age-appropriate language. Plans are reviewed frequently with all family members during home visits. When risk is too high to maintain children in their home, an out-of-home placement is made. Consistent use of safety and risk assessment tools is a key practice which is evident in case file reviews, interviews with family members and key stakeholders, and is well documented in the Social Service Information System (SSIS).

Although consistent use of Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools was observed in this review, the county self assessment identified the need to ensure that safety issues and risk factors identified through the use of SDM tools be consistently transferred to the case plan.

The practice of partnering with service providers such as schools, mental health practitioners, foster parents, and guardians ad litem assists in ensuring linkage with supportive services and reducing risk. Wabasha County cites close coordination with service providers as a key factor in assessing on-going risk and safety. This practice is also seen throughout the review process and evident by positive safety outcomes for children and families.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations: Wabasha County meets criteria for substantially achieving both safety outcomes; there are no requirements for developing a Program Improvement Plan to address safety. Following are suggestions for practice or systemic improvements that the agency may choose to consider:

- Notify mandated reporters of decisions or outcomes of child maltreatment reports, consistent with Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd. 10(j)
- Convene agency and community stakeholders to improve understanding of Family Assessment Response
- Review *Timeliness to Child Contact Reports* on an ongoing basis to ensure the agency's continued strong practice in this area.

PERMANENCY FINDINGS

Permanency outcomes and performance items were rated only in placement cases. When reviewing placement cases, one child in the family was randomly selected as the "identified child" and performance items and outcomes were based on that child's experience.

- **Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations**
- **Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.**

The following table reflects agency performance on permanency outcomes and performance items.

Outcome or Performance Item	Performance Item Ratings			Outcome Ratings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	NA	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	NA
Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations				3	2	0	0
Item 5: Foster care re-entries	4	0	1				
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement	4	1	0				
Item 7: Permanency goal for child	5	0	0				
Item 8: Reunification or permanent transfer of legal and physical custody to a relative	3	1	1				
Item 9: Adoption	0	1	4				
Item 10: Long-term foster care	0	0	5				
Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				4	1	0	0
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement	3	1	1				
Item 12: Placement with siblings	2	0	3				
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	4	0	1				
Item 14: Preserving connections	4	1	0				
Item 15: Relative placement	4	1	0				
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents	4	0	1				

Performance Summary

Concurrent Permanency Planning supports timely reunification. Strong practices by the county and court system support timely permanency for children in foster care. All parties involved were focused on permanency timelines to ensure that they were either achieved or addressed on a regular basis, and all applicable cases had timely and appropriate permanency goals established that met children’s needs. In cases where Concurrent Permanency Planning (CPP) was utilized, both primary and backup goals were determined as appropriate. In the one case needing improvement, no concurrent goal was developed. The only permanency goal listed was reunification, and the case review indicated that despite agency efforts, the goal was unlikely to be achieved within required timelines.

The three key practices contributing to permanency goals being achieved in a timely manner to ensure that children experience stability and permanency in their living situation include:

- **Family Drug Court.** This process helps provide accountability to several families who successfully reunite with their children. Family Drug Court practices support establishment of appropriate goals through frequent review hearings, collaborative case plans and expedited services.

- **Parallel Protection Process (PPP)/Settlement Conferences.** Stakeholders speak highly of these processes as mechanisms to engage families, community providers, and court personnel in developing mutually acceptable plans to meet the safety and permanency needs of children in CHIPS cases. In most cases, frequent review hearings and high-quality parent/child visitation, as well as frequent caseworker contacts with children and parents support permanency goal achievement.
- **Family Group Decision Making.** This process is regularly used to facilitate family-focused decision making to prevent foster care placement or expedite reunification. The process involves extended family members and other essential family supports who develop a plan to support child safety and permanency.

Child welfare data indicators confirm these processes contribute to timely reunification and shorter length of stays in foster care. Of all children discharged from care to reunification in 2007, 100 percent (14/14) were reunified in less than 12 months from the latest date of removal. The median length in care in 2007 was 1.2 months.

Placement practices are seen as strengthening and preserving family connections, which support timely reunification. The agency makes concerted efforts to ensure that children are placed with their siblings whenever possible; all applicable cases reviewed had recorded frequent and quality visits between mothers, fathers and siblings. Visitation practices in Wabasha County are seen as creative, flexible, and focused on individual needs of children and their families. Clearly written visitation plans are developed through the PPP process, as are services to ensure frequent and quality visitation (such as gas cards for families), incentives to maintain sobriety, transportation and visitation supervision by either a caseworker or case aide. Visits occur in foster homes, with foster parents' supervision, when appropriate.

Relative searches are initiated at the time of intake, contributing to shorter or fewer placements in a non-relative home. Stakeholders supported this finding. One barrier to relative placements is the distance relatives may live from parents; the agency admitted to struggling with placement decisions in these cases. The self assessment also identifies a need for the agency to recruit and develop more local foster home resources.

Children with a goal of adoption or an alternative permanency goal experience delays in achieving timely permanency. Of the seven children available for adoption in 2007, none achieved permanency within 24 months. According to the Wabasha County Self Assessment, factors contributing to delays include staff inexperience with the adoption process. This is coupled with the few adoptions the agency facilitates, as well as availability of adoptive homes willing to accept larger sibling groups to be adopted together.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations:

- Develop a process which includes Concurrent Permanency Planning in all foster care cases to ensure timely permanency for each child.

- Implement an adoption training protocol for all child protection case managers that will assist in developing their knowledge and skill level.

WELL-BEING FINDINGS

When evaluating well-being performance items and outcomes, ratings were made in both placement and in-home cases. When reviewing in-home cases, all children in the family were considered; and, when reviewing placement cases, only the “identified child” was considered in the rating decision.

- **Well-being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs**
- **Well-being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs**
- **Well-being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.**

The following table reflects agency performance on well-being outcomes and performance items.

Outcome or Performance Item	Performance Item Ratings			Outcome Ratings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	NA	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	NA
Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs				7	1	0	0
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents	7	1	0				
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	7	1	0				
Item 19: Worker visits with child	8	0	0				
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)	7	0	1				
Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs				5	0	0	3
Item 21: Educational needs of the child	5	0	3				
Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs				6	1	1	0
Item 22: Physical health of the child	5	0	3				
Item 23: Mental/behavioral health of the child	6	2	0				

Performance Summary

Performance on achieving well-being outcomes has improved. Since the 2003 MnCFSR, Wabasha County’s performance has improved. In 2003, Well-being Outcome 1 was the one area in which all items were rated as an Area Needing Improvement. In the current review, every case but one was rated as a Strength.

Needs assessments and services. The following table details the agency’s performance on assessing needs and providing services to parents, children and foster parents:

		Number of Cases:		
		Yes	No	NA
The safety, permanency and well-being needs of children, parents and foster parents were adequately assessed and identified:	Children:	8	0	
	Mothers:	7	0	1
	Fathers:	4	0	4
	Foster parents:	4	1	3
The identified needs of children, parents and foster parents were addressed through appropriate services:	Children:	8	0	0
	Mothers:	6	1	1
	Fathers:	4	0	4
	Foster parents:	4	1	3

Workers make considerable efforts to assess needs and provide services for all family members. Frequent worker visits contribute to the agency’s ability to engage families and assess ongoing needs. In all cases reviewed, children were seen at least monthly, or more often based on risk level within the family. Workers also maintained close contact with service providers as a way of identifying the appropriateness of services provided and any current issues.

Stakeholders report availability and access to a variety of county resources for families that “make things work.” The county self assessment identifies a challenge to providing services to rural families. The distance between where families live and available services becomes an obstacle, but the county offers gas cards and sometimes transportation to those services to break down some barriers.

The needs of foster parents were not adequately assessed and services were not adequately provided. Throughout this review, it was determined that needs of foster parents were not adequately assessed, and services were not adequately provided. This was also an area needing improvement in the 2003 MnCF SR. In one case reviewed, a child experienced frequent moves to different foster homes due to the necessary high level of care, and the foster parents’ inability to meet the child’s needs.

Case Planning. The following table details the agency’s performance on case planning:

		Number of cases		
		Yes	No	NA
The agency made concerted efforts to involve the parents and children in case planning activities:	Children:	3	0	5
	Mothers:	7	0	1
	Fathers:	5	0	3
A current/written case plan was in the file:		7	1	0
For children age 16 and older in foster care, an Independent Living Skills plan was in the file:		0	0	8

Workers show considerable skill in engaging families, not only when assessing needs and services, but also in case planning. In the cases reviewed, all family members were involved in case planning. Children were given incentives to participate in planning and complete their case plan goals. As mentioned earlier, the Parallel Protection Process, Family Group Decision Making, Settlement Conferences and Family Drug Court also support successful accomplishment of family goals. Of the eight cases reviewed, seven had current, signed case plans.

Stakeholders report seeing great improvement in teaming efforts on behalf of young families.

Caseworker visits. Stakeholders support the finding of frequent worker contact with families, and stated, “If the risk to children was high, more frequent visits occurred.” Workers involved children at an age-appropriate level, and reviewers noted that involvement included frequent face-to-face meetings with children in a one-on-one setting.

Considerable effort is made to engage non-custodial parents early in cases. Parents that live either in a different community or state are actively involved through a variety of means. Frequent worker visits contribute to family engagement and realistic case planning.

Education, Physical Health and Mental Health Needs: All children identified for this review had their educational and physical health needs met. There was a close working relationship between the agency and school. According to the self assessment, three of four school districts have representation on the Multi-disciplinary Child Protection Team, helping to enhance coordination and maintenance of a positive working relationship between the agency and the school district. The agency also collaborates with school districts and their Day Treatment Program. The agency’s self assessment update recognizes that two major challenges in the area of physical health include ensuring that children receive the initial health screening within 30 days of case opening, as well as ensuring that dental check-ups are completed.

Delays in ensuring that children receive their mental health screenings within 30 days of case opening. In two applicable cases reviewed, one child did not have a mental health screening completed and one did not have a screening completed within 30 days of foster care placement. The self assessment identified one reason for screenings not being completed for in-home cases as parental refusal of the screening.

Mental health case managers attend the agency's Child Protection Team meetings, and coordinate well with child protection workers regarding children's needs in this area.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations:

- Ensure that foster parents' need for services are assessed, at initial licensing, time of placement and ongoing. Assist with referral or provision of services to enhance skill level and meet the needs of children placed in their home.
- Develop a process that ensures initial mental health screenings are conducted for children receiving in-home and foster care services.

SYSTEMIC FACTORS

The following systemic factor(s) contributed to positive case findings:

Case Review System

The court system in Wabasha County supports timely and permanent placement for children. There is a strong commitment to ensure that children achieve a stable and permanent home consistent with their safety and well-being. Since the 2003 review, judges and attorneys have implemented the Parallel Protection/Settlement Conference to quickly identify a safe plan for children, which often shortens or alleviates out-of-home placement. A court facilitator was appointed to dedicate time to child protection cases and the coordination process. These practices contribute to mutual trust that an objective plan has been developed for all parties and allows for discussion to resolve differences while ensuring safety for children.

Quality Assurance System

Prior to the 2003 MnCFSR, Wabasha County did not have a formal case review system. The county now has a formal review of four cases per quarter, or 16 cases annually. This process includes agency members, the third district guardian ad litem, and a children's mental health supervisor from a local provider agency. Inclusion of outside stakeholders provides for objectivity when reviewing cases.

Service Array

There is an array of services available and accessible within the county to assist families in maintaining children in their homes. Mental health services have been expanded and strengthened. There are now mental health professionals in schools to provide immediate services to help children in need. The county plays a key role in the Day Treatment Program within the middle and high schools. There is a four-county FGDM project based in Winona that assists families in identifying a safe plan for children to remain in, or return to their homes. Although the provision of services to rural populations continues to be a challenge, Wabasha County has worked hard to break down barriers by providing gas cards, transportation assistance and some home-based services. Through creative thinking by management and staff, as well as funding through the Mental Health Collaborative, there has been ongoing expansion of services.

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Responsiveness to community partners was shown to benefit families working within this complex system by ensuring that children and families receive prompt response to services through needs assessment and service provision, thereby ensuring safety. Wabasha County is to be commended for their efforts to improve community relations and responsiveness to the community. Through various means, the agency has strived to ensure that working relationships have continued to improve, not only through inclusion of professional involvement in the case review system and Multi-disciplinary Child Protection Team, but also in educational opportunities regarding child protection intake, assessment and investigation processes.

The following systemic factor(s) should be addressed in development of Wabasha County's Program Improvement Plan:

Staff and Provider Training

The agency could benefit from development of a training protocol specific to initial and ongoing assessment of foster parent needs. When children experienced frequent moves in the foster care system, it was contributed to a lack of thorough initial and ongoing assessment of the foster parents' skill level or training for specific children's needs.

Staff training specific to the adoption process would contribute to the achievement of permanency goals. This review identified delays in achieving permanency specifically related to the goal of adoption. A contributing factor may be the small number of county adoptions; however, additional training would benefit worker skill levels in this area.

APPENDIX

Table 1

MnCF SR Outcomes and Items Performance Ratings

Eight cases involving children in the child welfare system from January 1, 2008, through March 13, 2009, were reviewed, including five placement and three non-placement/in-home cases. The following table summarizes the review findings for Wabasha County outcomes and performance items.

OUTCOME AND PERFORMANCE ITEMS		% Substantially Achieved	% Strength
SAFETY OUTCOME 1	Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect	100.0%	
ITEM 1	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment		100.0% (7/7)
SUPPLEMENT ITEM	Screening decisions and thoroughness of assessments		0.0%
ITEM 2	Repeat maltreatment		100.0% (6/6)
SAFETY OUTCOME 2	Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate	100.0%	
ITEM 3	Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care		100.0% (7/7)
ITEM 4	Risk assessment and safety management		100.0% (8/8)
PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1	Children have permanency and stability in their living situations	60.0%	
ITEM 5	Foster care re-entries		100.0% (4/4)
ITEM 6	Stability of foster care placement		80.0% (4/5)
ITEM 7	Permanency goal for child		100.0% (5/5)
ITEM 8	Reunification or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative		75.0% (3/4)
ITEM 9	Adoption		0.0% (0/1)
ITEM 10	Permanency goal of long-term foster care		NA
PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2	The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children	80.0%	
ITEM 11	Proximity of foster care placement		75.0% (3/4)
ITEM 12	Placement with siblings		100.0% (2/2)
ITEM 13	Visits with parents and siblings in foster care		100.0% (4/4)
ITEM 14	Preservation of connections		80.0% (7/8)
ITEM 15	Relative placement		80.0% (4/5)
ITEM 16	Relationship of child in care with parents		100.0% (4/4)

Table 1

WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1	Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs	87.5%	
ITEM 17	Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents		87.5% (7/8)
ITEM 18	Child and family involvement in case planning		87.5% (7/8)
ITEM 19	Worker visits with child		100.0% (8/8)
ITEM 20	Worker visits with parent(s)		100.0% (7/7)
WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2	Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs	100.0%	
ITEM 21	Educational needs of the child		100.0% (5/5)
WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3	Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs	75.0%	
ITEM 22	Physical health of the child		100.0% (5/5)
ITEM 23	Mental/behavioral health of the child		75.0% (6/8)

Table 2

Federal Data Indicators

The following table summarizes the agency's performance on federal data indicators and provides a comparison to state performance rates.

SUMMARY OF MN PERFORMANCE ON FEDERAL MEASURES	National Standard		MN Performance 2007	County Performance 2007
Safety Indicator 1: Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence	94.6%	↑	95.2%	100% (0-8)
Safety Indicator 2: Absence of CA/N in Foster Care	99.68%	↑	99.63%	100% (0-46)
Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification	122.6	↑	117.5	Not Available
<i>Component A: Timeliness of Reunification</i>				
C1.1 Reunification in less than 12 months for children exiting foster care	75.2%	↑	84.4%	100% (14-14)
C1.2 Median stay in foster care to reunification (months)	5.4	↓	4.3	1.20% *
C1.3 Entry cohort of children who reunify in < 12 months	48.4%	↑	58.1%	88.9% *
<i>Component B: Permanency of Reunification</i>				
C1.4 Children who exit and re-enter foster care in less than 12 months	9.9%	↓	25.3%	30.2% (13-43)
Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions	106.4	↑	94.9	Not Available
<i>Component A: Timeliness of Adoptions of Children Discharged From Foster Care</i>				
C2.1 Adoption in less than 24 months for children exiting to adoption	36.6%	↑	50.1%	0% (0-7)
C2.2 Median length of stay to adoption (months)	27.3	↓	23.9	54.9% (7)
<i>Component B: Adoption for Children Meeting ASFA Time-In-Care Requirements</i>				
C2.3 Children in foster care for 17 or more months (on day 1 of FY) who were adopted by the end of the FY	22.7%	↑	17.2%	87.5% (7-8)
C2.4 Children in foster care for 17 or more months (on day 1 of FY) who achieved legal freedom within 6 months of start of FY	10.9%	↑	2.6%	--
<i>Component C: Adoption of Children Who Are Legally Free for Adoption</i>				
C2.5 Legally free children adopted in less than 12 months	53.7%	↑	32.6%	--
Permanency Composite 3: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care	121.7	↑	104.5	Not Available
<i>Component A: Achieving permanency for Children in Care for Extended Periods of Time</i>				
C3.1 Children (age 17 during the FY) in foster care 24+ months discharged to permanent home before the end of FY and age 18	29.1%	↑	15.2%	77.8% (7-9)
C3.2 Children (age 17 during the FY) with TPR discharged from foster care to a permanent home prior to age 18	98.0%	↑	85.6%	100% (1-1)
<i>Component B: Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care for Extended Periods Of Time</i>				
C3.3 Children emancipated/age 18 who were in foster care for 3 years or longer	37.5%	↓	41.7%	100% (1-1)
Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability (no components)	101.5	↑	87.0	Not Available
C4.1 Two or fewer placement settings for children in foster care less than 12 months	86.0%	↑	84.8%	87% (20-23)
C4.2 Two or fewer placement settings for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months	65.4%	↑	55.3%	100% (1-1)
C4.3 Two or fewer placement settings for children in foster care for 24+ months	41.8%	↑	31.2%	10% (1-10)

*The county met the national standard



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