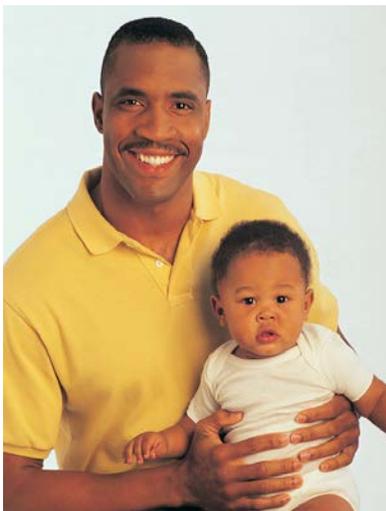




Evaluating Minnesota's Child Welfare System: A Review of Safety, Permanency and Well-being Outcomes for Children and Families in Winona County



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Child Safety and Permanency Division

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SUMMARY

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) conducted a Minnesota Child and Family Service Review (MnCFSR) in Winona County in October 2011. The county participated in an initial MnCFSR in March 2006. Following that review, the agency implemented a Program Improvement Plan to address areas identified as needing improvement. The 2011 MnCFSR 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. Modifications were made to the MnCFSR process between the 2006 and 2011 reviews. These changes factor into ratings, and make it difficult to compare findings between the two reviews.

DHS will partner with Winona County to conduct MnCFSRs every three years. This cycle of reviews provides a framework for continuous quality improvement for child welfare practice.

MnCFSR Process

To prepare for the review, agency staff completed a self assessment, providing an updated evaluation of its strengths or needs on eight systemic factors that form the infrastructure of the child welfare system. The self assessment provided an opportunity to examine agency performance on key child welfare outcome measures, a context for case reviews and focus for stakeholder interviews.

The onsite case review included an intensive examination of eight cases, selected at random. Three in-home and five placement cases from the child protection, children's mental health and adoption/guardianship program areas were reviewed. Reviewers examined case records and conducted interviews with key case participants, e.g., children, parents, foster parents, service providers and caseworkers.

Community stakeholders were an additional source of information regarding the strengths and needs of the county's child welfare system. Agency administration and caseworkers, an assistant county attorney, district court judges and representatives of the Citizen Review Panel participated in interviews. Licensed foster parents also provided input through a written survey.

Key Findings/Program Improvement Planning

Findings for the review were derived from the self assessment prepared by agency staff, performance on federal and state child welfare indicators, ratings on outcomes and performance items from the onsite case review, and input from community stakeholders.

Overall, review findings indicate improved or maintained performance in four of seven outcome areas evaluated through the MnCFSR process. While additional information regarding practice and systemic strengths are included throughout the report, the following specific areas were noted as strengths.

- Placement prevention efforts. In all of the cases reviewed, agency staff made efforts to prevent children's initial placements into out-of-home care. Timely referrals and access to appropriate services, agency support of family-driven safety plans, and identification of informal family supports contributed to safely maintaining children in their homes.

Annual performance data for children in care for less than eight days (Appendix, Table 3), is also an indicator of efforts to find safe alternatives to out-of-home placement.

- Achieving permanency in a timely manner. In all of the cases reviewed, appropriate permanency goals were established, and children achieved permanency in a timely manner. Practices that contributed to timely achievement of permanency included engaging families in planning through Case Planning Conferences (CPC) and Parallel Protection Process (PPP) meetings, early identification of fathers/non-resident parents, and having designated staff with expertise in adoption processes and practices. The agency also has a Permanency Review Team which assists in maintaining focus on permanency timelines.
- Preserving important connections for children in foster care. In all of the cases reviewed, agency caseworkers made efforts to place children in close proximity to their parents, and keep sibling groups together when possible and appropriate. Caseworkers identified other important connections for children and made efforts to maintain those connections, e.g., conducting relative searches and placing children with relatives when possible, as well as facilitating visitation with extended relatives.
- Assessing and addressing children's needs. Children's needs were assessed and addressed in all of the cases reviewed. Agency staff consistently attended to children's educational, physical and mental/behavioral health needs.
- Engaging family members in case planning. Caseworkers utilize a variety of strategies for engaging family members in case plan development, e.g., Family Group Decision Making (FGDM), CPC and PPP meetings. These processes are proven strategies for soliciting family input, and are used with some consistency across the agency.

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 areas identified as needing improvement in this review, including:

- Timely contact with children in response to maltreatment reports
- Repeat maltreatment
- Comprehensive risk assessments and managing identified safety issues
- Foster care re-entry and stability
- Children's visitation with parents and siblings placed separately
- Fully addressing parents' needs
- Frequency of caseworker visits with children.

Findings related to areas needing improvement, as well as observations of practice and systemic strengths, are further detailed in the remainder of the report to provide the agency with information necessary to develop program improvement strategies that target specific barriers or challenges identified in the review. 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 Winona County.

SAFETY FINDINGS

The following table outlines the county’s performance on Safety outcomes and performance items in the eight cases reviewed. When evaluating Safety, all children in the family were considered, and ratings were made in both placement and in-home cases.

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.				2	3	1	2
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating assessments/ investigations of reports of child maltreatment	4	2	2				
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	3	2	3				
Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate				3	2	3	0
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care	4	1	3				
Item 4: Risk assessment and safety management	3	5	0				

Safety Finding #1:	Timely contact with children in response to maltreatment reports occurred in 66.7 percent of the cases reviewed; the agency did not meet state performance goals for timely face-to-face contact with children.
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Two of six cases were rated as an Area Needing Improvement. The following three factors negatively impacted ratings:

- Seeing some, but not all children. In one case, the caseworker had timely face-to-face contact with three of four children, all of whom were alleged victims. One child was not in the home at the time of the initial visit, and additional efforts were not made to see that child during the course of the assessment.
- Adding new allegations to an already open assessment or investigation. In some cases, agency staff appropriately screened and added new allegations from a separate incident to an already open assessment or investigation. In one case, the caseworker made timely contact with the children in response to the initial allegations, but did not have face-to-face contact with the children in response to the new allegations.
- Early closure of an investigation. In one case, agency staff appropriately screened in a report and began an investigation. Agency staff determined early in the investigation that there was no basis for conducting a full investigation, and closed the investigation without seeing the child. Minnesota statute allows for early closure of an assessment and/or investigation if information collected shows no basis for a full assessment or investigation; however, face-to-face contact with the child is required prior to closure.

Quarterly performance data indicates that the agency’s performance on timely contact with children in response to maltreatment reports fluctuates (Appendix, Table 2). Data for the most recent quarter reflects improvement in timely contact with children in response to reports of non-substantial child endangerment assigned for an investigation. However, the county does not meet the state’s performance standard of 90 percent of all children being seen within required time frames for reports of substantial child endangerment, or those assigned for Family Assessment. Agency staff identified difficulties in locating families as a barrier to timely contact.

Safety strengths. The majority of child maltreatment reports were screened and assigned within 24 hours of receipt; daily screening team meetings support timely screening. Stakeholders indicated that, when families are not immediately available, agency staff will see children in other settings, e.g., school, to ensure timely contact occurs. There are local resources for conducting forensic interviews, which also helps to eliminate potential barriers for timely contact.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Address barriers to timely contact with children in response to maltreatment reports (MnCF SR Item 1).

Safety Finding #2:	Children experienced repeat maltreatment in 40 percent of the cases reviewed; the agency did not meet the national standard for recurrence of maltreatment.
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In both cases where children experienced repeat maltreatment, there were multiple determinations of maltreatment, or decisions to provide services to address safety following a Family Assessment, all related to parents’ chemical use. In one case, the initial safety plan was not sufficient to manage risks associated with chemical use and the impact on caretaking abilities. Consistent with case review findings, the self assessment identified a sharp rise in chemical dependency, specifically synthetic drug use, as a contributing factor to repeat maltreatment.

Annual performance on federal data indicators shows that the agency did not meet the national standard for absence of maltreatment recurrence in 2010 or 2011 (Table 1, Safety Indicator 1).

Safety strengths. Three cases involving both Family Assessments and investigations were rated as a Strength. In those cases, children did not experience multiple determinations of maltreatment within a six-month period. The agency’s performance on federal data indicators related to repeat maltreatment improved between 2010 and 2011.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Assess and address training needs related to development of safety plans (MnCF SR Item 2)
- Review agency policies for assigning reports of non-substantial child endangerment (MnCF SR Item 2).

**Safety
Finding #3:**

In 37.5 percent of cases reviewed, risk and safety were adequately assessed and managed.

Inconsistencies in practices contributed to ratings of area needing improvement, including:

- In three cases, gaps in caseworker face-to-face visits with children, and/or infrequent visits with children in their residence, negatively impacted caseworkers' ability to assess risk and safety on an ongoing basis
- In one case, the safety plan did not adequately address identified safety concerns related to chemical use and the impact on caretaking abilities
- In one case, a maltreatment report was screened out and referred to an ongoing caseworker. Risk issues identified in that report were not adequately addressed.

Structured Decision Making (SDM) Tools are designed to assist caseworkers and provide guidance in making casework decisions. While not specifically impacting ratings, inaccuracies in SDM Tools were noted. In some cases:

- Responses to questions on SDM Tools did not match other case file documentation.
- Foster parents were listed as primary caregivers on the tools; however, the tools are meant to assess risk and safety in the removal home.
- The full array of SDM Tools were completed every quarter, e.g., risk re-assessments, safety assessments and reunification. The reunification tool includes components of the risk re-assessment and safety assessment; however, responses to the same or similar questions across tools did not match.

Safety strengths. In cases rated as a Strength, caseworkers had frequent, quality visits with children that included attention to children's living environments, development, and interactions with family members and caregivers. Other practices that contributed to adequate assessments of risk and managing safety included:

- Completion of thorough investigations and Family Assessments in response to maltreatment reports
- Caseworker observations of supervised visitation between children and their parents.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Improve consistency in practice related to assessing risk and managing safety, including:
 - Ensuring quality caseworker visits occur at a frequency consistent with conducting ongoing assessments of risk and safety (MnCFSR Items 4 and 19)
 - Assessing training needs related to developing safety plans sufficient for managing identified safety issues (MnCFSR Item 4)
 - Adequately assessing and addressing all identified risk and safety issues in situations where new reports are received on open cases (MnCFSR Item 4).
- Assess training needs related to completion of SDM Tools; request and access needed training through the Child Welfare Training System (CWTS).

PERMANENCY FINDINGS

The following table outlines the county’s performance on Permanency outcomes and performance items in the five placement cases reviewed. When reviewing these cases, one child in the family was randomly selected as the “identified child,” and ratings on items and outcomes were based on that child’s experience.

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				5	0	0	0
Item 5: Foster care re-entries	1	1	3				
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement	3	2	0				
Item 7: Permanency goal for child	5	0	0				
Item 8: Reunification or permanent transfer of legal and physical custody to a relative	2	0	3				
Item 9: Adoption	2	0	3				
Item 10: Long-term foster care	1	0	4				
Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				2	3	0	0
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement	5	0	0				
Item 12: Placement with siblings	3	0	2				
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	2	3	0				
Item 14: Preserving connections	4	1	0				
Item 15: Relative placement	3	1	1				
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents	4	1	0				

Permanency Finding #1:	Efforts to prevent foster care re-entry were inconsistent; the agency did not meet the national standard for foster care re-entry.
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In one of two applicable cases, the agency made some efforts to prevent a child’s re-entry into foster care through the provision of services; however, additional efforts to visit the family and address the reasons that led to the child’s initial placement were needed during the one and a half months between foster care placements.

Annual performance data indicates that the agency did not meet the national standard for foster care re-entry in 2010 or 2011 (Appendix, Table 1, Measure C1.4). Some stakeholders indicated

that children in placement through delinquency petitions are the most likely to re-enter foster care. Others indicated that parents' ongoing chemical use is the primary factor contributing to re-entry.

Permanency strengths. In the case rated as a Strength, transition meetings were held prior to a child's reunification. Services were in place prior to, and continued after reunification. Stakeholders indicated that trial home visits are used regularly to support a child's return to the family home, monitor progress and help ensure successful, permanent reunification.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Address factors that contribute to foster care re-entry, ensuring post-reunification plans are in place to support permanent reunification (MnCF SR Item 5; Federal Data Indicator C1.4).

Permanency Finding #2:	In sixty percent of cases reviewed, children experienced stability in placement settings; the agency did not meet national standards related to placement stability for children in care longer than 12 months.
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In two of five cases, children experienced unplanned disruptions in their placement settings. Case review findings indicated:

- In one case, due to behavior issues, a child with emotional/behavioral needs was moved from an initial foster care placement to a shelter care facility within two days of placement, indicating a need for additional planning at the onset of placement.
- In another case, a child was moved from a relative to a non-relative foster home due to a determination of neglect. The child was not in imminent danger at the time of the move; additional planning was needed to prepare the child and the second foster home.

The agency did not meet national standards for children in care for more than 12 months (Appendix, Table 1, Measures C4.2 and C4.3).

Permanency strengths. In the cases rated as a Strength, children had been in the same placement setting for extended periods of time (up to two years), or changes in placement were planned and designed to help them achieve their case plan goals. In a written survey completed by foster parents in preparation for the review, they indicated that they receive enough information about children in their care, caseworkers ask them about services they need, and that they receive the support they need to maintain stable placements.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Address barriers to placement stability (MnCF SR Item 6, Federal Data Indicators C4.2 and C4.3).

Permanency Finding #3:	In 40 percent of cases reviewed, children's visits with their parents and siblings placed in separate foster homes were sufficient for promoting and maintaining relationships.
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In three cases, additional efforts were needed to promote frequent, quality visits between children and their parents and/or siblings placed separately. Factors that negatively impacted ratings included:

- In one case, parent/child visits were required to be supervised, but there were no clear safety issues that warranted supervision.
- In another case, the frequency of visits between siblings placed in separate foster homes was insufficient. The children's foster parents were responsible for arranging visitation; additional agency efforts were needed to facilitate visitation and ensure that visits occurred more consistently.
- In a third case, additional agency efforts were needed to facilitate more frequent contact between parents and their child placed outside the county.

Permanency strengths. Agency staff prioritized frequent visitation between parents and young children. Families were included in planning for visitation during case planning conferences. The quality of visits was enhanced by providing parent education during visits, and arranging visits in a variety of locations, including parents' homes. In some cases, the agency eliminated barriers to visits by transporting children.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Ensure that frequent, quality visits occur between children in out-of-home placement and their parents and siblings placed separately. Require supervised visits only when necessary to ensure children's safety (MnCF SR Item 13).

WELL-BEING FINDINGS

The following table outlines the county’s performance on Well-being outcomes and performance items in the eight cases reviewed. Ratings were made in both placement and in-home cases. When reviewing in-home cases, all children in the family were considered; when reviewing placement cases, only the “identified child” was considered in the rating decision.

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				5	3	0	0
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents	5	3	0				
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	6	2	0				
Item 19: Worker visits with child	5	3	0				
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)	7	1	0				
Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs				6	0	0	2
Item 21: Educational needs of the child	6	0	2				
Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs				7	0	1	0
Item 22: Physical health of the child	5	0	3				
Item 23: Mental/behavioral health of the child	7	1	0				

Well-being Finding #1:	In 62.5 percent of cases reviewed, parents’ needs were adequately addressed.
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In the majority of cases, parents’ needs were adequately assessed; however, additional efforts were needed to assist parents in accessing needed services. In cases rated as an Area Needing Improvement, tasks that parents were requested to complete were clearly articulated, but there was limited assistance from the agency to reduce barriers and assist parents in accomplishing those tasks (e.g., identifying service providers and making initial connections with service providers).

Well-being strengths. Both parents were identified in every case, and there were no noted disparities between services provided to mothers and fathers. Additionally, there was some level of needs assessment and caseworker contact with both parents in all of the cases reviewed. Children’s needs were adequately assessed and addressed in all of the cases reviewed, including educational, physical and mental/behavioral health needs; however, in one case, the Children’s Mental Health Screening tool was not completed as required.

Overall, agency caseworkers were successful in utilizing various strategies to engage family members in case planning activities. The frequent use of case planning conferences and Parallel Protection Process meetings were noted as being particularly successful engagement strategies.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Ensure consistent efforts to assist parents in accessing needed services (MnCF SR Item 17).

Well-being Finding #2:

The frequency of caseworker visits with children was sufficient in 62.5 percent of the cases reviewed; the agency does not meet state and federal requirements for monthly visits with children in out-of-home placement.

Three of eight cases, all of them placement cases, were rated as an Area Needing Improvement. In each of those cases, caseworkers had less-than-monthly visits with children in out-of-home placement, with significant gaps between visits in some cases.

Annual performance data, representative of all children in out-of-home placement, indicates that agency caseworkers met with 43.6 percent of children each and every month they were in placement from Oct. 1, 2010, through Sept. 30, 2011 (Appendix, Table 5). The agency's performance has fluctuated over reporting periods, but is typically below the state average, and is currently below baseline performance. State statutes require monthly caseworker visits with children in placement; state and federal expectations are that 90 percent of all children in placement have visits with their caseworkers each and every month.

Stakeholders identified the following as barriers to monthly caseworker visits with children in out-of-home placement:

- Lack of knowledge of the requirement for monthly visits
- Excessive numbers of children in out-of-home placement on individual workers' caseloads
- Corrections agents not being allowed to travel outside county borders to visit children in placement due to delinquency
- Poor travel conditions due to weather.

Well-being strengths. All in-home cases were rated as a Strength. Additionally, in seven of eight cases reviewed, caseworker visits with children were of high quality, and included meeting with children in their living environment, spending individual time with children when warranted and appropriate, and observing children's interactions with caregivers.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Address barriers to monthly caseworker visits with children in out-of-home placement (MnCF SR Items 4 and 19).

SYSTEMIC FACTORS

The initial Winona County self assessment completed in 2006 provided descriptions and ratings on eight systemic factors that form the child welfare infrastructure. Each system was further examined during the onsite review. As county staff developed Program Improvement Plans (PIP), they considered how strong systems supported their PIP activities, and included strategies to improve systemic factors that were determined as needing improvement.

In preparation for the 2011 review, Winona County provided updated descriptions and compared ratings of each systemic factor. Although information about systems is included throughout this report, summary observations of key findings are listed below.

Social Services Information System (SSIS). Agency staff utilizes SSIS as their primary case management and documentation system. In a number of cases, issues were noted with how cases were managed in SSIS, including:

- In one case, an Adoption/Guardianship workgroup had been open for more than two years; however, parental rights were not terminated, and the youth was not free for adoption
- In two cases, child protection workgroups were opened with no maltreatment allegations, assessments or investigations that preceded the workgroup opening
- In one case, a child welfare workgroup was opened when a case was transferred to the agency from another county for child protection services.

Case review system. The case review system includes the court process. Overall, court processes support achieving timely permanency for children. Court stakeholders indicated that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee provides opportunities for identifying, discussing and resolving issues. They also identified PPP meetings as a key strategy for educating families on permanency timelines, and engaging them in moving forward on case plans.

Agency responsiveness to the community. Winona County has had an active Citizen Review Panel (CRP) since 2001. In addition to serving on the CRP, members also serve on other boards or committees in the county to stay informed and provide input to county policies and procedures. The CRP receives ongoing support from the agency to provide input on both a case and systemic level.

Service array and resource availability. Overall, stakeholders and the case review indicated that needed services are available and accessible to Winona County families. The single gap identified by stakeholders was access to child psychiatry services. No gaps were noted in the cases reviewed.

Supervisor and social worker resources. At the time of the review, the Children's Services supervisor was also the interim director. Since that time, the director/supervisor has retired, and those positions remain open. The agency also reported a loss of six social worker positions over the last three years. Staff members in lead social worker positions provide some guidance to other caseworkers. However, current vacancies in all administrative positions providing

oversight to child welfare cases, and significant loss of front line staff, present considerable challenges to the agency.

Quality assurance system. Following the 2006 review, the agency instituted a qualitative case review process to monitor performance on child welfare cases. However, the loss of supervisor time and oversight limits the agency's capacity for ongoing evaluation of child welfare practices and systems.

Program Improvement Plan Recommendations

- Access training and/or technical assistance specific to managing cases and opening workgroups in SSIS (Systemic factor: SSIS)
- Ensure agency staff will have adequate access to supervision that supports effective child welfare practice for achieving safety, permanency and well-being outcomes (Systemic factor: supervisor and social worker resources)
- Ensure that a process is in place for the ongoing evaluation of child welfare practices and systems, leading to program improvements (Systemic factor: Quality Assurance System).

APPENDIX

Table 1

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 2010	Winona Co. Performance	
				2010	2011
Safety Indicator 1: Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence	94.6%	↑	95.1%*	78.6% (11/14)	82.5% (33/40)
Safety Indicator 2: Absence of CA/N in Foster Care	99.68%	↑	99.65%	97.3% (72/74)	100%* (85/85)
Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification					
<i>Component A: Timeliness of Reunification</i>					
C1.1 Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the year shown, and who had been in foster care for eight days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home?	75.2%	↑	84.5%*	85%* (34/40)	90%* (36/40)
C1.2 Median length of stay in foster care to reunification (months)	5.4	↓	3.9*	1.9*	4.5*
C1.3 Of all children entering foster care for the first time in the six-month period just prior to the year shown, and who remained in foster care for eight days or longer, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months?	48.4%	↑	57.9%*	80%* (8/10)	64.3%* (9/14)
<i>Component B: Permanency of Reunification</i>					
C1.4 Of all children discharged from care to reunification in the 12-month period prior to the year shown, what percentage re-entered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge?	9.9%	↓	24.4%	22.9% (11/48)	52.9% (18/34)
Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions					
<i>Component A: Timeliness of Adoptions of Children Discharged From Foster Care</i>					
C2.1 Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in the year shown, what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of latest removal from home?	36.6%	↑	48.2%*	100%* (1/1)	NA
C2.2 Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in the year shown, what was the median length of stay in foster care (in months) from the date of latest removed from home to the date of adoption?	27.3	↓	25.1*	22*	NA
<i>Component B: Adoption for Children Meeting ASFA Time-In-Care Requirements</i>					
C2.3 Of all children in foster care on the first day of the year shown who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer (and who, by the last day of the year shown, were not discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of live with relative, reunify or guardianship), what percent were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year shown?	22.7%	↑	19.6%	0% (0/4)	0% (0/1)
C2.4 Of all children in foster care on the first day of the year shown who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, and were not legally free for adoption prior to that day, what percent become legally free for adoption during the first 6 months of the year shown?	10.9%	↑	2.2%	0% (0/4)	0% (0/1)
<i>Component C: Adoption of Children Who Are Legally Free for Adoption</i>					
C2.5 Of all children who became legally free for adoption in the 12-month period prior to the year shown, what percent were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months of becoming legally free?	53.7%	↑	40.8%	100%* (1/1)	NA

Table 1

SUMMARY OF MN PERFORMANCE ON FEDERAL MEASURES	National Standard		MN Performance 2010	Winona Co Performance	
				2010	2011
Permanency Composite 3: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care					
<i>Component A: Achieving permanency for Children in Care for Extended Periods of Time</i>					
C3.1 Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year shown, what percent were discharged to a permanency home prior to their 18 th birthday and by the end of the year (including adoption, guardianship, reunification or transfer of custody to a relative)?	29.1%	↑	19.1%	0% (0/3)	0% (0/1)
C3.2 Of all children who were discharged from foster care in the year shown, and who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge, what percent was discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18 th birthday (including adoption, guardianship, reunification or transfer of custody to a relative)?	98.0%	↑	96.4%	100%* (1/1)	NA
<i>Component B: Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care for Extended Periods Of Time</i>					
C3.3 Of all children who, during the year shown, either (1) were discharged from foster care prior to age 18 with a discharge reason of emancipation , or (2) reached their 18 th birthday while in foster care, what percent were in foster care for three years or longer?	37.5%	↓	45.1%	50% (2/4)	0%* (0/17)
Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability (no components)					
C4.1 Of all children served in foster care during the year shown who were in foster care for at least eight days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?	86.0%	↑	86.8%*	89.1%* (41/46)	89.3%* (50/56)
C4.2 Of all children served in foster care during the year shown who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?	65.4%	↑	59.8%	33.3% (3/9)	60% (6/10)
C4.3 Of all children served in foster care during the year shown who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?	41.8%	↑	29.9%	50%* (3/6)	0% (0/1)

*The county met the national standard.

State Data: Minnesota's Child Welfare Report 2010

County Data: Social Service Information System (SSIS), Charting and Analysis

Completed Face-to-face Contact with Alleged Child Victims

Table 2

	Reporting Period	Statewide Rate of Timely Contact	County Percent With Timely Contact*
Investigations – Alleged Substantial Child Endangerment	April – June, 2011	67.5%	75% (3/4)
	July – September, 2011	65.8%	33% (1/3)
Family Investigations – Not Substantial Child Endangerment	April – June, 2011	82.7%	62.5% (10/16)
	July – September, 2011	85.4%	94.1% (16/17)
Family Assessments	April – June, 2011	74.7%	87.3% (55/63)
	July – September, 2011	74.8%	83.6% (56/67)

DHS Child Welfare Data Dashboard

*Timely contact is defined as:

- Family Assessments and Investigation – Not Substantial Child Endangerment: Within five calendar days of receipt of report
- Investigation – Alleged Substantial Child Endangerment: Immediately/within 24 hours of receipt of report.

Length of Placement Episodes Ending in 2010

Table 3

Length of Placement Episodes	2010	
	State %	County %
1 – 7 days	24.2%	8.5% (5/59)
8 – 30 days	11.0%	32.2% (19/59)
31 – 90 days	13.4%	22.0% (13/59)
91 – 180 days	10.2%	6.8% (4/59)
181 – 365 days	15.8%	8.5% (5/59)
366+ days	25.4%	22.0% (13/59)

DHS Children’s Research and Evaluation

Children in Out-of-home Care by Placement Setting

Table 4

(Children may be counted in more than one placement setting)

Placement Setting	2010	
	State %	County %
Foster Family Non-relative	39.8%	26.8% (34/127)
Foster Family Relative	12.1%	7.1% (9/127)
Foster Home – Corporate/Shift Staff	1.8%	1.5% (2/127)
Group Home	12.7%	29.1% (37/127)
Juvenile Correctional Facility (locked)	4.2%	22.0% (28/127)
Juvenile Correctional Facility (non-secure)	5%	0% (0/127)
Pre-adoptive Non-relative	4.7%	0.8% (1/127)
Pre-adoptive Relative	2.1%	0% (0/127)
Residential Treatment Center	16.8%	11.8% (15/127)
Other*	0.8%	0.8% (1/127)
Total Placement Settings	18,592	127

*“Other” includes ICF-DD and Supervised Independent Living settings
Minnesota’s Child Welfare Report 2010

Monthly Caseworker Visits with Children in Foster Care**Table 5**

	State %	County %
October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011	55.8%	43.6% (24/55)
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	55.3%	42% (21/50)
October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010	55.2%	53.1% (17/32)
October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009	46.9%	25.5% (13/51)
October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008 (Baseline year)	38.7%	50% (19/38)

DHS Caseworker Visits with Children in Out-of-home Placement Report; Child Welfare Data Dashboard

Table 6**MnCF SR Outcomes and Items Performance Ratings**

The following table summarizes the review findings for Winona 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	33.3% (2/6)	
ITEM 1	Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment		66.7% (4/6)
ITEM 2	Repeat maltreatment		60% (3/5)
SAFETY OUTCOME 2	Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate	37.5% (3/8)	
ITEM 3	Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care		80% (4/5)
ITEM 4	Risk assessment and safety management		37.5% (3/8)
PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1	Children have permanency and stability in their living situations	100% (5/5)	
ITEM 5	Foster care re-entries		50% (1/2)
ITEM 6	Stability of foster care placement		60% (3/5)
ITEM 7	Permanency goal for child		100% (5/5)
ITEM 8	Reunification or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative		100% (2/2)
ITEM 9	Adoption		100% (2/2)
ITEM 10	Permanency goal of long-term foster care		100% (1/1)

PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2	The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children	40% (2/5)	
ITEM 11	Proximity of foster care placement		100% (5/5)
ITEM 12	Placement with siblings		100% (3/3)
ITEM 13	Visits with parents and siblings in foster care		40% (2/5)
ITEM 14	Preservation of connections		80% (4/5)
ITEM 15	Relative placement		75% (3/4)
ITEM 16	Relationship of child in care with parents		80% (4/5)
WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1	Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs	62.5% (5/8)	
ITEM 17	Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents		62.5% (5/8)
ITEM 18	Child and family involvement in case planning		75% (6/8)
ITEM 19	Worker visits with child		62.5% (5/8)
ITEM 20	Worker visits with parent(s)		87.5% (7/8)
WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2	Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs	100% (6/6)	
ITEM 21	Educational needs of the child		100% (6/6)
WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3	Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs	87.5% (7/8)	
ITEM 22	Physical health of the child		100% (5/5)
ITEM 23	Mental/behavioral health of the child		87.5% (7/8)



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