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SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT 1988-1989

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State of South Carolina

Children's Foster Care Review Board System

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Executive Director

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.
and Members of the General Assembly

I am pleased to report herein the activities of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System for the fiscal year 1988-89. Foster Care Review Board statistics revealed that the cases of 4,500 children in public and private foster care were reviewed in 1988. A total of 7,835 reviews were conducted by the local Boards and recommendations for permanent placement for these children were made to the Family Court and to appropriate agencies.

The Agency has encouraged the return of children to their natural parents when appropriate, has promoted and encouraged all other agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents, has advised foster parents of their rights to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and adoption, and has recommended that all efforts be exerted by child caring facilities and agencies to arrange permanent foster care or guardianship where appropriate.

The Agency has reported any deficiencies in efforts to secure permanent homes for children regularly to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive and foster care agencies. The Agency has also compiled and included herein recommendations regarding services to foster children in our State.

The Agency continues to see progress being made in the delivery of services to foster children and to their families. We are committed to continue to work with all other agencies and systems involved with foster children to protect the rights and best interests of these children and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Jo McGlothlin

Martha Jo McGlothlin
Chairperson, Board of Directors

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1970's in South Carolina many child welfare professionals and citizen groups began advocacy efforts on behalf of children in the foster care system. These efforts resulted from their concern over the plight of the child adrift in the foster care system. The ultimate result of these efforts was the establishment of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System in 1974, one of the first such organizations in the nation.

Six major private organizations between 1970 and 1974 spearheaded the initial concern to obtain permanent homes for children in foster care. These organizations were the American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Child psychiatrists, child psychologists, social work professors, law professors and various church leaders also participated as private citizens to help give direction to the project.

Research to document the condition of foster care in South Carolina was a primary focus of these organizations. Four studies were done in cooperation with Representative Carolyn Frederick, Vice Chairperson of the South Carolina General Assembly's Study Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters Pertaining to Children. The results of these four studies showed the following:

1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the children in the Department of Social Services foster care program would neither return home nor be adopted under the existing system. Services were not being provided by the system to the parents to facilitate return home and no efforts were made to free many children eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute.

2. A survey of fourteen private and three public institutions, formerly known as orphanages, showed that the Department of Social Services placed 43% of the children while private placements accounted for 57% of the children placed. Some 20-50% of these children were eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute; however, none of these institutions stated that adoption was one of their services. In addition, most of these institutions offered no services to families to enable return of the children home.

3. Forty-three percent (43%) of the children in foster care had been in two or more foster placements and eighteen percent (18%) had been in three or more.

4. No method existed to keep track of children in foster care. The courts expressed concern about children being lost in the system. Even when children were freed for adoption, the courts had no way of knowing if the children had been placed adoptively.

5. The cost to taxpayers for keeping children in foster care was growing steadily with no resolution in sight.

6. Children were suffering irreparable psychological damage as victims of foster care drift.

The findings from these studies clearly indicated the need for a system to monitor the cases of children in foster care to achieve appropriate permanent placements for these children.

Thus, a statewide foster care review board system was legislated by the 1974 General Assembly. In March of 1975 Governor James Edwards, by Executive Order, established the Office of Child Advocacy as a division of the Office of the Governor. This Executive Order charged that the Office of Child Advocacy establish and coordinate the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and act as ombudsman on behalf of the abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children of the State. The initial funding for the Review Board System as part of the Office of Child Advocacy was shared by the State and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

In 1977 the Children's Foster Care Review Board System was fully funded by the General Assembly as a separate State Agency. The Office of Child Advocacy existed as a program of the Review Board System until 1980, at which time it was returned to the Governor's Office. While a part of the Review Board System, the Office of Child Advocacy conducted an ombudsman program for children in general and a training program in the prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect for hospitals and other organizations upon request.

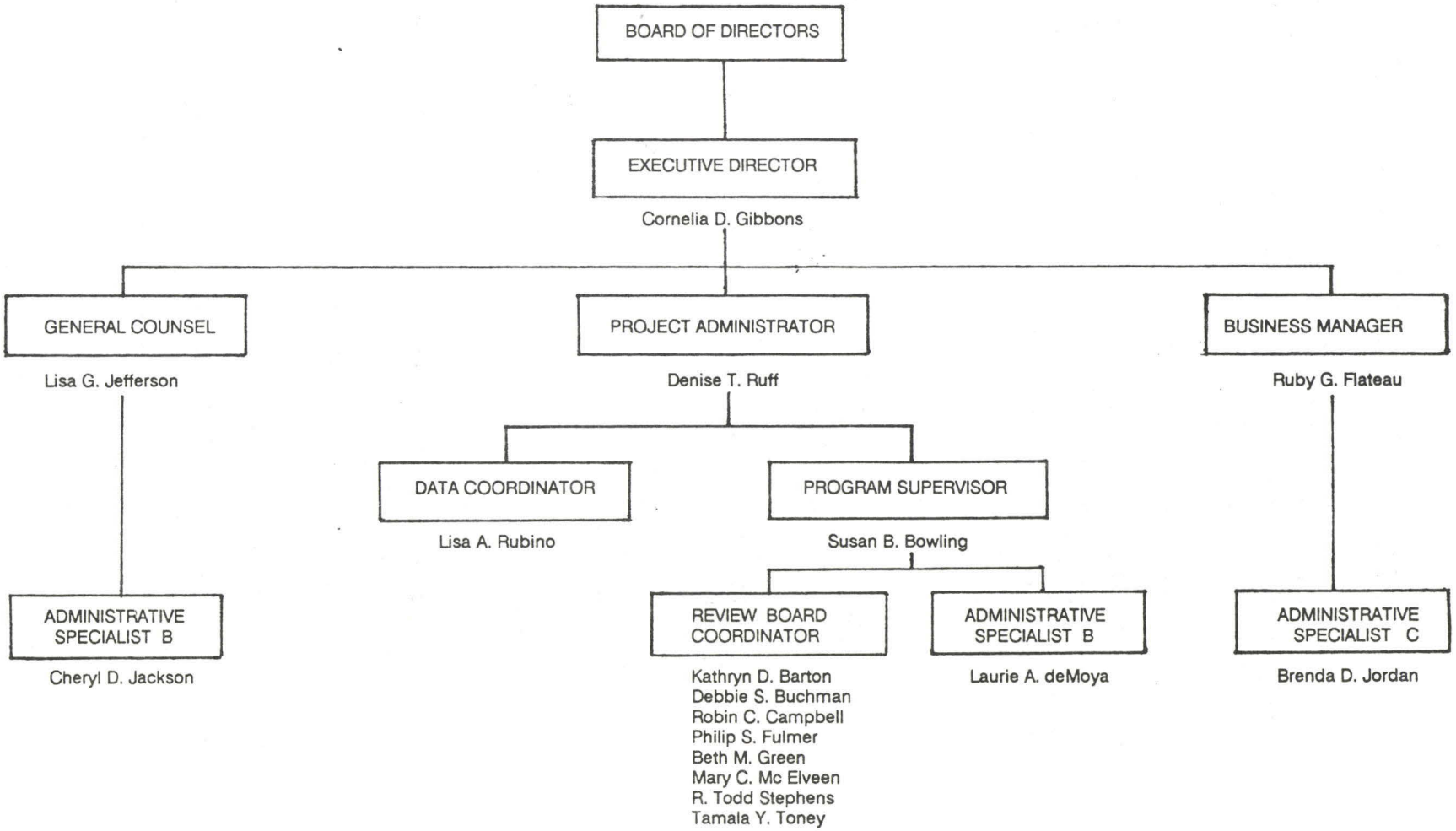
In 1985 the Review Board System was placed under proviso legislation in order to restructure and reorganize the Agency. Permanent legislation and regulations passed by the General Assembly in 1986 restored the Agency to permanent status.

The Children's Foster Care Review Board System is currently comprised of a staff of seventeen serving thirty-three Review Boards across the State. The Review Board System reviews the cases of approximately 4,500 children in public and private facilities and institutions twice annually, statistically evaluates the state of foster care in South Carolina and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and child caring facilities as outlined by South Carolina law.

State of South Carolina

Children's Foster Care Review Board System

Organizational Chart



STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY

Section 20-7-2376 through 2397 of the South Carolina Code of Laws creates the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and establishes the Agency to administer case review in accordance with the provisions of Sections 20-7-2376 through 20-7-2397 as follows:

I. Board of Directors for Review of Foster Care of Children

The Board of Directors consists of seven members, all of whom must be past or present members of a local Review Board. There must be one member from each congressional district and one member from the State at large, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the Board of Directors serve four year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualify. A chairperson is elected from the membership of the Board for a two year term.

The Board of Directors is responsible for:

a. the promulgation of regulations, pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Code of Laws Section 20-7-2376 et seq., relating to the functions, policies, and procedures of the Review Board System;

b. the promulgation of regulations to provide for review of necessary reports and other information required from state, county and private agencies and institutions;

c. the report of recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures, and any deficiencies of public and private agencies and institutions which arrange for foster care for children;

d. the annual report to the General Assembly which includes the recommendations and the activities of the Review Board System;

e. the review and coordination of the activities of the local Review Boards;

f. the creation or dissolution of local Review Boards as necessary to maintain appropriate caseloads for each Board;

g. the employment of the Agency Director.

II. Local Review Boards

There are thirty-three local Review Boards, each composed of five members, with at least one local Board in each of the sixteen judicial circuits throughout the state. Board members are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation by their respective legislative delegation. Their duties are as follows:

1. To review every six months but no less frequently than once every six months the cases of children who have resided in public foster care for a period of more than four consecutive months and to review every six months the cases of children who have resided in private foster care for a period of more than six consecutive months to determine what efforts have been made by the

supervising agency or child caring facility to acquire a permanent home for the child. Review Boards will recommend continued placement in the child caring facility unless the parents are able to resume care, in at least those instances when:

a. children are privately placed in privately owned facilities or group homes; and
b. a notarized affidavit of summary review is executed by the child caring facility and is valid on its face; and
c. the affidavit of summary review is submitted to the Board every six months. It must be accepted by the Board if it attests to the statutorily mandated conditions and is valid on its face.

2. Except as provided in subsection (1), to encourage the return of children to their natural parents, or, upon determination during a case review of the local Review Board that this return is not in the best interest of the child, to recommend to the appropriate agency action be taken for a maximum effort to place the child for adoption.

3. To promote and encourage all agencies and facilities involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.

4. To advise foster parents of their right to petition the Family Court for termination of parental rights and for adoption and to encourage these foster parents to initiate these proceedings in an appropriate case when it has been determined by the local Review Board that return to the natural parent is not in the best interest of the child.

5. To recommend that a child caring facility or agency exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is not feasible or possible as determined during a case review by the local Review Board.

6. To report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies any deficiencies in these agencies' efforts to secure permanent homes for children discovered in the local Board's review of these cases as provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

Any case findings or recommendation of a local Review Board are advisory.

Any person or agency aggrieved by an action or recommendation of a local Review Board may seek relief by petition to the Family Court of that county which shall issue a rule to show cause why the action or recommendation of the local Review Board should not be set aside or modified. If a child caring facility or agency is not in agreement with the local Review Board recommendation relating to permanent placement of a child in its care, the child caring facility or agency shall notify the chairman of the local Review Board within twenty-one days after receipt of the recommendation.

III. Administration

The Administrative Unit of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System consists of the Executive Director, General Counsel, Project Administrator, Business Manager, Review Board Program Supervisor, and Data Coordinator.

The duties of this unit are as follows:

a. to request and to administer funds necessary for the operation of the Review Board System;

b. to hire and to supervise Review Board System employees;

c. to recommend new policies and procedures for consideration by the Board of Directors;

d. to supervise the day-to-day operation of the Review Board System and to insure that current policies and procedures are implemented;

e. to provide training for Review Board members and staff; and,

f. to conduct research and to maintain statistical data designed to improve the services to abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children in South Carolina.

The eight Review Board Coordinators serve as staff to the thirty-three local Review Boards. The coordinators provide a full range of administrative support services to the Boards. Each coordinator is assigned a caseload of four or five local Review Boards and is responsible for the following:

1. to plan and to facilitate all Review Board meetings with the local Review Board members and the involved agency or institutional staff;

2. to formalize and to distribute local Review Board recommendations;

3. to serve as a liaison to the local Review Boards to implement program objectives and procedural changes as necessary to assure compliance with agency objectives and state and federal law;

4. to direct appropriate legal action to General Counsel from the local Review Board and to participate in court hearings as necessary;

5. to participate in professional meetings to promote and improve services to children and families;

6. to maintain central files on cases reviewed by local Review Boards;

7. to initiate appropriate follow-up on cases as necessary to facilitate permanent placement for foster children.

Three Administrative Specialists handle all typing and clerical duties for the Review Board Administrative Staff and Review Board Coordinators.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At Large

Mrs. Christine O. Jackson
Director of YWCA — Charleston

1st Congressional District

Ms. Henrietta Gaillard
Director of Development, Ashley Hall School — Charleston

2nd Congressional District

Ms. Francis S. McMeekin
Director, Solicitor's School Program — Columbia

3rd Congressional District

Ms. Lucy Wilkerson
Homemaker — Westminster

4th Congressional District

Ms. Carolyn Lee
Homemaker — Spartanburg

5th Congressional District

Judy Hamrick
Former School Teacher — Gaffney

6th Congressional District

Ms. Martha Jo McGlothlin
Elementary School Administrator — Moncks Corner

LOCAL REVIEW BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

Review Board 1A	Emilie Sanders	Orangeburg
Review Board 1B	Connie Covington	Orangeburg
Review Board 2A	Chalma Lindler	Aiken
Review Board 2B	Margaret Willis	Bamberg
Review Board 3A	Lucille Levy	Summerton
Review Board 3B	Frances Hill	Sumter
Review Board 4A	Sue Brigman	Blenheim
Review Board 4B	Perry Simon	Darlington
Review Board 5A	Louisa Brown	Chapin
Review Board 5B	Marilyn B. Summers	Columbia
Review Board 5C	Robert Green	Columbia
Review Board 5D	James S. Manning	Columbia
Review Board 6A	Herman Young	Blair
Review Board 7A	Robert L. Black	Spartanburg
Review Board 7B	J. Arthur Bridges, Jr.	Gaffney
Review Board 8A	Nedra Seymour	Laurens
Review Board 8B	David Dougherty	Greenwood
Review Board 9A	Alma Wilbanks	Charleston
Review Board 9B	Winnie Wilson	Moncks Corner
Review Board 9C	Carol McCants	Charleston
Review Board 10A	Carolyn Davis	Walhalla
Review Board 10B	Linda Alewine	Iva
Review Board 11A	Marion Atkins	Columbia
Review Board 11B	Almastine Butler	Saluda
Review Board 12A	Betty Fowler	Florence
Review Board 13A	Joyce Massingill	Easley
Review Board 13B	Tommy Rice	Greenville
Review Board 13C	Virginia Davis	Greenville
Review Board 14A	Billy Henderson	Varnville
Review Board 14B	Emma Jones	Pineland
Review Board 15A	Myra Dingle	Pawleys Island
Review Board 15B	M. Lou Michael	Conway
Review Board 16A	Martha Cowan	Rock Hill

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD STAFF

Cornelia D. Gibbons, ACSW	Executive Director
Kathryn D. Barton	Review Board Coordinator
Susan B. Bowling	Review Board Program Supervisor
Deborah S. Buchman	Review Board Coordinator
Robin C. Campbell	Review Board Coordinator
Laurie A. deMoya	Administrative Specialist B
Ruby G. Flateau	Business Manager
Philip S. Fulmer	Review Board Coordinator
Beth M. Green	Review Board Coordinator
Cheryl D. Jackson	Administrative Specialist B
Lisa G. Jefferson	General Counsel
Brenda D. Jordan	Administrative Specialist C
Mary C. McElveen	Review Board Coordinator
Lisa A. Rubino	Data Coordinator
Denise T. Ruff	Project Administrator
R. Todd Stephens	Review Board Coordinator
Tamala Y. Toney	Review Board Coordinator

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FY 1988-1989

		Adjusted Budget	YTD Expenditures	Balance	% Expd
I.	**STATE APPROPRIATIONS**				
	A. ADMIN SUPPORT				
	Unclassified Pos	39,567.12	39,567.12	0.00	100
	Classified Pos	73,671.38	73,671.38	0.00	100
	Temporary Pos	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
	Per Diem	750.00	750.00	0.00	100
	Con Svcs	15,272.00	15,272.00	0.00	100
	Supplies	2,463.00	2,463.00	0.00	100
	Fixed Charges	10,054.58	10,054.58	0.00	100
	Travel	2,134.48	2,134.48	0.00	100
	SUBTOTAL	143,912.56	143,912.56	0.00	100
	B. LOCAL REVIEW BD				
	Classified Pos	200,429.94	200,429.94	0.00	100
	Per Diem	34,180.00	34,180.00	0.00	100
	Con Svcs	16,725.09	16,725.09	0.00	100
	Supplies	6,565.06	6,565.06	0.00	100
	Fixed Charges	26,169.93	26,169.93	0.00	100
	Travel	15,923.34	15,923.34	0.00	99
	Equipment	35,286.08	35,286.08	0.00	100
	SUBTOTAL	335,279.44	335,279.44	0.00	100
	C. EMPLOYER CONTRI	63,432.00	63,432.00	0.00	100
	TOTAL STATE	**542,624.00**	**542,624.00**	**0.00**	**100**
II.	**FEDERAL FUNDS**				
	A. LOCAL REVIEW BD/ TITLE IV-E				
	Classified Pos	40,009.00	40,009.00	0.00	100
	Per Diem	1,405.93	0.00	1,405.93	0
	Con Svcs	3,126.28	3,126.28	0.00	100
	Supplies	5,407.79	5,407.79	0.00	100
	Fixed Charges	17,354.00	17,354.00	0.00	100
	Travel	5,828.00	5,821.97	6.03	100
	SUBTOTAL	73,131.00	71,719.04	1,411.96	100

		Adjusted Budget	YTD Expenditures	Balance	% Expd
B.	LOCAL REVIEW BD/ PERMANENT FAM				
	Con Svcs	5,571.65	5,571.65	0.00	100
	Supplies	725.00	725.00	0.00	100
	Fixed Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
	Travel	2,024.35	2,024.35	0.00	100
	SUBTOTAL	8,321.00	8,321.00	0.00	100
C.	LOCAL REVIEW BD/ NATL FOS REV TRNG				
	Con Svcs	110.00	110.00	0.00	100
	Travel	554.00	554.00	0.00	100
	SUBTOTAL	664.00	664.00	0.00	100
D.	EMPLOYER CONTRI/ TITLE IV-E	8,465.00	7,117.03	1,347.97	84
TOTAL FEDERAL		**90,581.00**	**87,821.07**	**2,759.93**	**97**
III.	**OTHER FUNDS**				
A.	MISC REVENUE/ CONFERENCE				
	Con Svcs	2,190.00	2,190.00	0.00	100
B.	SALE OF ASSETS				
	Equipment	61.50	61.50	0.00	100
C.	DUKE ENDOWMENT				
	Per Diem	5,810.00	5,810.00	0.00	100
	Con Svcs	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100
	Travel	2,690.00	2,690.00	0.00	100
	SUBTOTAL	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100
TOTAL OTHER		**12,251.50**	**12,251.50**	**0.00**	**100**
GRAND TOTAL		**645,456.50**	**642,696.57**	**2,759.93**	**100**

1988 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System implemented an in-house computer information system in 1987. This system is designed to track and analyze data on children reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board. Comparison of data gathered in 1987 with data gathered in 1988 may be limited in several areas because of program changes made to improve and expand the system. Questions related to data comparison should be referred to the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

The new system continues to provide the means to produce a more comprehensive analysis of data on children monitored by the Review Board. All statistics in this report reflect data that was reported to the Foster Care Review Board by public and private foster care providers as of January 31, 1989.

The Review Board conducted a total of 7,835 reviews in 1988 on a total of 4,500 children. This is a 5% increase over the number of reviews conducted by the Review Board in 1987.

Table A presents the number of individual reviews conducted each month in 1988 by each local Review Board.

TABLE A

1988 REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS

BOARD	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
1A	24	29	25	21	28	15	22	25	-	22	20	-	231
1B*	-	-	-	-	19	16	-	31	24	10	9	10	119
2A	20	22	26	76	24	20	30	29	15	39	24	-	325
2B*	-	-	-	-	-	12	13	-	24	29	22	10	110
3A	42	26	51	9	22	23	19	-	32	-	14	-	238
3B*	-	-	-	-	-	20	17	22	17	27	27	-	130
4A	13	45	52	34	4	30	13	29	20	33	25	-	298
4B*	-	-	-	28	19	27	-	24	36	19	19	30	202
5A	13	33	38	14	33	15	33	30	45	12	36	11	313
5B	27	27	33	38	38	22	27	30	29	37	41	20	369
5C	14	16	16	16	14	14	15	11	14	13	25	-	168
5D	23	16	27	38	36	26	21	22	28	33	33	36	339
6A	49	27	33	39	-	19	33	35	36	34	27	-	332
7A	31	22	17	29	19	25	12	19	15	26	-	25	240
7B	-	16	-	15	-	-	8	11	-	14	25	-	89
8A	9	17	41	20	97	21	14	19	28	21	71	19	377
8B	24	39	25	-	18	12	-	24	17	-	22	-	181
9A	23	51	19	25	19	25	18	26	16	25	22	24	293
9B	20	26	18	18	19	-	20	28	17	10	13	0	189
9C	29	29	19	9	40	-	24	22	23	22	27	-	244
10A	34	18	10	67	29	16	28	12	10	34	36	17	311
10B	28	19	34	47	23	14	21	17	28	36	31	14	312
11A	28	27	26	19	17	-	27	38	21	12	27	-	242
11B	-	29	36	16	14	13	9	16	15	10	11	6	175
12A	37	14	32	55	22	-	10	34	27	49	32	-	312
13A	38	21	19	19	24	13	25	18	13	12	31	14	247
13B	11	10	22	12	24	31	18	14	-	30	18	31	221
13C	-	31	23	19	24	30	25	22	21	24	20	25	264
14A	18	21	39	29	15	14	15	28	28	29	10	14	260
14B*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	9	-	33
15A	-	39	36	-	6	12	-	28	32	-	12	14	179
15B	31	25	30	17	17	16	16	16	36	21	31	-	256
16A	15	-	20	20	27	31	19	20	18	23	17	25	235
TOTALS:	**603**	**693**	**766**	**749**	**691**	**532**	**552**	**700**	**710**	**706**	**786**	**346**	**7835**

* Indicates new Boards created during 1988

Who were the children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board in 1988?

Data outlined in the next tables will begin to profile the type of child reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board in 1988. Table B describes 1) the age of children entering the system during 1988 2) the age of children leaving the system in 1988 and 3) the age of children whose cases were active and reviewed during the time period. Included with these numbers are the associated percentages for each category.

TABLE B

STATEWIDE AGE STATISTICS - 1988

Time Period: 1/1/88 - 12/31/88

AGE RANGE	NUMBER ENTERED AND REVIEWED	PERCENT OF NUMBER ENTERED	NUMBER CLOSED	PERCENT OF NUMBER CLOSED	NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES DURING TIME PERIOD	PERCENT OF ACTIVE CASES
0-1	63	8.7	3	0.3	64	1.4
1	68	9.4	49	3.8	187	4.1
2	41	5.7	62	4.4	197	4.4
3	29	4.0	71	4.9	212	4.7
4	36	5.0	68	4.3	204	4.5
5	34	4.7	68	4.6	223	5.0
6	28	3.9	60	3.6	191	4.3
7	42	5.8	84	5.4	251	5.6
8	44	6.1	64	3.8	224	5.0
9	32	4.4	68	4.5	231	5.1
10	36	5.0	50	3.5	223	4.9
11	25	3.5	65	4.6	221	4.9
12	23	3.2	62	4.6	206	4.6
13	50	6.9	77	5.8	293	6.5
14	51	7.1	76	5.4	289	6.4
15	42	5.8	86	6.7	263	5.9
16	41	5.9	101	6.9	343	7.6
17	30	4.1	96	6.5	317	7.0
18	5	0.7	141	10.0	213	4.7
19	0	0.0	52	3.6	84	1.9
20	0	0.0	29	1.7	44	1.0
21 & OVER	1	0.1	17	1.2	20	0.5
TOTALS:	**721**	**100.0**	**1449**	**100.0**	**4500**	**100.0**

Table C describes the race of children 1) entering the system and reviewed during 1988 2) leaving the system during 1988 and 3) the race of children who were active and reviewed during the time period. Included with these numbers are the associated percentages for each category.

TABLE C

STATEWIDE RACE STATISTICS - 1988

Time Period: 1/1/88 - 12/31/88

CATEGORY	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
NUMBER ENTERING SYSTEM DURING TIME PERIOD	355	359	7	721
PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER ENTERING SYSTEM	49.2	49.8	1.0	100.0
NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED DURING TIME PERIOD	629	789	31	1449
PERCENTAGE OF CASES CLOSED DURING TIME PERIOD	43.4	54.5	2.1	100.0
NUMBER OF CASES ACTIVE DURING TIME PERIOD	2243	2162	95	4500
PERCENTAGE OF CASES ACTIVE DURING TIME PERIOD	49.8	48.1	2.1	100.0

Table D describes the sex of the children 1) entering the system during 1988 2) leaving the system during 1988 and 3) whose cases were active and reviewed during the time period. Included with these numbers are the associated percentages for each category.

TABLE D

STATEWIDE SEX STATISTICS - 1988

Time Period: 1/1/88 - 12/31/88

CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
NUMBER ENTERING SYSTEM DURING TIME PERIOD	354	367	721
PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER ENTERING SYSTEM	49.0	50.9	100.0
NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED DURING TIME PERIOD	728	721	1449
PERCENTAGE OF CASES CLOSED DURING TIME PERIOD	50.2	49.8	100.0
NUMBER OF CASES ACTIVE DURING TIME PERIOD	2258	2242	4500
PERCENTAGE OF CASES ACTIVE DURING TIME PERIOD	50.2	49.8	100.0

Who holds legal custody of the children reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board?

The Foster Care Review Board is legally mandated to review all children who have been in public foster care for a period of more than four months and all children who have been in private foster care for a period of more than six months. Table E describes the different parties holding legal custody of both privately and publicly placed children in foster care and reviewed during 1988.

TABLE E

STATEWIDE CUSTODY TYPE - 1988

Time Period: 1/1/88-12/31/88 — Number of Children Reviewed: 4500

CUSTODY TYPE	NUMBER OF TYPES	PERCENTAGE OF STATE
COUNTY DSS	3803	84.5
NATURAL PARENT	637	14.1
RELATIVE	50	1.1
COURT	2	0.0
OTHER	8	0.2
TOTALS:	**4500**	**100.0**

Why were children placed in foster care during 1988?

Children involuntarily entered the foster care system in 1988 due to abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Children were also voluntarily placed in public and private foster care. Table F presents statewide data on the number of reasons for each type of placement. Table G presents the number of placement reasons by the child's age, and Table H describes the race of the child as compared to the reason for placement. Table I identifies the reason for placement by county.

TABLE F

STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1988*

Time Period: 1/1/88-12/31/88

PLACEMENT REASON		NUMBER OF REASONS	PERCENTAGE OF STATE
1)	NEGLECT	242	33.6
2)	VOLUNTARY	107	14.8
3)	ABUSE/PHYSICAL	99	13.7
4)	DEPENDENCY	77	10.7
5)	ABUSE/SEXUAL	64	8.9
6)	THREAT/PHYSICAL	38	5.3
7)	JUVENILE OFFENSE	32	4.4
8)	THREAT/NEGLECT	24	3.3
9)	CONSENT AND WAIVER	18	2.5
10)	THREAT/SEXUAL	10	1.4
11)	ABANDONMENT	10	1.4
TOTALS:		**721**	**100.0**

* Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1988.

TABLE G

STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS BY AGE FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1988*

Time Period: 1/1/88 - 12/31/88

AGE	ABANDON	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	DEPENDENCY	CONSENT & WAIVER	JUVENILE OFFENDER	NEGLECT	THREAT OF NEGLECT	THREAT OF PHYSICAL ABUSE	THREAT OF SEXUAL ABUSE	VOLUNTARY	TOTAL
0-1	3	0	2	9	16	0	16	11	4	0	2	63
1	2	12	1	12	2	0	28	2	5	1	3	68
2	0	6	2	2	0	0	24	1	4	1	1	41
3	0	5	3	4	0	0	14	1	0	0	2	29
4	0	7	3	2	0	0	18	2	2	0	2	36
5	2	4	4	2	0	0	13	0	1	1	7	34
6	0	2	5	0	0	0	16	0	2	0	3	28
7	1	10	4	5	0	0	15	2	2	1	2	42
8	1	4	2	3	0	0	19	0	5	0	10	44
9	1	9	1	2	0	0	9	1	2	0	7	32
10	0	5	6	3	0	0	14	0	1	1	6	36
11	0	2	3	2	0	0	9	0	3	0	6	25
12	0	4	4	1	0	1	6	1	1	1	4	23
13	0	6	9	7	0	4	11	1	2	1	9	50
14	0	6	2	7	0	5	10	0	1	0	20	51
15	0	8	4	5	0	7	8	0	2	2	6	42
16	0	6	4	4	0	12	3	1	1	1	9	41
17	0	2	3	6	0	3	7	1	0	0	8	30
18	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 & OVER	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS:	**10**	**99**	**64**	**77**	**18**	**32**	**242**	**24**	**38**	**10**	**107**	**721**

* Reflects only those children reviewed for the first time during 1988

TABLE H

STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS BY RACE FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1988*

Time Period: 1/1/88-12/31/88 Number of Children Entering Care: 721

PLACEMENT REASON	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
NEGLECT	157	84	1	242
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	64.9	34.7	0.4	100.0
VOLUNTARY	12	95	0	107
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	11.2	88.8	0.0	100.0
PHYSICAL ABUSE	56	42	1	99
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	56.6	42.4	1.0	100.0
DEPENDENCY	37	38	2	77
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	48.1	49.4	2.6	100.0
SEXUAL ABUSE	27	36	1	64
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	42.2	56.3	1.6	100.0
THREAT - PHYSICAL	21	16	1	38
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	55.3	42.1	2.6	100.0
JUVENILE OFFENSE	13	19	0	32
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	40.6	59.4	0.0	100.0
THREAT - NEGLECT	10	14	0	24
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	41.7	58.3	0.0	100.0
CONSENT & WAIVER	11	7	0	18
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	61.1	38.9	0.0	100.0
THREAT - SEXUAL	4	6	0	10
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	40.0	60.0	0.0	100.0
ABANDONMENT	7	2	1	10
Percentage by Race for Placement Reason	70.0	20.0	10.0	100.0
TOTALS:	**355**	**359**	**7**	**721**

*Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1988.

TABLE I

STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS BY COUNTY FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1988*

COUNTY	NEGLECT	VOLUNTARY	PHYSICAL ABUSE	DEPENDENCY	SEXUAL ABUSE	THREAT OF PHYSICAL ABUSE	JUVENILE OFFENDER	THREAT OF NEGLECT	CONSENT & WAIVER	THREAT OF SEXUAL ABUSE	ABANDON	TOTAL
Abbeville	5	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Aiken	15	1	16	3	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	42
Allendale	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Anderson	9	-	3	2	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	22
Bamberg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Barnwell	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-			-	7
Beaufort	1	-	3	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	12
Berkeley	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	8
Calhoun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charleston	14	1	2	10	13	2	3	1	-	-	1	47
Cherokee	1	-	-	4	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	10
Chester	1	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chesterfield	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	8
Clarendon	6	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Colleton	2	2	5	5	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	18
Darlington	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	7
Dillon	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	6
Dorchester	14	-	5	2	2	-	-	4	-	3	-	30
Edgefield	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fairfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Florence	3	1	4	1	1	4	1	-	1	-	3	19
Georgetown	6	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Greenville	22	2	7	15	-	1	-	2	3	-	1	53
Greenwood	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8

CONTINUED

TABLE I (CONTINUED)

STATEWIDE PLACEMENT REASONS BY COUNTY FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE - 1988*

COUNTY	NEGLECT	VOLUNTARY	PHYSICAL ABUSE	DEPENDENCY	SEXUAL ABUSE	THREAT OF PHYSICAL ABUSE	JUVENILE OFFENDER	THREAT OF NEGLECT	CONSENT & WAIVER	THREAT OF SEXUAL ABUSE	ABANDON	TOTAL
Hampton	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Horry	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	-	1	-	1	13
Jasper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kershaw	2	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Lancaster	14	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	19
Laurens	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Lee	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Lexington	7	2	1	1	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	19
Marion	14	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	19
Marlboro	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
McCormick	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Newberry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oconee	8	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	13
Orangeburg	13	-	6	2	2	-	1	1	1	2	-	28
Pickens	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	6
Richland	37	-	5	5	5	9	1	5	-	-	1	68
Saluda	5	-	2	-	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	12
Spartanburg	6	-	9	2	8	-	-	1	5	1	2	34
Sumter	10	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	16
Union	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Williamsburg	1	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
York	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
State DSS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-DSS	1	91	-	1	1	-	12	-	-	-	-	106
TOTALS:	**242**	**107**	**99**	**77**	**64**	**38**	**32**	**24**	**18**	**10**	**10**	**721**

*Reflects only those children reviewed by the Review Board for the first time during 1988.

Where were children placed who were reviewed by the Review Board in 1988?

Children can be placed in different types of foster care placements. Table J describes the number of each type of foster care placement tracked by the Review Board for children monitored during 1988.

TABLE J

STATEWIDE PLACEMENT TYPE FOR CHILDREN REVIEWED - 1988

Time Period: 1/01/88 - 12/31/88 — Number of Children Reviewed: 4500

LOCATION TYPE	NUMBER OF TYPES	PERCENTAGE OF STATE
DSS FOSTER HOME	1996	44.4
DSS INSTITUTION/GROUP HOME	513	11.4
NON-DSS INSTITUTION/GROUP HOME	703	15.6
RELATIVE	377	8.4
ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT	482	10.7
DYS INSTITUTION	27	.6
NATURAL PARENT	321	7.1
RUNAWAY	81	1.8
TOTALS:	**4500**	**100.0**

How many placements did children leaving care in 1988 experience?

Children placed in foster care frequently experience more than one placement while in care. Multiple placements have been shown to be detrimental to the child's development. Table K describes the total number of placements experienced by children who left foster care in 1988.

TABLE K

STATEWIDE NUMBER OF FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN CLOSED - 1988

Time Period: 1/1/88-12/31/88 — Number of Children Leaving Care: 1449

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CASES
1	531	36.6
2	340	23.5
3	198	13.7
4	130	9.0
5	56	3.9
6	48	3.3
7	30	2.1
8	17	1.2
9	18	1.2
10	24	1.7
11	15	1.0
12	9	.6
13	4	.3
14	5	.3
15+	24	1.7
TOTALS:	**1449**	**100.0**

What do local Review Boards recommend for these children?

Local Review Boards issue a recommendation on each case reviewed. These recommendations are made after the Board has carefully considered all facts presented to them by the involved workers and interested parties attending the review. Table L describes the number and type of recommendation issued by local Review Boards on cases during 1988.

TABLE L

STATEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS - 1988

Time Period: 1/1/88 - 12/31/88

RECOMMENDATION	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS	PERCENTAGE OF STATE
1) RETURN TO PARENT	1896	24.2
2) TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS	1620	20.7
3) ADOPTION	1253	16.0
4) INDEPENDENT LIVING	676	8.6
5) PERMANENT FOSTER CARE	632	8.1
6) AFFIDAVIT OF SUMMARY REVIEW	577	7.4
7) RELATIVE PLACEMENT	318	4.1
8) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	256	3.3
9) PERMANENT GROUP HOME	78	1.0
10) CASE CONTINUED	491	6.3
11) OTHER	38	.5
TOTALS:	**7835**	**100.0**

How many interested parties attend reviews?

Review Board regulations require that written notice be sent three weeks prior to the scheduled review to the following individuals at their last known address: both biological/legal parents; legal guardians; current Guardians ad Litem; both foster parents; and foster children ten years of age or older. These notices are distributed by the agency/institution responsible for presenting the case to the Review Board. Regulations also specify that each of these parties should be encouraged to attend the review. Table M describes the statewide totals for parties who attended reviews in 1988. Statewide attendance of interested parties at reviews in 1988 increased by eight percent over 1987 figures. Tables N and O describe the attendance totals for each party by Review Board and county, respectively.

TABLE M

PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS STATEWIDE - 1988

Number of Reviews: 7835 — Number of Reviews with Parties Attending: 3184

Percentage of Reviews with Parties Attending: 40.6

ATTENDEE TYPE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ATTENDANCE
BIOLOGICAL PARENT(S)	1747	28.2
FOSTER PARENT(S)	1285	20.8
VOLUNTEER GUARDIANS AD LITEM	1216	19.7
*OTHER	1111	18.0
FOSTER CHILDREN	718	11.6
ATTORNEYS	109	1.8
TOTALS:	**6186**	**100.0**

* OTHER parties attending reviews would include: professionals other than Department of Social Services staff who are involved with the child's case, family members other than biological parents and other advocates that family may wish to be present.

TABLE N

PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS BY BOARD - 1988

BOARD	NATURAL PARENTS	FOSTER PARENTS	CHILD	GAL	ATTORNEY(S)	OTHER	TOTAL # PARTIES ATTENDING	TOTAL # REVIEWS	TOTAL # OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING	PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING
1A	49	33	18	52	-	18	170	231	87	37.7
1B	20	19	9	10	2	27	87	119	45	37.8
2A	72	126	36	125	3	52	414	325	195	60.0
2B	23	34	8	38	1	19	123	110	54	49.1
3A	71	55	25	37	-	32	220	238	115	48.3
3B	30	38	10	27	-	17	122	130	68	52.3
4A	86	43	18	58	2	19	226	298	144	48.3
4B	51	38	5	33	1	25	153	202	85	42.1
5A	71	25	32	42	14	62	246	313	109	34.8
5B	156	75	38	174	21	110	574	369	248	67.2
5C	47	43	22	32	15	67	226	168	100	59.5
5D	131	57	29	150	20	131	518	339	231	68.1
6A	48	58	14	39	1	32	192	332	121	36.4
7A	47	47	8	33	2	7	144	240	85	35.4
7B	31	13	27	9	-	21	101	89	53	59.6
8A	46	42	14	1	1	35	139	377	70	18.6
8B	33	-	32	2	-	7	74	181	47	26.0
9A	40	50	21	42	2	32	187	293	117	39.9
9B	33	24	23	21	-	25	126	189	67	35.4
9C	74	44	17	45	7	62	249	244	117	48.0
10A	43	19	59	30	-	21	172	311	105	33.8
10B	80	44	16	17	-	42	199	312	120	38.5
11A	56	44	11	27	3	39	180	242	82	33.9
11B	30	-	38	-	-	3	71	175	48	27.4
12A	107	50	22	6	-	8	193	312	103	33.0
13A	33	28	41	10	1	38	151	247	80	32.4
13B	63	41	24	36	5	26	195	221	101	45.7
13C	52	36	35	39	3	35	200	264	102	38.6
14A	41	52	34	46	-	21	194	260	97	37.3
14B	5	8	1	8	-	6	28	33	15	45.5
15A	23	21	11	13	3	23	94	179	55	30.7
15B	34	51	13	13	2	20	133	256	66	25.8
16A	21	27	7	1	-	29	85	235	52	22.1
TOTALS:	**1747**	**1285**	**718**	**1216**	**109**	**1111**	**6186**	**7835**	**3184**	**40.6**

* NOTE: ALL PERCENTAGES ARE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST TENTH OF ONE PERCENT

TABLE O

PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS BY COUNTY - 1988

COUNTY	NATURAL PARENTS	FOSTER PARENTS	CHILD	GAL	ATTORNEY(S)	OTHER	TOTAL # PARTIES ATTENDING	TOTAL # REVIEWS	TOTAL # OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING	PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING
Abbeville	19	12	1	3	-	3	38	91	25	27.5
Aiken	90	141	44	140	4	65	484	373	221	59.2
Allendale	6	9	3	5	-	2	25	56	15	26.8
Anderson	82	45	19	17	-	63	226	333	132	39.6
Bamberg	3	4	-	14	1	6	28	36	17	47.2
Barnwell	9	13	8	11	-	11	52	43	23	53.5
Beaufort	27	40	23	49	-	22	161	151	75	49.7
Berkeley	25	24	15	21	-	13	98	103	46	44.7
Calhoun	1	3	-	6	-	-	10	20	6	30.0
Charleston	116	94	38	87	9	96	440	553	237	42.9
Cherokee	9	5	10	1	-	4	29	51	19	37.3
Chester	18	35	9	33	1	16	112	154	66	42.9
Chesterfield	35	20	6	30	1	20	112	138	61	44.2
Clarendon	34	20	13	6	-	24	97	57	41	71.9
Colleton	-	9	13	1	-	3	26	43	18	41.9
Darlington	27	18	5	4	-	5	59	128	41	32.0
Dillon	18	8	6	25	2	10	69	83	44	53.0
Dorchester	23	24	17	20	2	28	114	123	57	46.3
Edgefield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	0.0
Fairfield	-	8	2	-	1	3	14	77	9	11.7
Florence	55	40	22	6	-	5	128	213	63	29.6
Georgetown	6	21	6	7	3	3	46	142	31	21.8
Greenville	94	68	41	75	8	50	336	413	176	42.6

CONTINUED

TABLE O (CONTINUED)

PARTIES ATTENDING REVIEWS BY COUNTY - 1988

COUNTY	NATURAL PARENTS	FOSTER PARENTS	CHILD	GAL	ATTORNEY(S)	OTHER	TOTAL # PARTIES ATTENDING	TOTAL # REVIEWS	TOTAL # OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING	PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH PARTIES ATTENDING
Greenwood	19	30	9	-	-	3	61	53	24	45.3
Hampton	15	1	5	-	-	-	21	51	12	23.5
Horry	36	52	15	17	2	26	148	275	75	27.3
Jasper	1	2	1	-	-	3	7	19	4	21.1
Kershaw	24	14	15	13	1	7	74	92	37	40.2
Lancaster	29	15	3	6	-	16	69	126	47	37.3
Laurens	12	4	6	1	2	6	31	56	17	30.4
Lee	6	8	3	-	-	7	24	16	9	56.3
Lexington	61	55	18	30	4	55	223	219	100	45.7
Marion	65	11	9	-	-	5	90	119	54	45.4
Marlboro	57	34	12	32	3	12	150	178	91	51.1
McCormick	5	-	6	-	-	2	13	28	11	39.3
Newberry	3	1	3	4	-	-	11	20	8	40.0
Oconee	35	17	18	30	1	18	119	144	63	43.8
Orangeburg	45	25	11	38	3	21	143	190	73	38.4
Pickens	24	16	13	10	1	26	90	122	45	36.9
Richland	342	149	87	371	55	328	1332	830	571	68.8
Saluda	20	6	1	1	-	9	37	61	20	32.8
Spartanburg	64	55	15	41	4	17	196	279	108	38.7
Sumter	44	59	14	58	-	14	189	178	111	62.4
Union	2	5	3	1	-	-	11	14	4	28.6
Williamsburg	19	5	2	-	-	15	41	77	22	28.6
York	20	21	3	-	-	6	50	179	37	20.7
State DSS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	0.0
Non-DSS	102	39	145	2	1	63	352	1103	218	19.8
TOTALS:	**1747**	**1285**	**718**	**1216**	**109**	**1111**	**6186**	**7835**	**3184**	**40.6**

Where do children go when they leave foster care?

One thousand, four hundred forty-nine (1,449) of the children reviewed by the Review Board left care in 1988. 48.7% of these children were returned to their parents. 19.2% were legally adopted and 14.5% left the system by emancipation. Table P describes the number of children leaving care.

TABLE P

STATEWIDE CLOSING REASONS - 1988

CLOSING REASON	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENTAGE OF CLOSING REASONS BY STATE
PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	705	48.7
ADOPTION DECREE	278	19.2
NON-PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	241	16.6
EMANCIPATION	210	14.5
OTHER	15	1.0
TOTALS:	**1449**	**100.0**

Who are the children who left foster care?

Data outlined in the next three tables will profile the type of child leaving foster care by age, race, and sex.

TABLE Q

STATEWIDE CLOSING REASON BY AGE - 1988

Time Period: 1/1/88 - 12/31/88

AGE	PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	NON-PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	ADOPTION	EMANCIPATION	OTHER	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED
0-1	2	0	1	0	0	3	.2
1	14	11	22	0	2	49	3.4
2	22	14	26	0	0	62	4.3
3	34	12	25	0	0	71	5.0
4	34	11	22	0	1	68	5.0
5	33	13	22		0	68	5.0
6	22	16	20	0	2	60	4.2
7	40	17	27	0	0	84	5.8
8	30	12	22	0	1	64	4.4
9	38	12	14	0	4	68	5.0
10	24	10	16	0	0	50	3.5
11	39	11	15	0	2	65	4.5
12	38	13	10	0	1	62	4.3
13	45	24	8	0	1	77	5.3
14	58	11	7	0	0	76	5.3
15	66	10	7	1	2	86	5.9
16	68	18	6	6	3	101	7.0
17	60	15	2	19	0	96	6.6
18	34	7	4	96	0	141	9.7
19	3	3	0	46	0	52	3.6
20	1	1	2	25	0	29	2.0
21 & OVER	0	0	0	17	0	17	1.2
TOTALS:	**633**	**127**	**177**	**213**	**11**	**1161**	**100.0**

TABLE R

STATEWIDE CLOSING REASON BY RACE - 1988

REASON CLOSED	BLACK	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	242	459	4	705
PERCENTAGE BY RACE FOR REASON CLOSED	34.3	65.1	0.6	100.0
ADOPTION DECREE	125	138	15	278
PERCENTAGE BY RACE FOR REASON CLOSED	45.0	49.6	5.4	100.00
NON-PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	160	75	6	241
PERCENTAGE BY RACE FOR REASON CLOSED	66.4	31.1	2.5	100.0
EMANCIPATION	92	112	6	210
PERCENTAGE BY RACE FOR REASON CLOSED	43.8	53.3	2.9	100.0
OTHER	10	5	0	15
PERCENTAGE BY RACE FOR REASON CLOSED	66.7	33.3	0	100.0
TOTALS:	**629**	**789**	**31**	**1449**

TABLE S

STATEWIDE CLOSING REASON BY SEX - 1988

REASON CLOSED	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	369	336	705
PERCENTAGE BY SEX FOR REASON CLOSED	52.3	47.7	100.0
ADOPTION DECREE	128	150	278
PERCENTAGE BY SEX FOR REASON CLOSED	46.0	54.0	100.0
NON-PARENT LEGAL CUSTODY	117	124	241
PERCENTAGE BY SEX FOR REASON CLOSED	48.6	51.5	100.0
EMANCIPATION	107	103	210
PERCENTAGE BY SEX FOR REASON CLOSED	51.0	49.1	100.0
OTHER	7	8	15
PERCENTAGE BY SEX FOR REASON CLOSED	46.7	53.3	100.0
TOTALS:	**728**	**721**	**1449**

How many years were spent in foster care by children who left care in 1988?

The purpose of foster care is to provide temporary, time-limited and goal oriented services to children and families with the goal of achieving permanent placement for the child as soon as possible; therefore, it is important to measure the amount of time a child spends in care. The citizen review system has already proven to be effective in bringing new resources to bear on family problems that in the past have prolonged a child's stay in foster care. Negative factors linked to long-term foster care are children exhibiting mental health problems and delinquent behavioral problems that require State correctional and/or institutional placement. Such children will also require the services of numerous other state social service agencies. Table T describes the length of time spent in foster care for those children who left care in 1988.

TABLE T

STATEWIDE LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE
FOR CHILDREN LEAVING CARE - 1988

YEARS IN CARE	NUMBER CLOSED	PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER CLOSED
0-1	60	4.1
1	455	31.4
2	318	21.9
3	194	13.4
4	136	9.4
5	93	6.4
6	63	4.3
7	33	2.3
8	14	1.0
9	19	1.3
10	12	0.8
11	5	0.3
12	9	0.6
13	7	0.5
14	8	0.6
15	4	0.3
16	5	0.3
17	3	0.2
18	3	0.2
19	5	0.3
20	1	0.1
21 & OVER	2	0.1
TOTALS:	**1449**	**100.0**

1988-89 ANALYSIS OF STATISTICAL DATA REGARDING AREAS OF CONCERN

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System is required by statutory mandate to report annually to the General Assembly any deficiencies identified during the course of review in the supervising agency's efforts to acquire a permanent home for each child. The advisory recommendations issued by local Review Boards on each case will contain any Areas of Concern, *i.e.* deficiencies, identified on that case. Areas of Concern are violations of federal law, state law or public agency policy which have been determined by the Foster Care Review Board to be significant barriers in the provision of permanency planning services to children in foster care. A major focus of the Foster Care Review Board System is to help systems work for children; therefore, the identification and analysis of significant barriers or concerns which may prevent timely, permanent placement is essential.

For purposes of data analysis, the sixteen Areas of Concern tracked by the Foster Care Review Board are divided into three categories:

1) violations of Federal statutory requirements related to Section 427 of Public Law 96-272;
2) violations of state law in regard to untimely merit hearings, non-compliance with court orders and violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly; and,
3) violations of programmatic policies and procedures established by public agencies related to the delivery of child welfare services.

The three categories described in this report and their respective totals are presented in Table U, pages 38 - 41. Table U, Section I contains data on children reviewed who were placed in public foster care while Table U, Section II contains data on children reviewed who were privately placed in foster care. Federal Section 427 requirements do not apply to children in private foster care placements because the Federal law applies only to children in public foster care.

AREAS OF CONCERN

CATEGORY I

- Child's entry into foster care not reported timely
- No timely judicial review [1] [2]
- No written case plan for the child
- No time frame for completion of child's permanent plan

Areas of Concern identified in the first category relate to the procedural safeguards for children in foster care which are outlined by Federal law. Section 427 of PL 96-272 contains the core of the 1980 foster care reforms passed and implemented by

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1 Failure to conduct timely judicial review can be documented as a violation of state law, as well as a violation of federal requirements. Statistical data tracked in this category includes both state and federal violations in this area.

2 Pursuant to an opinion issued by the South Carolina Department of Social Services Office of General Counsel, the Adoption and Birth Parent Services Division of the South Carolina Department of Social Services did not petition the court for judicial reviews of children who were legally free and who were in pre-adoptive or adoptive placements. Pursuant to an opinion of the General Counsel for the Foster Care Review Board System, local Review Boards cited these cases as overdue for judicial review. The Foster Care Review Board and the South Carolina Department of Social Services have reached an administrative agreement whereby such children will receive judicial reviews in the future.

the federal government. This section provides that for each fiscal year after 1980, a state cannot receive federal incentive funds unless it has met specified conditions of the public law. The Areas of Concern cited by the Foster Care Review Board in this category are violations of the established procedures which the federal government monitors during the routine audits of the Department of Social Services. Failure to meet federal compliance standards, as identified during the routine 427 audit, could result in the loss of millions of dollars in federal funds to the State of South Carolina.

CATEGORY II

- No merit hearing held on child's case
- Non-compliance with court orders
- No court orders presented at review
- Interested parties not invited to attend reviews
- No notice of non-concurrence with Review Board recommendation submitted
- No psychologicals presented at review

The second category addresses the following violations of state law in regard to untimely merit hearings, non-compliance with court orders and violations of regulations related to foster care review that have been enacted by the General Assembly:

1) South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379 requires that the Foster Care Review Board report to the Family Court on the status of court ordered treatment plans;
2) South Carolina Code Section 20-7-736 requires that a hearing on the merits of a child's removal be heard within 40 days;
3) the issuance of a Recommendation by the Foster Care Review Board is predicated upon the receipt of appropriate information from the presenting agency; therefore, specific information to be provided for each review by the presenting agency is outlined in regulations promulgated pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 20-7-2379.

CATEGORY III

- No timely adoption consummation
- Failure to implement the permanent plan for the child
- Agency policy or procedure violation
- No service plan in place with the parents
- No progress on the permanent plan within the past six months
- Other

The third category focuses on the quality of social work practice in South Carolina. Areas of Concern in this area deal with violations of public agency policy regarding service delivery to foster children and their families and/or with the timely implementation of such policy. These programmatic Areas of Concern clearly reflect inadequacies in the funding and delivery of services to foster children. Although there are no federal or state sanctions for violations in this area, the long term impact on children and families can be extremely detrimental.

NOTE: All data in Table U is delineated by the party holding legal custody of the child. Thus, the data in Section I is based upon information on children for whom the county Department of Social Services is legally responsible. Children whose case management responsibility lies with the State Regional Adoption Program are included in the county totals based on the child's county of origin.

TABLE U (Section I)

AREAS OF CONCERN BY COUNTY - 1988

	Category I						Category II							
	ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY	NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW	NO CASE PLAN	NO TIME FRAME FOR PERMANENT PLAN	TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN AUDIT ISSUES	PERCENTAGE AREAS OF CONCERN AUDIT ISSUES	NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW	INTERESTED PARTIES NOT INVITED	NO MERIT HEARING	NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED	NO PSYCHOLOGICALS AT REVIEW	NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER	TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN VIOLATIONS-STATE LAW	PERCENTAGE AREAS OF CONCERN VIOLATIONS-STATE LAW
Abbeville	2	5	3	13	23	39.0	1	6	0	6	0	1	14	23.8
Aiken	8	99	12	31	150	27.5	9	59	3	24	1	31	127	23.3
Allendale	6	7	0	12	25	43.9	4	1	0	0	0	0	5	8.8
Anderson	3	43	0	4	50	42.8	3	5	6	0	0	9	23	19.7
Bamberg	0	2	0	1	3	21.5	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	14.3
Barnwell	0	5	0	2	7	33.4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	9.6
Beaufort	5	15	3	43	66	37.5	23	15	5	3	0	15	61	34.6
Berkeley	8	24	3	12	47	38.5	1	17	0	0	0	5	23	18.9
Calhoun	0	1	0	2	3	15.0	0	3	0	0	1	0	4	20.0
Charleston	10	33	0	22	65	27.7	39	16	6	0	1	2	64	27.2
Cherokee	0	2	0	5	7	38.9	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	11.1
Chester	4	20	2	22	48	40.7	12	6	2	5	2	1	28	23.7
Chesterfield	1	3	0	4	8	14.3	3	14	0	1	0	5	23	41.1
Clarendon	5	5	2	10	22	25.6	2	9	0	2	0	5	18	20.9
Colleton	1	1	0	6	8	38.1	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	19.1
Darlington	9	28	0	6	43	38.7	11	3	5	1	0	0	20	18.0
Dillon	3	9	0	0	12	57.2	1	3	0	0	0	1	5	23.8
Dorchester	3	3	4	6	6	24.3	12	10	7	2	1	4	36	54.6
Edgefield	0	2	0	0	2	11.8	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	23.5
Fairfiled	0	11	0	23	34	38.6	0	14	0	5	0	0	19	21.6
Florence	2	54	0	38	94	48.2	31	7	7	0	0	1	46	23.6
Georgetown	5	10	0	4	19	35.2	3	3	0	0	6	0	12	22.2
Greenville	5	75	1	12	93	36.1	8	17	16	1	0	14	56	21.7
Greenwood	1	2	0	2	5	83.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	1	5	0	12	18	31.6	0	7	0	0	0	6	13	22.8
Horry	0	44	1	15	60	39.7	0	20	7	0	0	5	32	21.2
Jasper	0	1	0	4	5	50.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	20.0
Kershaw	0	12	0	25	37	55.2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	3.0
Lancaster	1	12	0	4	17	46.0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	16.2
Laurens	6	6	1	3	16	50.0	4	3	0	0	0	0	7	21.9
Lee	0	4	0	2	6	66.7	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	22.2
Lexington	1	16	0	23	40	26.9	28	9	3	0	0	2	42	28.2
Marion	2	10	1	2	15	35.7	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	4.8
Marlboro	5	11	2	16	34	36.2	1	10	0	1	0	1	13	13.8
McCormick	0	4	0	1	5	23.8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4.8
Newberry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	71.4
Oconee	6	34	0	8	48	60.0	1	11	1	0	0	1	14	17.5
Orangeburg	0	4	0	10	14	29.2	2	7	0	0	0	0	9	18.8
Pickens	0	19	3	3	25	37.9	2	5	7	1	0	10	25	37.9
Richland	14	109	5	13	141	23.5	37	26	9	4	4	92	172	28.1
Saluda	0	12	0	4	16	31.4	3	9	5	1	0	2	20	39.2
Spartanburg	3	19	0	14	36	31.3	3	13	4	3	0	2	25	21.7
Sumter	3	36	0	9	48	38.4	1	13	0	10	0	0	24	19.2
Union	1	0	0	0	1	11.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williamsburg	1	20	0	6	27	33.8	4	7	4	0	0	0	15	18.8
York	1	22	0	19	42	31.0	19	5	13	0	0	2	39	28.7
State Office	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.0
Sub-total	126	859	43	473	1501	34.0	279	364	110	73	19	224	1069	24.0

TABLE U (Section I)

AREAS OF CONCERN BY COUNTY - 1988

Category III									Totals			
	NO TIMELY ADOPTION CONSUMMATION	FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PERMANENT PLAN	AGENCY POLICY/ PROCEDURE VIOLATION	NO SERVICE AGREEMENT	NO PROGRESS ON PERMANENT PLAN	OTHER (CASE SPECIFIC)	TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN CASEWORK ISSUES	PERCENTAGE AREAS OF CONCERN CASEWORK ISSUES	TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN	TOTAL REVIEWS	TOTAL REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN	PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN
Abbeville	0	1	6	5	7	3	22	37.3	59	91	40	44.0
Aiken	0	58	114	15	58	24	269	49.3	546	373	254	68.1
Allendale	1	18	4	1	2	1	27	47.4	57	56	37	66.1
Anderson	1	22	8	0	12	1	44	37.7	117	333	97	29.1
Bamberg	1	4	2	0	2	0	9	64.3	14	36	12	33.3
Barnwell	0	10	2	0	0	0	12	57.2	21	43	19	44.2
Beaufort	0	2	7	17	18	5	49	27.9	176	151	95	62.9
Berkeley	0	11	15	11	9	6	52	42.6	122	103	66	64.1
Calhoun	1	6	0	0	6	0	13	65.0	20	20	15	75.0
Charleston	5	25	12	14	38	12	106	45.1	235	552	193	35.0
Cherokee	0	2	0	0	4	3	9	50.0	18	51	13	25.5
Chester	5	9	3	7	7	11	42	35.6	118	154	73	47.4
Chesterfield	5	3	9	2	3	3	25	44.7	56	138	40	29.0
Clarendon	0	10	30	4	2	0	46	53.5	86	57	48	84.2
Colleton	0	0	1	4	1	3	9	42.9	21	43	16	37.2
Darlington	2	24	12	3	7	0	48	43.3	111	128	71	55.5
Dillon	0	2	1	0	1	0	4	19.1	21	83	18	21.7
Dorchester	1	3	4	4	2	0	14	21.2	66	123	44	35.8
Edgefield	0	2	1	0	7	1	11	64.7	17	16	12	75.0
Fairfiled	3	14	1	5	12	0	35	39.8	88	77	48	62.3
Florence	12	12	9	5	9	8	55	28.2	195	213	129	60.6
Georgetown	6	14	2	0	1	0	23	42.6	54	142	43	30.3
Greenville	11	33	20	8	13	24	109	42.3	258	413	173	41.9
Greenwood	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	16.7	6	53	6	11.3
Hampton	1	8	5	2	4	6	26	45.6	57	51	30	58.8
Horry	3	24	21	4	5	2	59	39.1	151	275	115	41.8
Jasper	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	30.0	10	19	7	36.8
Kershaw	1	8	9	5	2	3	28	41.8	67	92	52	56.5
Lancaster	0	5	7	1	1	0	14	37.8	37	126	30	23.8
Laurens	0	8	0	0	1	0	9	28.1	32	56	23	41.1
Lee	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	11.1	9	16	9	56.3
Lexington	1	25	9	2	17	13	67	45.0	149	219	111	50.7
Marion	3	9	0	0	10	3	25	59.5	42	119	28	23.5
Marlboro	6	21	4	0	16	0	47	50.0	94	178	69	38.8
McCormick	0	3	4	2	3	3	15	71.4	21	28	13	46.4
Newberry	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	29.0	7	20	6	30.0
Oconee	0	8	0	1	6	3	18	23.0	80	144	60	41.7
Orangeburg	1	17	3	0	3	1	25	52.1	48	190	38	20.0
Pickens	0	8	3	1	2	2	16	24.3	66	122	50	41.0
Richland	12	140	53	18	53	10	286	47.8	599	830	397	47.8
Saluda	1	3	5	1	3	2	15	29.4	51	61	32	52.5
Spartanburg	13	25	7	0	5	4	54	47.0	115	279	84	30.1
Sumter	0	23	17	1	11	1	53	42.4	125	178	86	48.3
Union	0	5	0	0	1	2	8	89.0	9	14	6	42.9
Williamsburg	0	15	12	0	5	6	38	48.0	80	77	50	64.9
York	6	16	13	1	14	5	55	40.5	136	179	87	48.6
State Office	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	1	11.1
Sub-total	102	658	437	145	383	173	1898	42.4	4468	6731	2946	44.1

TABLE U (Section II)

AREAS OF CONCERN BY COUNTY - 1988
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

	Category I						Category II							
	ENTRY NOT REPORTED TIMELY	NO TIMELY JUDICIAL REVIEW	NO CASE PLAN	NO TIME FRAME FOR PERMANENT PLAN	TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN AUDIT ISSUES	PERCENTAGE AREAS OF CONCERN AUDIT ISSUES	NO COURT ORDER AT REVIEW	INTERESTED PARTIES NOT INVITED	NO MERIT HEARING	NO NON-CONCURRENCE SUBMITTED	NO PSYCHOLOGICALS AT REVIEW	NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDER	TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN VIOLATIONS-STATE LAW	PERCENTAGE AREAS OF CONCERN VIOLATIONS-STATE LAW
Natural Parent/ Affidavit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relative/ Affidavit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Parent	0	1	-	-	1	2.6	2	23	-	-	-	4	29	45.3
Relative	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	11	79.1
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	50.0
Out of State	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	100.0
Sub-total	-	1	-	-	1	1.2	6	32	-	-	-	5	43	
TOTAL	**126**	**860**	**43**	**473**	**1502**	**33.0**	**285**	**396**	**110**	**73**	**19**	**229**	**1112**	**24.3**

TABLE U (Section II)

AREAS OF CONCERN BY COUNTY - 1988
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

Category III	NO TIMELY ADOPTION CONSUMMATION	FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PERMANENT PLAN	AGENCY POLICY/ PROCEDURE VIOLATION	NO SERVICE AGREEMENT	NO PROGRESS ON PERMANENT PLAN	OTHER (CASE SPECIFIC)	TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN CASEWORK ISSUES	PERCENTAGE AREAS OF CONCERN CASEWORK ISSUES	Totals: TOTAL AREAS OF CONCERN	TOTAL REVIEWS	TOTAL REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN	PERCENTAGE OF REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN
Natural Parent/ Affidavit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	478	-	-
Relative/ Affidavit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Natural Parent	-	-	6	-	16	12	34	53.1	64	521	56	11.5
Relative	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	21.4	14	79	9	11.4
Other	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	50.0	2	13	1	7.7
Out of State	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	50.0
Sub-total	-	-	6	-	18	14	38	41.5	82	1103	68	6.2
TOTAL	**102**	**658**	**443**	**145**	**401**	**187**	**1936**	**42.5**	**4550**	**7834**	**3014**	**38.5**

Statistical data for 1988 on children in public foster care collected by the Foster Care Review Board shows that 44.1 percent of all cases reviewed statewide during this time period contained one or more Areas of Concern. Sixteen (16) counties had Areas of Concern on over 50% of the cases reviewed. Only five (5) counties had Areas of Concern on 25% or less of cases reviewed.

There can be no question that the high number of Areas of Concern reflects serious problems in the delivery of quality social services to children in foster care in South Carolina. The Areas of Concern cited in this report reflect deficiencies within and among systems that impact child welfare services. Evaluation of the causes of these deficiencies must focus on the entire system and the interrelationship of its parts. The recommendations issued in this and previous annual reports all point to specific areas which require improvement in South Carolina.

The critical need for quality child welfare services must be brought to the forefront in South Carolina in order to guarantee a healthy, productive South Carolina for tomorrow. The Review Board strongly recommends that all efforts be made to improve compliance with both federal and state law, and, more importantly, to provide adequate funding and accountability for services to children in foster care.

TABLE V

1988 COMPARATIVE STATISTICS BY COUNTY
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN REVIEWED WITH ONE OR MORE AREAS OF CONCERN **

ABBEVILLE	44.0%	GREENWOOD	11.3%
AIKEN	68.1%	HAMPTON	58.8%
ALLENDALE	66.1%	HORRY	41.8%
ANDERSON	29.2%	JASPER	36.8%
BAMBERG	33.3%	KERSHAW	56.5%
BARNWELL	44.2%	LANCASTER	23.8%
BEAUFORT	62.9%	LAURENS	41.1%
BERKELEY	64.1%	LEE	56.3%
CALHOUN	75.0%	LEXINGTON	50.7%
CHARLESTON	35.0%	MARION	23.5%
CHEROKEE	25.5%	MARLBORO	38.8%
CHESTER	47.4%	MCCORMICK	46.4%
CHESTERFIELD	29.0%	NEWBERRY	30.0%
CLARENDON	84.2%	OCONEE	41.7%
COLLETON	37.2%	ORANGEBURG	20.0%
DARLINGTON	55.5%	PICKENS	41.0%
DILLON	21.7%	RICHLAND	47.7%
DORCHESTER	35.8%	SALUDA	52.5%
EDGEFIELD	75.0%	SPARTANBURG	30.1%
FAIRFIELD	62.3%	SUMTER	48.3%
FLORENCE	60.6%	UNION	42.9%
GEORGETOWN	30.3%	WILLIAMSBURG	64.9%
GREENVILLE	41.9%	YORK	48.6%

** Areas of Concern are defined as violations of law or agency policy

REPORT ON THE 1987-88 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Children's Foster Care Review Board made four recommendations in its 1987-88 Annual Report to the General Assembly. These recommendations outline specific concerns which the Review Board felt required the attention of the General Assembly and of the foster care service delivery system. Action has been taken on three of the recommendations made in the 1987-88 report with the amount of progress on each recommendation noted below. Recommendation III in the 1987-88 report continues to be a pertinent issue related to foster care and is included as Recommendation VI for 1988-89.

RECOMMENDATION I - The Review Board recommends that all children and family services programs within the Department of Social Services receive accreditation.

South Carolina Department of Social Services has been involved for the past year in the accreditation process. The Adoption Program and the Administrative Division of the State Office of the Department have completed all but the final stages of the requirements for accreditation. The first steps for accreditation of the Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adult Services and Licensing Divisions at the county level have been implemented and should be completed by January, 1990.

RECOMMENDATION II - The Foster Care Review Board recommends statewide implementation of the Family Intervention and Reunification projects developed by the Department of Social Services.

The strongest commitment a state can make to its citizens is to provide those resources necessary to keep families together. The success of the Department of Social Services pilot sites established for the Family Intervention and Reunification projects highlight the need for continuing commitment to the statewide implementation of this project. The Department of Social Services is currently examining ways to implement this short-term, task-centered approach statewide by working with available Child Protective Service staff in every county.

RECOMMENDATION III - All child caring facilities should be licensed to ensure that all children in foster care receive permanency planning services.

This recommendation remains a viable issue and is discussed in Recommendation VI on page 47.

1988-89 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Children's Foster Care Review Board presents six recommendations for 1988-89 with regard to the foster care system in South Carolina. These six recommendations are presented in addition to concerns noted in the "Analysis of Statistical Data Regarding Areas of Concern" on pages 36 - 42 of this report.

The South Carolina Board of Social Services in May 1988 created a Task Force on Foster Care to examine critical issues within the foster care system and to make recommendations for action to the members of the South Carolina Board of Social Services. The Executive Director of the South Carolina Foster Care Review Board System served as a member of this Task Force. The Review Board supports all of the Task Force recommendations but particularly calls attention to five specific recommendations. These five recommendations are:

1) to increase foster care board payments;
2) to provide additional funding for specific program areas of the foster care system;
3) to increase sensitivity to foster children on the part of the educational system;
4) to improve visitation for foster children and families; and
5) to strengthen and enforce quality training for all caseworkers and foster parents involved in child welfare.

The Report of the Department of Social Services Foster Care Task Force, January 18,1989, is incorporated herein by reference.

RECOMMENDATION I - Monthly board payments for children in foster care are inadequate and must be increased.

The Department of Social Services, in 1989-90, requested an increase in board payments for children in foster care. The General Assembly funded part of this request by providing for an 18% increase in board payments effective July 1, 1989. This 18% increase currently provides board payments as follows:

0	-	5 years	$182.00 per month
6	-	12 years	$209.00 per month
13	-	18 years	$275.00 per month

The Department of Social Services again will request increased funding for board payments in its 1990-91 budget request. This additional request would bring board payments in-line with the formula used by national child welfare organizations to determine appropriate funding standards. Funding requests for 1990-91 would increase board payments as follows:

0	-	5 years	$240.00 per month
6	-	12 years	$262.00 per month
13	-	18 years	$300.00 per month

The Foster Care Review Board recommends the appropriation of funds to provide the requested board rate increase.

RECOMMENDATION II - Funding for the foster care program should be increased to provide medical services for all foster children and to cover child care expenses incurred by foster parents.

The Task Force identified two specific areas of the foster care program that require additional funding. These two areas include funding for initial and ongoing medical examinations for children in foster care and funding for child care for foster children of preschool age.

Provision of medical examinations for foster children is the first critical area which requires appropriate funding. Department of Social Services policy should provide that all children receive a medical examination at the time of initial placement, every six months thereafter, and at the time of every move while in the foster care system . In addition, agency policy should require annual dental, vision and hearing examinations.

The State of South Carolina must appropriate the necessary funds to provide for medical examinations and to implement all recommendations resulting from such examinations. Although Medicaid generally covers expenses for foster children who are ill or injured and require medical services, Medicaid does not pay for general medical examinations or other routine medical needs for children entering care. Payment for other routine medical costs, in most cases, is made by the foster parents, creating an additional financial burden for these already under-compensated individuals. Current Department of Social Services regulations require that foster parents must have medical examinations completed in order to meet licensing requirements as a foster family; however, the foster children who are placed in their homes do not have the benefit of a medical examination.

Payment to families for child care expenses is the second critical need which requires funding. Recruiting and maintaining foster families have become increasingly difficult as more women enter the workforce and families become dependant on two incomes. Foster families must be provided funds to offset child care costs to increase the number of available foster families. The Department of Social Services, in their 1990-91 budget request, has requested $150.00 per month per child to assist foster families with child care costs.

RECOMMENDATION III - The Department of Education should become more sensitive to the special needs of foster children and ensure that foster children receive appropriate educational planning.

The emotional loss of a child's family creates special problems for any child coming into the State's custody. The child must deal daily with issues of separation and anxiety to the extent that, educationally, the child frequently suffers. There must be a concerted effort to assure that a child in foster care has the equal educational opportunities which would otherwise have been available to him. A specific educational plan which recognizes and addresses the foster child's special needs and which provides appropriate educational planning is essential.

RECOMMENDATION IV - The Department of Social Services should endorse and support a mechanism for insuring frequent, quality visitation between foster children and their families.

Regular, quality visitation between children in foster care and the family from whom they were removed is essential if successful reunification is to occur. The importance of this visitation is recognized both in Department of Social Services policy and in Family Court practice. The South Carolina Department of Social Services policy currently states that visitation with the family should be arranged for each child within one week of placement and occur at least twice a month thereafter unless visitation poses a threat of harm to the child. The Family Court also may order specific visitation between children and family members to emphasize the critical importance of visitation.

Many visits occur in the local Department of Social Services county offices. Families should be encouraged and allowed to have visits in settings other than Department of Social Services offices. County Department of Social Services offices are not equipped to provide an adequate, comfortable setting for visitation, and many working parents cannot visit during agency office hours. The Department should review model visitation policies developed by other states and, if necessary , seek additional resources to expand visitation activities to evenings and weekends. Expanded visitation would benefit foster children whose families are employed and cannot visit during routine office hours.

The Department of Social Services also should explore alternative locations that would combine visitation and treatment services for families. This type of quality visitation could be beneficial to both the child and the family and could facilitate family reunification. Innovative programs, such as the Nurturing Center located in the Midlands of South Carolina, provide such an alternative. The Nurturing Center offers a therapeutic program of comprehensive services and structured interaction for parents and their preschool age children, providing an ideal model for therapeutic visitation.

RECOMMENDATION V - The Department of Social Services training requirements for caseworkers and foster parents should be strengthened and training attendance requirements enforced.

Quality training for foster parents and professional casework staff is essential to ensure the effectiveness of the foster care program in South Carolina. Recognizing this basic premise, the Training Subcommittee of the Foster Care Task Force conducted a thorough assessment of the initial and ongoing training provided to caseworkers and foster parents. This study resulted in the recommendations included in the Task Force report. The Review Board concurs with the following recommendations made by the Training Subcommittee and endorses their implementation:

1) Training development for foster parents and caseworkers should be a planned process based on identified programmatic needs and the specific roles and skills involved in effective casework and foster parenting.
2) Training for caseworkers and foster parents must be made a priority by the Department of Social Services. Funding for this training must be a top priority in the Department of Social Services' annual appropriation request.

3) Training should be conducted by individuals qualified as trainers and selected based on established criteria for trainers. Trainers need time to prepare to train, time to train, and adequate compensation. Trainers should be trained in group skills as well as content.
4) A professional staff component is necessary to plan, organize, and coordinate training programs.
5) A method to guarantee that all counties provide consistent training that meets defined standards must be developed.
6) County-based training plans which reflect county training needs are necessary. Training must be planned to meet defined needs and not be merely reactive.
7) Accurate records indicating the training received by each worker need to be maintained. The counties should be provided with this information to know staff training levels and needs.
8) Current caseworker Certification Training should be evaluated and revised. Consideration should be given to using the new University of South Carolina curriculum on treatment which was piloted by Department of Social Services staff during 1988 as part of Certification Training.
9) The Department of Social Services should explore again the requirement that staff pass a test reflecting the knowledge gained in training. This concept needs to be considered as it relates to requirements of the State merit system.
10) A system to ensure that established training requirements are met and enforced should be developed.

RECOMMENDATION VI - All child caring facilities should be licensed to ensure that all children in foster care receive permanency planning services.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the Foster Care Review Board has included licensure of private child caring facilities as a recommendation in the Annual Report to the General Assembly. The number of children privately placed in private institutions and reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board increased by three percent in 1988 over 1987 figures. As these numbers continue to grow, the Review Board remains concerned that there are no licensing safeguards for children in private foster care placement.

The position of the Review Board remains that all child caring facilities should be licensed to ensure that all children in care have the opportunity for normal growth and development within either the child caring facility or a permanent family. Child caring facilities in South Carolina currently can be licensed on a voluntary basis, and all facilities who accept children who are in the custody of public agencies must be licensed. Licensing would insure that all child caring facilities receive regular contact from interested outside parties and would help prevent the development of inappropriate child caring programs in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Association of Homes for Children continued their support of licensing legislation by endorsing H.3566 and S.519 which were re-introduced during the 1989 session. The legislation did not pass in 1989. These bills currently are in the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee respectively. The Foster Care Review Board strongly endorses passage of this legislation.

DOCUMENTS

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