

**Aiken County DSS
Child Welfare Services Review
April 2004**

During the week of April 19 thru 23, 2004 a team of six DSS staff from state office, Barnwell and Lexington County DSS conducted an on-site review of child welfare services in Aiken County.

Period included in Case Record Review: Oct 1, 2003 to Mar 31, 2004

Period included in Outcome Measures: Mar 1, 2003 to Feb 29, 2004

Purpose

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quantitative and Qualitative Data Sources

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

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

The review is **qualitative** because it includes an analysis of information obtained from agency clients, staff and stakeholders. Client and stakeholder information is obtained by focus groups, interviews and surveys. The questions posed to clients and stakeholders are designed to illicit information about the quality of the services rendered and the effectiveness of those services.

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Section One

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	7	1	1	1
CPS Treatment	7	2		1

Measure: Timeliness of initiating investigations on reports of child maltreatment High Risk = 0 to 2 hrs. Medium Risk = 2 to 12 hrs. Low Risk = 12 to 24 hrs.* Data Time Period: 03/1/03 to 02/29/04				
	Number of Reports Accepted	Number of Investigations Initiated Timely	Number of Investigations Met Objective >= 99.44%	Number of Investigations Above (Below) Objective
State	16,233	12,758	16,142	(3384.1)
Aiken	681	532	677.19	(145.19)

Note: This standard is based on DSS policy. It is not a federally established objective.

Measure: Recurrence of Maltreatment – Of all children who were victims of indicated reports of child abuse and/or neglect during the reporting period, the percent having another indicated report within a subsequent 6 month period.				
Indicated Report Between Sept 1, 2002 and Aug 31, 2003				
	Number of Child Victims	Number of Child Victims In Another Founded Rept	Number of Children Met Objective >= 93.90%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	10,124	79	9,506.44	538.56
Aiken	475	5	446.03	23.98

Note: This is a federally established objective.

Analysis of Safety Outcome #1

Safety outcome #1 was partially achieved. Outcome data indicates that *Timeliness of Initiating Investigations is an area needing improvement* because 532 of the 681 (78%) CPS cases were investigated within mandated timeframes. Of the 25 cases reviewed during the onsite visit, only one case was rated as an area needing improvement regarding timeliness. It should be noted that onsite reviewers examined case records, whereas the outcome reports are based on CAPSS data.

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The item “Repeat Maltreatment” is a strength according to the outcome report because 5 of the 475 (1%) children with an indicated report received another indicated report during the period under review. However, onsite reviewers documented three treatment cases in which subsequent reports of abuse or neglect was recorded as “additional information” rather than new reports. Two of those cases eventually became foster care cases.

Section Two

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	6	3		1
CPS Treatment	6	1	1	2

Measure: Risk of harm to child – Of all unfounded investigations during the reporting period, the percent receiving subsequent reports within six months of the initial report.				
	Number Alleged Child Victims in an Unfounded Rept 9/1/02 to 8/31/03	Number With Another Rept Within 6 Months of Unfounded Determination	Number of Cases Met Objective >= 93.90%*	Number of Cases Above (Below) Objective
State	15,837	1,478	14,870.94	(511.94)
Aiken	796	92	747.44	(43.44)

Note: This is a DSS established objective.

Analysis of Safety Outcome #2

Safety outcome #2 was partially achieved. The outcome measure “Risk of harm to child” is a proxy measure because it counts the additional reports made on unfounded investigations. Those additional reports may or may not indicate continued risk to a child. To meet this agency established standard Aiken DSS could receive another report on no more than 49 of its unfounded cases within 6 months of case determination. Aiken did not meet the standard because it received another report on 92 of its unfounded cases.

Both foster care and treatment cases were rated as *strengths* by onsite reviewers for “**Services to family to protect children in home and prevent removal**” because Aiken County DSS staff consistently engage families in the process of accessing services to reduce risk factors. Five of the 20 cases reviewed during the onsite visit were rated as an *area needing improvement* regarding the agency’s effectiveness at reducing the **risk of harm to children**. In those cases, reviewers noted that the services required of the

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parents in the treatment plan did not always address the risk factors. For example, a mother who participated in a generic parent class that did not equip her to manage her emotionally disturbed child. Or, a father who was involved in criminal activity – including selling illegal drugs – being sent for drug treatment, even though drug abuse or addiction was not one of his problems.

Section Three

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	5	4	1	
CPS Treatment				X

Measure: Foster Care Re-entries – Of all children who entered care during the year under review, the percent that re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.				
	Number Children Entering Care 03/1/03 to 02/29/04	Number That Were Returned Home Within The Past 12 Months From Previous Fos Care Episode	Number of Children Objective $\geq 91.40\%$ *	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,211	301	2,934.85	(24.85)
Aiken	98	8	89.57	0.43

Note: This is a federally established objective.

Explanation

Foster Care Re-entries is a strength for Aiken County. Of the 98 children who entered care in Aiken County during the period under review, 8 children had been returned home in the prior 12 months. Those 8 children are **Re-entries**. To meet the federal objective, no more than 8 of the 98 children could be re-entries. None of the cases reviewed during the onsite visit was a re-entry.

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Measure: Stability of Foster Care Placement – Of all children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, the percent that had not more than 2 placement settings.				
	Number of Children In Care Less Than 12 Months	Number of Children With No More Than 2 Placements	Number of Children Objective $\geq 86.70\%*$	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,782	3,009	3,278.99	(269.99)
Aiken	109	90	94.5	(4.5)

Note: This is a federally established objective.

Stability of Placement				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	9	1		
CPS Treatment				X

Explanation

“Stability of Foster Care Placement” is an area needing improvement – but not by much. To meet this standard at least 95 of the 109 children in care less than 12 months would experience 2 or fewer placements. Instead, only 90 children experienced 2 or fewer placements. The remaining 19 children experienced more than 2 placements, 5 more children than the standard allows. In other words, 17% of children in care less than 12 months are moved at least twice.

The numbers from the outcome report indicate that Aiken County did not meet the federal objective for this item. However, 9 of the 10 cases reviewed during the site visit were rated a strength. The Onsite Review Instrument directed reviewers to determine if children were moving due to disruptions (unplanned moves), or for clinically appropriate reasons (ex. moved to a lower level of care, moved to a licensed relative’s home, moved into placement with siblings, etc.). The cases reviewed during the onsite visit either had less than two moves during the period under review, or those with more than two moves were for clinically appropriate reasons. *CAPSS-based outcome reports cannot capture this distinction.*

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Measure: Permanency Goal for Child – Of all children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, the percent for which a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petition has been filed.				
	Children in Care At Least 15 of Last 22 Months 03/03 – 02/04	Number Children With TPR Complaint	Number of Children Objective ≥ 45.00%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	3,558	1,887	1,601.1	285.9
Aiken	114	80	70.18	28.7

Note: This is DSS established objective. The federal agency, Administration for Children & Families, has not established an objective for this measure.

Explanation

This is a strength for Aiken County. To meet this objective 45.00% or more of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months must have a TPR petition filed. In Aiken DSS and its associated MTS and Adoption offices 70% of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months had a TPR petition filed. Statewide 53% of the children in care 15 of the most recent 22 months had a TPR petition filed. As a state, DSS is meeting this objective.

In the onsite review 5 of the 10 foster care cases reviewed were rated as an area needing improvement. That is because the 15 of 22 month criteria is not the only criteria considered for the Permanency objective. Also considered are a) is the plan appropriate, and b) did the agency take too long to determine the appropriate plan? For example, onsite reviewers saw a case in which the plan for a youth in her late teens with a severe emotional disorder requiring physical isolation & restraint was “TPR & Adoption”, even though each assessment by the adoption unit did not recommend adoption for the youth. After several years with this plan and months before the child’s 18th birthday, the plan changed from “Adoption” to “Reunification”. Reviewers also saw cases in which the plan remained “Return Home” although there was no indication that the parent had taken steps to reduce the risk factors in the home.

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Measure: Length of Time to Achieve Reunification – Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caregiver, at the time of discharge from foster care, the percent reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.				
	Number of Children Where Fos Care Services Closed. Last Plan Was Return Home 03/01/03 – 02/29/04	Number of Children In Care Less Than 12 Months	Number Of Children Objective $\geq 76.20\%*$	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	2,225	1,844	1,95.45	148.55
Aiken	59	57	44.96	12.04

Note: This is a federally established objective.

Explanation

This is a strength for Aiken County. To meet this objective 76.20% of the children with a plan of “Return Home” whose case closed during the reporting period must be returned home within a year of entering foster care. Aiken County met this objective because 96.61% (57/59) of such children returned home within a year of entering care. Statewide, 82.87% (1,844/2,225) of children with that plan returned home within 12 months of entering care.

Measure: Length of Time to Achieve Adoption – Of all children who exited from foster care during the year under review to a finalized adoption, the percent that exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.				
	Number of Children With Finalized Adoption W/in Past 12 Months	Number of Children Where Adoption Was Finalized Within 24 Months of Entering Care	Number of Children Objective $\geq 32.00%*$	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	296	47	94.7	(47.7)
Aiken	12	1	3.8	(2.8)
Lexington Adoptions	31	5	9.9	(4.9)

Note: This is a federally established objective.

Explanation

This is an area needing improvement. The Lexington Adoption office numbers are included because that office managed most of the adoption cases originating in Aiken County.

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To meet this objective 32.00% of the children adopted during the period under review must be adopted within 24 months of entering care. For the combined Lexington Adoptions & Aiken DSS offices 14% (6/43) of the children adopted were adopted within 24 months of entering care, 18 percentage points short of the federally established objective. Statewide, 16% (47/296) of children adopted through DSS are adopted within 24 months of entering care.

Stakeholder interviews conducted during the onsite portion of this review give insight into the obstacles that must be overcome for Aiken DSS to meet this objective.

- a) Although state law allows for it, the “15 of last 22 months” grounds for terminating the rights of parents is not used by itself. That ground is only used in combination with other TPR grounds in petitions to the court. Although some staff and stakeholders saw this as an impediment to the TPR process, if TPR is appropriate for a child who has been in foster care for 15 months other legal grounds should be present and documented.
- b) Pending criminal charges against the parents of children in care delay or prevent Merit Hearings from occurring. The attorney’s for parents with pending criminal charges advise the parents not to cooperate with DSS, not to agree to a treatment plan.
- c) Families that have been non-compliant for the past 10 months begin to comply with their treatment plan when they receive notice of the upcoming permanency planning hearing 40 to 60 days prior to the hearing. When DSS requests a change in the permanency plan from “Return Home” to “TPR & Adoption” at the permanency planning hearing, judges give the parents another 6 to 12 months to comply with their treatment plan.
- d) High rates of staff turnover in the Lexington Adoptions Office have affected assessment and recruiting for adoptable children in Aiken DSS. The Columbia Adoptions Office has recently begun to serve those children.

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Measure: Permanency Goal of “Other Planned Living Arrangement” – Of all children in foster care, the percent with a permanency goal of emancipation (Indep Liv Services) or a planned permanent living arrangement other than adoption, guardianship, or return to family.				
	Number of Children In Care at Least One Day 03/1/03 – 02/29/04	Number of Children In Care With Perm Plan “Other Than Planned Living Arrangement”	Number of Children Objective >= 80.00%*	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	8,081	1,123	6,464.8	493.2
Aiken	159	16	127.2	15.8

Note: This is a DSS established objective.

Analysis of Permanency Outcome #1

Permanency outcome #1 was partially achieved. Strengths are demonstrated in a) foster care re-entries, b) permanency goal for child, and c) Reunification, or permanent placement with relatives, and d) permanency goal of “other planned living arrangement. Areas needing improvement include a) stability of placement, and b) length of time to achieve adoption.

Section Four

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	3	5		2
CPS Treatment				X

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Measure: Proximity of Foster Care Placement – Of all children in foster care during the reporting period (excluding MTS and Adoptions children), the percent placed within their county of origin.					
	Number of Children In Care 03/1/03 – 02/29/04	Number of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Percent of Children Placed Within County of Origin	Number of Children Objective $\geq 70.00\%$ *	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	5,926	4,061	68.76	4,148.2	(87.2)
Aiken	152	121	77.03	106.4	14.6

Note: This is a DSS established objective.

Explanation

To meet this objective 70.00% of the children (or 106 children) in care must be placed in Aiken County. **This is a strength for Aiken DSS** because 77.03% of the children (121 children) are placed within the county. All of the cases assessed during the onsite review were rated as a strength for this objective.

Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Placement with siblings	6		4

Explanation

This is a strength for Aiken County. Of the 10 foster care cases reviewed during the site visit, 4 children had no sibling. It appears that every effort is made to place siblings together when appropriate.

Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	6	2	2

Explanation

This is a strength for Aiken DSS. It was apparent from conversations with foster parents, stakeholders and from reading case records that the staff are focused on this area. Aiken DSS staff are not accomplishing this alone. They are being assisted by an involved group of Guardian Ad Litem and foster parents.

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Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Preserving connections	7	1	2

Explanation

This is a strength for Aiken DSS. This item addresses the agency's ability to preserve a child in foster care's connection to his/her community, family, and faith. Aiken DSS's strength in this area can again be attributed to the combined efforts of DSS staff, foster parents and Guardian Ad Litem.

Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Relative placement	6	3	1

Explanation

This is an area needing improvement. This item addresses the agency's effectiveness in identifying and assessing the relatives of children in foster care as possible caregivers. It also addresses the support provided to relatives who care for children involved in the child welfare system. Onsite reviewers noted that the focus of the agency's relative search was on the custodial parent, usually the mother of children in foster care. Paternal relatives were not diligently sought, or ruled out.

Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Relationship of child in care with parents	6	2	2

Explanation

This is a strength. This item addresses the agency's effectiveness in promoting or maintaining a strong emotionally supportive relationship between children in care and their parents. Onsite reviewers documented DSS staff's ongoing attempts to involve parents in their children's lives whether or not parents were cooperative.

Analysis

Permanency outcome #2 was Substantially Achieved. Five of the six items upon which permanency outcome two is based were rated as "strengths". Strengths related to this outcome include a) proximity of foster care placement, b) placement with siblings, c) visiting with parents and siblings, d) preserving connections, and e) relationship of child in care with parents. The one indicator rated as an "Areas Needing Improvement" is Relative Placement.

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Much of what Aiken DSS has been able to accomplish in regard to this outcome is related to the efforts of DSS staff, foster parents and Guardians Ad Litem. Foster parent resources are being taxed to their limit because there has not been a sufficient increase in foster homes to accommodate the agency's efforts to keep foster children placed within the county and to keep sibling groups together. Consequently, the number of children in each foster home is high (4 or more children in a home). The lack of increase in foster homes threatens to jeopardize the gains made.

Section Five

Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	5	5		
CPS Treatment	6	3	1	

Indicators:

Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents.			
Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Foster Care	6	4	
CPS Treatment	6	3	1

Explanation

This item asks two questions: 1) Were the needs of the child, parents, and foster parents assessed, and 2) Did the agency take steps to meet the identified needs? This is an **“Area Needing Improvement”** for Aiken DSS. The needs of custodial mothers, children in care and foster parents are generally assessed and met by Aiken DSS. The needs of custodial and non-custodial fathers are generally not assessed or addressed.

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Child and family involvement in case planning			
Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Foster Care	2	7	1
CPS Treatment	6	3	1

Explanation

This is an “**Area Needing Improvement**” for Aiken DSS. Aiken DSS is not consistently involving fathers in the case planning process. For example, onsite reviewers documented instances when the agency knew that a non-custodial father was regularly involved in the care of the child, knew how to contact the father but failed to do so. Reviewers also saw instances when both parents lived together but only the mother was involved in the case planning.

Multi-agency staffings are held on all court cases prior to merit or intervention hearings. Consequently, the structure is in place to strengthen the agency’s performance in this area. The agency’s practice of writing the parent’s plan in the office, then “going over it” with the parent later does not meet the definition of involving the parents in the case planning process.

Worker visits with child			
Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Foster Care	10		
CPS Treatment	9	1	

Explanation

This is a “**Strength**” for Aiken DSS. This rating is based on two questions: 1) are Aiken DSS staff visiting children according to policy, and 2) does the work done during those visits contribute to the accomplishment of the child’s permanency goal? Onsite reviewers found that Aiken DSS staff are visiting children according to policy (one-a – month) and more often when needed. Onsite reviewers also found that dictation of those visits shows a focus on activities related to the child and family’s case plan.

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Worker visits with parents			
Site Visit Findings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improvement	Not Applicable
Foster Care	4	4	3
CPS Treatment	5	4	1

Explanation

This is an “**Area Needing Improvement**” for Aiken DSS. Reviewers rated cases as an “Area Needing Improvement” when visits with parents did not occur in compliance with agency policy, or did not occur with sufficient frequency to monitor the parents treatment plan.

Analysis of Well Being Outcome #1

Well being outcome #1 was partially achieved. Areas needing improvement are a) the assessment of and delivery of services to meet the needs of the child, parents, and foster parents, b) child and family involvement in case planning, and c) worker visits with parents. Worker visits with the child is a strength. The areas needing improvement related to this outcome do not appear to be the result of systemic factors. Consequently, they can be addressed by actions within the Aiken DSS office.

Section Six

Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	4			6
CPS Treatment	7	1		2

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Measure: Educational Needs of the Child – Of all children that aged out of foster care, the percent that graduated from high school.				
	Number of Children Aged Out 03/1/03 – 02/29/04	Number Completing 12 th Grade or Higher	Number of Children Objective $\geq 90.00\%$ *	Number of Children Above (Below) Objective
State	348	43	313.2	(270.2)
Aiken	3	0	2.7	(2.7)
Aiken MTS	9	0	8.1	(8.1)
Lexington Adoptions	0	0	0	0

Note: This is a DSS established objective.

Analysis of Well Being Outcome # 2

Well being outcome # 2 was Substantially Achieved. Of the 12 children who aged out of foster care during the period under review, none graduated from high school. To meet the objective for this item 11 of the 12 children (90%) would have to graduate from high school.

The agency’s outcome report measures high school graduation rates. The onsite review instrument rates this outcome on a different set of criteria: whether the educational needs of children were being assessed and addressed. This allows for the rating of the agency’s handling of all school-aged children, not just those graduating from high school.

The 8 cases rated “Not Applicable” involved pre-school aged children. Of the remaining 12 cases, the agency’s performance was **excellent** in 11 cases. This means that Aiken DSS staff are appropriately attending to the educational needs of children both in foster care and in treatment cases. Consequently, other factors must be examined to explain the failure of foster children to graduate from high school in Aiken County. The impact of long term foster care, and its inherent lack of permanence, on school performance may be a contributing factor. It may also be a data entry issue.

Section Seven

Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				
Site Visit Findings				
	Substantially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Applicable
Foster Care	10			
CPS Treatment	6	1	3	

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Analysis of Well Being Outcome # 3

Well being outcome #3 was partially achieved. The two areas evaluated for this outcome are:

- a) Physical health of the child; and
- b) Mental health of the child.

There is a dramatic difference between the ratings of Aiken DSS foster care and treatment cases for this outcome. Children in foster care substantially achieved this outcome. Children in CPS Treatment did not. Treatment cases rated as partially or not achieving this outcome received that rating because of failure to follow up on identified physical or mental health needs. It must be noted that failure to follow up on identified physical and mental health needs is not a pervasive problem in CPS Treatment cases because 6 of the 10 CPS Treatment cases substantially achieved this outcome.

Section Seven

Screened-Out CPS Referrals

Question: Were attempts to report incidences of abuse and/or neglect by the public appropriately screened out?		
Yes	No	Cannot Determine
10	0	0

Analysis of Screen-Out Decisions

This is a **strength** for Aiken DSS. Aiken DSS received 1,116 intakes during the period from 10/1/02 thru 09/30/03. During that period 361 (32.3%) of those intakes were screened out. Statewide, the percent of CPS referrals screened out ranges from a high of 49.3% to a low of 0%. Statewide, the mean for screened out referrals is 24%. Ten of the 361 screened out intakes were reviewed to assess the appropriateness of the screen-out decision. Assessment of the intake decisions was based solely on information documented in CAPSS.

Reviewers found that the rationale for not investigating the referrals was appropriate in all 10 of the referrals reviewed. There is a field in the agency's database in which the intake worker is to enter the rationale for their intake decision. That field is consistently completed by Aiken DSS intake staff. However, the rationale documented in CAPSS is often so brief that it is difficult to determine if the type of probe interview needed to determine if abuse occurred was done by the intake worker. For example: someone reports that excessive punishment is used on a child. The CAPSS dictation explaining the screen-out decision states "no marks or bruises on child". The absence of marks or bruises does not indicate that excessive corporal punishment occurred.

Screen-out decisions are supported by record checks and collateral contacts.

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Case Rating Summary Foster Care							
Performance Item or Outcome	Perf. Item Ratings			Outcome Ratings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improve- ment	N/A*	Substan- tially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	N/A*
Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				7	1	1	1
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	3		7				
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	6	3	1				
Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				6	3		1
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	6		4				
Item 4: Risk of harm to child(ren)	6	3	1				
Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.				5	4	1	
Item 5: Foster care re-entries	7		3				
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement	9	1					
Item 7: Permanency goal for child	4	5	1				
Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	4	5	1				
Item 9: Adoption	1	1	8				
Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement			10				
Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.				8	2		
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement	10						
Item 12: Placement with siblings	6		4				
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	6	2	2				
Item 14: Preserving connections	7	1	2				
Item 15: Relative placement	6	3	1				
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents	6	2	2				
Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				5	5		
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents	6	4					
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	2	7	1				
Item 19: Worker visits with child	10						
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)	3	4	3				
Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				4			6
Item 21: Educational needs of the child	4		6				
Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				10			
Item 22: Physical health of the child	10						
Item 23: Mental health of the child	5		5				

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Case Rating Summary Treatment Cases							
Performance Item or Outcome	Perf. Item Ratings			Outcome Ratings			
	Strength	Area Needing Improve- ment	N/A*	Substan- tially Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved	N/A*
Outcome S1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.				7	2		1
Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	4	1	5				
Item 2: Repeat maltreatment	8	1	1				
Outcome S2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.				6	1	1	2
Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal	7	1	2				
Item 4: Risk of harm to child(ren)	5	2	3				
Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.							
Item 5: Foster care re-entries							
Item 6: Stability of foster care placement							
Item 7: Permanency goal for child							
Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives							
Item 9: Adoption							
Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement							
Outcome P2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.							
Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement							
Item 12: Placement with siblings							
Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care							
Item 14: Preserving connections							
Item 15: Relative placement							
Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents							
Outcome WB1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.				6	3	1	
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents	6	3	1				
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	6	3	1				
Item 19: Worker visits with child	9	1					
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)	5	4	1				
Outcome WB2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.				7	1		2
Item 21: Educational needs of the child	7	1	2				
Outcome WB3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.				6	1	3	
Item 22: Physical health of the child	6	4					
Item 23: Mental health of the child	6	1	3				

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