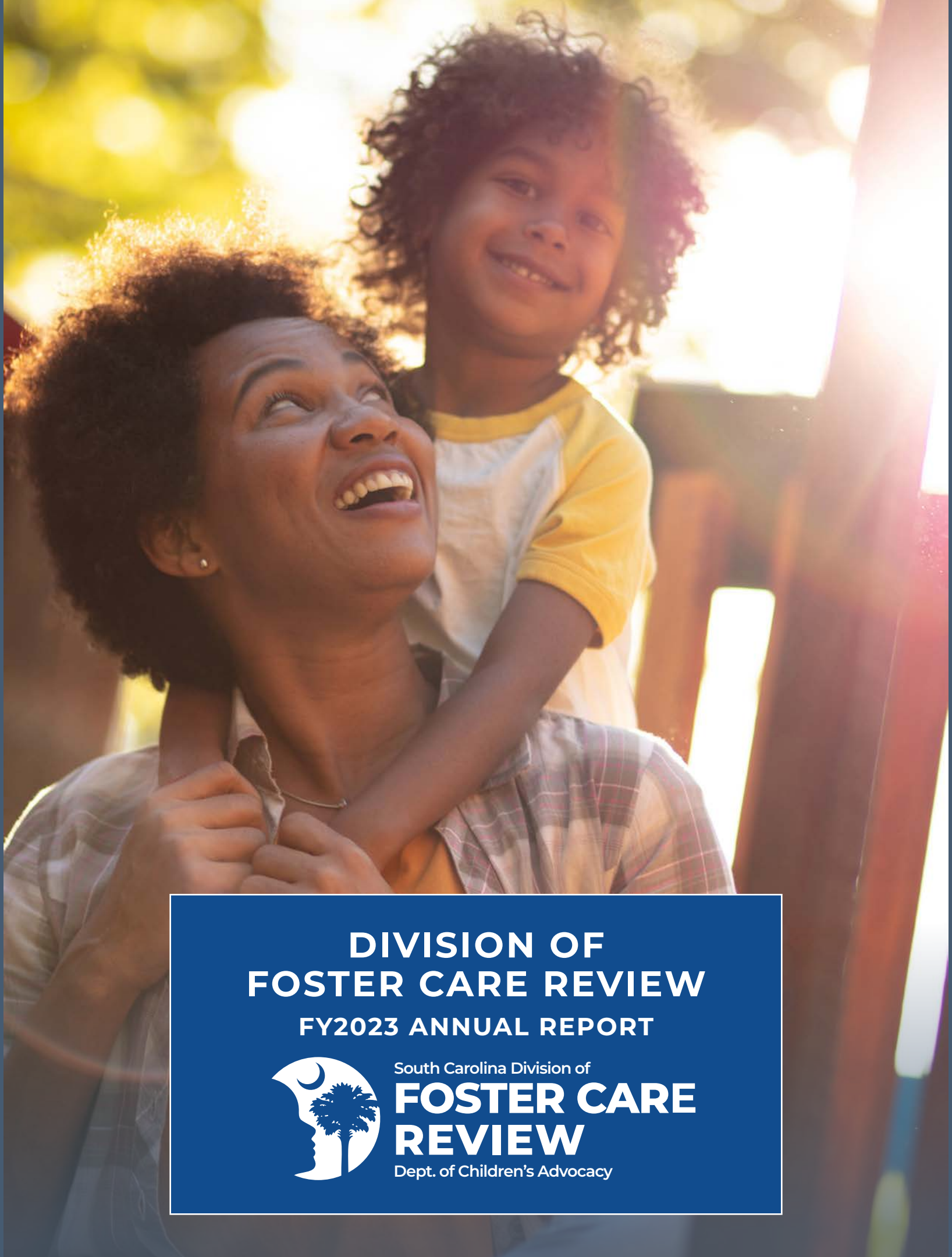

DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

South Carolina Division of
FOSTER CARE REVIEW
Dept. of Children's Advocacy

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

FY 2023
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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lindsey Taylor

It is my pleasure to present the FY2023 Annual Report from the South Carolina Division of Foster Care review (FCRD).

This fiscal year was yet another year of growth and change for the FCRD and, in addition to this growth, the Division and Foster Care Review Boards continued to conduct the statutorily mandated case reviews for children in foster care. As the data featured later in this report shows, the Foster Care Review Boards reviewed a total of 4108 individual children in foster care and issued 5319 recommendations regarding permanency for those children as the result of these reviews.

In addition to the case reviews, the FCRD focused on several program improvement initiatives throughout the year including: stabilizing staffing numbers through making updates to the hiring process and being intentional about the candidates selected; updating the tool used by FCRD and the local boards to assess cases from a systemic level to better identify the causes of permanency delays for children in foster care; and the development of a new, comprehensive case management system that will allow for better data reporting and moving to electronic record-keeping.

Turnover was a significant concern in FY22 and the beginning half of FY23 but thanks to ongoing agency efforts regarding pay equity and other retention strategies the FCRD was able to hire multiple highly qualified employees to fill vacancies, provide equity increases for a significant portion of staff who had not received pay increases outside of general increases for state employees in several years, and implement a telework plan that greatly contributed to staff morale and greater job satisfaction by providing flexibility not previously had. Overall, we made great strides in this area and I'm looking forward to seeing even more improvements moving forward!

We have continued to make progress addressing the recommendations made by the efficiency study conducted by the Office of Inspector General in FY22 and updates to those specific items can be found in the "Overview" section of this report. However, one area where we made significant progress was in replacing our aging database. We worked with a contracted vendor to develop a case management system that will greatly improve the quality and quantity of data that can be maintained in an electronic format and will also integrate with the South

Carolina Department of Social Services system to allow for more updated records and greatly improved communication along with streamlined, more efficient processes for both our staff and theirs.

In addition to the advancements made by FCRD in relation to providing the systems level oversight required by statute, the South Carolina Heart Gallery made significant headway as well. The photo shoots that were re-established in FY22 were continued throughout FY23 which allowed for more than 70 additional children to be photographed and featured on our website. The SCHG was also able to establish a relationship with a nonprofit organization, Grant Me Hope, to complete videos of these children designed to showcase their personalities which we are very hopeful will have a significant impact on our ability to recruit prospective foster homes.

I am very proud of the growth that FCRD and the SCHG experienced this year and I'm confident that, through the hard work and dedication of our staff, we will be able to continue growing the impact that we're able to have on positive outcomes for children and families in South Carolina. I can't wait to report to you next year about the accomplishments coming up next!

Respectfully submitted,

LINDSEY TAYLOR

Director, Foster Care Review Division,
SC Department of Children's Advocacy

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

FY 2023 OVERVIEW

The Division for Review of the Foster Care of Children (herein called Foster Care Review Division or FCRD) is led by Director Lindsey Taylor and includes state office staff who support the work of the South Carolina Foster Care Review Board (FCRB). The FCRB was created in 1974 to provide external accountability for the foster care system, review the cases of children in foster care, and advocate for permanency. Board members are nominated by their legislative delegations and appointed by the governor. South Carolina was the first state to enact a system of citizen review responsible for improving permanency outcomes for children in foster care. The FCRB consists of a state board and 43 local review boards. The local review boards review cases of children after they have been in foster care for four months and then every six months thereafter, so long as the child remains in the custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS).

REVIEWS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

During state fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY2023), FCRB reviewed the cases of 4108 children, many of whom received more than one case review during the year. The division and board members embraced the enhanced accessibility provided by virtual reviews via WebEx. This allowed invited participants greater opportunities to participate as they could attend from anywhere.

ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY REPORTING

FCRD monitors and reports quarterly and annually its progress in achieving permanent plans for children in foster care. However, during this fiscal year, FCRD's inefficient and outdated system, CASPER, adversely affected its ability to submit timely reports. While it published its annual report, FCRD struggled to timely submit quarterly reports, issuing only three of four to DSS. The system was also unable to provide data and reports that could improve advocacy and permanency for children including specific data regarding overdue hearings. FCRD anticipates these issues will be resolved with the launch of a new case management system in FY24.

TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING

The flexibility of virtual meetings allowed FCRD to host four regional trainings and one statewide board member training regarding child welfare practice, available services, and collaboration opportunities with a variety of partners. Trainings were designed to ensure that board members have relevant and updated information concerning our state's foster care system. The statewide training was the division's annual professional development day and included more than 100 participants. In addition to trainings, FCRD held various events to build morale and foster a positive work environment. By the end of FY23, FCRD reduced its staff vacancies from eight to two. During Employee Appreciation Week, FCRD coordinated with the Bureau of Protective Services and the Attorney General's Victim Services Division to have food trucks at the State House complex for state employees, encouraging them to enjoy lunch together on the State House grounds. Also during FY23, FCRD's Heather Valentine was awarded the DCA's Team Spirit Award, one of four awards presented to employees based on nominations by their co-workers.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

As reported in the 2022 Annual Report, Director Amanda Whittle asked the Office of Inspector General to conduct an efficiency study of the FCRD and FCRB to assist with improving processes, workflows, workloads, and outcomes. Foundational work to address these concerns began in FY22 and continued in FY23. Key recommendations followed by its progress included:

Replacing the outdated and unsupported CASPER database system

Funding to replace CASPER, a 17-year-old database, with an updated and flexible case management system, was approved in the FY23 budget. Working with a state-approved vendor, the new system, CAMS (Child Advocacy Management System), was designed and built during FY23 with a launch date set for the first half of FY24. The new case management system will improve the division's ability to track, analyze, and use data to advocate for children. It will also heighten employee morale and efficiency.

Move to a paperless process

Once up and running, CAMS will allow FCRD to begin the move toward paperless record keeping.

Create a system of accountability for areas of concern

FCRD began making updates to existing areas of concern that more specifically identify and target barriers to permanency for children in foster care. Once completed, the causes of these barriers will be provided to DSS and other responsible partners to address and/or eliminate.

Improving communication through updating policies with executive director review and approval

FCRD continued to review division policies and procedures. It expects to complete its assessment by the end of Q1 of FY24, coinciding with the implementation of CAMS.

Review and update inconsistent statutes between FCRD and DCA, and among DSS, FCRD, and GAL

Statutory changes remain a long-range goal on both fronts, and efforts begun in FY23 to effect these changes will continue into FY24. Progress included the diligent work of division leadership to clearly articulate and train both FCRB members and FCRD and DSS staff on the existing statutory requirements for reviews to ensure compliance.

Improve communication among DCA, FCRD, GAL, DSS, the judiciary, and other partners

The FCRD engaged in increased and improved communication and collaboration with several key partners, most notably with DSS:

- Joint collaborative trainings with DSS and GAL
- Dissemination of a survey completed by both board members and DSS staff designed to assess the current state of FCRB and DSS relationships and perceptions
- Participating for the second year in a row in the same Child Welfare Academy certification training required for new DSS child welfare staff

These initiatives strengthened FCRD staff's understanding of updated DSS policy and practice, improved communication with DSS, and afforded FCRD the opportunity to educate new DSS staff on the division's mission, values, and statutory requirements.

The division also created and filled a new volunteer and training coordinator position designed to improve communication with board members.

Identify more efficient ways to fill board and staff vacancies

The number of vacancies continue to be a concern for FCRD's efforts to improve the FCRB's impact on permanency outcomes. During FY23, the division developed a comprehensive communication plan and feedback loop to ensure that local legislative delegations are aware of the vacancies and the impact vacancies have on FCRB functionality. Local board members have expressed interest in having more involvement with the process of recruiting new board members and following up on their candidacy.

While FCRD keeps track of the number of board members and vacancies by appointment, reappointment, or resignation, it has not done so on a monthly basis. Because of requests for point-in-time data, we know that there were 62 board vacancies as of May 2022 and 55 as of October 2022. It is unclear how many vacancies existed at the end of FY23. The FCRD will continue to be intentional in FY24 regarding the tracking and reviewing of vacancies and raising awareness in the community and among legislative delegations about vacancies.

Adhere to the statutory names for Foster Care Review Division (FCRD) and Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)

Agency and division leadership and staff continued earlier efforts to clearly define and consistently communicate the difference between the FCRD and the FCRB.

Improving data-sharing with DSS

While not a part of the OIG's recommendations, significant progress in data-sharing was also achieved in FY23. After months of collaboration with FCRD, DSS launched a redesigned FCRB portal, which includes:

- Document upload
- Storage of legal documents
- ICPC status updates
- Foster care case management reports

"Thanks to each of you for your knowledge and expertise," said Paulette K. Salley, DSS director of Human Services Systems/CCWIS, about the project. "We could not have done this without the wonderful teamwork displayed during this process."

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

WHY REVIEWS MATTER

The foster care system is intended to provide secure living situations for children in unsafe circumstances before returning to a permanent home. Foster care is intended as a temporary response. Generally, the longer the duration in foster care, the poorer a child's long-term outcomes tend to be. Many children spend extended periods in foster care. In this section, we introduce the foster care system to clarify the need for a foster care review process.

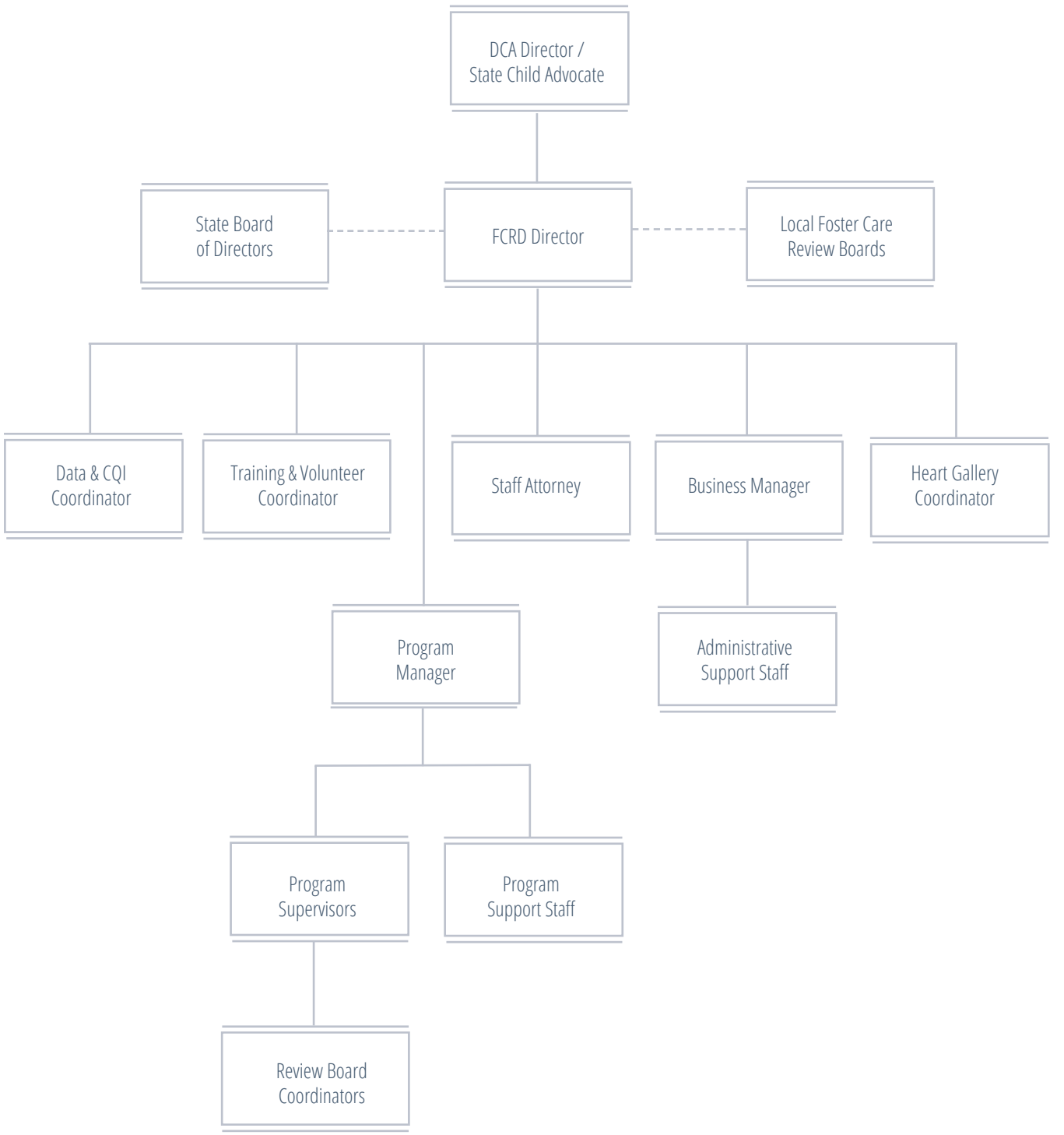
In cases of neglect, abuse, voluntary relinquishment, or other circumstances when children cannot stay with their family of origin, fostering is a transitional period before a permanent home. Achieving timely permanency can occur in multiple ways with the two most common being reunification or termination of parental rights (TPR) and adoption. Reunifying a child with their family after safety and well-being is assured remains the preferred permanency outcome. Sometimes reunification in a timely manner is not feasible and other options need to be considered. Importantly, achieving permanent placement in a timely manner is necessary for child well-being.

"Foster care drift" describes circumstances when a child in foster care is not placed in a permanent home in a timely manner. A substantial body of research indicates that extended stays in care can negatively affect children's lives well into adulthood. Prolonged duration in care also risks institutional trauma beyond the initial causes for entering care. If timely permanency is not achieved this could result in children in care undergoing an "aging out" process as they reach legal adulthood .

Helping to mitigate "foster care drift" is one of the primary purposes of the foster care review system. In the mid-1970s, the state of South Carolina established the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) to monitor progress toward a permanent home for every child in foster care. Since that time, many other states have created similar review systems due to attenuate experiences among children in care "getting lost in the system." In 2019, the Foster Care Review Division (FCRD) was brought under the new Department of Children's Advocacy to continue its efforts. In addition to providing organizational oversight to local FCRB meetings, FCRD staff take other approaches to help place children in homes. FCRD Coordinators conduct additional advocacy work as the need arises. Many board members volunteer their time and talents in local communities. Further, the South Carolina Heart Gallery serves as a central hub to publicize the need for adoptive homes for children on that path to permanency. The foster care system in South Carolina is a large, complex network of professionals across many child-serving agencies collaborating to address severe social problems. In the FY2023 Annual Report, we have summarized analyses of data gathered during several thousand foster care review meetings. More detailed information may be found in the separate Appendix document located on the FCRD website. We hope that this information proves useful to all persons interested in the welfare of the state's children in foster care.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN REVIEWED

OVERVIEW OF CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

In state fiscal year 2023 (FY2023), FCRB members reviewed 4108 individual children in the South Carolina foster care system (includes children whose reviews were scheduled but postponed or "continued"). Importantly, because children are not reviewed until they have been in foster care for a minimum of four months, these data do not represent all children who spent time in foster care during FY2023. Regardless, we believe that useful understanding can be gained by considering children in foster care whose cases were not closed within an initial four-month period.

Gender

Similar to FY2022, more boys (2117) than girls (1991) were reviewed in FY2023. Boys composed 51.5% of the population in foster care, proportionate to the 51% in the general population of children in South Carolina. Girls composed 48.5% of the children reviewed. Due to the limitations of the data collected, information in this report refers to each child's biological gender or gender assigned at birth. Data is not yet available regarding each child's gender identity (the child's personal experience of their own gender which does not necessarily align with their biological gender or gender assigned at birth).

Race

More than nine in ten children reviewed by the board in FY2023 were identified as Multi-racial, Black or African American, or White. Relative to the proportion in the general population of South Carolina's children, children identified as Black or African American and Multi-racial composed disproportionately large groups. Very few children from American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander backgrounds were reviewed (combined total less than 3% of all children reviewed). White and Latinx children were disproportionately underrepresented. Children identified as Latinx may be of any race; however, the data collected and the data provided by KIDS COUNT regarding the general population of children in South Carolina includes Latinx origin as a standalone race category (children are not duplicated in multiple categories).

Racial Identification	Count of Children Reviewed in FY23	Estimate of Children in SC General Population (Kids Count 2022)
American Indian or Alaska Native	7 (0.2%)	< 0.5%
Asian	4 (0.1%)	2%
Black or African American	1435 (34.9%)	29%
Latinx	141 (3.4%)	11%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (<0.1%)	< 0.5%
Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	483 (11.8%)	4%
White	2035 (49.5%)	54%
Declined	2 (<0.1%)	N/A

Gender and Race

While the gender and racial identification of children are related to practice considerations, the overlapping identities—both gender and race—are also important in understanding the total number of children in care. Relative to their female counterparts with the same racial identification, American Indian or Alaska Native boys, Asian boys, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander boys were overrepresented. This finding is impacted by the relatively low number of children reviewed from each of these groups. Note that two cases included missing data for race.

Racial Identification	Count of All Children Reviewed in FY23	Count of Male Children	Count of Female Children
American Indian or Alaska Native	7 (0.2%)	6 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)
Asian	4 (0.1%)	4 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Black or African American	1435 (34.9%)	699 (33.0%)	736 (37.0%)
Latinx	141 (3.4%)	67 (3.2%)	74 (3.7%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (<0.1%)	1 (<0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	483 (11.8%)	251 (11.9%)	232 (11.7%)
White	2035 (49.5%)	1087 (51.3%)	948 (47.6%)
Declined	2 (<0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)

CHILD AGE AT TIME OF LAST REVIEW

Our analysis of age is based on children's age, in years, at the most recent review. In FY2023, the average age for children in care was 9.4 years (standard deviation = 5.6 years), ranging from newborn to 18 years. KIDS COUNT data derived from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect provides state and national information about children in care by age group. The most recent data available from this source is included in the table below for comparison. Nearly a third (29%) of the children were younger than 5 at the time of their most recent review. Relative to the overall population of children in foster care, two-year-olds and youth 15 and older were disproportionately overrepresented. Additional detail regarding age at time of review is available in the Appendix.

Age Category	Count of Children by Age Group at Time of Last Review	2022 General Population SC Children	South Carolina Children in Foster Care by Age Group	United States Children in Foster Care by Age Group	2022 General Population US Children
< 5 Years	1203 (29%)	285,883 (24%)	1357 (34%)	161,739 (41%)	18,538,353 (24%)
5 - 10 Years	949 (23%)	304,905 (26%)	849 (22%)	87,383 (22%)	20,009,195 (26%)
10 - 15 Years	1006 (25%)	325,687 (27%)	1117 (28%)	86,793 (22%)	20,889,839 (27%)
15+ Years*	950 (23%)	270,296 (23%)	621 (16%)	55,396 (14%)	17,340,082 (23%)

*KIDS COUNT Data for SC and US population of children in foster care by age uses 15-20 years as the final age category whereas FCRD data uses 15-18 years.

Age and Gender

Overall, girls in FCRB meetings (includes continued meetings) were slightly older in FY2023 than FY2022 while boys were slightly younger. The increase in average age for girls (from 9.7 to 9.9 years) was larger than the decrease in age for boys (9.0 to 8.9 years). Consistent with the prior year, girls also tended to be older than boys by about one year.

Gender	FY2022 Average Age in Years (SD)	FY2023 Average Age in Years (SD)
Female	9.7 (5.6)	9.9 (5.7)
Male	9.0 (5.6)	8.9 (5.4)

Age and Race

As with gender, age differences across racial groups may correspond with children's experiences in foster care. In FY2023, Multi-racial, White and American Indian or Alaska Native children were younger on average when compared to other racial groups, while Latinx, Asian, Black or African American, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander children were older. This finding resembled results about race and age from FY2022. American Indian or Alaska Native children were the youngest group with an average age of 6.6 years. On average, Latinx children were much older with an average age of 12.1 years. Only one child reviewed identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, so the average age for this group (12.6 years) represents just one child's age.

Racial Identification	Overall Average Age in Years (SD)	Average Age Female (SD)	Average Age of Male (SD)
American Indian or Alaska Native	6.6 (3.9)	6.4 (N/A)	6.6 (4.2)
Asian	11.7 (4.6)	N/A	11.7 (4.6)
Black or African American	10.0 (5.6)	10.4 (5.6)	9.5 (5.5)
Latinx	12.1 (5.0)	13.4 (4.4)	10.7 (5.3)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12.6 (N/A)	N/A	12.6 (N/A)
Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	8.4 (5.4)	8.4 (5.6)	8.3 (5.3)
White	9.0 (5.5)	9.5 (5.6)	8.6 (5.4)
Declined	4.0 (3.9)	N/A	4.0 (3.9)

Age across Gender and Race

Sharp differences became evident in average ages when children's gender and racial identification were considered simultaneously. For all groups except for American Indian or Alaska Native children, girls in care were older than boys. The age difference was greatest among Latinx children, also the oldest group for girls, such that girls tended to be about two and a half years older than boys. This difference was much smaller among Multi-racial children who differed by about one month. These patterns of average age differences resembled those found in FY2022.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

BOARD PERMANENCY PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In FY2023, FCRB members held 4123 review meetings for children in foster care. An additional 834 review meetings were scheduled to occur but continued for a variety of reasons, and three meetings were not held as scheduled due to an emergency. At the review meetings, board members made a permanency recommendation for each individual child. While a permanency recommendation is typically the same for each sibling involved in a review, this is not always the case since each child's situation is considered individually and there are times when the most appropriate permanent plan may differ for siblings given their unique circumstances.

Permanency recommendations are grouped into several categories: Reunification, Adoption/ Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and Adoption, Relative Custody/Guardianship, Non-relative Custody, APPLA, Independent Living, and Permanent Foster Care. APPLA refers to the permanency plan of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement, a plan option reserved for youth 16 and older (involves making intensive, ongoing efforts to achieve the other plans of Reunification, Adoption, Relative Guardianship, and Relative Custody). The most preferred permanent outcomes for children are reunification with family of origin, when in the child's best interest, and adoption.

In the 4123 review meetings held, a permanency recommendation was made for 5319 children (many children had more than one review meeting during FY2023). Recommendations for permanency plans of APPLA, Permanent Foster Care, and Non-relative Custody were made for less than two percent of children. About one in four recommendations were for Reunification. About three in five recommendations were for Adoption/TPR and Adoption. Relative to FY2022, FCRB members made proportionally more Reunification recommendations (an increase of 3.5%).

Board Recommendations	Frequency of Recommendation
Adoption/ TPR and Adoption	3273 (61.5%)
Reunification	1222 (23.0%)
Independent Living	409 (7.7%)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	326 (6.1%)
APPLA	70 (1.3%)
Permanent Foster Care	11 (0.2%)
Non-relative Custody	8 (0.2%)
Total Recommendations Made	**5319**

Gender and Recommendations

Because there are more boys in the foster care system, FCRB members made more total recommendations for boys than for girls. This trend was consistent for each recommendation type except for APPLA and Independent Living which may be due to the higher average age of girls in foster care (i.e., because girls in foster care tended to be older, a higher proportion met the minimum age requirement for a plan of APPLA or Independent Living). Relative to their female counterparts, boys were significantly more likely to receive a recommendation of Permanent Foster Care or Non-Relative Custody.

Board Recommendation	Male	Female
Reunification	644	578
Adoption/TPR and Adoption	1740	1533
Relative Custody/Guardianship	174	152
Non-relative Custody	5	3
Permanent Foster Care	8	3
Independent Living	192	217
APPLA	30	40
Total	**2793**	**2526**

Age and Recommendations

Children who received Reunification and Adoption/TPR and Adoption recommendations tended to be younger than children who received other recommendations. Because children must be at least 16 years old to qualify for a permanency plan of APPLA or Independent Living, children receiving these recommendations were much older on average. Notably, children who received a recommendation of Relative Custody/Guardianship were on average about one and a half years younger than those who received a recommendation of Non-relative Custody. The relatively small number of Non-relative Custody recommendations (8) might account for this difference in average ages.

Board Recommendation	Average Age at Time of Last Review (SD)
Reunification	8.1 (5.3)
Adoption/TPR and Adoption	8.4 (5.1)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	10.7 (5.3)
Non-relative Custody	12.1 (4.8)
Permanent Foster Care	14.8 (3.4)
Independent Living	17.0 (1.0)
APPLA	16.9 (1.5)

Race and Recommendations

Considering recommendations across racial groups reveals important differences in frequency and proportionality. For example, Multi-racial, White and American Indian or Alaska Native children tended to receive adoption recommendations at a disproportionately high frequency. Latinx children received Independent Living recommendations at a disproportionately high frequency (not unexpected since Latinx children also had a significantly higher average age at time of review, therefore, a higher proportion of Latinx children met the minimum age requirement for an Independent Living recommendation).

Board Recommendation	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Latinx	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	White
Reunification	2 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	419 (24.1%)	42 (21.9%)	0 (0.0%)	154 (25.0%)	605 (21.9%)
Adoption/TPR and Adoption	6 (60.0%)	0 (0.0%)	997 (57.3%)	106 (55.2%)	0 (0.0%)	397 (64.4%)	1767 (64.1%)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	2 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	134 (7.7%)	7 (3.6%)	0 (0.0%)	28 (4.5%)	153 (5.5%)
Non-relative Custody	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.5%)	2 (0.1%)
Permanent Foster Care	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.3%)	2 (1.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.1%)
Independent Living	0 (0.0%)	2 (100%)	142 (8.2%)	30 (15.6%)	0 (0.0%)	33 (5.4%)	202 (7.3%)
APPLA	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	40 (2.3%)	4 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	25 (0.9%)
Total	**10**	**2**	**1739**	**192**	0	**616**	**2758**

AREAS OF CONCERN

AREAS OF CONCERN

In addition to other responsibilities, FCRB members and FCRD staff identify areas for improvement within the foster care system called Areas of Concern (AoCs). All AoCs are identified based on information provided to FCRD by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) and during reviews by interested parties. AoCs are used to inform efforts to improve paths to permanent placements and identify areas within the foster care system as a whole that need improvement. In FY2023, 13.7% of child reviews received no Area of Concern citations. Review board members identified a total of 12,349 areas of concern (AoCs) across six categories, an increase of 1.9% over 12,125 from FY2022.

Major AoC Groups

The AoC system nests individual AoCs within six major groups. In FY2023, more than 9 in 10 of all individual AoCs concerned case planning, legal issues, and DSS staff not following agency policy. The high frequency of AoCs in these categories persisted from FY2022. Increases in case planning (12.6% increase from FY2022) and legal obstacles (15.1% increase) contributed to the overall increase in total AoCs. For the remaining categories, total AoCs decreased.

Area of Concern Group	FY2022	FY2023
Case Plan Barriers	4667	5255 (42.6%)
Legal Barriers	3325	3827 (31.0%)
Agency Policy Barriers	2854	2405 (19.5%)
Adoption Service Delays	502	222 (1.8%)
Required Hearings Not Timely	416	395 (3.2%)
Required Hearings Not Held	361	245 (2.0%)
Total	**12,125**	**12,349**

Area of Concern Group	Female	Male
Case Plan Barriers	2532 (48.2%)	2723 (51.8%)
Legal Barriers	1811 (47.3%)	2016 (52.7%)
Agency Policy Barriers	1086 (45.1%)	1319 (54.8%)
Adoption Service Delays	103 (46.4%)	119 (53.6%)
Required Hearings Not Timely	177 (44.8%)	218 (55.2%)
Required Hearings Not Held	127 (51.8%)	118 (48.2%)
Total	**5836 (47.3%)**	**6513 (52.7%)**

Gender and Areas of Concern

FCRB members identified 677 more AoCs affecting boys in foster care than girls. This gender discrepancy decreased from 900 in FY2022. The gender difference in recorded AoCs resembles the gender distribution among all children. Boys comprise 51.5% of all children reviewed by FCRB in FY2023 and they received 52.7% of all AoCs identified, a slight overrepresentation. Required Hearings Not Held affected boys less often than expected, while the issue of untimley hearings affected girls less frequently than expected.

Area of Concern Group	Average Age in Years
Case Plan Barriers	9.2
Legal Barriers	9.0
Agency Policy Barriers	9.1
Adoption Service Delays	9.3
Required Hearings Not Timely	8.0
Required Hearings Not Held	8.4

Areas of Concern by Age at Last Review

In contrast to FY2022, Adoption service delays in FY2023 tended to affect older children on average. Children affected by Required Hearings Not Timely and Required Hearings Not Held were younger on average.

Race and Areas of Concern

Differences in AoCs suggest how children across racial identifications experience foster care. The distribution of AoCs may also indicate differences in how FCRB members construe barriers and case progress for children with different backgrounds. Many of these trends may be explained by long-term racial stratification present in the state and likely relate to other forms of inequality, both historical and contemporary (e.g., wealth inequality, disparities in access to education, residential segregation). Compared to their presence in the population (34.9% of reviewed children), Black or African American children were especially affected by delays in provision of adoption services. The overrepresentation of adoption service delays may correspond with systemic issues impeding this form of permanency. AoCs for required hearings not timely affected Latinx children more than twice as often as expected given their overall presence in the population (3.4%), while White children were underrepresented with the AoC of required hearings not held.

Area of Concern Group	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Latinx	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	White	Declined
None (No Barriers/Delays Noted)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	266 (33.0%)	17 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	105 (13.0%)	417 (51.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Case Plan Barriers	3 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1765 (33.6%)	206 (3.9%)	0 (0.0%)	604 (11.5%)	2674 (50.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Legal Barriers	8 (0.2%)	2 (0.1%)	1259 (32.9%)	153 (4.0%)	0 (0.0%)	434 (11.3%)	1971 (51.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Agency Policy Barriers	0 (0.0%)	6 (0.2%)	747 (31.1%)	104 (4.3%)	0 (0.0%)	245 (10.2%)	1301 (54.1%)	2 (0.1%)
Adoption Service Delays	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	86 (38.7%)	5 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	20 (9.0%)	111 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Required Hearings Not Timely	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	126 (31.9%)	30 (7.6%)	0 (0.0%)	38 (9.6%)	201 (50.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Required Hearings Not Held	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	92 (37.6%)	12 (4.9%)	0 (0.0%)	26 (10.6%)	115 (46.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Total Recommendations	**11 (<0.1%)**	**11 (<0.1%)**	**4075 (33.0%)**	**510 (4.1%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1367 (11.1%)**	**6373 (51.6%)**	**2 (<0.1%)**

Reviews Not Timely

The FCRB aims to hold an initial review meeting for every child within 4 to 6 months of their foster care entry. Review meetings are scheduled for children every 6 months thereafter. Occasionally, review meetings do not occur timely, and this is referred to as a continued review. There were 834 instances of continued review meetings in FY2023 affecting 1319 children, a 5.7% increase from the 1248 continuances in FY2022. The most frequent reason for continuance was non-receipt of an advance review packet from responsible parties, which accounted for two-thirds of continued reviews. Other common reasons included: interested parties not invited to FCRB meetings and DSS staff not present or prepared. Moving into FY24, FCRD is working to implement a new database, CAMS, which will ultimately interface directly with the DSS child welfare database to resolve the issue of non-receipt of needed documents.

Reason for Continued Reviews	Count
No Advance Review Packet	889 (67.4%)
Interested Party Not Invited	148 (11.2%)
DSS Staff Not Present/Prepared	136 (10.3%)
Lack of Critical Information	34 (2.6%)
No Parent Guardian ad Litem Invited	26 (2.0%)
No Review Board Quorum	15 (1.1%)
Key Party Requested Continuance	13 (1.0%)
Reason Not Reported	35 (2.7%)
Other	23 (1.7%)
Total	**1319**

Further Information

During FY2023, FCRD staff collaborated with DSS leadership to develop a new system of identifying concerns within the foster care system called the Barriers to Permanency (BPs), which is better suited to identifying systemic root causes impeding permanent placements and will help FCRB/FCRD more clearly articulate opportunities for advocacy and policy change necessary to expedite permanency for children in foster care. The BPs will be reflected in the Annual Report beginning in FY2024. Additional information about Areas of Concern in FY2023 is available in the Appendix.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

SOUTH CAROLINA HEART GALLERY

Since July 2008, the South Carolina Heart Gallery (SCHG) has worked to find forever families for children in foster care who are legally free and awaiting adoption. To fulfill its mission, SCHG recruits photographers who volunteer to take photos of these children at scenic locations around the state. Staff share the photos on the SCHG's website and social media accounts, partner with media outlets, and work with public and nonprofit organizations to host exhibits of the framed portraits. SCHG is part of the Foster Care Review Division (FCRD), through a contract with the Department of Social Services.

Over the years, SCHG has expanded and enhanced adoption recruitment for children in foster care. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, SCHG experienced multiple obstacles to fulfilling its mission, including the inability to hold regular photo sessions. During FY22, after careful consideration and assessment, the SCHG was re-imagined, ensuring that the program would be able to maximize its impact on the adoption recruitment landscape in South Carolina. Heart Gallery photo shoots resumed during this same fiscal year.

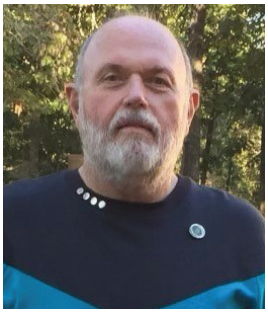
In FY23, Christina Grant was hired as the new program coordinator. The first SCHG photo shoot of FY23 was held in July with several other photo shoots to follow across the state. In March 2023, a photo shoot was held at the Riverbanks Zoo, and was particularly special because many of the children shared that it was their first visit to the zoo. Grant also partnered with photography students at Benedict College who joined veteran photographers for the daylong event. This brought in a new slate of volunteer photographers, while also giving the students practical experience they can use for their careers.

Another significant development in FY23 was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between FCRD and Grant Me Hope, a nonprofit organization that creates videos of legally free children. These videos, which provide even stronger connections with prospective families, are posted to the SCHG website and shared with local news organizations for broadcast. During FY23, a total of nine group sessions were held, with at least two shoots scheduled in each region. In all, SCHG was able to add more than 70 children and 20 videos to the gallery. During FY23, the SCHG received 353 inquiries from potential adoptive families as a result of photos and videos added to the gallery.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

ANNUAL AWARDS

Board members and staff are given the opportunity to nominate individuals and entire boards to recognize their contributions and commitment to bettering outcomes for children in foster care. The Awards Committee reviewed all nominations and selected volunteer review board members who have demonstrated exemplary dedication to their role.



Jim Kelly
2022 Review Board Member of the Year

Jim Kelly, a member of FCRB 2A (Aiken and Barnwell Counties), was named FCRB Member of the Year during Annual Professional Development Day on April 21, 2023.

Jim goes far above and beyond the call of duty, frequently volunteering to sub on numerous boards across the state, developing relationships with his DSS contacts, and taking the time to attend SC Heart Gallery photoshoots. He always brings treats for the children and adults in attendance.

In 2022, Jim purchased bookbags and school supplies for a local group home in Aiken County. One of the store managers was so touched by what he was doing that the store donated additional bookbags and supplies to ensure that every student had one, as well as enough supplies for the entire school year.

While subbing on another board, Jim, helped a high school senior who wanted to attend Clemson University in the fall of 2022.

He listened to the GAL's concerns regarding the teen's lack of family support and fear of being at a large school withough resources. He then reached out to university leadership to advocate not only for this teen, but all children in foster care who may desire to attend the university in the future

John Seignious III
Special Recognition Award

John Seignious III of FCRB 9A (Charleston) was selected to receive the Special Recognition Award for his outstanding service and dedication. John served as a substitute review board member for 42 review meetings in addition to serving on his own local board. Local boards have a large number of vacancies and John's commitment and willingness to help guarantee that reviews could move forward instead of being continued.

STATE BOARD

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) includes a seven-member volunteer State Board of Directors who make a set of annual recommendations regarding system improvement. FCRD assists the State Board members to understand, in detail, how the statewide foster care system is functioning and can be improved by coordinating review meetings throughout the year, collaborating with other child-serving agencies across the state, and collecting and analyzing relevant data. Currently, the State Board has three vacancies.

Andrea McCoy
State Chair - 6th Congressional District

Andrea McCoy holds a bachelor's from the University of South Carolina and a certificate in nonprofit management from Winthrop University. She is a life-long South Carolinian who was born and raised in Florence and moved to Columbia for college where she met her husband, Stephfon. Andrea has been a member of the Foster Care Review Board since 2015 and a member of the state board since 2017. She is a program manager with a global pharmaceutical company and owner of Innovative Solutions, LLC. In addition to the SC Foster Care Review Board, Andrea serves as chairperson for the Midlands Technical College Office Systems Advisory Board as well as a member of the Human Rights Committee of Sevita (formerly S.C. Mentor). Andrea has repeatedly been recognized for her community service with awards and accolades; however, the experiences that she is most proud of are serving as a project manager for S.C. Dental Access Days, where more than 1,500 patients received over $500,000 worth of dental care in two days, and managing the We Are The Village project, resulting in Christmas gifts for over 400 kinship care and homeless families in the Midlands area. She enjoys gardening, traveling, solving puzzles and visiting museums. Andrea and Stephfon are the proud parents of one child, a daughter, Dr. Alexis McCoy of Dallas, Texas.

Mary D. Long
5th Congressional District

Mary Long earned a bachelor's in social work from Meredith College. She was born in Columbia and lived in several other states before returning to the south to attend college. Mary worked for DSS as a child protective services worker in VA and SC for 14 years. After retiring early to care for her special needs son, Mary joined FCRB in 2010. Her local board (5E) was FCRB of the year in 2012 and Mary was FCRB volunteer of the year in 2020. Mary joined the state board in 2022. Mary is also a board member for the Family Resource Center (local Child Advocacy Center) in Kershaw County and was volunteer of the year in 2013. Mary is an active member of Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church. She has served as a volunteer for 15 years at Second Look Charities (non-profit thrift store which awards grants to local programs in need) in Camden before becoming the assistant manager in 2022. Mary has been married to Joel for 33 years and has two sons and a new daughter-in-law, Storey. Doug is a nurse and currently in school at UAB to become a nurse anesthetist. John attends the day program at the local DDSN center and works at the local recycling center.

George Jones
3rd Congressional District

George Jones was born and raised in Saluda, SC. After graduating from Saluda High School, he enlisted in the United Sates Army. He retired from the military after serving 23 years, holding the rank of Sergeant First Class. George has resided in Greenwood County for over 50 years. After retirement he became employed with Lander University where he served as a CDL trainer and bus driver for the athletic department. He is very active in his community and the surrounding areas. Before becoming a board member for the FCRB, he was a foster parent for eight years to many children and also became an adoptive parent. George is very compassionate and dedicated to volunteer work. From 2001-2016 he served as the vice chair for the Greenwood County Library Board of Trustees. In 2014, he became the volunteer driver for the Safe Haven After School Program with the Community Initiative Center in Greenwood. George is the chairman of economic development within the Greenwood chapter of the NAACP. He has been an active FCRB member for the past 26 years and was appointed to State Board in 2021. He also has volunteered at the Greenwood county solicitor's office in the Pre- Trial Intervention Arbitrator Division since 2011. George was given the "Father of the Year" Award in 2009 by the Tom Joyner Morning Show. He attends church services and is an avid donator and supporter of Connie Maxwell Baptist Church which is located on the campus of Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries. He has raised four girls (Angela, Zena, Shonda, and Sakari) along with one son George in Greenwood County. Last but not least, his favorite quote is "God has brought me thus far not to leave me now!"

Jane W. Daniel
4th Congressional District

Jane Daniel earned her Bachelor's and Master's in education from Georgia State University and she is a Certified Victim Assistance Specialist. Jane was born in Atlanta, Georgia, where she taught for seven years before moving to Taylors, then Greer, SC, when her husband took a job with Michelin North America. They have resided in the upstate for 45 years. Jane taught in Greer for one more year before going into the nonprofit field, where she worked for 29 years, retiring in 2017. Her jobs have included: Director of Volunteer Services for the Shelter for Battered Women; Director of the Family Violence Intervention Program for Compass of Carolina; Development and Fundraising Director for the Phoenix Center (the Alcohol & Drug Abuse agency in the Upstate); Director of Donor Relations and Major Gifts for Harvest Hope Food Bank; Director of Legislative Affairs for Donate Life South Carolina; and Executive Director of the S.C. Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation. She has served her state by volunteering on numerous local and state boards and commissions. She is blessed to have been married for 47 years to her wonderful husband, John. Her service on the local FCRB in the Upstate has lasted over 30 years, and she is currently representing the 4th Congressional District on the FCRB State Board for the second time. She was a founding member of The Heart Gallery Foundation Board of Directors. Jane and John have two children. Their daughter, Beth, is currently employed by Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, GA, in its music ministry. Their son, Scott, is the Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC. They are blessed to have nine amazing grandchildren. They attend First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenville.

STATE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Intentionally Partnering for Permanency

The Board of Directors (BOD) recognizes that progress has been made on rebuilding relationships with child welfare partners across the state and increasing the visibility of Foster Care Review Board but work remains. The BOD recommends that the Division and local boards continue their efforts to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones to provide opportunities for collaboration that will have a positive impact on permanency outcomes for child and families involved in the foster care system. This includes being deliberate about ensuring local boards have an active Community Contribution Plan in place and are actively involved to identify needs within their community to support the children and families along with the professionals who serve them. The BOD also recommends continued collaboration with the South Carolina General Assembly on laws that support the well-being of children and families in our state.

Engagement and Advocacy

The Board of Directors continues to place emphasis on the value of making recommendations based on input from all parties involved with foster care cases. The Board recommends ongoing effort to engage with and encourage the participation of DSS, Guardian ad Litem Program, Richland County CASA, foster parents, kinship caregivers, providers and biological parents in the review process. The BOD has several recommendations regarding advocacy from local boards:

- BOD recommends that local boards continue to engage with parties in a respectful, empathetic way and identify opportunities for advocacy from the information provided.
- BOD recommends continued effort toward increasing FCRB presence at court hearings to advocate for children and families attaining permanency as soon as possible.
- BOD recommends that local boards actively engage with their family court system to identify areas where advocacy is needed to ensure that their circuit has the optimal number of family court judges to efficiently support our state's caseload.
- BOD recommends that annual advocacy goals are developed, informed by review data, to help guide system-level efforts and to highlight areas where the greatest impact can be made by local boards.

Accessibility of Foster Care Review Board Meetings

The Board of Directors (BOD) is fully aware of the accessibility and flexibility that virtual reviews have allowed all interested parties, especially for families and children, but also recognizes the value of Foster Care Review Boards' ability to engage in person with DSS staff and other partners. The BOD recommends the Division conduct surveys of participants after piloting a hybrid review model scheduled for the first half of FY2024 and utilize this feedback to make a decision about what FCRB reviews will look like moving forward.

Legal Advocacy

The Board of Directors is aware that often court delays and legal barriers can have an impact on children in foster care achieving timely permanency. They continue to recommend that the Division of Foster Care Review

increase collaboration with the Court Improvement Program to review data and identify opportunities for board members to advocate for improvements to the family court system in addition to case specific legal advocacy and court involvement by the board. This includes monitoring legal processes and making recommendations for removing barriers to timely decisions that are identified as impacting timely permanency for children in foster care.

Internal Capacity

The Board of Directors (BOD) continues to recognize the need for strengthened capacity within its Boards and maintains the recommendation from last year regarding enhanced training for FCRB members and Chairpersons, board member attendance at reviews and provided trainings; reduced board vacancies, and more frequent communication among FCRB staff, review board members, and State Board members. The BOD is looking forward to making significant progress on this goal through the creation of a Training & Volunteer Coordinator position within the Division who will be focused on these tasks.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

STATE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Board's FY2023 recommendations, informed by the efforts of FCRD across the year, are intended as general suggestions to aid the statewide foster care system.

Recommendations are made in the areas of Intentionally Partnering for Permanency, Engagement and Advocacy, Accessibility of Foster Care Review Board Meetings, Legal Advocacy, and Internal Capacity.

These recommendations may also help non-experts interested in the foster care system understand major barriers to ensuring children have safe, permanent homes.

If the information in this report is used in future publications, please use the following citation information:

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DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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South Carolina Division of
FOSTER CARE REVIEW
Dept. of Children's Advocacy

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

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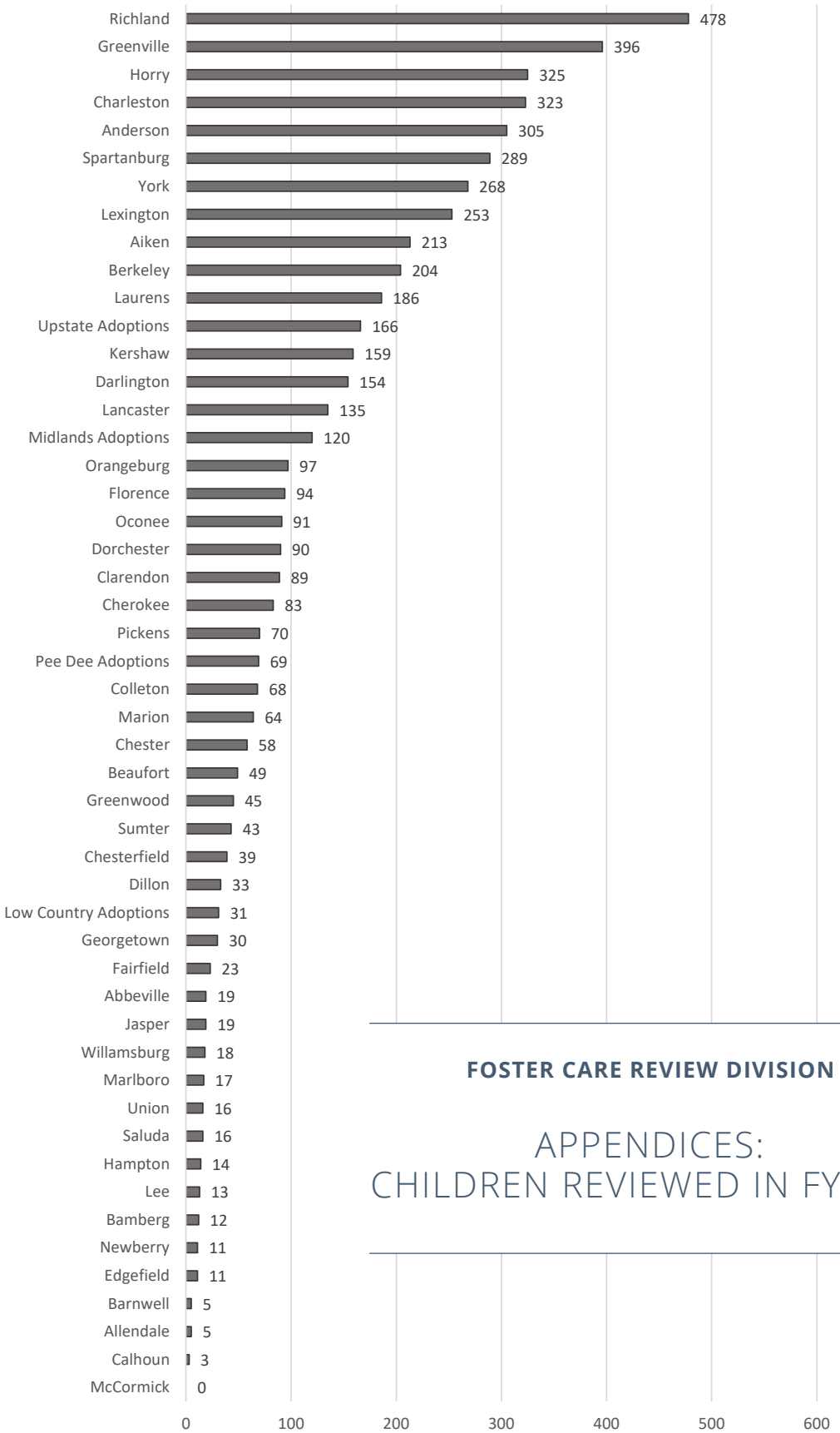

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: CHILDREN REVIEWED IN FY2023

APPENDICES: INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN REVIEWED

Age of Child at Time of Most Recent Review

Age Category	Count	Percent
Under 1 Year	184	4.5%
1 Year	259	6.3%
2 Years	289	7.0%
3 Years	251	6.1%
4 Years	220	5.4%
5 Years	229	5.6%
6 Years	192	4.7%
7 Years	199	4.8%
8 Years	181	4.4%
9 Years	148	3.6%
10 Years	161	3.9%
11 Years	201	4.9%
12 Years	182	4.4%
13 Years	223	5.4%
14 Years	239	5.8%
15 Years	293	7.1%
16 Years	282	6.9%
17 Years	366	8.9%
18 Years	9	0.2%
Total Children Unduplicated	**4108**	**100%**

Average Age at Time of Most Recent Review by Group

Age Category	Count	Percent
< 5 Years	1203	29.3%
5 to 10 Years	949	23.1%
10 to 15 Years	1006	24.5%
15 to 18 Years	950	23.1%
Total Children Unduplicated	**4108**	**100%**

Race and Gender of Children in FC

Racial Identification	Male	Female
American Indian or Alaska Native	6 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)
Asian	4 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Black or African American	699 (33.0%)	736 (37.0%)
Latinx	67 (3.2%)	74 (3.7%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (< 0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	251 (11.9%)	232 (11.7%)
White	1087 (51.3%)	948 (47.7%)
Declined	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	**2117**	**1991**

Race and Gender on Average Age at Time of Most Recent Review

Racial Identification	Average Age Male (SD)	Average Age Female (SD)
American Indian or Alaska Native	6.6 (4.2)	6.4 (N/A)
Asian	11.7 (4.6)	N/A
Black or African American	9.5 (5.5)	10.4 (5.6)
Latinx	10.7 (5.3)	13.4 (4.4)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12.6 (N/A)	N/A
Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	8.3 (5.3)	8.4 (5.6)
White	8.6 (5.4)	9.5 (5.6)
Declined	4.0 (3.9)	N/A

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS & AREAS OF CONCERN

Permanency Recommendations Across Race

Permanency Recommendation	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Latinx	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	White	Declined
Adoption/ TPR and Adoption	6 (60.0%)	0 (0.0%)	997 (57.3%)	106 (55.2%)	0 (0.0%)	397 (64.4%)	1767 (64.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Reunification	2 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	419 (24.1%)	42 (21.9%)	0 (0.0%)	154 (25.0%)	605 (21.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Independent Living	0 (0.0%)	2 (100%)	142 (8.2%)	30 (15.6%)	0 (0.0%)	33 (5.4%)	202 (7.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	2 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	134 (7.7%)	7 (3.6%)	0 (0.0%)	28 (4.5%)	153 (5.5%)	2 (100%)
APPLA	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	40 (2.3%)	4 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	25 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Permanent Foster Care	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.3%)	2 (1.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Non-Relative Custody	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.5%)	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Total Recommendations	**10**	**2**	**1739**	**192**	**0 (0.0%)**	**616**	**2758**	**2**

Race and Gender Across Reunification Recommendations

Race	Female	Male
American Indian or Alaska Native	0 (0.0%)	2 (100%)
Asian	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Black or African American	208 (49.6%)	211 (50.4%)
Latinx	20 (47.6%)	22 (52.4%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	66 (42.9%)	88 (57.1%)
White	284 (46.9%)	321 (53.1%)
Declined	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Total	**578**	**644**

Race and Gender Across Adoption/TPR Recommendations

Race	Female	Male
American Indian or Alaska Native	2 (33.3%)	4 (66.7%)
Asian	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Black or African American	486 (48.7%)	511 (51.3%)
Latinx	50 (47.2%)	56 (52.8%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	210 (52.9%)	187 (47.1%)
White	785 (44.4%)	982 (55.6%)
Declined	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Total	**1533**	**1740**

Area of Concern Groups Across Race

Area of Concern Group	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Latinx	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	White	Declined
None (No Barriers/Delays Noted)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	266 (33.0%)	17 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)	105 (13.0%)	417 (51.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Case Plan Barriers	3 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1765 (33.6%)	206 (3.9%)	0 (0.0%)	604 (11.5%)	2674 (50.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Legal Barriers	8 (0.2%)	2 (0.1%)	1259 (32.9%)	153 (4.0%)	0 (0.0%)	434 (11.3%)	1971 (51.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Agency Policy Barriers	0 (0.0%)	6 (0.2%)	747 (31.1%)	104 (4.3%)	0 (0.0%)	245 (10.2%)	1301 (54.1%)	2 (0.1%)
Adoption Service Delays	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	86 (38.7%)	5 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	20 (9.0%)	111 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Required Hearings Not Timely	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	126 (31.9%)	30 (7.6%)	0 (0.0%)	38 (9.6%)	201 (50.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Required Hearings Not Held	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	92 (37.6%)	12 (4.9%)	0 (0.0%)	26 (10.6%)	115 (46.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Total Recommendations	**11 (<0.1%)**	**11 (<0.1%)**	**4075 (33.0%)**	**510 (4.1%)**	**0 (0.0%)**	**1367 (11.1%)**	**6373 (51.6%)**	**2 (<0.1%)**

Area of Concern Groups Across Gender

Area of Concern Group	Female	Male
Case Plan Barriers	2532 (48.2%)	2723 (51.8%)
Legal Barriers	1811 (47.3%)	2016 (52.7%)
Agency Policy Barriers	1086 (45.1%)	1319 (54.8%)
Adoption Service Delays	103 (46.4%)	119 (53.6%)
Required Hearings Not Timely	177 (44.8%)	218 (55.2%)
Required Hearings Not Held	127 (51.8%)	118 (48.2%)
Total	**5836 (47.3%)**	**6513 (52.7%)**

Agency Policy Violations Across Race and Gender

Legal Barriers Across Race and Gender

Case Plan Barriers Across Race and Gender

Race	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
American Indian or Alaska Native	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (25.0%)	6 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (100%)
Asian	0 (0.0%)	6 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (100%)
Black or African American	340 (45.5%)	407 (54.5%)	616 (48.9%)	643 (51.1%)	883 (50.0%)	882 (50.0%)
Latinx	57 (54.8%)	47 (45.2%)	74 (48.4%)	79 (51.6%)	114 (55.3%)	92 (44.7%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	113 (46.1%)	132 (53.9%)	202 (46.5%)	232 (53.5%)	290 (48.0%)	314 (52.0%)
White	576 (44.3%)	725 (55.7%)	917 (46.5%)	1054 (53.5%)	1245 (46.6%)	1429 (53.4%)
Declined	0 (0.0%)	2 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	**1086**	**1319**	**1811**	**2016**	**2532**	**2723**

APPENDICES: AREAS OF CONCERN BY GROUP

Low Country Region	Total AoCs	Adoption Service Delays	Agency Policy Barriers	Case Plan Barriers	Legal Barriers	Required Hearings Not Held	Required Hearings Not Timely
Low Country Adoptions	61	0	8	27	26	0	0
Allendale	13	0	8	4	1	0	0
Beaufort	82	0	10	30	34	0	8
Berkeley	682	14	98	337	153	28	52
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charleston	560	5	55	254	219	10	17
Colleton	90	0	5	38	35	3	9
Dorchester	300	3	49	151	96	0	1
Hampton	26	0	7	7	10	0	2
Jasper	36	0	2	9	21	0	4
Orangeburg	62	6	5	17	29	0	5
Region Total	**1912**	**28**	**247**	**874**	**624**	**41**	**98**

Midlands Region	Total AoCs	Adoption Service Delays	Agency Policy Barriers	Case Plan Barriers	Legal Barriers	Required Hearings Not Held	Required Hearings Not Timely
Midlands Adoptions	261	0	51	121	85	1	3
Aiken	648	0	160	277	201	0	10
Bamberg	9	0	2	2	5	0	0
Barnwell	15	0	0	13	2	0	0
Chester	199	3	52	79	54	6	5
Edgefield	31	0	7	14	8	2	0
Fairfield	59	0	20	23	16	0	0
Kershaw	333	7	30	140	133	4	19
Lancaster	366	3	80	156	127	0	0
Lexington	751	5	199	314	208	11	14
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	1376	38	235	529	429	87	58
Saluda	48	0	2	24	20	2	0
York	849	46	212	324	231	18	18
Region Total	**4945**	**102**	**1050**	**2016**	**1519**	**131**	**127**

Pee Dee Region	Total AoCs	Adoption Service Delays	Agency Policy Barriers	Case Plan Barriers	Legal Barriers	Required Hearings Not Held	Required Hearings Not Timely
Pee Dee Adoptions	130	0	34	62	34	0	0
Chesterfield	60	2	3	25	24	0	6
Clarendon	189	6	6	117	58	2	0
Darlington	141	0	18	34	60	4	25
Dillon	62	1	1	32	28	0	0
Florence	70	3	16	16	29	2	4
Georgetown	79	0	8	48	22	1	0
Horry	960	45	168	466	262	10	9
Lee	44	0	9	19	16	0	0
Marion	185	3	22	89	62	0	9
Marlboro	34	0	4	21	9	0	0
Sumter	106	4	13	46	33	5	5
Williamsburg	19	0	3	9	7	0	0
Region Total	**2079**	**64**	**305**	**984**	**644**	**24**	**58**

Upstate Region	Total AoCs	Adoption Service Delays	Agency Policy Barriers	Case Plan Barriers	Legal Barriers	Required Hearings Not Held	Required Hearings Not Timely
Upstate Adoptions	241	0	56	122	57	2	4
Abbeville	82	0	22	35	25	0	0
Anderson	618	6	126	246	174	30	36
Cherokee	133	0	15	60	58	0	0
Greenville	688	7	176	275	215	2	13
Greenwood	199	0	70	85	42	1	1
Laurens	526	2	155	162	205	0	2
Newberry	12	0	6	1	5	0	0
Oconee	186	0	32	86	51	5	12
Pickens	121	2	14	85	16	0	4
Spartanburg	591	10	125	221	186	9	40
Union	20	1	7	5	7	0	0
Region Total	**3417**	**28**	**804**	**1383**	**1041**	**49**	**112**

South Carolina	Total AoCs	Adoption Service Delays	Agency Policy Barriers	Case Plan Barriers	Legal Barriers	Required Hearings Not Held	Required Hearings Not Timely
Low Country Total	1912	28	247	874	624	41	98
Midlands Total	4945	102	1050	2016	1519	131	127
Pee Dee Total	2079	64	305	984	644	24	58
Upstate Total	3417	28	804	1383	1041	49	112
State Total	**12353**	**222**	**2406**	**5257**	**3828**	**245**	**395**

APPENDICES: ADOPTION SERVICE DELAYS

Low Country Region	Total Adoption Service Delays	No Thorough Adoption Assessment	Child Specific Recruitment Not Conducted	Referral for Adoption Services Not Timely
Low Country Adoptions	0	0	0	0
Allendale	0	0	0	0
Beaufort	0	0	0	0
Berkeley	14	7	0	7
Calhoun	0	0	0	0
Charleston	5	1	0	4
Colleton	0	0	0	0
Dorchester	3	0	0	3
Hampton	0	0	0	0
Jasper	0	0	0	0
Orangeburg	6	3	0	3
Region Total	**28**	**11**	**0**	**17**

Midlands Region	Total Adoption Service Delays	No Thorough Adoption Assessment	Child Specific Recruitment Not Conducted	Referral for Adoption Services Not Timely
Midlands Adoptions	0	0	0	0
Aiken	0	0	0	0
Bamberg	0	0	0	0
Barnwell	0	0	0	0
Chester	3	0	0	3
Edgefield	0	0	0	0
Fairfield	0	0	0	0
Kershaw	7	2	0	5
Lancaster	3	0	0	3
Lexington	5	0	0	5
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	38	10	1	27
Saluda	0	0	0	0
York	46	1	0	45
Region Total	**102**	**13**	**1**	**88**

Pee Dee Region	Total Adoption Service Delays	No Thorough Adoption Assessment	Child Specific Recruitment Not Conducted	Referral for Adoption Services Not Timely
Pee Dee Adoptions	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield	2	1	0	1
Clarendon	6	3	0	3
Darlington	0	0	0	0
Dillon	1	1	0	0
Florence	3	2	0	1
Georgetown	0	0	0	0
Horry	45	0	0	45
Lee	0	0	0	0
Marion	3	2	0	1
Marlboro	0	0	0	0
Sumter	40	0	0	4
Williamsburg	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**64**	**9**	**0**	**55**

Upstate Region	Total Adoption Service Delays	No Thorough Adoption Assessment	Child Specific Recruitment Not Conducted	Referral for Adoption Services Not Timely
Upstate Adoptions	0	0	0	0
Abbeville	0	0	0	0
Anderson	6	1	0	5
Cherokee	0	0	0	0
Greenville	7	0	0	7
Greenwood	0	0	0	0
Laurens	2	0	0	2
Newberry	0	0	0	0
Oconee	0	0	0	0
Pickens	2	1	0	1
Spartanburg	10	0	0	10
Union	1	0	0	1
Region Total	**28**	**2**	**0**	**26**

South Carolina	Total Adoption Service Delays	No Thorough Adoption Assessment	Child Specific Recruitment Not Conducted	Referral for Adoption Services Not Timely
Low Country Total	28	11	0	17
Midlands Total	102	13	1	88
Pee Dee Total	64	9	0	55
Upstate Total	28	2	0	26
State Total	**222**	**35**	**1**	**186**

APPENDICES: AGENCY POLICY BARRIERS

Low Country Region	Total Policy Barriers	Face to Face Visit Not Conducted	Interested Party Not Invited	No Advance Review Packet	No Psychological Evaluation >30 Days	No Search for Absent Parent	No Three Week Notice to Parties
Low Country Adoptions	8	1	7	0	0	0	0
Allendale	8	0	0	4	0	0	4
Beaufort	10	0	0	7	0	0	3
Berkeley	98	5	22	60	0	4	7
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charleston	55	11	29	1	0	1	13
Colleton	5	0	3	2	0	0	0
Dorchester	49	3	20	22	3	1	0
Hampton	7	0	0	5	0	0	2
Jasper	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Orangeburg	5	0	5	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**247**	**20**	**86**	**102**	**3**	**6**	**30**

Midlands Region	Total Policy Barriers	Face to Face Visit Not Conducted	Interested Party Not Invited	No Advance Review Packet	No Psychological Evaluation >30 Days	No Search for Absent Parent	No Three Week Notice to Parties
Midlands Adoptions	51	15	14	13	0	0	9
Aiken	160	20	48	77	0	4	11
Bamberg	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Barnwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chester	52	5	9	17	3	2	16
Edgefield	7	1	1	2	0	1	2
Fairfield	20	2	3	11	0	0	4
Kershaw	30	4	8	15	0	0	3
Lancaster	80	7	8	43	0	2	20
Lexington	199	4	53	81	0	0	61
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	235	29	74	42	0	10	80
Saluda	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
York	212	17	21	111	1	2	60
Region Total	**1050**	**104**	**240**	**413**	**4**	**21**	**268**

Pee Dee Region	Total Policy Barriers	Face to Face Visit Not Conducted	Interested Party Not Invited	No Advance Review Packet	No Psychological Evaluation >30 Days	No Search for Absent Parent	No Three Week Notice to Parties
Pee Dee Adoptions	34	0	13	12	0	0	9
Chesterfield	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Clarendon	6	0	4	0	0	0	2
Darlington	18	0	3	9	0	0	6
Dillon	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Florence	16	0	9	3	0	0	4
Georgetown	8	0	8	0	0	0	0
Horry	168	12	60	76	2	7	11
Lee	9	2	3	1	3	0	0
Marion	22	0	21	0	1	0	0
Marlboro	4	0	0	2	0	0	2
Sumter	13	1	10	1	0	1	0
Williamsburg	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**305**	**16**	**133**	**108**	**6**	**8**	**34**

Upstate Region	Total Policy Barriers	Face to Face Visit Not Conducted	Interested Party Not Invited	No Advance Review Packet	No Psychological Evaluation >30 Days	No Search for Absent Parent	No Three Week Notice to Parties
Upstate Adoptions	56	0	14	25	0	0	17
Abbeville	22	11	8	3	0	0	0
Anderson	126	2	40	51	1	7	25
Cherokee	15	6	8	0	0	0	1
Greenville	176	12	48	65	0	7	44
Greenwood	70	17	17	35	0	0	1
Laurens	155	20	2	104	0	0	29
Newberry	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
Oconee	32	0	8	19	1	2	2
Pickens	14	1	1	6	0	0	6
Spartanburg	125	6	53	45	0	2	19
Union	7	0	2	4	1	0	0
Region Total	**804**	**75**	**201**	**363**	**3**	**18**	**144**

South Carolina	Total Policy Barriers	Face to Face Visit Not Conducted	Interested Party Not Invited	No Advance Review Packet	No Psychological Evaluation >30 Days	No Search for Absent Parent	No Three Week Notice to Parties
Low Country Total	247	20	86	102	3	6	30
Midlands Total	1050	104	240	413	4	21	268
Pee Dee Total	305	16	133	108	6	8	34
Upstate Total	804	75	201	363	3	18	144
State Total	**2406**	**215**	**660**	**986**	**16**	**53**	**476**

APPENDICES: CASE PLAN BARRIERS

Low Country Region	Total Case Plan Barriers	Incomplete Case Plan	Lack of Progress Towards Permanency	No Concurrent Plan	No Current Case Plan
Low Country Adoptions	27	10	0	0	17
Allendale	4	4	0	0	0
Beaufort	30	14	3	0	13
Berkeley	337	150	14	4	169
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0
Charleston	254	107	11	1	135
Colleton	38	24	13	0	1
Dorchester	151	72	7	0	72
Hampton	7	4	2	0	1
Jasper	9	4	0	0	5
Orangeburg	17	3	13	0	1
Region Total	**874**	**392**	**63**	**5**	**414**

Midlands Region	Total Case Plan Barriers	Incomplete Case Plan	Lack of Progress Towards Permanency	No Concurrent Plan	No Current Case Plan
Midlands Adoptions	121	44	4	1	72
Aiken	277	133	2	2	140
Bamberg	2	0	0	0	2
Barnwell	13	5	3	0	5
Chester	79	40	3	3	33
Edgefield	14	4	3	0	7
Fairfield	23	15	0	1	7
Kershaw	140	63	7	2	68
Lancaster	156	96	3	0	57
Lexington	314	142	24	1	147
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	529	236	12	44	237
Saluda	24	11	0	0	13
York	324	183	6	14	121
Region Total	**2016**	**972**	**67**	**68**	**909**

Pee Dee Region	Total Case Plan Barriers	Incomplete Case Plan	Lack of Progress Towards Permanency	No Concurrent Plan	No Current Case Plan
Pee Dee Adoptions	62	20	1	1	40
Chesterfield	25	11	1	0	13
Clarendon	117	59	3	0	55
Darlington	34	14	0	4	16
Dillon	32	10	1	0	21
Florence	16	10	2	1	3
Georgetown	48	16	3	1	28
Horry	466	213	9	3	241
Lee	19	10	0	0	9
Marion	89	50	2	15	22
Marlboro	21	9	2	0	10
Sumter	46	20	1	5	20
Williamsburg	9	4	0	0	5
Region Total	**984**	**446**	**25**	**30**	**483**

Upstate Region	Total Case Plan Barriers	Incomplete Case Plan	Lack of Progress Towards Permanency	No Concurrent Plan	No Current Case Plan
Upstate Adoptions	122	54	3	5	60
Abbeville	35	18	0	0	17
Anderson	246	123	4	15	104
Cherokee	60	31	1	0	28
Greenville	275	137	7	21	110
Greenwood	85	42	1	0	42
Laurens	162	53	0	2	107
Newberry	1	1	0	0	0
Oconee	86	43	0	3	40
Pickens	85	30	0	0	55
Spartanburg	221	76	9	4	132
Union	5	1	0	0	4
Region Total	**1383**	**609**	**25**	**50**	**699**

South Carolina	Total Case Plan Barriers	Incomplete Case Plan	Lack of Progress Towards Permanency	No Concurrent Plan	No Current Case Plan
Low Country Total	874	392	63	5	414
Midlands Total	2016	972	67	68	909
Pee Dee Total	984	446	25	30	483
Upstate Total	1383	609	25	50	699
State Total	**5257**	**2419**	**180**	**153**	**2505**

APPENDICES: LEGAL BARRIERS

Low Country Region	Total Legal Barriers	Did Not Seek to Forego Reasonable Efforts	GAL Not Appointed	Inappropriate Plan of APPLA	Inappropriate Response for Missing Child
Low Country Adoptions	26	0	0	0	0
Allendale	1	0	0	0	0
Beaufort	34	0	0	0	0
Berkeley	153	1	0	1	1
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0
Charleston	219	0	0	0	0
Colleton	35	0	0	0	0
Dorchester	96	0	0	0	0
Hampton	10	0	0	0	0
Jasper	21	0	0	0	0
Orangeburg	29	1	0	0	0
Region Total	**624**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**

Midlands Region	Total Legal Barriers	Did Not Seek to Forego Reasonable Efforts	GAL Not Appointed	Inappropriate Plan of APPLA	Inappropriate Response for Missing Child
Midlands Adoptions	85	0	0	0	0
Aiken	201	0	0	0	0
Bamberg	5	0	0	0	0
Barnwell	2	0	0	0	0
Chester	54	0	0	0	0
Edgefield	8	0	0	0	0
Fairfield	16	0	0	0	0
Kershaw	133	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	127	0	0	0	0
Lexington	208	0	0	0	0
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	429	1	0	0	0
Saluda	20	0	0	0	0
York	231	2	0	0	0
Region Total	**1519**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Low Country Region	No Court Order and/or Complaint at Review	No Timely Foster Care Review	Noncompliance with Court Order	Noncompliance with Normalcy	TPR Complaint not Timely (60 Days)
Low Country Adoptions	24	2	0	0	0
Allendale	1	0	0	0	0
Beaufort	31	3	0	0	0
Berkeley	137	9	0	2	2
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0
Charleston	209	3	0	0	7
Colleton	35	0	0	0	0
Dorchester	86	10	0	0	0
Hampton	10	0	0	0	0
Jasper	19	2	0	0	0
Orangeburg	24	4	0	0	0
Region Total	**576**	**33**	**0**	**2**	**9**

Midlands Region	No Court Order and/or Complaint at Review	No Timely Foster Care Review	Noncompliance with Court Order	Noncompliance with Normalcy	TPR Complaint not Timely (60 Days)
Midlands Adoptions	78	6	0	1	0
Aiken	187	14	0	0	0
Bamberg	5	0	0	0	0
Barnwell	2	0	0	0	0
Chester	52	1	0	1	0
Edgefield	8	0	0	0	0
Fairfield	16	0	0	0	0
Kershaw	109	18	0	0	6
Lancaster	125	0	0	2	0
Lexington	185	22	0	1	0
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	383	37	5	2	1
Saluda	15	5	0	0	0
York	220	7	0	2	0
Region Total	**1385**	**110**	**5**	**9**	**7**

Pee Dee Region	Total Legal Barriers	Did Not Seek to Forego Reasonable Efforts	GAL Not Appointed	Inappropriate Plan of APPLA	Inappropriate Response for Missing Child
Pee Dee Adoptions	34	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield	24	0	0	0	0
Clarendon	58	0	1	0	0
Darlington	60	0	0	0	0
Dillon	28	1	0	0	0
Florence	29	0	0	0	0
Georgetown	22	0	0	0	0
Horry	262	1	0	1	0
Lee	16	0	0	0	0
Marion	62	0	0	2	0
Marlboro	9	0	0	0	0
Sumter	33	0	0	0	0
Williamsburg	7	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**644**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**0**

Upstate Region	Total Legal Barriers	Did Not Seek to Forego Reasonable Efforts	GAL Not Appointed	Inappropriate Plan of APPLA	Inappropriate Response for Missing Child
Upstate Adoptions	57	0	0	1	0
Abbeville	25	0	0	0	0
Anderson	174	1	0	0	0
Cherokee	58	0	0	0	0
Greenville	215	0	0	0	0
Greenwood	42	0	0	0	0
Laurens	205	0	0	0	0
Newberry	5	0	0	0	0
Oconee	51	2	0	0	0
Pickens	16	0	0	0	0
Spartanburg	186	2	0	0	0
Union	7	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**1041**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**0**

South Carolina	Total Legal Barriers	Did Not Seek to Forego Reasonable Efforts	GAL Not Appointed	Inappropriate Plan of APPLA	Inappropriate Response for Missing Child
Low Country Total	624	2	0	1	1
Midlands Total	1519	3	0	0	0
Pee Dee Total	644	2	1	3	0
Upstate Total	1041	5	0	1	0
State Total	**3828**	**12**	**1**	**5**	**1**

Pee Dee Region	No Court Order and/or Complaint at Review	No Timely Foster Care Review	Noncompliance with Court Order	Noncompliance with Normalcy	TPR Complaint not Timely (60 Days)
Pee Dee Adoptions	28	6	0	0	0
Chesterfield	24	0	0	0	0
Clarendon	57	0	0	0	0
Darlington	60	0	0	0	0
Dillon	19	0	0	0	8
Florence	29	0	0	0	0
Georgetown	20	0	2	0	0
Horry	219	31	0	9	1
Lee	12	2	0	2	0
Marion	59	0	1	0	0
Marlboro	9	0	0	0	0
Sumter	28	5	0	0	0
Williamsburg	7	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**571**	**44**	**3**	**11**	**9**

Upstate Region	No Court Order and/or Complaint at Review	No Timely Foster Care Review	Noncompliance with Court Order	Noncompliance with Normalcy	TPR Complaint not Timely (60 Days)
Upstate Adoptions	52	4	0	0	0
Abbeville	16	9	0	0	0
Anderson	166	3	2	2	0
Cherokee	52	6	0	0	0
Greenville	185	23	0	4	3
Greenwood	40	1	1	0	0
Laurens	160	43	0	0	2
Newberry	5	0	0	0	0
Oconee	47	2	0	0	0
Pickens	15	0	0	1	0
Spartanburg	179	3	1	0	1
Union	7	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**924**	**94**	**4**	**7**	**6**

South Carolina	No Court Order and/or Complaint at Review	No Timely Foster Care Review	Noncompliance with Court Order	Noncompliance with Normalcy	TPR Complaint not Timely (60 Days)
Low Country Total	576	33	0	2	9
Midlands Total	1385	110	5	9	7
Pee Dee Total	571	44	3	11	9
Upstate Total	924	94	4	7	6
State Total	**3456**	**281**	**12**	**29**	**31**

APPENDICES: REQUIRED HEARINGS NOT HELD

Low Country Region	Total Required Hearings Not Held	Probable Cause Hearing Not Held	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Held	Permanency Planning Hearing Not Held
Low Country Adoptions	0	0	0	0
Allendale	0	0	0	0
Beaufort	0	0	0	0
Berkeley	28	4	20	4
Calhoun	0	0	0	0
Charleston	10	2	6	2
Colleton	3	0	3	0
Dorchester	0	0	0	0
Hampton	0	0	0	0
Jasper	0	0	0	0
Orangeburg	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**41**	**6**	**29**	**6**

Midlands Region	Total Required Hearings Not Held	Probable Cause Hearing Not Held	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Held	Permanency Planning Hearing Not Held
Midlands Adoptions	1	0	1	0
Aiken	0	0	0	0
Bamberg	0	0	0	0
Barnwell	0	0	0	0
Chester	6	0	4	2
Edgefield	2	0	2	0
Fairfield	0	0	0	0
Kershaw	4	1	1	2
Lancaster	0	0	0	0
Lexington	11	0	7	4
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	87	1	78	8
Saluda	2	0	2	0
York	18	2	16	0
Region Total	**131**	**4**	**111**	**16**

Pee Dee Region	Total Required Hearings Not Held	Probable Cause Hearing Not Held	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Held	Permanency Planning Hearing Not Held
Pee Dee Adoptions	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield	0	0	0	0
Clarendon	2	0	2	0
Darlington	4	0	4	0
Dillon	0	0	0	0
Florence	2	0	2	0
Georgetown	1	0	0	1
Horry	10	0	9	1
Lee	0	0	0	0
Marion	0	0	0	0
Marlboro	0	0	0	0
Sumter	5	0	5	0
Williamsburg	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**24**	**0**	**22**	**2**

Upstate Region	Total Required Hearings Not Held	Probable Cause Hearing Not Held	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Held	Permanency Planning Hearing Not Held
Upstate Adoptions	2	0	0	2
Abbeville	0	0	0	0
Anderson	30	1	29	0
Cherokee	0	0	0	0
Greenville	2	0	2	0
Greenwood	1	0	1	0
Laurens	0	0	0	0
Newberry	0	0	0	0
Oconee	5	0	5	0
Pickens	0	0	0	0
Spartanburg	9	2	7	0
Union	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**49**	**3**	**44**	**2**

South Carolina	Total Required Hearings Not Held	Probable Cause Hearing Not Held	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Held	Permanency Planning Hearing Not Held
Low Country Total	41	6	29	6
Midlands Total	131	4	111	16
Pee Dee Total	24	0	22	2
Upstate Total	49	3	44	2
State Total	**245**	**13**	**206**	**26**

APPENDICES: REQUIRED HEARINGS NOT TIMELY

Low Country Region	Total Required Hearings Not Timely	No Timely TPR Hearing	Permanency Plan Hearing Not Timely	Probable Cause Hearing Not Timely	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Timely
Low Country Adoptions	0	0	0	0	0
Allendale	0	0	0	0	0
Beaufort	8	0	0	2	6
Berkeley	52	2	3	21	26
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0
Charleston	17	13	0	2	2
Colleton	9	4	0	3	2
Dorchester	1	0	0	0	1
Hampton	2	2	0	0	0
Jasper	4	0	0	0	4
Orangeburg	5	3	0	1	1
Region Total	**98**	**24**	**3**	**29**	**42**

Midlands Region	Total Required Hearings Not Timely	No Timely TPR Hearing	Permanency Plan Hearing Not Timely	Probable Cause Hearing Not Timely	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Timely
Midlands Adoptions	3	0	0	0	3
Aiken	10	0	0	3	7
Bamberg	0	0	0	0	0
Barnwell	0	0	0	0	0
Chester	5	0	0	2	3
Edgefield	0	0	0	0	0
Fairfield	0	0	0	0	0
Kershaw	19	8	2	0	9
Lancaster	0	0	0	0	0
Lexington	14	0	0	0	14
McCormick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richland	58	5	9	3	41
Saluda	0	0	0	0	0
York	18	0	3	0	15
Region Total	**127**	**13**	**14**	**8**	**92**

Pee Dee Region	Total Required Hearings Not Timely	No Timely TPR Hearing	Permanency Plan Hearing Not Timely	Probable Cause Hearing Not Timely	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Timely
Pee Dee Adoptions	0	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield	6	0	0	0	0
Clarendon	0	0	0	0	0
Darlington	25	0	0	1	24
Dillon	0	0	0	0	0
Florence	4	1	0	0	3
Georgetown	0	0	0	0	0
Horry	9	0	0	0	9
Lee	0	0	0	0	0
Marion	9	1	2	0	6
Marlboro	0	0	0	0	0
Sumter	5	1	0	0	4
Williamsburg	0	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**58**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**51**

Upstate Region	Total Required Hearings Not Timely	No Timely TPR Hearing	Permanency Plan Hearing Not Timely	Probable Cause Hearing Not Timely	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Timely
Upstate Adoptions	4	4	0	0	0
Abbeville	0	0	0	0	0
Anderson	36	6	5	2	23
Cherokee	0	0	0	0	0
Greenville	13	4	2	2	5
Greenwood	1	0	0	0	1
Laurens	2	0	0	0	2
Newberry	0	0	0	0	0
Oconee	12	5	3	0	4
Pickens	4	0	0	2	2
Spartanburg	40	15	3	0	22
Union	0	0	0	0	0
Region Total	**112**	**34**	**13**	**6**	**59**

South Carolina	Total Required Hearings Not Timely	No Timely TPR Hearing	Permanency Plan Hearing Not Timely	Probable Cause Hearing Not Timely	Removal/Merits Hearing Not Timely
Low Country Total	98	24	3	29	42
Midlands Total	127	13	14	8	92
Pee Dee Total	58	3	2	2	51
Upstate Total	112	34	13	6	59
State Total	**395**	**74**	**32**	**45**	**244**

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: REVIEW SUMMARY BY OFFICE

Low Country Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Average Number of AOC's Per Child Reviewed	Percent of Child Reviews with Zero AOC's Cited
Low Country Adoptions	31	2.0	6.5%
Allendale	5	2.6	0.0%
Beaufort	49	1.7	24.5%
Berkeley	204	3.3	2.5%
Calhoun	3	0.0	100%
Charleston	323	1.7	28.8%
Colleton	68	1.3	13.2%
Dorchester	90	3.3	3.3%
Hampton	14	1.9	14.3%
Jasper	19	1.9	5.3%
Orangeburg	97	0.6	55.7%
Region Total	**903**	**2.1**	**20.4%**

Midlands Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Average Number of AOC's Per Child Reviewed	Percent of Child Reviews with Zero AOC's Cited
Midlands Adoptions	120	2.2	8.3%
Aiken	213	3.0	5.2%
Bamberg	12	0.8	41.7%
Barnwell	5	3.0	0.0%
Chester	58	3.4	5.2%
Edgefield	11	2.8	0.0%
Fairfield	23	2.6	0.0%
Kershaw	159	2.1	22.6%
Lancaster	135	2.7	0.7%
Lexington	253	3.0	4.0%
McCormick	0	N/A	N/A
Richland	478	2.9	9.8%
Saluda	16	3.0	0.0%
York	268	3.2	5.6%
Region Total	**1751**	**2.8**	**3.5%**

Pee Dee Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Average Number of AOC's Per Child Reviewed	Percent of Child Reviews with Zero AOC's Cited
Pee Dee Adoptions	69	1.9	14.5%
Chesterfield	39	1.5	12.8%
Clarendon	89	2.1	7.9%
Darlington	154	0.9	46.8%
Dillon	33	1.9	6.1%
Florence	94	0.7	62.8%
Georgetown	30	2.6	6.7%
Horry	325	3.0	7.4%
Lee	13	3.4	7.7%
Marion	64	2.9	1.6%
Marlboro	17	2.0	0.0%
Sumter	43	2.5	9.3%
Williamsburg	18	1.1	38.9%
Region Total	**988**	**2.1**	**19.6%**

Upstate Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Average Number of AOC's Per Child Reviewed	Percent of Child Reviews with Zero AOC's Cited
Upstate Adoptions	166	1.5	19.9%
Abbeville	19	4.3	5.3%
Anderson	305	2.0	14.4%
Cherokee	83	1.6	24.1%
Greenville	396	1.7	28.3%
Greenwood	45	4.4	2.2%
Laurens	186	2.8	5.4%
Newberry	11	1.1	18.2%
Oconee	91	2.0	11.0%
Pickens	70	1.7	14.3%
Spartanburg	289	2.0	14.5%
Union	16	1.3	25.0%
Region Total	**1677**	**2.0**	**17.2%**

South Carolina	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Average Number of AOC's Per Child Reviewed	Percent of Child Reviews with Zero AOC's Cited
Low Country Total	903	2.1	20.4%
Midlands Total	1751	2.8	3.5%
Pee Dee Total	988	2.1	19.6%
Upstate Total	1677	2.0	17.2%
State Total	**5319**	**2.3**	**13.7%**

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: REVIEW CONTINUANCES

Low Country Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Total Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Low Country Adoptions	31	1	3.1%
Allendale	5	0	0.0%
Beaufort	49	9	15.5%
Berkeley	204	57	21.8%
Calhoun	3	0	0.0%
Charleston	323	28	8.0%
Colleton	68	0	0.0%
Dorchester	90	11	10.9%
Hampton	14	1	6.7%
Jasper	19	11	36.7%
Orangeburg	97	12	11.0%
Region Total	**903**	**130**	**12.6%**

Midlands Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Total Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Midlands Adoptions	120	29	19.5%
Aiken	213	45	17.4%
Bamberg	12	0	0.0%
Barnwell	5	0	0.0%
Chester	58	8	12.1%
Edgefield	11	1	8.3%
Fairfield	23	7	23.3%
Kershaw	159	24	13.1%
Lancaster	135	8	5.6%
Lexington	253	63	19.9%
McCormick	0	1	100%
Richland	478	381	44.4%
Saluda	16	11	40.7%
York	268	60	18.3%
Region Total	**1751**	**638**	**26.7%**

Pee Dee Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Total Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Pee Dee Adoptions	69	16	18.8%
Chesterfield	39	0	0.0%
Clarendon	89	1	1.1%
Darlington	154	2	1.3%
Dillon	33	1	2.9%
Florence	94	29	23.6%
Georgetown	30	1	3.2%
Horry	325	108	24.9%
Lee	13	3	18.8%
Marion	64	5	7.2%
Marlboro	17	3	15.0%
Sumter	43	4	8.5%
Williamsburg	18	1	5.3%
Region Total	**988**	**174**	**15.0%**

Upstate Region	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Total Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Upstate Adoptions	166	25	13.1%
Abbeville	19	8	29.6%
Anderson	305	17	5.3%
Cherokee	83	15	15.3%
Greenville	396	97	19.7%
Greenwood	45	18	28.6%
Laurens	186	106	36.3%
Newberry	11	7	38.9%
Oconee	91	7	7.1%
Pickens	70	8	10.3%
Spartanburg	289	66	18.6%
Union	16	3	15.8%
Region Total	**1677**	**377**	**18.4%**

South Carolina	Total Child Reviews Conducted	Total Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Low Country Total	903	130	12.6%
Midlands Total	1751	638	26.7%
Pee Dee Total	988	174	15.0%
Upstate Total	1677	377	18.4%
State Total	**5319**	**1319**	**19.9%**

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