

DIVISION OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW

FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT



South Carolina Division of

**FOSTER CARE
REVIEW**

Dept. of Children's Advocacy





FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

FY 2024

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FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lindsey Taylor



It is my privilege to present the fiscal year 2024 (FY2024) Annual Report from the South Carolina Division of Foster Care Review (FCRD). FY2024 was a transformative year for the FCRD on several fronts and, in the midst of significant system improvements, the Division and Foster Care Review Boards conducted reviews for 3156 individual children and made 4585 recommendations for permanency.

The Division also made intentional efforts to review data on overdue reviews and collaborate with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) to schedule those children for reviews. The after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, staffing shortages at the Division, and transition to a new case management system led to a combination of children not being scheduled for a review and a backlog of recommendations that needed to be entered into the SCDSS case management system resulting in 723 children displaying as overdue for a review in January 2024. However, by the end of June 2024 that number decreased by 54% to 335 with the remaining children being scheduled for review in the first 60 days of FY2025. This was done by scheduling additional review days for several boards and robust communication with the SCDSS leadership at the state and county levels and FCRD staff dedicating a significant amount of time to catching up on the backlog of recommendations that were complete but needed to be entered into the SCDSS system.

There were two initiatives implemented during FY2024 that I would consider transformative: the implementation of a new case management system and the transition from utilizing the Areas of Concern to identify problem areas in cases to a new tool that the division developed in collaboration with the SCDSS, the Barriers to Permanency. Both of these projects were addressed in the efficiency study conducted by the Office of Inspector General in FY2022 and had a substantial impact on the daily processes and procedures utilized by staff and also on the system improvement work required by state statute.

The case management system, named CAMS (Child Advocacy Management System), replaced an outdated database and provided the division with numerous benefits including the ability to document reviews live during the meeting, faster processing and distribution of recommendations, and easier access to case information as a result of electronic record-keeping. This was a considerable adjustment and required extensive training and communication with staff. Additionally, once CAMS was rolled out and staff began using it, there were a number of adjustments that were identified to help it function more effectively resulting in an ongoing development process during the first half of the fiscal year. CAMS was such a significant improvement that it was awarded a 2023 Customer Innovation Award for Environment and Social Impact by Hyland, the software company that created the system's platform.

The Barriers to Permanency (BPs) replaced the longstanding Areas of Concern (AoCs) that the division has reported on for several decades. The child welfare system has seen massive shifts in the last several years and the division felt that it was important that the board's identification of concerns with the foster care system accurately reflect the current landscape.

After assessing what the goal for the problem identification part of the review process is, it was determined that the division and board members wanted these items to be actionable and to have a full understanding of, not only what was delaying permanency for children in foster care, but what was causing those delays. As a result, the BPs were developed to drill down to obtain more detail about barriers to children's permanency and also the root causes behind them. This was fully implemented during the latter half of FY2024 and the division is very excited to have data to share in the next annual report.

While the improvements to the Foster Care Review program took up a large amount of the time and energy expended by division staff, I would be remiss if I did not also highlight the South Carolina Heart Gallery (SCHG). The SCHG made great strides in visibility around the state evidenced by an almost 250% increase in the number of inquiries received in FY2024 compared to FY2023. The SCHG developed a partnership with the Columbiana Centre mall to hold a long-term exhibit in one of their vacant storefronts which was an amazing opportunity to reach people who might not normally have the idea of adoption on their radar. This also provided an opening to increase the SCHG's social media footprint and to develop a larger following resulting in several "viral" posts and an uptick in the inquiries received each time.

This year has been a lot of hard work managing through significant transitions but thanks to the commitment of our team we made it through! I am certain that the changes made this year will result in the program's continued growth for FY2025 and I am very excited about what the future will bring for the division, Foster Care Review Board, and, most importantly, outcomes for children in foster care in our state. Until next year!



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



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

FY 2024 OVERVIEW

FISCAL YEAR 2024 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 helping improve 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, for as 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 2023-2024 (FY2024), FCRB reviewed the cases of 3156 individual children, many of whom received more than one case review during the year. The division and board members continued to embrace the enhanced accessibility provided by virtual reviews via Microsoft Teams. The virtual meeting format allowed invited parties greater opportunities to participate as they could attend from anywhere, and children and youth could attend virtual reviews without missing whole school days.

ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY REPORTING

FCRD monitors and reports (quarterly and annually) progress in achieving permanent plans for children in foster care. However, during this fiscal year, FCRD's challenging transition from the inefficient and outdated system, CASPER, to the new electronic case management system, CAMS, adversely affected its ability to submit timely reports. While all four quarterly reports were issued to DSS, only one was issued timely. The FY2023 Annual Report was published in July 2024 and an amended version was published two months later. The CASPER system's limitations with reporting and data continued to have an impact on formal reporting throughout FY2024.

Replacing CASPER

Funding to replace CASPER, an 18-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 FY2023. CAMS launched during the first half of FY2024 and underwent a series of fixes and enhancements over the next several months. The CASPER system was unable to provide data and reports that could improve advocacy and permanency for children including specific data regarding overdue hearings. Additionally, the system was built in a program that was quickly becoming obsolete, so enhancements and access to technical support were limited. CAMS improved the division's ability to track, analyze, and use data to advocate for children. It also heightened employee efficiency, provided access to technical support, and allowed FCRD to begin the transition toward paperless record keeping.



TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING

The flexibility of virtual meetings allowed FCRD to host four regional trainings, one statewide board member training, and a series of shorter Lunch & Learn trainings regarding child welfare practice, available services and resources, and collaboration opportunities with a variety of partners. Trainings were designed to ensure that board members have ongoing access to relevant and updated information concerning our state's foster care system. The statewide training held on April 19, 2024 was the division's Annual Professional Development day and included more than 90 participants. In addition to trainings, FCRD held various events focused on building morale and creating a positive organizational culture. In May 2024, the division filled its last employee vacancy.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

As reported in the 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports, 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 FY2022 and continued through FY2024. Key recommendations included:

- create a system of accountability for Areas of Concern (AoCs)
- improve communication through updating policies with executive director review and approval
- review and update inconsistent statutes between FCRD and the Department of Children's Advocacy (DCA), and among FCRD, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Guardian *ad Litem* program (GAL)
- improve communication among DCA, FCRD, GAL, DSS, the judiciary, and other partners
- identify more efficient ways to fill board and staff vacancies
- adhere to the statutory names for Foster Care Review Division (FCRD) and Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)

Create a system of accountability for Areas of Concern

On July 1, 2023, the first day of FY2024, FCRD shifted from Areas of Concern (AoCs) to the newly developed

Barriers to Permanency (BPs). FCRD records BPs, a set of obstacles delaying progress toward permanency that volunteer board members and FCRD staff identify during case review meetings. BPs help to identify a more comprehensive set of root causes slowing progress to permanency in addition to meeting mandated compliance standards. Over the next several months, the BPs were modified to reflect necessary updates, and the current iteration of the BPs was implemented at the beginning of the third quarter. A delay with the CAMS database enhancement adversely impacted FCRD staff's ability to accurately document BP's in the database until after FY2024 ended.

Improve communication through updating policies with executive director review and approval

FCRD continued to review division policies and procedures. The policy committee, comprised of FCRD staff, continued to meet throughout FY2024 to review and submit suggestions for policy updates.

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 that began in FY2023 to effect these changes continued throughout FY2024. Progress included the diligent work of division leadership to clearly articulate and train volunteer board members, 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 continued to engage in increased and improved communication and collaboration with several key partners, most notably with DSS:

- joint collaborative trainings with DSS and GAL
- participation in the delivery of Child Welfare Academy certification training required for new child welfare staff at DSS
- meet quarterly with DSS leadership

These initiatives continued to strengthen FCRD staff's understanding of updated DSS policies and practices, improved communication with DSS, and afforded FCRD the opportunity to educate new DSS staff on FCRD's mission, values, and statutory requirements.

FCRD's Volunteer and Training Coordinator continued to work directly with board members to improve communication and provide ongoing learning opportunities.

Identify more efficient ways to fill board and staff vacancies

While FCRD's staff vacancies were all filled by the end of FY2024, the number of board member vacancies continues to be a concern for FCRD's efforts to improve the FCRB's impact on permanency outcomes. During FY2023, 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. FCRD tracks the number of board members and vacancies by appointment, reappointment, or resignation. During FY2024, FCRD staff continued to track and review vacancies and worked to raise 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. Adherence to the statutory names for each entity has been fully adopted.

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 or transitioning 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. Across the US, 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 permanency can occur in multiple ways with the two most common being reunification or 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.

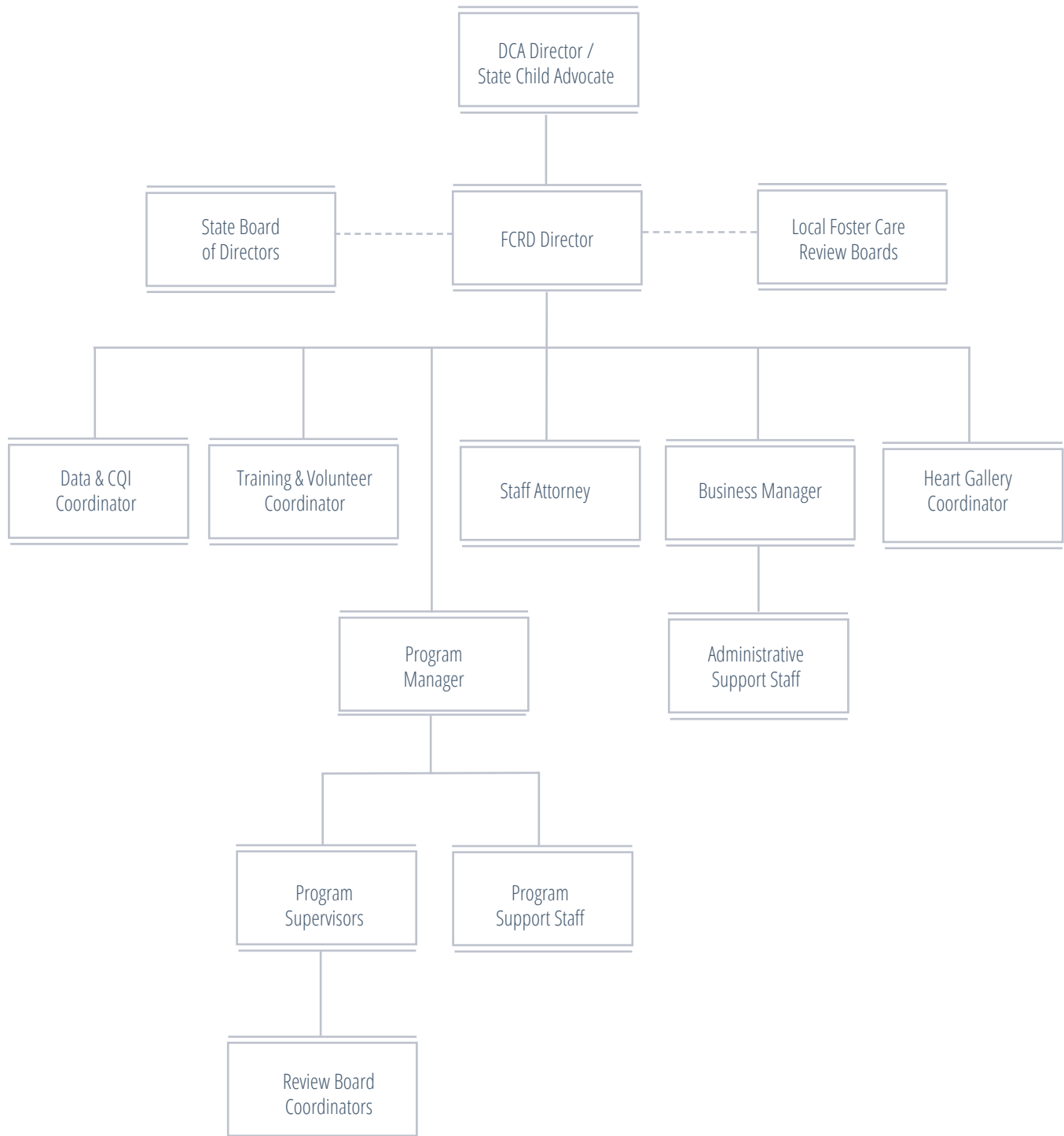
A substantial body of research indicates that when children in foster care are not placed in a permanent home in a timely manner, they can experience outcomes that negatively affect their lives well into adulthood. Prolonged duration in care also risks institutional trauma beyond the initial causes for 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 prolonged stays in foster care 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 experiences among children in care being "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 FY2024 Annual Report, we have summarized analyses of data gathered during several thousand foster care review meetings for 3156 individual children. More detailed information may be found in the separate Appendix document published on the FCRD website. We hope that this information proves useful to all persons interested in the welfare of South Carolina's children in foster care.



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN REVIEWED

OVERVIEW OF CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

In state fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024), Foster Care Review Board volunteers completed 4585 child reviews for 3156 individual children in the South Carolina foster care system. Of the 3156 children reviewed during the fiscal year, 1772 children were reviewed once, 1341 children were reviewed twice, 41 children were reviewed three times, and two children were reviewed four times. While siblings are typically reviewed together, the board makes recommendations for each child as an individual (siblings may receive different permanency recommendations). Though rare, there are also instances of reviews occurring for some siblings in a family while being continued for other siblings. For these reasons, it is necessary to deliver data by the count of children (child reviews) rather than the count of sibling groups or cases (case review meetings) to ensure the most accurate presentation. 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 FY2024. Regardless, we believe that useful understanding can be gained by considering children in foster care whose cases were not closed within the initial four-month period.

Gender

Similar to the two most recent fiscal years, more boys (1586) than girls (1570) were reviewed in FY2024. Boys composed 50.3% of the individual children reviewed during FY2024, proportionate to the 51% in the general population of children in South Carolina (statewide population data obtained from Annie E. Casey's KIDS COUNT Data Center). Due to the limitations of the data

collected, information in this report refers only to each child's biological gender or gender assigned at birth. Data is not available for 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 in FY2024 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 had a completed child review (combined total less than 1% of all children). White and Hispanic or Latinx children were underrepresented. Note that children identified as Hispanic or 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 Hispanic or Latinx origin as a standalone race category (not duplicated in multiple categories).

Racial Identification	Count of Children with Completed Reviews in FY2024	Estimate of Children in SC General Population (Kids Count 2023)
American Indian or Alaska Native	2 (0.1%)	0.3%
Asian	1 (< 0.1%)	1.9%
Black or African American	1104 (35.0%)	27.9%
Hispanic or Latinx	99 (3.1%)	12.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	7 (0.2%)	0.1%
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	383 (12.1%)	4.5%
White	1560 (49.4%)	53.3%

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, Black or African American males were underrepresented and White males were overrepresented. Slight disproportionality was also noted in the other race groups; however, this finding is impacted by the relatively low number of children reviewed from each of these groups.

Racial Identification	Count of All Children Reviewed in FY24	Count of Male Children	Count of Female Children
American Indian or Alaska Native	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Asian	1 (< 0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Black or African American	1104 (35.0%)	534 (33.7%)	570 (36.3%)
Hispanic or Latinx	99 (3.1%)	39 (2.5%)	60 (3.8%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	7 (0.2%)	4 (0.3%)	3 (0.2%)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	383 (12.1%)	199 (12.5%)	184 (11.7%)
White	1560 (49.4%)	808 (50.9%)	752 (47.9%)

CHILD AGE AT TIME OF LAST REVIEW

Our analysis of age is based on children's age, in years, at the child's most recent completed review. In FY2024, the average age for children on the date of their review meeting was 9.4 years (standard deviation of 5.6), 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 information about children in care. The most recent data available from this source is included in the table below for comparison. Nearly a third (30%) of the children were younger than 5 at the time of their most recent completed review. Relative to the overall population of South Carolina children in foster care, infants under 1 year old were disproportionately underrepresented while 17 year olds disproportionately overrepresented. Standard Deviation (SD) is a measure of the variation of all values in a dataset relative to the mean or average of that dataset. Low SD indicates that the values in the dataset are close to the average while a high SD indicates that the values are spread out over a wider range. Additional detail regarding age at time of review is available in the Appendix.

Age Category	Count of Children by Age Group on Date of Most Recent Review	2023 General Population SC Children	SC Children in Foster Care on 7/1/2023 by Age Group	2023 United States Children in Foster Care by Age Group	2023 General Population US Children
< 5 Years	934 (30%)	291,612 (24%)	1110 (30%)	unavailable	18,511,160 (24%)
5 - 10 Years	741 (24%)	313,144 (26%)	854 (23%)	unavailable	20,152,757 (26%)
10 - 15 Years	742 (24%)	327,903 (27%)	929 (25%)	unavailable	20,834,564 (27%)
15+ Years*	739 (23%)	281,544 (23%)	793 (22%)	unavailable	17,690,865 (23%)

*KIDS COUNT Data for 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

At the time of their most recent review during FY2024, girls were slightly younger on average than girls reviewed in FY2023, while boys were slightly older on average (does not include duplication for children who were reviewed multiple times during the fiscal year). Consistent with the prior year, girls also tended to be older than boys on average, (girls were about seven months older than boys).

Gender	FY2023 Average Age in Years (SD)	FY2024 Average Age in Years (SD)
Female	9.9 (5.7)	9.7 (5.7)
Male	8.9 (5.4)	9.1 (5.5)

Age and Race

As with gender, age differences across racial groups may correspond with children's experiences in foster care. In FY2024, American Indian or Alaska Native children were younger on average when compared to other racial groups. American Indian or Alaska Native children were the youngest group with an average age of 4.7 years. The relatively small number of American Indian or Alaska Native children likely contributed to this finding. On average, Hispanic or Latinx children were the oldest group with an average age of 12.6 years. Only one child reviewed during FY2024 identified as Asian, so the average age for this group (13 years) represents just one child's age at the time of his most recent review.

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 Multi-Racial children, girls in care were older than boys on average. The age difference was greatest among American Indian or Alaska Native children and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander children. Both of these groups included a relatively small number of children. Only two children reviewed during FY2024 identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, so the average age for boys in this group (1.2 years) and girls in this group (8.2 years) represents just one child of each gender. Only seven children reviewed during FY2024 identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (three girls with an average age of 12.3 years and four boys with average age of 8.5 years). On average, girls in each racial group were about six to nine months older than boys except in the case of Multi-Racial children where boys were an average of about five months older than girls.

Racial Identification	All Children Average Age in Years (SD)	Female Children Average Age (SD)	Male Children Average Age (SD)
American Indian or Alaska Native	4.7 (4.9)	8.2 (N/A)	1.2 (N/A)
Asian	13.0 (N/A)	N/A	13.0 (N/A)
Black or African American	9.8 (5.6)	10.1 (5.7)	9.3 (5.5)
Hispanic or Latinx	12.6 (5.0)	12.9 (5.0)	12.3 (4.9)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	10.1 (3.9)	12.3 (3.1)	8.5 (4.0)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	8.7 (5.5)	8.5 (5.7)	8.9 (5.4)
White	9.2 (5.5)	9.4 (5.6)	8.9 (5.5)

DURATION OF STAY IN FOSTER CARE

Shorter durations of stay in foster care are associated with better outcomes for children. In this section, we include information about average and median durations of stay. Averages are impacted by outliers (children in care for periods of time much shorter than the average or much longer than the average), so it is important to also consider the median length of stay. The data for children with the longest stays in foster care skew the averages, and this may distort our understanding of typical trends. For all children reviewed in FY2024, the average duration of stay at the time of the child's most recent review was 24.2 months (SD 21.3), and the median duration was 17.3 months. The shortest duration was 1.8 months (siblings who were reviewed earlier than the typical four to six months after entering foster care because they experienced a foster care re-entry after a brief return home). The longest duration was 194.4 months (16 years, 2 months, and 5 days).

Distribution of Duration of Stay

Once a child enters foster care, the goal is to achieve permanency (foster care exit) as soon as safely possible. For this reason, most children who enter foster care tend to exit after a short period. Slightly more than one third of children reviewed (35.9%) had been in foster care for less than one year at the time of their most recent review. Slightly less than one third of children reviewed (29.3%) had been in foster care between one and two years. About one in nine children reviewed (11.6%) had been in foster care for more than four years at the time of their most recent review during the fiscal year. The percentage of children in care longer than four years continued to trend down.

Length of Stay in Foster Care at Time of Most Recent Review	FY2024 Count of Children	FY2024 Percent of Children
Less than 1 Year	1134	35.9%
1 to 2 Years	924	29.3%
2 to 3 Years	492	15.6%
3 to 4 Years	240	7.6%
4 or More Years	366	11.6%

Race and Duration of Stay

Duration of stay differs slightly across racial groups. At the time of most recent review, Hispanic or Latinx children had the highest average and highest median length of stay in care. Small numbers of children reviewed correlated with lower average and median durations of stay. Only seven Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander children were reviewed, and this group had the lowest average and median duration of stay.

Gender and Duration of Stay

Additionally, differences in duration of stay were observable across gender. At the time of most recent review, boys had an average duration of 25.1 months (SD 22.4), about two months longer than girls' average duration of 23.3 months (SD 20.1). Median duration was 17.5 months for boys and 17.2 months for girls.

Racial Identification	Children Reviewed	Average Duration (SD)	Median Duration
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	8.1 Months (4.1)	8.1 Months
Asian	1	10.4 Months (N/A)	10.4 Months
Black or African American	1104	24.5 Months (23.4)	16.7 Months
Hispanic or Latinx	99	27.9 Months (21.0)	21.9 Months
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	7	6.8 Months (4.5)	5.1 Months
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	383	24.8 Months (20.8)	18.3 Months
White	1560	23.7 Months (19.8)	17.5 Months

15 out of 22 Months

Most children who interact with the child welfare system never enter foster care. Placement in foster care is intended to be reserved only for the most severe cases of child maltreatment where it is not possible for a child to remain safely in their home or with kin/fictive kin with measures in place to eliminate threats to the child's safety. Many of the children who do enter foster care exit within the first few months and, therefore never receive a case review by the FCRB. The children with the longest durations of stay are presumably children whose family situation remains unsafe, preventing reunification, and no kin or fictive kin placement is feasible. When a child has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, federal child welfare law requires that DSS petition the Family Court to terminate the child's parents' rights, absent compelling reason(s) to continue with a plan of Reunification. This "15/22 rule" heavily impacts the child's permanency path. To best understand the impact of this "15/22 rule" on child permanency, we look further than the duration of stay at each individual child's most recent review and instead consider the duration of stay at all foster care board reviews that the child experienced during the fiscal year. Of the 4585 child reviews completed during FY2024, 2702 of the children (58.9%) had been in foster care for at least 15 consecutive months at the time of their review meeting, and review board members recommended most of these children for a permanent plan of Adoption. We explore board recommendations more closely in the next section.



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

BOARD PERMANENCY PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

In FY2024, FCRB members completed 4585 child reviews for children in foster care (1772 children were reviewed once and 1384 children were reviewed multiple times). An additional 1005 review meetings scheduled to occur were continued for a variety of reasons, and another 116 meetings were canceled due to hazardous weather or scheduling issues. At the review meetings that were completed, 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 permanency plan may differ for siblings given their unique circumstances.

Permanency recommendations for children are grouped into five categories: Reunification, Adoption, Relative Custody/ Guardianship, Non-Relative Custody/ Guardianship, and APPLA (Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement). APPLA is reserved for youth 16 and older. This plan involves making intensive, ongoing efforts to achieve the other plans of Reunification, Adoption, and Relative Custody/ Guardianship. According to Section 63-11-720(A)(3) of the SC Children's Code, the most preferred permanent plans for children are reunification (when in the child's best interest) and adoption.

Recommendations for the permanency plan of Non-Relative Custody were made for only 20 children statewide. About one in four recommendations were for Reunification. About three in five recommendations were for Adoption. The total number of permanency recommendations declined again in FY2024, an anticipated trend given the steady decline in the total number of children in foster care in South Carolina since 2019. A look at the board recommendations made over the three most recent fiscal years reveals an increase in the rate of Relative Custody/ Guardianship recommendations and a decrease in the rate of Adoption recommendations. Relative Custody/Guardianship recommendations nearly doubled since FY2022 (from 5.4% in FY2022 to 9.1% in FY2024). Adoption recommendations declined 5.6% since FY2022. Changes in the rates of Reunification, APPLA, and Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship recommendations were minimal.

Since reviews are scheduled to occur within four to six months of foster care entry and then again every six months after the first review, many children were reviewed more than once during FY2024. Children who received multiple reviews during the fiscal year are counted in the subsequent permanency recommendations data multiple times (counted once per review completed).

Board Recommendation Category	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024
Reunification	1221 (21.2%)	1222 (23.0%)	1023 (22.3%)
Adoption	3684 (64.0%)	3273 (61.5%)	2677 (58.4%)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	313 (5.4%)	326 (6.1%)	419 (9.1%)
Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship	18 (0.3%)	8 (0.2%)	20 (0.4%)
APPLA	518 (9.0%)	490 (9.2%)	446 (9.7%)
Total Recommendations Made	5754	5319	4585

Gender and Recommendations

As expected, FCRB members reviewed more boys than girls (since there are more boys in the general population of South Carolina and more boys in foster care). Proportionally, minimal differences in permanency plan recommendations were noted across gender. Boys were recommended for Adoption at a slightly higher rate than girls, while girls were recommended for APPLA at a slightly higher rate than boys.

Board Recommendation	Male	Female
Reunification	522 (22.5%)	501 (22.2%)
Adoption	1383 (59.5%)	1294 (57.2%)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	208 (9.0%)	211 (9.3%)
APPLA	207 (8.9%)	239 (10.6%)
Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship	4 (0.2%)	16 (0.7%)
Total	2324	2261

Age and Recommendations

Children who received Reunification recommendations 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 about ten months younger on average than those who received a recommendation of Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship. The relatively small number of Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship recommendations (20) might account for this difference in average ages.

Board Recommendation	Average Age at Time of Review (SD)
Reunification	8.0 (5.2)
Adoption	8.3 (5.1)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	11.2 (5.2)
Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship	12.0 (5.3)
APPLA	17.1 (0.8)
Total	9.4 (5.6)

Race and Recommendations

Considering recommendations across racial groups reveals important differences in frequency and proportionality. For example, Hispanic or Latinx children received APPLA recommendations at a disproportionately high frequency. This finding was not especially surprising since Hispanic or Latinx children also had a significantly higher average age at time of review, therefore, a higher proportion of Hispanic or Latinx children met the minimum age requirement for an APPLA recommendation. The average age of children in each racial group, percent of children aged 16 and older, and percent of children in care 15 or more consecutive months may have been factors that contributed to differences in permanency recommendation rates.

Board Recommendation	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latinx	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races "Multi-racial"	White
Reunification	1 (50.0%)	1 (100%)	364 (23.3%)	37 (23.7%)	0 (0.0%)	120 (22.1%)	500 (21.6%)
Adoption	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	834 (53.4%)	69 (44.2%)	4 (57.1%)	331 (61.0%)	1439 (62.2%)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	1 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	170 (10.9%)	11 (7.1%)	3 (42.9%)	52 (9.6%)	182 (7.9%)
Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.3%)	4 (2.6%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.6%)	8 (0.3%)
APPLA	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	188 (12.0%)	35 (22.4%)	0 (0.0%)	37 (6.8%)	186 (8.0%)
Total	2	1	1561	156	7	543	2315



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY

BARRIERS

FCRB members and FCRD staff identify opportunities for improvement within the foster care system through identifying Barriers to Permanency (BPs), a set of obstacles affecting progress toward permanency. All BPs are identified based on information provided to FCRD by DSS and obtained during reviews with interested parties. BPs 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. This work was formerly done through the identification of Areas of Concern (AoCs); however, the AoCs were largely compliance driven and limited both in their ability to identify broader systemwide issues and their ability to identify root causes of permanency delays. During FY2023, FCRD staff collaborated with DSS leadership to develop the BPs which are better suited to identifying systemic root causes impeding permanent placements and to help FCRB/FCRD more clearly articulate opportunities for advocacy and policy change necessary to expedite permanency. The BPs replaced AoCs on July 1, 2023, and the current iteration of the BPs was implemented in February 2024. CAMS database enhancements took longer to restructure, so the BPs were only partially built into CAMS during FY2024, limiting FCRD staff's ability to fully document BPs in the database. For this reason, the data available regarding BPs is also limited. The CAMS build for BPs will be completed during the first quarter of FY2025, making future BP documentation and data reporting possible.

Categories

The BP system nests individual Barriers to Permanency within three categories. Category 1 includes barriers related to Reasonable Efforts, Category 2 includes barriers related to Placement and Category 3 includes barriers related to Permanency. Due to CAMS limitations, BP data from the first two quarters of FY2024 is unavailable. Data from Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 indicates that 42.8% of all identified barriers fell under Category 3: Permanency.

BP Category	FY2024 (Q3 and Q4)
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	37.7%
Category 2: Placement	19.5%
Category 3: Permanency	42.8%

Requirements

Category 1: Reasonable Efforts contains three requirements.

- Requirement 1: The status of each child shall be reviewed no less than once every 6 months.
- Requirement 2: The review shall determine whether the child should remain in foster care.
- Requirement 3: The review should determine compliance with the case plan.

Category 2: Placement contains three requirements.

- Requirement 1: DSS should have legal custody and authority to make placement decisions.
- Requirement 2: The child should have a case plan designed to achieve appropriate placement.
- Requirement 3: The child should be in an appropriate placement based on type of placement, proximity to parents, best interests, and special needs.

Category 3: Permanency contains two requirements.

- Requirement 1: Children in foster care will have timely court hearings and legal proceedings so as not to delay permanency.
- Requirement 2: DSS should make efforts to acquire a permanent home and plan for permanency for legally free children.

Barriers, Barrier Types, and Causes

Within the Barrier to Permanency system, each Category is associated with a list of Barriers. Each Barrier has Barrier Type(s), and Barrier Types have Cause(s) that seek to drill down to the root cause of permanency delays. In total, there are 25 Barriers. Available data from FY2024 Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 revealed that the top Barrier was Family Not Making Progress with Case Plan, which accounted for nearly a fourth of all identified barriers (22.3%).

Category	Barrier	Percent of All Identified Barriers FY2024 (Q3 & Q4)
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	Family Not Making Progress with Case Plan	22.3%
Category 3: Permanency	Merits Hearing	10.7%
Category 2: Placement	Best Interests	10.5%
Category 3: Permanency	Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Hearing	6.9%
Category 3: Permanency	Adoption Referral	5.4%
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	Family Engagement, Case Planning	5.1%
Category 3: Permanency	Permanency Plan	5.1%
Category 3: Permanency	Permanency Planning Hearing	4.9%
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	Not Necessary for Child to Remain in Care	4.5%
Category 2: Placement	Type of placement	3.6%
Category 3: Permanency	Unable to find an adoptive resource	3.6%
Category 2: Placement	Proximity to family	3.0%
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	No timely administrative review	2.8%
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	Family Connections	2.6%
Category 3: Permanency	APPLA is the permanent plan and Chafee services have not been assessed for or utilized adequately	2.4%
Category 3: Permanency	Child Specific Recruitment Efforts	1.9%
Category 2: Placement	Special Needs	1.7%
Category 3: Permanency	Adoption Services Referral Not Accepted	1.1%
Category 3: Permanency	Other Legal Concerns	0.9%
Category 2: Placement	Case Plan Not Designed to Achieve Appropriate Placement	0.6%
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	Court Order	0.2%
Category 1: Reasonable Efforts	Needed Services Not Provided	0.2%
Category 2: Placement	Legal authority/custody	0.0%
Category 3: Permanency	Legally free but not on active recruitment	0.0%
Category 3: Permanency	Probable Cause Hearing	0.0%

The Barrier Types indicate that the primary issue behind the Family Not Making Progress with Case Plan delay was that the parent(s) chose not to be compliant with the case plan (meaning no other external barrier prevented compliance). Additional detail regarding BPs is available in the Appendices.

Barrier: Family Not Making Progress with Case Plan	FY2024 (Q3 and Q4)
Barrier Type: Choosing Not to Make Progress with Case Plan	75.0%
Barrier Type: Unable to Access Services	2.9%
Barrier Type: Unidentified (Other external barrier)	22.1%



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

REVIEW TIMELINESS

REVIEWS NOT TIMELY

The FCRB aims to hold an initial review meeting for every child within four to six months of their foster care entry date. Review meetings are scheduled for children every six months thereafter. Occasionally, review meetings do not occur as scheduled, and this is referred to as cancelled or a continued reviews. During FY2024, 116 child reviews were canceled, most frequently because the child exited foster care prior to the review date but after the final review agenda had already been distributed. There were 636 instances of continued case review meetings in FY2024 affecting 1005 children (duplicated if the child experienced multiple continuances during the fiscal year). This 17.6% continuance rate in FY2024 is a 2% decrease from the FY2023 continuance rate, demonstrating improvement in this measure.

Reasons for Continuance

The most frequent reason for review continuance was non-receipt of an advance review packet from the child's foster care case manager, which accounted for 76.8% of continued reviews. FCRD coordinators are unable to adequately prepare for a review without the information contained in the required advance review packet. To help address this issue, the division is partnering with DSS on an initiative that will allow the FCRD database to interface directly with the DSS child welfare database, sharing both information and documents, with the end goal of fully automating the advance review packets. The work for this database integration is underway and the first stage of implementation is expected to occur in fiscal year 2025.

The second most frequent reason for continuance was DSS Staff Not Present (6.5%) followed by Required Party Not in Attendance (4.9%). Other less common reasons for continuance included: Required Party Not Invited (4.6%), Review Board Did Not Meet Quorum (3.5%), and Lack of Pertinent Information (1.7%). The four child reviews continued for Other Reason were a sibling group where the review was held but the board members did not reach a decision on the permanency recommendation. The three child reviews continued for Unexpected Emergency were a sibling group where the children's case manager had a medical emergency just before the time of the review and her team leader was unable to stand in and present the case for her on short notice. Further information about review cancelations and continuances in FY2024 is available in the Appendices.

Reason for Continued Review	Count
No Advance Review Packet Received	772 (76.8%)
DSS Staff Not Present	65 (6.5%)
Required Party Not in Attendance	49 (4.9%)
Required Party Not Invited	46 (4.6%)
Review Board Did Not Meet Quorum	35 (3.5%)
Lack of Pertinent Information	17 (1.7%)
Parent's Guardian <i>ad Litem</i> Not Invited	9 (0.9%)
Key Party Requested Continuance	5 (0.5%)
Other Reason	4 (0.4%)
Unexpected Emergency	3 (0.3%)
Total	1005

Canceled Reviews

In FY2024, 99 child reviews were canceled due to scheduling issues (mostly related to foster care exits prior to the review date) and 17 child reviews were canceled due to hazardous weather. The virtual review format allowed several reviews to be held despite hazardous weather conditions, but this was not possible for every case due to issues with internet and power connections or other challenges.

Review Status	Count	Percent
Completed Reviews	4585	80.4%
Continued Reviews	1005	17.6%
Canceled Reviews	116	2.0%
Total	5706	100%

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

SOUTH CAROLINA HEART GALLERY

Since July 2005, 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, led by Program Coordinator Christina Grant, recruits photographers who volunteer to take photos of the children at scenic locations around the state. Since FY2023, SCHG has partnered with Grant Me Hope, a nonprofit organization that creates videos of children who are legally free for adoption. These videos provide even stronger connections with prospective families. Staff share the photos and videos on the SCHG's website and social media accounts, partner with media outlets for broadcast, 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. The public can view the online gallery at <https://scheartgallery.sc.gov/>.

Gallery Photo and Video Shoots

During FY2024, SCHG facilitated a total of nine group photo sessions and two private photo sessions, with sessions held in each region of the state. Photo and video shoots seek to capture the children's personalities and stories, making them more visible to potential adoptive families. Private sessions are held for individual children who require special accommodations to participate. In all, SCHG was able to produce photos for more than 50 children and videos for 38 children to add to the gallery over the course of the year. During the fiscal year, the SCHG's efforts to promote adoption resulted in a substantial number of online inquiries and home study referrals from potential adoptive families. A total of 851 online inquiries were received in response to photos and videos featured in the gallery (more than double the inquiries received during FY2023), resulting in 79 home studies provided to DSS and 613 referrals to Heartfelt Calling (the organization contracted to initiate adoptive and foster parent licensure in SC).



FCRD Director Lindsey Taylor, Senator Katrina Shealy, Claude Cumbee (SCHG Intern), SCHG Coordinator Christina Grant, Columbiana Center General Manager Taryn Trefethen-Boileau, Columbiana Center Property Manager Amy Traynham, and State Child Advocate and DCA Director Amanda Whittle at the Heart Gallery Exhibit grand opening event at Columbiana Center, September 2023



Program Coordinator Christina Grant (aka Mrs. Incredible) with representatives from the Richland County Sheriffs Department



Program Coordinator Christina Grant and Program Assistant Kaylynn Knight at the Soda City Touch-a-Truck event

Community Outreach

SCHG also actively participated in various community events and hosted a number of exhibits to raise awareness and promote adoption throughout the fiscal year. In September, State Child Advocate and DCA Director Amanda Whittle J.D. and Senator Katrina Shealy joined the FCRD team for the Heart Gallery exhibit's grand opening event at the Columbiana Center in Columbia. The event was covered by WACHFOX57 and ABC25 Columbia, greatly expanding the program's reach through each broadcast.

In October, Program Coordinator Christina Grant (also known as Mrs. Incredible) and team joined with other partners to participate in Trunk-or-Treat events with multiple DSS offices, including the central office. Through these events, Christina had the opportunity to share information about the Heart Gallery and meet directly with children in foster care, foster parents, and potential adoptive parents. A mobile Heart Gallery

exhibit was displayed at the Flourishing Families Conference in November.

In April, the SCHG team participated in the Touch-a-Truck event hosted by the Harbison Community Association in Columbia. The event reached many children and families throughout the community, and increased Heart Gallery exposure.

Throughout the fiscal year, South Carolina Heart Gallery made significant progress in its mission to recruit loving families for children who have legal clearance for adoption. Through photo and video shoots, online engagement, and community events, SCHG continues to raise awareness and connect waiting children with forever families. With the ongoing support of dedicated partners, volunteers, and the community, the SCHG continues to grow and enhance service to children awaiting adoption.



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Board Contributions

The State Board of Directors for Foster Care Review Board encourages each of the 43 local review boards to develop an annual Community Contribution Plan (CCP) to guide the volunteer board members' advocacy activities throughout the year. The CCP activities are chosen by the board members, often in collaboration with representatives from DSS, and designed to benefit children involved in the foster care system throughout South Carolina. During FY2024, board members contributed over 900 volunteer hours combined, served nearly 3000 hours participating in review meetings, and volunteered over 1200 hours to participate in agency led trainings. Many board members participated in events across the state during Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) and Foster Care Month (May) to help raise awareness. Board member Greg Bearden (10A) wrote an article for his local paper in Oconee to highlight May as National Foster Care month and further raise awareness. Several board members met with family court judges, legislators, DSS leadership, guardians *ad litem*, and other partners throughout the year in an effort to strengthen partnerships, engage in legal advocacy, and enhance collaboration. A number of boards made donations to the South Carolina Heart Gallery so that children would have snacks and toys to play with during the photo shoots. Other boards participated in service projects to meet specific needs identified in the counties served by their board. In April, Board 05B partnered with the Richland County Sheriff's Department to collect books for children and youth in foster care. The books were donated to the Richland DSS office so the children and youth could access them during visits to the office.



Richland County Sheriff Deputy Monica Parker (left) and FCRD Coordinator Nina Spinelli (right) unload a book donation for Richland County children.



Richland DSS Foster Care Team Coordinator Katheleen Beard accepted the book donation and helped distribute the books to children in care.



Kershaw DSS Foster Care Team Leader Shanika Goodman, FCRB 05E and State Board member Mary Long, 05E board members Laurie Parks and Megan Keys (on the computer screen), Kershaw County DSS team member Kimberly Loynes, and FCRD Coordinator Skylar Ackerson (pictured above) met together in December to share \$1500 in gift cards that the board members collected to help meet the needs of youth in foster care. This same board (pictured below alongside Kershaw DSS Team Leader Shanika Goodman and Team Coordinator Marilyn Corley-Williams) also facilitated a donation drive in February to collect suitcases and backpacks for children and youth in foster care in hopes of eliminating the use of trash bags for packing and transporting their belongings.





Andrea Williams (Board 05C) and SCHG Program Coordinator Christina Grant, distributed snacks to children during a Heart Gallery photo shoot in April. The FCRD team joined volunteer photographers and local board members to conduct a Heart Gallery photo shoot for more than 20 children who are now featured on the SC Heart Gallery website.



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION STATE BOARD

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) includes a seven-member volunteer State Board of Directors, confirmed by the state Senate and appointed by the governor, tasked with making 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 two vacancies. One seat was filled during this fiscal year.



Andrea McCoy
*State Chair
6th Congressional District*

Andrea McCoy holds a bachelor's degree 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 FY24 marked her 7th year serving as a state board member. She is a program manager with a global pharmaceutical company, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), 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, serves as a member of the Human Rights Committee of Sevita (formerly S.C. Mentor), and serves on the Executive Board of Trustees of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road. Andrea has repeatedly been recognized for her community service with awards and accolades; however, she is most proud of 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 daughter, Dr. Alexis McCoy-Pickett, and son-in-law, Derrick Pickett. Andrea is a loving GiGi to her grandson, Theodore.



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 Trinity 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 34 years. She has two sons, Doug and John, 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.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION STATE BOARD



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 States 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 27 years and was appointed to State Board in 2022. He also volunteered at the Greenwood county solicitor's office with the Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) 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 supporter of Connie Maxwell Baptist Church which is located on the campus of Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries. He raised four girls (Angela, Zena, Shonda, and Sakari) and one son (George) in Greenwood County.



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 over 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 48 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, currently resides in Roswell, GA. 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.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION STATE BOARD



John F. Seignious III
1st Congressional District

During FY2024, John Seignious III became the newest member of the State Board. John was initially appointed to serve as a volunteer board member in 1983, and he continues to serve on Board 09A for Charleston County children. He was recognized as the SC Children's Foster Care Review Board Member of the Year in 2016. In addition to serving on Board 09A, John filled in as substitute for absent board members for 310 case review meetings on 11 different boards during the fiscal year, serving children in Richland, Laurens, Dorchester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Greenville, Spartanburg, Calhoun, Orangeburg, and Marion counties. While volunteer board members typically serve on reviews one day per month, John served on reviews an average of one day per week during FY2024. John currently resides in Mt. Pleasant, SC with his wife whom he has known since the first grade, and together they have two children (John IV "Jeff" and Lisa), two grandchildren (Haylee and Tanner), and one great-grandchild (Hadley). John is a member of the ELKS Lodge, the German Friendly Society, the Ancient Order of Hibernian, the Fort Sumter Camp Sons of the Confederacy, Marion Marauders Society, and formerly a member of the SC Irish Society and Quis-Qui of Charleston. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, scuba diving, traveling, socializing, and piloting airplanes. His favorite quote is, "To thine own self be true".



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION STATE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION STATE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The State Board's FY2024 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.

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. As with the previous year's recommendations, 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 children 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 (continued from FY2023):

- 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

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION STATE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

value of Foster Care Review Boards' ability to engage in person with DSS staff and other partners. During FY2023, the BOD recommended the Division conduct surveys of participants after piloting a hybrid review model. This work occurred during the first half of FY2024 and the feedback received was utilized to drive the decision to proceed with a fully virtual review format moving forward. This move was favored by the participants and survey respondents due to the enhanced flexibility and accessibility for families and external partners.

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 families, external partners, and 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 FCRD staff, review board members, and State Board members. The BOD has noted significant progress on this goal through the onboarding of a Training & Volunteer Coordinator within the Division who is dedicated to achieving these tasks.



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**DIVISION OF
FOSTER CARE REVIEW
FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT
APPENDICES**



South Carolina Division of

**FOSTER CARE
REVIEW**

Dept. of Children's Advocacy





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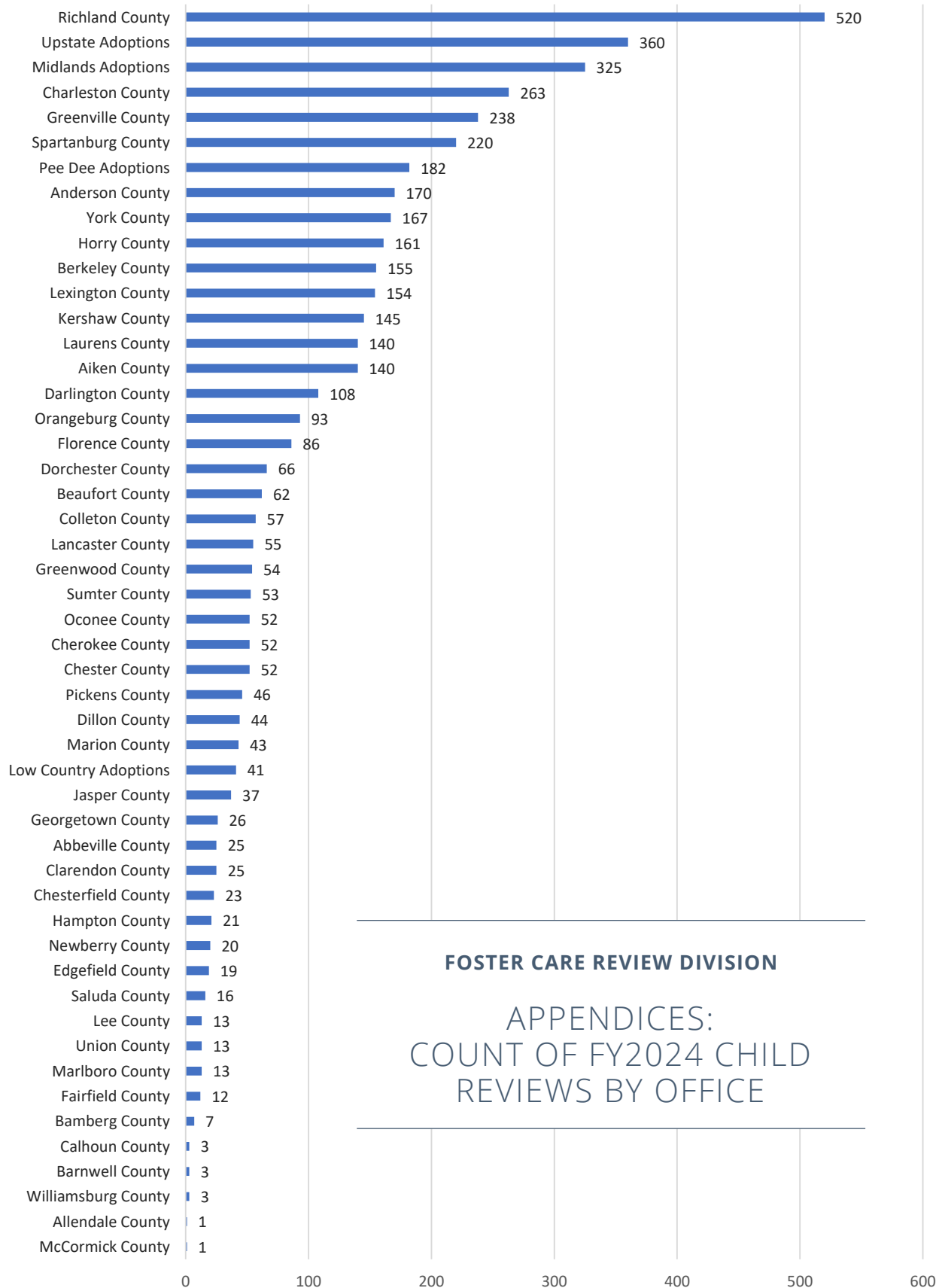
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FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

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Age of Child at Time of Most Recent Review

Age Category	Count	Percent
Under 1 Year	182	4.0%
1 Year	358	7.8%
2 Years	286	6.2%
3 Years	282	6.2%
4 Years	240	5.2%
5 Years	213	4.6%
6 Years	211	4.6%
7 Years	208	4.5%
8 Years	213	4.6%
9 Years	222	4.8%
10 Years	161	3.5%
11 Years	212	4.6%
12 Years	217	4.7%
13 Years	229	5.0%
14 Years	289	6.3%
15 Years	326	7.1%
16 Years	365	8.0%
17 Years	364	7.9%
18 Years	7	0.2%
Total Children Reviewed	4585	100%

Age at Time of Most Recent Review by Group

Age Category	Count	Percent
< 5 Years	1348	29.4%
5 to 10 Years	1067	23.3%
10 to 15 Years	1108	24.2%
15 to 18 Years	1062	23.2%
Total Children Reviewed	4585	100%

Race and Gender of Children Reviewed

Racial Identification	Male	Female
American Indian or Alaska Native	1 (< 0.1%)	1 (< 0.1%)
Asian	1 (< 0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Black or African American	758 (32.6%)	803 (35.5%)
Hispanic or Latinx	63 (2.7%)	93 (4.1%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4 (0.2%)	3 (0.1%)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	280 (12.0%)	263 (11.6%)
White	1217 (52.4%)	1098 (48.6%)
Total Children Reviewed	2324	2261

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	1.2 (N/A)	8.2 (N/A)
Asian	13.0 (N/A)	N/A
Black or African American	9.3 (5.6)	10.2 (5.6)
Hispanic or Latinx	12.3 (4.6)	13.1 (4.5)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	8.5 (4.0)	12.3 (3.1)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	9.1 (5.5)	8.3 (5.7)
White	8.9 (5.5)	9.4 (5.5)
Total Children Reviewed	9.7 (5.7)	9.1 (5.5)

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES:
BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:
RACE AND GENDER

Permanency Recommendations Across Race

Permanency Recommendation	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latinx	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	White
Adoption	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	834 (53.4%)	69 (44.2%)	4 (57.1%)	331 (61.0%)	1439 (62.2%)
Reunification	1 (50.0%)	1 (100%)	364 (23.3%)	37 (23.7%)	0 (0.0%)	120 (22.1%)	500 (21.6%)
Relative Custody/Guardianship	1 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	170 (10.9%)	11 (7.1%)	3 (42.9%)	52 (9.6%)	182 (7.9%)
Non-Relative Custody/Guardianship	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.3%)	4 (2.6%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.6%)	8 (0.3%)
APPLA	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	188 (12.0%)	35 (22.4%)	0 (0.0%)	37 (6.8%)	186 (8.0%)
Total Recommendations	2	1	1561	156	7	543	2315

Race and Gender Across
Reunification Recommendations

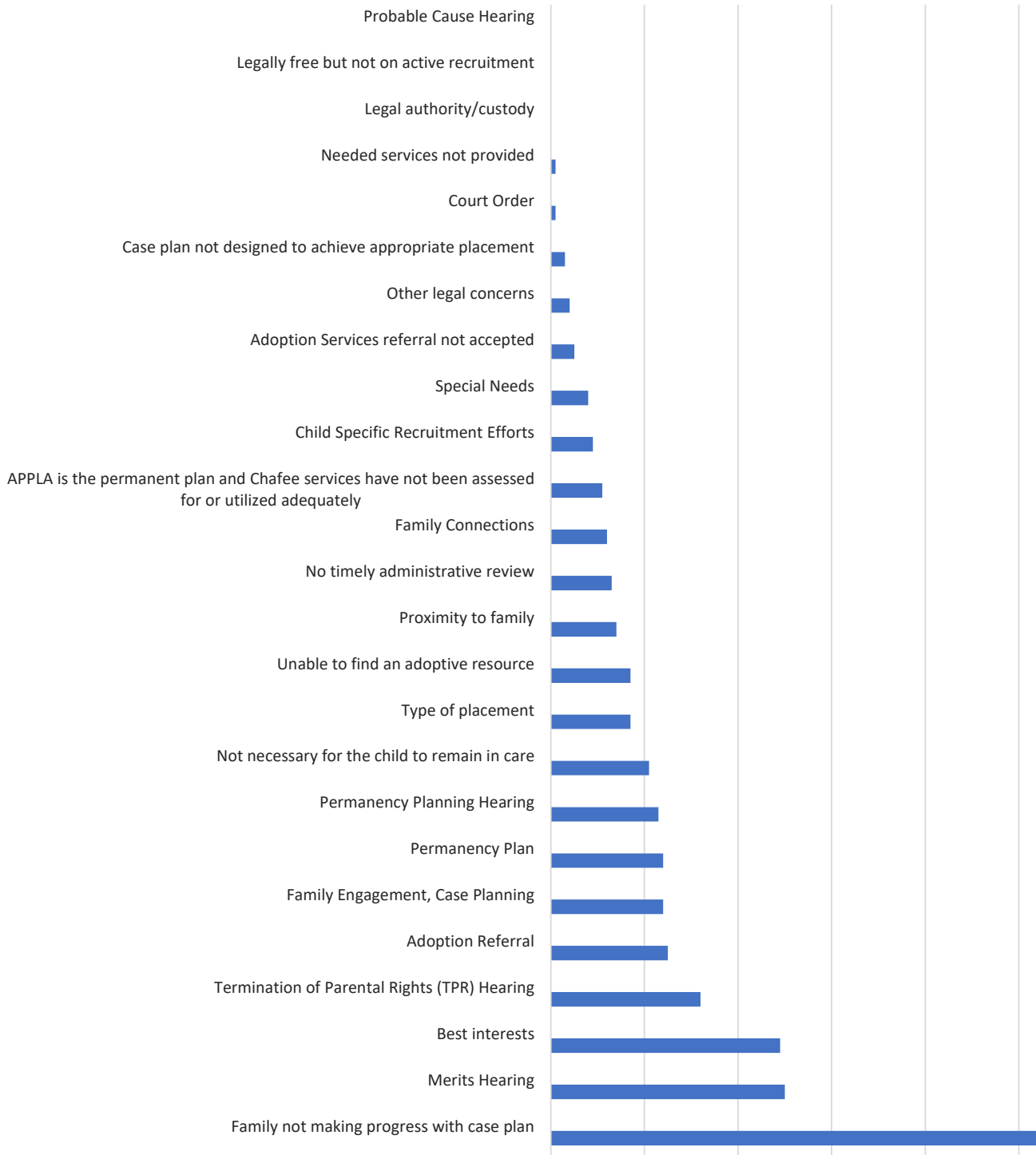
Race	Female	Male
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1 (100%)	0 (0.0%)
Asian	0 (0.0%)	1 (100%)
Black or African American	185 (50.8%)	179 (49.2%)
Hispanic or Latinx	19 (51.4%)	18 (48.6%)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	54 (45.0%)	66 (55.0%)
White	242 (48.4%)	258 (51.6%)
Total	501 (49%)	522 (51%)

Race and Gender Across
Adoption Recommendations

Race	Female	Male
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Asian	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)
Black or African American	411 (49.3%)	423 (50.7%)
Hispanic or Latinx	39 (56.5%)	30 (43.5%)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1 (25.0%)	3 (75.0%)
Two or More Races "Multi-Racial"	168 (50.8%)	163 (49.2%)
White	675 (46.9%)	764 (53.1%)
Total	1294 (48.3%)	1383 (51.7%)

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: BARRIERS IDENTIFIED DURING Q3 AND Q4 CHILD REVIEWS



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION
APPENDICES:
BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY
CATEGORY 1

Category 1: Reasonable Efforts

Requirement 1: The status of each child shall be reviewed no less than once every 6 months.

- I. Barrier: No timely administrative review
 - a. Barrier Type: Foster Care board review not held
 - i. Cause: Advance Packet not provided
 - ii. Cause: Critical information needed
 - iii. Cause: DSS staff not present
 - iv. Cause: FCRD did not schedule review timely
 - v. Cause: Invitations not sent
 - vi. Cause: Quorum
 - vii. Cause: Unpreventable emergency
 - viii. Cause: Weather
 - ix. Cause: Other

Requirement 2: The review shall determine whether the child should remain in foster care.

- I. Barrier: Court Order
 - a. Barrier Type: Court order missing required language
 - b. Barrier Type: No court order
 - i. Cause: Hearing not held
 - ii. Cause: Order not issued
- II. Barrier: Family Connections
 - a. Barrier Type: Concerted efforts to find or engage absent parent
 - i. Cause: Delayed assessment of non-custodial parent
 - ii. Cause: No assessment of non-custodial parent
 - iii. Cause: No initial concerted efforts
 - iv. Cause: No ongoing concerted efforts
 - b. Barrier Type: Concerted efforts to find or engage kin
 - i. Cause: Delayed assessment of kin
 - ii. Cause: No assessment of kin
 - iii. Cause: No initial concerted efforts
 - iv. Cause: No ongoing concerted efforts
 - c. Barrier Type: Lack of visitation with parent(s)
 - i. Cause: Child refuses visits
 - ii. Cause: Parent not attending
 - iii. Cause: Visits were not scheduled
 - iv. Cause: Court order prohibits Parent/Child contact
 - v. Cause: Other

Requirement 3: The review should determine compliance with the case plan.

- I. Barrier: Needed services not provided
 - a. Barrier Type: Services not provided timely
 - i. Cause: Delayed referral
 - ii. Cause: Services not available
 - b. Barrier Type: Referral not made
 - i. Cause: Family was not referred
 - ii. Cause: Service provider not available

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION
APPENDICES:
BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY
CATEGORY 1

Category 1: Reasonable Efforts (continued)

- c. Barrier Type: Services/goals do not address reason the child entered foster care as defined by the court findings regarding removal
 - i. Cause: Inadequate or no services provided
 - ii. Cause: Lack of knowledge about resources
 - iii. Cause: Services not available
- d. Barrier Type: Services/goals do not match needs identified by required assessment
 - i. Cause: Inadequate or no services provided
 - ii. Cause: Lack of knowledge about resources
 - iii. Cause: Services not available
 - iv. Cause: Self-reported lack of understanding about using CANS to identify needed resources
- e. Barrier Type: Other
- II. Barrier: Family Engagement, Case Planning
 - a. Barrier Type: Non-citizen child
 - i. Cause: Consulate not notified
 - ii. Cause: Child does not have an immigration attorney representing them
 - iii. Cause: Other process delay
 - b. Barrier Type: No face to face contact with Case Manager
 - c. Barrier Type: Family Permanency Plan (FPP)
 - i. Cause: No Family Permanency Plan (FPP)
 - ii. Cause: Incomplete FPP - CANS not approved
 - iii. Cause: Incomplete FPP - No assessment completed
 - iv. Cause: Incomplete FPP - No required CFTM
 - v. Cause: Incomplete FPP - Not presented to family
 - vi. Cause: Incomplete FPP - Not updated monthly
 - d. Barrier Type: Required assessment not updated timely
 - i. Cause: Delay in approval
 - ii. Cause: Self-reported lack of understanding of need for ongoing assessment
 - iii. Cause: Self-reported policy knowledge gap
 - iv. Cause: Staff turnover
- III. Barrier: Family not making progress with case plan
 - a. Barrier Type: Unable to access services
 - i. Cause: Financial constraints
 - ii. Cause: Inadequate times available
 - iii. Cause: Services not available in this area
 - iv. Cause: Transportation
 - v. Cause: Waitlist/lack of capacity
 - b. Barrier Type: Choosing not to make progress with case plan
 - i. Cause: Denial of abuse or neglect
 - ii. Cause: Denial of paternity or refusal to provide father's information
 - iii. Cause: Refusal to engage with DSS despite concerted efforts being made
 - iv. Cause: Unsuccessful discharge from services
 - v. Cause: Refusing to participate in service(s)

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY CATEGORY 2

Category 2: Placement

Requirement 1: DSS should have legal custody and authority to make placement decisions.

- I. Barrier: Legal authority/custody
 - a. Barrier Type: Indian tribe not notified as required by ICWA
 - i. Cause: Child not initially identified as ICWA eligible
 - ii. Cause: Lack of understanding of ICWA requirements

Requirement 2: The child should have a case plan designed to achieve appropriate placement.

- I. Barrier: Case plan not designed to achieve appropriate placement
 - a. Barrier Type: Placement in case plan does not match current placement
 - i. Cause: DSS inaction
 - ii. Cause: Needed placement not available
 - iii. Cause: Other
 - b. Barrier Type: Placement not adequately addressed in case plan
 - i. Cause: Inadequately addressed
 - ii. Cause: No ongoing assessment of placement
 - iii. Cause: Not included

Requirement 3: The child should be in an appropriate placement based on type of placement, proximity to parents, best interests, and special needs.

- I. Barrier: Best Interests
 - a. Barrier Type: Sibling connections
 - i. Cause: Child is not receiving sibling visits
 - ii. Cause: No foster home available for all siblings
 - iii. Cause: Not in the siblings' best interest to be placed together
 - iv. Cause: Other
 - b. Barrier Type: Child's placement is not consistent with Reasonable and Prudent Parenting requirements
 - i. Cause: Child not participating in age appropriate community activities
 - ii. Cause: Child not participating in extracurricular activities
 - iii. Cause: Child not participating in family activities
 - c. Barrier Type: Information regarding the child's best interests is unknown
 - i. Cause: Inadequate/no assessment completed
 - ii. Cause: Information unknown
- II. Barrier: Proximity to Family
 - a. Barrier Type: Not placed in same county as parents
 - i. Cause: No foster home available
 - ii. Cause: No foster home available for needs: Child/youth behaviors
 - iii. Cause: No foster home available for needs: Medically fragile
 - iv. Cause: No foster home available for needs: Mental/behavioral
 - v. Cause: No foster home available for needs: Non-English speaking
 - vi. Cause: Placed with kin
 - vii. Cause: Stable placement and do not want to disrupt
 - viii. Cause: Other

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

**APPENDICES:
BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY
CATEGORY 2**

Category 2: Placement (continued)

III. Barrier: Special needs

- a. Barrier Type: Placement is not meeting child's educational needs
 - i. Cause: Child is not enrolled or is not attending school regularly
 - ii. Cause: Child not receiving adequate educational supports
 - iii. Cause: No IEP in place
 - iv. Cause: Proper accommodations not being made
- b. Barrier Type: Placement is not meeting child's mental/behavioral health needs
 - i. Cause: Child not receiving appropriate therapy services
 - ii. Cause: Child not receiving prescribed medication: child is refusing medication
 - iii. Cause: Child not receiving prescribed medication: placement is not administering medication
 - iv. Cause: Child refusing treatment services
 - v. Cause: Placement does not offer necessary services
 - vi. Cause: Supports not put in place
- c. Barrier Type: Placement is not meeting child's medical needs
 - i. Cause: Not receiving proper medical care for chronic condition
 - ii. Cause: Not receiving timely treatment
 - iii. Cause: Placement refusing to give child prescribed medication
- d. Barrier Type: QRTP placement is not appropriate and/or is not documented appropriately
 - i. Cause: Court review did not approve placement
 - ii. Cause: No court review within 60 days
 - iii. Cause: Required written documentation is not included in the case plan
 - iv. Cause: Required written documentation is not included in the court order

IV. Barrier: Type of placement

- a. Barrier Type: Child is not in a stable placement that meets the child's needs
 - i. Cause: Child is on runaway or missing from placement
 - ii. Cause: Child refuses placement
 - iii. Cause: No appropriate placement available
 - iv. Cause: Other
- b. Barrier Type: Placement type is not appropriate based on family-like setting due to permanency plan of Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
 - i. Cause: Child is in need of treatment services that cannot be appropriately provided within the adoptive home
 - ii. Cause: Child is placed with kin where KinGap is appropriate
 - iii. Cause: Family has submitted an application for adoption but are not yet approved
 - iv. Cause: Foster parents are appealing the child being removed from their home
- c. Barrier Type: Placement type is not least restrictive setting and is not appropriate based on plan for Reunification and child's needs
- d. Barrier Type: Placement type is not least restrictive setting and is not appropriate based on viability of relative/third party placement

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY CATEGORY 3

Category 3: Permanency

Requirement 1: Children in foster care will have timely court hearings and legal proceedings so as not to delay permanency.

- I. Barrier: Permanency Plan
 - a. Barrier Type: Court ordered permanency plan is not in the child's best interests
 - b. Barrier Type: Did not forego reasonable efforts despite grounds
 - c. Barrier Type: No concurrent plan
- II. Barrier: Probable Cause Hearing
 - a. Barrier Type: Delayed Probable Cause
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Insufficient court time for trial
 - v. Cause: Other
 - b. Barrier Type: No Probable Cause
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Other
- III. Barrier: Merits Hearing
 - a. Barrier Type: Delayed Merits
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Insufficient court time for trial
 - v. Cause: Other
 - b. Barrier Type: No Merits
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Insufficient court time for trial
 - v. Cause: Other
- IV. Barrier: Permanency Planning Hearing (PPH)
 - a. Barrier Type: Delayed PPH
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Insufficient court time for trial
 - v. Cause: Other
 - b. Barrier Type: No PPH
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Insufficient court time for trial
 - v. Cause: Other

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES:
BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY
CATEGORY 3

Category 3: Permanency (continued)

- V. Barrier: Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Hearing
 - a. Barrier Type: TPR hearing not held timely
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Insufficient court time for trial
 - v. Cause: Other
 - b. Barrier Type: TPR not filed
 - i. Cause: Defendant
 - ii. Cause: DSS
 - iii. Cause: Guardian ad Litem
 - iv. Cause: Other
- VI. Barrier: Other legal concerns
 - a. Barrier Type: Child Guardian ad Litem not appointed
 - b. Barrier Type: Non-compliance with court order
 - i. Cause: DSS
 - ii. Cause: Parent/caregiver
 - iii. Cause: Other
 - c. Barrier Type: Parent Guardian ad Litem not appointed

Requirement 2: DSS should make efforts to acquire a permanent home and plan for permanency for legally free children.

- I. Barrier: Adoption referral
 - a. Barrier Type: Delayed referral
 - b. Barrier Type: No referral
- II. Barrier: Adoption services referral not accepted
 - a. Barrier Type: Child's behaviors
 - b. Barrier Type: DJJ-involved youth
 - c. Barrier Type: Merits hearing not held
 - d. Barrier Type: No legally free letter
 - i. Cause: TPR is under appeal
 - ii. Cause: Other
 - e. Barrier Type: TPR not completed
 - f. Barrier Type: Other
- III. Barrier: Legally free but not on active recruitment
 - a. Barrier Type: DJJ placement and/or criminal charges
 - b. Barrier Type: Youth refused/not interested in being adopted
 - i. Cause: Has other transition plan
 - ii. Cause: Inadequate adoption counseling
 - c. Barrier Type: Mental/behavioral health
 - d. Barrier Type: Other

FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES:
BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY
CATEGORY 3

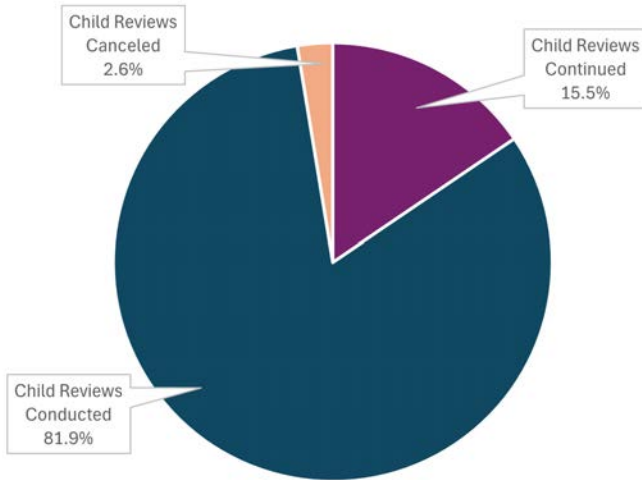
Category 3: Permanency (continued)

- IV. Barrier: APPLA is the permanent plan and Chafee services have not been assessed for or utilized adequately
 - a. Barrier Type: Inadequate assessment of youth's needs
 - b. Barrier Type: Inadequate use of available Chafee services
 - c. Barrier Type: Inappropriate plan of APPLA
 - d. Barrier Type: No transition plan for youth 17 years old
- V. Barrier: Child specific recruitment efforts
 - a. Barrier Type: Siblings not being recruited together
 - i. Cause: Children's behavioral needs cannot be met together
 - ii. Cause: Safety concern
 - iii. Cause: Other
 - b. Barrier Type: Adopt US Kids
 - c. Barrier Type: No Heart Gallery
 - d. Barrier Type: Not listed on Seedlings
 - e. Barrier Type: Wendy's Wonderful Kids
- VI. Barrier: Unable to find an adoptive resource
 - a. Barrier Type: No matching families for child's needs
 - i. Cause: Medical needs
 - ii. Cause: Mental/behavioral health needs
 - iii. Cause: LGBTQ+
 - b. Barrier Type: No matching families for age
 - c. Barrier Type: No matching families for gender
 - d. Barrier Type: No matching families for sibling group

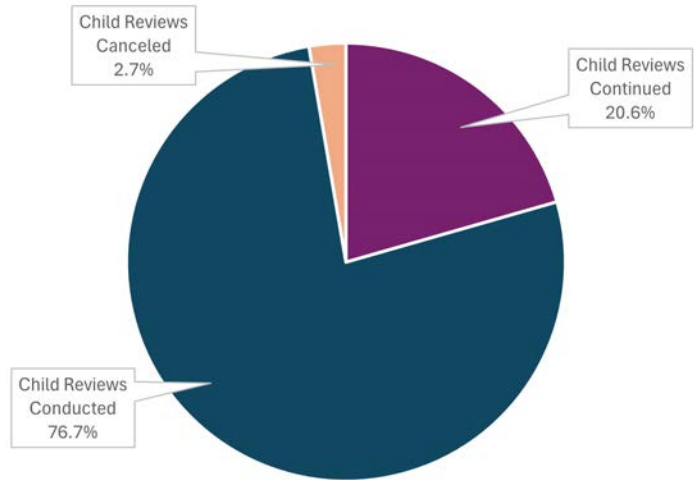
FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION

APPENDICES: CHILD REVIEW OUTCOMES BY REGION

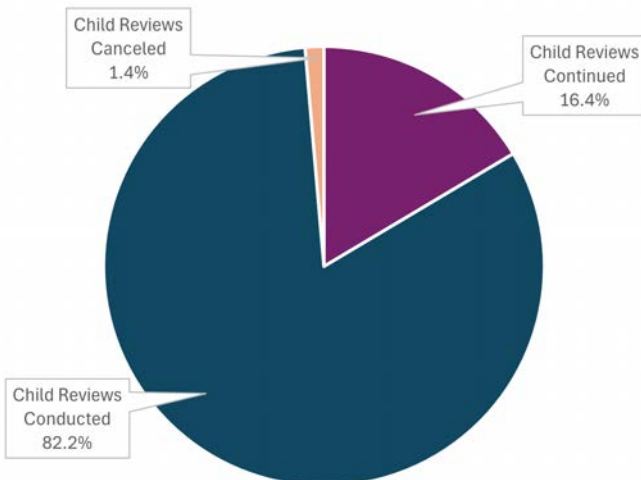
Low Country Review Outcomes



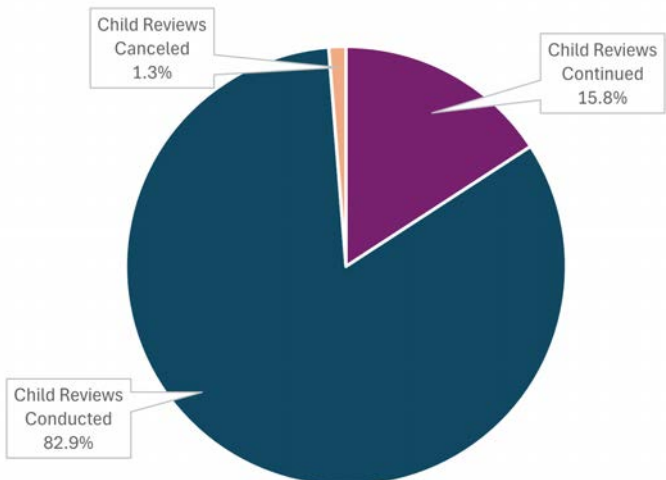
Midlands Review Outcomes



Pee Dee Review Outcomes



Upstate Review Outcomes



FOSTER CARE REVIEW DIVISION
APPENDICES:
CHILD REVIEW OUTCOMES
BY DSS OFFICE

Low Country Region	Total Child Reviews Scheduled	Child Reviews Conducted	Child Reviews Canceled	Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Low Country Adoptions	58	41	1	16	27.6%
Allendale	1	1	0	0	0.0%
Beaufort	74	62	2	10	13.5%
Berkeley	235	155	3	77	32.8%
Calhoun	4	3	0	1	25.0%
Charleston	288	263	10	15	5.2%
Colleton	57	57	0	0	0.0%
Dorchester	72	66	0	6	8.3%
Hampton	30	21	0	9	30.0%
Jasper	46	37	1	8	17.4%
Orangeburg	110	93	8	9	8.2%
Region Total	975	799	25	151	15.5%

Midlands Region	Total Child Reviews Scheduled	Child Reviews Conducted	Child Reviews Canceled	Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Midlands Adoptions	426	325	2	99	23.2%
Aiken	149	140	3	6	4.0%
Bamberg	13	7	0	6	46.2%
Barnwell	3	3	0	0	0.0%
Chester	64	52	2	10	15.6%
Edgefield	19	19	0	0	0.0%
Fairfield	15	12	0	3	20.0%
Kershaw	148	145	1	2	1.4%
Lancaster	64	55	1	8	12.5%
Lexington	178	154	3	21	11.8%
McCormick	2	1	0	1	50.0%
Richland	813	520	43	250	30.8%
Saluda	16	16	0	0	0.0%
York	196	167	2	27	13.8%
Region Total	2106	1616	57	433	20.6%

Pee Dee Region	Total Child Reviews Scheduled	Child Reviews Conducted	Child Reviews Canceled	Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Pee Dee Adoptions	262	182	1	79	30.2%
Chesterfield	23	23	0	0	0.0%
Clarendon	27	25	0	2	7.4%
Darlington	117	108	9	0	0.0%
Dillon	45	44	0	1	2.2%
Florence	97	86	2	9	9.3%
Georgetown	29	26	0	3	10.3%
Horry	217	161	1	55	25.3%
Lee	14	13	0	1	7.1%
Marion	43	43	0	0	0.0%
Marlboro	16	13	0	3	18.8%
Sumter	56	53	0	3	5.4%
Williamsburg	3	3	0	0	0.0%
Region Total	949	780	13	156	16.4%

Upstate Region	Total Child Reviews Scheduled	Child Reviews Conducted	Child Reviews Canceled	Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Upstate Adoptions	406	360	0	46	11.3%
Abbeville	28	25	0	3	10.7%
Anderson	188	170	12	6	3.2%
Cherokee	53	52	0	1	1.9%
Greenville	288	238	0	50	17.4%
Greenwood	84	54	1	29	34.5%
Laurens	186	140	1	45	24.2%
Newberry	21	20	0	1	4.8%
Oconee	52	52	0	0	0.0%
Pickens	50	46	1	3	6.0%
Spartanburg	305	220	6	79	25.9%
Union	15	13	0	2	13.3%
Region Total	1676	1390	21	265	15.8%

South Carolina	Total Child Reviews Scheduled	Child Reviews Conducted	Child Reviews Canceled	Child Reviews Continued	Percent of Child Reviews Continued
Low Country Region	975	799	25	151	15.5%
Midlands Region	2106	1616	57	433	20.6%
Pee Dee Region	949	780	13	156	16.4%
Upstate Region	1676	1390	21	265	15.8%
Total	5706	4585	116	1005	17.6%

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

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