

The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel's mission is to review our child welfare procedures throughout the system offering summaries and recommendations for improvements benefitina children and families.

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D7R3 (Rawlins) December 6-7, 2006 Mini CFSR Report

Case Ratings:

D7254

- Three areas needing improvement: #7 – permanency goal for child; #8 – reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives; #18 – child and family involvement in case planning.

D7255

- Two areas needing improvement: #7 – permanency goal for child and #8 – reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives.

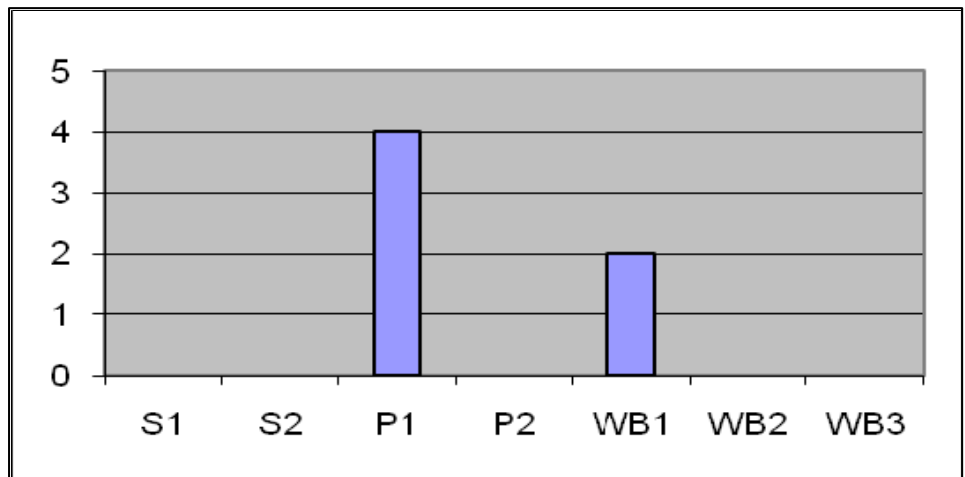
R3252

- Perfect scoring case.

R3253

- One area needing improvement: #17 – needs and services of child, parents, foster parents.

The graph to the right shows the number of items rating as “areas needing improvement” in the broad outcome categories of safety 1 and 2, permanency 1 and 2 and well-being 1, 2 and 3. For definitions of items comprising these categories, visit <http://wycrp.org>.



Summary

Department of Family Services (DFS) has taken ownership of the following policy issues:

- N/A

Local DFS Office issues:

- Juvenile services:
 - Clarity in case plans
 - Establishing permanency goals
- Child protection services:
 - CPS will follow-up with doing TPR on dad in D7255

Issues requiring DFS administrative level attention:

- Medicaid wavier issue; Korin Schmidt and Mike Beaver are working on this and have met with Liz Mikesell on this issue already as this might be a good alternative in some circumstances with regards to having to use CHINS in certain issues.

The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel has taken ownership of the following systemic issues and/or community issues:

- N/A

Strengths:

- Advocacy:
 - “Child was mainstreamed in school”
- Consistency:
 - “Transitions were done very well in the case”
 - “Minimal placements involved in the case”
 - “Everyone involved was on the same page in the case”
- Documentation and adherence to procedure:
 - “Medication monitoring was needed and provided”
 - “DFS case worker involved in case”
 - “People, including the school district, were impressed with DFS and their services”
- Effective use of service array
 - “Child’s underlying mental health issues were identified and addressed”
 - “Mental health needs of child being met”
 - “DFS paid for Lifenet to provide services”
 - “Child doing well in school, upward bound, taking college prep courses”
- Engagement of the child:
 - “Department of Family Services (DFS) case worker did a great job with the child; empowered the child”
 - “School has supported the student”
- Family involvement:
 - “Parent(s) were reimbursed for mileage to visit child in Torrington”
 - “Good efforts to include all parents and extended family in the case”
 - “A majority of the family members were involved”
 - “Everyone felt that their input was allowed”
- Foster care services:
 - “Residential treatment and counseling at St. Josephs in Torrington was beneficial”
 - “Good wrap around services for child”

- Preserving connections:
 - “Child had ethnic identity issues, caseworker helped identify them acknowledge them”
 - “Significant birth family involvement”
- Successful outcomes:
 - “DFS case worker did a great job working with a manipulative mother”
 - “DFS case workers changed, but case still went well”

Additional contributing factors:

- “Smooth transition from St. Josephs to home in Rawlins”
- “Parent would have liked to be able to get services without having to go to state for help”
- “Child was disappointed that mom did not do what she needed to in order so that the child could come home”
- “GAL was not involved (John Hoke); however he is no longer a GAL. The current one Mike Roberts is picking up the pieces and it is going better.”
- “There is a new county attorney in Carbon County and it appears that things are going better and youth cases are getting more and quicker attention.”

Opportunities for improvement:

- Case Planning:
 - “Case plan needs to be in WYCAPS”
 - “Documentation might have been better in the case files with regards to assessments”
 - “Better clarity with regards to the permanency plan, obviously everyone was on track, but not much documentation that this is the alternate plan”
 - “No current case plan in file with current permanency goal”
 - “Not sure what current permanency goal is at this time”
 - “Need clear permanency goal for child”
- Family Involvement:
 - “Mom was not made to seek out treatment and assistance with her own issues to allow for a relationship with her child”
 - “Family partnership planning for discharge would have been useful according to grandmother”
- Communication:
 - “Communication between out of county worker and foster care youth”
 - “Better coordination between DFS offices”
 - “Communication with emergency response might have been better for grandmother when child was placed in emergency detention”
- Legal Barriers:
 - “Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) needed to be filed; month 18 into 22 month clock”
 - “Need to get permanent guardianship done”
 - “TPR could have been done; dad has been in prison and jail for perpetrating on daughter; does AFCARS require this?”
 - “Guardian ad Litum “GAL” has not made visits; has not seen child since August.”
 - “GAL needs to make home visits and become vested in the child”

Systemic Barriers:

- “Often times CHINS has to be used to provide safety for a child”
- “Lack of foster parents in Carbon County”
- “Services available to families are needed in certain instances without involving state”

Review process dynamics and considerations:

- Citizen reviewers in this review consisted of:
 - Carbon county citizen;
 - an attorney from Casper;

- Citizen Review Panel executive committee member and case manager for Casey Family Programs, and
- the director of the Wyoming Citizen Review Panel.
- The period under review was October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.
- Training was held for reviewers on December 6, 2006.
- 2 out of 4 (50%) review samples were biracial.

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