

Children's Foster Care Review Board
SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Citizens Advocating Safety and Permanence for Children



The Road to Permanence

2007—2008 Annual Report and Recommendations

"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted."

Garrison Keillor

Mission Statement:

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board provides an external system of accountability and advocacy for children and families involved with the foster care system; utilizes panels of community volunteers to promote safe, permanent homes for children in foster care in a timely manner; and increases public awareness regarding the impact of child abuse and neglect.

Vision Statement:

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board will be viewed by the Department of Social Services, the Family Court, the Legislature, other community partners, and the citizens of South Carolina as a valuable source of information regarding the status of the child welfare system.

Program Description:

South Carolina was the first state in the nation to pass a law allowing citizens from each community to become involved in the child welfare system by participating in individual case reviews of children in foster care. The purpose of foster care review is to recommend a permanent home for the child in foster care without unnecessary delay by returning the child home or placing the child in another stable, permanent home. Foster care review promotes safety and permanence, identifies gaps in services, and increases public awareness regarding abuse and neglect.

Each of South Carolina's sixteen judicial circuits must have at least one local review board. Citizen volunteers in each circuit review the cases of all children who spend longer than four consecutive months in foster care. Each child's case is reviewed every six months by a local review board until the child reaches the age of eighteen or is no longer in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Following each child's review, a written recommendation is sent to the Family Court, the Department of Social Services, and other interested parties. Local review boards have five members, who are appointed by the Governor, upon recommendation of the local legislative delegation.

Additional information about the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board is available on our website at www.oepp.sc.gov/fcrb/.

Data contained in this Annual Report represents children reported by the South Carolina Department of Social Services, who remain in foster care at least four consecutive months and are reviewed by the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there."

Lewis Carroll
1832-1898

Are we on the right road when it comes to ensuring safe, permanent homes for all children living in South Carolina's foster care system? When you consider the many factors impacting the choices made during a child's journey through the foster care system, this becomes a very hard question to answer. Throughout 2007, the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board worked closely with State partners to attempt to streamline the multiple roads taken to secure better choices for our children. There must be a sense of urgency connected to our efforts as the number of children coming into care in need of permanent families continues to increase.

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board conducted 8,981 reviews for 5,347 children during calendar year 2007, continuing a six-year growth trend. More specifically, local boards reviewed 400 more children and held over 500 more reviews during 2007 than during 2006. In spite of the increases and heavier caseloads, volunteers serving on local foster care review boards continue to contribute their many unique qualifications in order to provide in-depth and objective insight into a child's experience in foster care. The biggest challenge facing volunteer review board members continues to be identifying effective ways of addressing the multitude of challenges facing South Carolina's over-burdened child welfare system, and assisting agencies and programs working to keep up with the demands of that system.

The Review Board's 2007—2008 Annual Report provides a snapshot of the many obstacles and opportunities facing citizens in South Carolina who care about the lives and futures of its children. The activities and accomplishments of the 180 active review board volunteers and staff are presented, along with recommendations for system improvement. Each recommendation is derived from the data generated from local review board meetings and the staff and local advocacy efforts supported by our volunteers.

A common purpose and a sense of urgency are needed to complete this important journey. Please join us as we navigate the road to permanence for South Carolina's children in foster care. There is no time for wrong turns or additional road blocks—our children have waited long enough.

Denise T. Barker
Executive Director

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Citizens serving on local foster care review boards donated **16,521 hours** of volunteer service to the child welfare system during 2007. The 2007 dollar value for volunteer time is \$19.51 per hour, bringing the total amount of the Foster Care Review Board's in-kind donation to **\$287,357.49** for the state of South Carolina.
- ◆ **32** local review boards participated in **85** quarterly local **partnership meetings** with representatives from the South Carolina Department of Social Services, the South Carolina Foster Parent Association, the South Carolina Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program, and other community partners. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss solutions to systemic county concerns identified at local review board meetings that impact children in foster care, as well as issues and concerns raised by other partners.
- ◆ **32** local review boards completed **service projects** in their assigned counties. These projects filled identified needs and requests made by the Department of Social Services, providing support to the counties' foster care systems and addressing specific needs of individual children.
- ◆ **28** local review boards implemented procedures to communicate regularly with their **legislative delegations** about the status of children in foster care in their counties. This routine communication provides valuable feedback to the legislators who not only recommend review board members for appointment to their local review boards, but also propose legislation that impacts the child welfare system.
- ◆ **17** local review boards met with **Family Court Judges** assigned to their respective judicial circuits in order to discuss legal trends impacting children in foster care in their communities. The recommendations and data compiled by local review boards in each circuit provide judges with in-depth information that can enhance legal processes for children.
- ◆ **16** local review boards facilitated the presentation of the **2006 Review Board Annual Report** to county legislative delegations. These presentations are another important means of communicating the needs of children in foster care to members of the South Carolina General Assembly.
- ◆ **102** children reviewed by local review boards in 2007 were represented by Foster Care Review Board legal staff at **122 court hearings** across South Carolina. Review Board program staff also provided targeted, post-review, supplemental **advocacy** on behalf of **1,381** children in foster care.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ State Board of Directors Chairperson Vernon McCurry, Review Board 5C member Rachel Silver, and Executive Director Denise Barker were appointed by Governor Mark Sanford to serve on the **Governor's Task Force for Children in Foster Care and Adoption Services**. The purpose of the Task Force was to identify ways to improve the efficiency and quality of South Carolina's foster care and adoption processes, and propose ways to reduce the time it takes to find permanent adoptive homes for these vulnerable children. Recommendations from the Task Force were presented to Governor Sanford in February 2008.
- ◆ In November 2007 the South Carolina Review Board System hosted a strategic planning session for the steering committee of the **National Foster Care Review Coalition**. Representatives from seven states participated in the two-day meeting. Sarah Greenblatt from Casey Family Services was the guest facilitator for the group.
- ◆ During 2007, over 1,200 **biennial evaluative surveys** were distributed to parties participating in local review board meetings and other system stakeholders who interact with the Foster Care Review Board. Response from the surveys indicated that the Review Board is on track with overall expected performance outcomes and identified specific areas in which the Review Board should work to improve.
- ◆ **The South Carolina Heart Gallery**, a collective effort by the South Carolina Foster Care Review Board and the South Carolina Department of Social Services, is a traveling photo exhibit designed to raise awareness of the need for adoptive homes for legally free children. In 2007 the South Carolina Heart Gallery photographed 124 children and held seven exhibits.

Rachel Silver of Review Board 5C in Richland County was selected **"2007 Review Board Member of the Year."** Special commendations from both the South Carolina Senate and the South Carolina House of Representatives honoring her exemplary service to children in foster care were presented to Mrs. Silver by Senator Joel Lourie on April 25, 2008.

Local Review Boards 5B, 5C, and 5D of Richland County were named **"2007 Review Boards of the Year"** for their efforts to establish a child care program for the Richland County Foster Parent Association. Members serving on each of these local boards received special commendations from both the South Carolina Senate and the South Carolina House of Representatives, which were presented by Senator Joel Lourie on April 25, 2008.

STATE DATA

The following table compares annual Foster Care Review Board data for **Reviews** held and **Areas of Concern** identified at those reviews.

INDICATOR	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHILDREN REVIEWED	4,812	4,802	4,853	4,976	5,347
REVIEWS HELD	8,284	8,411	8,317	8,464	8,981
REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS	426	441	431	436	464
AREAS OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED AT REVIEWS	9,325	10,706	9,816	11,168	14,864
REVIEWS WITH AREAS OF CONCERN IDENTIFIED	62%	65%	62%	68%	75%
PROGRAM AREAS OF CONCERN	4,632	5,398	5,432	6,272	9,336
LEGAL AREAS OF CONCERN	4,693	5,308	4,384	4,896	5,528
NO TIMELY PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING	160	154	114	150	252
NO TIMELY MERITS HEARING	922	844	936	940	1,093
NO TIMELY PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING	1,242	1,306	1,179	1,357	1,486

REVIEWS:

Compared to 2006 Data:

- ◆ 7% more children were reviewed in 2007.
- ◆ 6% more Review Board meetings were held in 2007.

AREAS OF CONCERN:

- ◆ 25% more Areas of Concern were identified in 2007 than in 2006.
- ◆ 37% increase in Areas of Concern since 2003.
- ◆ 14% increase in number of court hearings not held timely since 2006, and a 18% increase since 2003.
- ◆ 50% increase in the number of Program Areas of Concern since 2003.

STATE DATA

ENTERING FOSTER CARE:

- ◆ The primary reasons children enter foster care are neglect, physical abuse or sexual abuse. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the children entering care entered due to neglect, and 30% entered foster care as a result of physical or sexual abuse.
- ◆ Other reasons (15%) children enter foster care include abandonment, relinquishment, dependency, or voluntary placement.
- ◆ Compared to 2006, 14% more children entered foster care in 2007.



"We most often go astray on a well trodden and much frequented road."

Seneca
5 BC—65 AD

RE-ENTERING FOSTER CARE:

- ◆ The number of children re-entering foster care continues to increase.
- ◆ 95 more children re-entered foster care in 2007 than re-entered in 2006.
- ◆ Of the children that re-entered foster care in 2007, 45% returned from a birth parent, 42% from a relative, and 4% from an adoptive parent.
- ◆ Re-entry from the home of a relative increased 17% in 2007.

The following table compares annual Review Board data for children **entering** and **re-entering** foster care and who were reviewed at least once. Data for 2007 includes demographics on children who entered, or re-entered, foster care late in the year and were not reviewed until 2008.

INDICATOR	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE	1,604	1,695	1,738	1,917	2,212
CHILDREN RE-ENTERING FOSTER CARE	27% (440)	24% (401)	21% (366)	25% (471)	26% (566)

STATE DATA

The following table compares annual Foster Care Review Board data for children **Leaving** foster care and their outcomes.

INDICATOR	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE	1,448	1,559	1,520	1,679	1,797
PERMANENCY OUTCOMES					
RETURNED TO PARENT	37% (541)	35% (550)	33% (495)	37% (624)	35% (632)
FINALIZED ADOPTION	21% (297)	24% (367)	27% (408)	25% (427)	25% (444)
OTHER OUTCOMES					
RELATIVE CUSTODY	16% (228)	16% (242)	17% (252)	15% (254)	17% (305)
EMANCIPATED OR TURNED 18	26% (376)	25% (390)	23% (353)	22% (371)	23% (410)
OTHER	<1% (6)	<1% (10)	<1% (12)	<1% (3)	<1% (6)

LEAVING FOSTER CARE:

In 2007:

- ◆ 60% of children leaving foster care returned to a parent or had a finalized adoption.
- ◆ 23% of children leaving foster care were emancipated or turned 18, and 17% were placed with a relative.
- ◆ 71% were in care less than 3 years and 13% were in care more than 3 years.
- ◆ More girls left foster care than boys and more African Americans and other minorities left care than Caucasians.



STATE DATA

RETURN TO PARENT:

- ◆ 35% of children leaving foster care returned to a parent in 2007.
- ◆ Statistically little has changed since 2006, with only eight more children leaving foster care to a parent.
- ◆ These children remained in care an average of 1.2 years and experienced 2.4 placements.

FINALIZED ADOPTIONS:

- ◆ In 2007, as in 2006, 25% of the children leaving foster care had finalized adoptions.
- ◆ There has been a gradual increase in the number of finalized adoptions within the federal standard of 24 months, with 20% in 2007, 17% in 2006, and 14% in 2005.
- ◆ The average length of time a child spends in foster care before a finalized adoption remains at 3.5 years.
- ◆ In 2007 adoptions were finalized for five more teenagers than in 2006.



**The Honorable George M. McFaddin, Jr.
Family Court Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit
Adoption Day May 27, 2008
Sumter, South Carolina**



STATE DATA

LEAVING FOSTER CARE (CONTINUED):

RELATIVE CUSTODY:

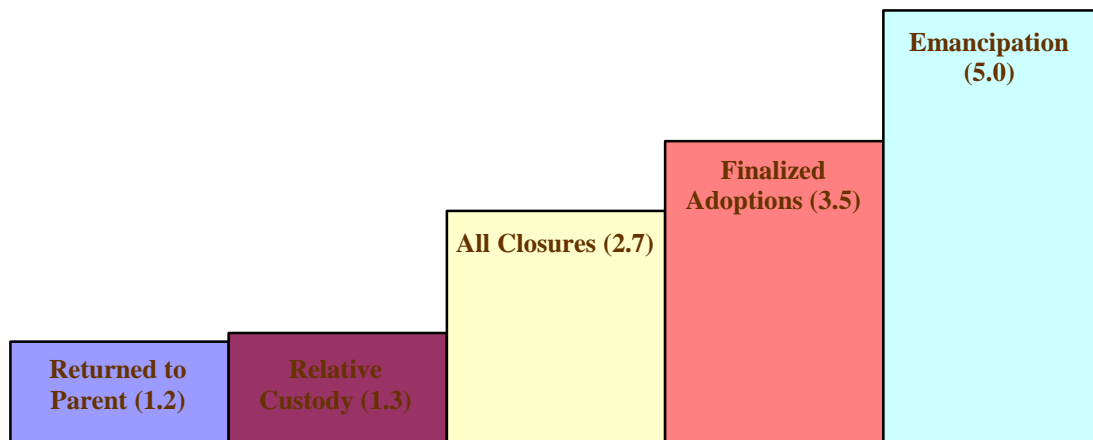
- ◆ 17% of the children who left foster care in 2007 went to a relative — 51 more than in 2006.
- ◆ In the past five years there has been a 25% increase in the number of children who left foster care to go to a relative placement.
- ◆ Only 34% of the children who left foster care to be placed with a relative had a plan of relative custody at their last review; 50% had an agency plan of return to parent.



EMANCIPATED OR TURNED AGE 18:

- ◆ 23% of the children who left foster care in 2007 either turned 18 or were emancipated.
- ◆ Over 50% of the children leaving care in 2007 through emancipation or turning 18 were in a therapeutic placement at the time of their last review.
- ◆ Since 2003, there has been an 8% increase in the number of children leaving foster care through emancipation or turning 18.

Average Number of Years in Care by Closure Reason



STATE DATA

REMAINING IN FOSTER CARE:

Remaining in foster care is defined as children who entered foster care prior to January 1, 2007 and who were still in foster care as of January 1, 2008.

In 2007:

- ◆ 91 more children remained in foster care — a 3% increase over 2006;
- ◆ 35% (1,012) of the children remaining in foster care had a plan of Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and Adoption for a year or longer, and 65% of children remaining in care were legally free for adoption; and
- ◆ 57% of the children remaining in foster care were African American or other minorities and 53% were male.



"The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The table below compares annual Foster Care Review Board data for children **remaining in care**, the average length of time children spend in foster care, and the average number of placements they experience.

INDICATOR	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHILDREN REMAINING IN CARE	2,860	2,933	2,935	2,884	2,974
AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE (YEARS)	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.0
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS	4.9	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.9

COUNTY DATA

The following table compares 2007 Review Board data for South Carolina's 46 counties for children **Reviewed**, children **Entering** and **Leaving** care, and **Permanency Outcomes**. Permanency is defined as a child returned to a parent or having a finalized adoption. The majority of children who did not achieve permanency either turned 18 or were emancipated.

COUNTY	# REVIEWED	# ENTERED FC	RE-ENTERED FC	# LEFT FC	PERMANENCY OUTCOMES		OTHER OUTCOMES	
					% RETURNED TO PARENT	% ADOPTED	% RELATIVE CUSTODY	% OTHER
STATE TOTAL	5,347	2,212	26% (566)	1,797	35% (632)	25% (444)	17% (305)	23% (416)
ABBEVILLE	28	12	0% (0)	6	0% (0)	33% (2)	33% (2)	33% (2)
AIKEN	148	56	38% (21)	43	35% (15)	14% (6)	14% (6)	37% (16)
ALLENDALE	17	8	25% (2)	5	0% (0)	80% (4)	0% (0)	20% (1)
ANDERSON	421	205	44% (91)	106	41% (43)	29% (31)	16% (17)	14% (15)
BAMBERG	21	8	13% (1)	13	23% (3)	15% (2)	15% (2)	46% (6)
BARNWELL	51	28	14% (4)	18	44% (8)	22% (4)	6% (1)	28% (5)
BEAUFORT	72	27	7% (2)	31	13% (4)	26% (8)	42% (13)	19% (6)
BERKELEY	231	58	24% (14)	115	45% (52)	28% (32)	13% (15)	14% (16)
CALHOUN	15	5	20% (1)	4	25% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	75% (3)
CHARLESTON	535	192	24% (46)	165	30% (49)	30% (49)	8% (13)	33% (54)
CHEROKEE	78	38	47% (18)	35	43% (15)	9% (3)	29% (10)	20% (7)
CHESTER	39	10	0% (0)	11	36% (4)	36% (4)	18% (2)	9% (1)
CHESTERFIELD	50	30	20% (6)	16	13% (2)	25% (4)	13% (2)	50% (8)
CLARENDON	80	31	45% (14)	35	46% (16)	9% (3)	31% (11)	14% (5)
COLLETON	51	28	71% (20)	28	29% (8)	25% (7)	18% (5)	29% (8)
DARLINGTON	93	71	24% (17)	34	62% (21)	21% (7)	15% (5)	3% (1)
DILLON	83	39	21% (8)	26	46% (12)	27% (7)	8% (2)	19% (5)
DORCHESTER	90	34	35% (12)	36	56% (20)	31% (11)	3% (1)	11% (4)
EDGEFIELD	31	16	31% (5)	9	56% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)	44% (4)
FAIRFIELD	16	4	0% (0)	7	29% (2)	0% (0)	57% (4)	14% (1)
FLORENCE	113	47	21% (10)	27	15% (4)	15% (4)	33% (9)	37% (10)
GEORGETOWN	48	19	26% (5)	16	0% (0)	69% (11)	13% (2)	19% (3)
GREENVILLE	498	211	12% (26)	152	28% (43)	29% (44)	16% (24)	27% (41)
GREENWOOD	31	16	13% (2)	8	0% (0)	50% (4)	0% (0)	50% (4)
HAMPTON	16	8	63% (5)	8	50% (4)	0% (0)	38% (3)	13% (1)
HORRY	305	162	19% (31)	84	36% (30)	26% (22)	18% (15)	20% (17)
JASPER	28	11	36% (4)	7	57% (4)	0% (0)	14% (1)	29% (2)
KERSHAW	51	21	24% (5)	19	58% (11)	11% (2)	11% (2)	21% (4)

COUNTY DATA

COUNTY	# REVIEWED	# ENTERED FC	RE-ENTERED FC	# LEFT FC	PERMANENCY OUTCOMES		OTHER OUTCOMES	
					% RETURNED TO PARENT	% ADOPTED	% RELATIVE CUSTODY	% OTHER
STATE TOTAL	5,347	2,212	26% (566)	1,797	35% (632)	25% (444)	17% (305)	23% (416)
LANCASTER	71	24	17% (4)	15	13% (2)	13% (2)	40% (6)	33% (5)
LAURENS	66	19	0% (0)	24	42% (10)	17% (4)	17% (4)	25% (6)
LEE	27	12	42% (5)	5	40% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	60% (3)
LEXINGTON	205	89	17% (15)	74	27% (20)	45% (33)	9% (7)	19% (14)
MARION	121	49	20% (10)	63	56% (35)	19% (12)	21% (13)	5% (3)
MARLBORO	56	17	24% (4)	18	44% (8)	11% (2)	22% (4)	22% (4)
MCCORMICK	6	4	0% (0)	3	0% (0)	67% (2)	33% (1)	0% (0)
NEWBERRY	41	15	20% (3)	4	0% (0)	25% (1)	25% (1)	50% (2)
OCONEE	145	73	12% (9)	34	21% (7)	41% (14)	9% (3)	29% (10)
ORANGEBURG	79	40	40% (16)	30	20% (6)	23% (7)	27% (8)	30% (9)
PICKENS	132	79	8% (6)	46	48% (22)	17% (8)	13% (6)	22% (10)
RICHLAND	411	146	32% (47)	140	46% (64)	11% (15)	19% (27)	24% (34)
SALUDA	9	4	25% (1)	6	50% (3)	33% (2)	0% (0)	17% (1)
SPARTANBURG	328	125	22% (27)	141	24% (34)	33% (47)	20% (28)	23% (32)
SUMTER	128	29	14% (4)	34	26% (9)	35% (12)	24% (8)	15% (5)
UNION	21	13	15% (2)	4	25% (1)	0% (0)	50% (2)	25% (1)
WILLIAMSBURG	54	11	27% (3)	9	11% (1)	56% (5)	0% (0)	33% (3)
YORK	207	57	44% (25)	74	31% (23)	14% (10)	23% (17)	32% (24)

REVIEW BOARD DATA COLLECTED SHOWS:

- ◆ Five counties had no children re-enter foster care in 2007. At 71% (20 children), Colleton County had the highest percentage of children re-enter foster care.
- ◆ Six counties had no children return to a parent. At 62% (21 children), Darlington County had the highest percentage of children return to a parent.
- ◆ Seven counties had no finalized adoptions. At 80%, (four children), Allendale County had the highest percentage of finalized adoptions.
- ◆ Seven counties had no children leave care to go to relative custody. At 57% (four children), Fairfield County had the highest percentage of children leave care and go to a relative.
- ◆ McCormick County had no children turn 18 or be emancipated. At 75% (three children), Calhoun County had the highest percentage of children turn 18 or leave care due to emancipation.

COUNTY DATA

The following table compares 2007 Foster Care Review Board data for South Carolina's 46 counties for children **Remaining** in care, **Average Length of Time in Care**, **Number of Placements**, children **Legally Free** for adoption, and percent of **Areas of Concern** identified at reviews.

COUNTY	REMAINING IN FOSTER CARE				AREAS OF CONCERN	
	# REMAINING IN FC	AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE (YEARS)	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS	LEGALLY FREE	TOTAL	% REVIEWS WITH AOC
STATE TOTAL	2,974	4.0	3.9	37% (1,114)	14,864	75%
ABBEVILLE	16	3.3	3.9	13% (2)	84	86%
AIKEN	89	3.4	4.0	36% (32)	559	79%
ALLENDALE	6	3.1	2.3	50% (3)	35	100%
ANDERSON	207	3.2	3.2	35% (73)	1,533	83%
BAMBERG	9	6.5	3.7	22% (2)	72	90%
BARNWELL	28	3.6	3.4	64% (18)	85	49%
BEAUFORT	41	3.5	3.8	46% (19)	160	77%
BERKELEY	126	3.7	5.0	53% (67)	828	81%
CALHOUN	10	3.8	2.2	20% (2)	48	92%
CHARLESTON	345	4.1	4.1	40% (138)	1,839	83%
CHEROKEE	41	3.0	4.0	17% (7)	369	89%
CHESTER	25	3.5	3.4	44% (11)	110	65%
CHESTERFIELD	20	2.9	2.6	15% (3)	112	83%
CLARENDON	27	3.3	6.0	22% (6)	142	56%
COLLETON	25	4.6	6.2	52% (13)	167	89%
DARLINGTON	40	4.2	3.9	33% (13)	146	57%
DILLON	38	3.2	3.0	37% (14)	130	59%
DORCHESTER	45	2.8	3.2	9% (4)	334	86%
EDGEFIELD	14	1.9	3.4	29% (4)	67	76%
FAIRFIELD	11	5.4	3.0	55% (6)	20	52%
FLORENCE	76	3.6	4.1	41% (31)	442	89%
GEORGETOWN	24	3.6	3.5	58% (14)	59	48%
GREENVILLE	322	3.4	3.8	33% (107)	1,297	80%
GREENWOOD	17	4.3	3.7	65% (11)	66	75%
HAMPTON	4	4.0	4.8	25% (1)	90	96%
HORRY	169	3.4	3.7	40% (67)	1,030	83%
JASPER	15	3.9	5.5	13% (2)	79	85%
KERSHAW	30	3.1	3.3	20% (6)	174	80%

COUNTY DATA

COUNTY	REMAINING IN FOSTER CARE				AREAS OF CONCERN	
	# REMAINING IN FC	AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE (YEARS)	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS	LEGALLY FREE	TOTAL	% REVIEWS WITH AOC
STATE TOTAL	2,974	4.0	3.9	37% (1,114)	14,864	75%
LANCASTER	46	3.8	3.3	52% (24)	62	36%
LAURENS	33	4.5	3.9	42% (14)	216	83%
LEE	25	2.9	3.2	32% (8)	45	68%
LEXINGTON	101	3.4	3.3	26% (26)	667	88%
MARION	45	3.4	4.9	22% (10)	199	67%
MARLBORO	28	3.5	4.5	75% (21)	112	62%
MCCORMICK	5	2.5	2.2	80% (4)	12	56%
NEWBERRY	29	3.4	3.6	10% (3)	149	87%
OCONEE	85	3.2	3.2	49% (42)	324	80%
ORANGEBURG	42	3.6	4.4	21% (9)	55	37%
PICKENS	50	3.8	2.9	46% (23)	391	84%
RICHLAND	249	5.2	5.2	41% (101)	1,002	71%
SALUDA	3	1.9	2.7	0% (0)	51	87%
SPARTANBURG	153	3.5	3.8	42% (64)	692	77%
SUMTER	75	5.0	5.0	47% (35)	82	31%
UNION	13	2.8	4.3	15% (2)	83	94%
WILLIAMSBURG	39	3.8	4.6	54% (21)	59	45%
YORK	119	3.0	4.4	26% (31)	586	78%

REVIEW BOARD DATA COLLECTED SHOWS:

- ◆ At 6.5 years, Bamberg County had the highest average number of years in care. Edgefield and Saluda Counties had the lowest average number of years in care.
- ◆ At 6.2, Colleton County had the highest average number of placements. Calhoun and McCormick counties had the lowest average number of placements.
- ◆ At 80% (four children), McCormick County had the highest percentage of children legally free for adoption. Saluda County had no children legally free for adoption.
- ◆ At least one Area of Concern was identified at each review held in Allendale County. At 31%, Sumter County had the lowest percentage of Areas of Concern identified at reviews.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board is supported by a seven-member State Board of Directors. The State Board meets quarterly and is responsible for reviewing and coordinating the activities of local review boards and making recommendations in an Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly. The seven members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

2007—2008 State Board of Directors' Recommendations

- ◆ The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board will increase awareness of the need for safe, permanent homes in a timely manner for children in foster care through trainings, meetings, and service on the State Board of Directors and child welfare committees.
- ◆ The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board will enhance communication with the Judiciary. To ensure the Family Court is aware of the barriers to permanence for children in foster care, local review boards will meet with judges, increase their presence in the courtroom, and serve on the *Governor's Task Force for Children in Foster Care and Adoption Services* and the Bench-Bar Committee.
- ◆ The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board will identify South Carolina legislators who are concerned about children's issues and who are interested in sponsoring and supporting legislation that promotes safe and timely permanent homes for children in foster care.
- ◆ The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board will contract with the South Carolina Department of Social Services to expand and fully implement the South Carolina Heart Gallery. The South Carolina Heart Gallery is a collaborative photo recruitment program to promote adoption for legally free children in foster care.

State Board of Directors

Vernon McCurry, Chairperson, Member-at-Large, Greenville County

D. Ed Andersen, 1st Congressional District, Horry County

Jo Hecker, 2nd Congressional District, Richland County

Martha (Sissy) Brock, 5th Congressional District, Cherokee County

Vacancies: 3rd, 4th, and 6th Congressional Districts

In Loving Memory

Kenneth Earl Mance

October 1, 1946—April 15, 2008

Local Review Board 3A, State Board of Directors



Chairperson's Training
Local Review Board members Chuck Koches (9B)
Lois Dennis (9B), Max Kaster (1A) and Kelly Ramsey (14A)



Vernon McCurry
Local Review Board 13C
Chairperson, State Board of Directors



Photo Shoot Volunteers



Review Board Staff
Millie Qualls, Elizabeth Codega, and Robin Campbell



Heart Gallery Photographer
Hansje Gold-Krueck



Local Review Board Members
Bill Bond (7C) and Kathleen Bounds (9E)



Local Review Board Members
Maryann Riley (7C) and
Zora Massing (7C)

**South Carolina Office of the Governor
Mark Sanford, Governor
The Office of Executive Policy and Programs**

Children's Foster Care Review Board

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Denise Turbeville Barker
PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Beth M. Green
PROGRAM SUPERVISORS	Robin Campbell Stephen Clyburn
REVIEW BOARD COORDINATORS	Karen Airasian Elizabeth Codega Mark Collins Emily Dixon Shirel Frazier Anne Maertens Millie Qualls Stephanie Spink Michelle White
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