

Child and Family Services



Federal Review

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CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW

- Federal-state partnership review of child and family services in all states
- Virginia is scheduled during week of **July 7, 2003**
- Covers Foster Care, Adoptions, Child Protective Services, and Family Preservation
- Purpose is to improve services for families and children, not to penalize states
- CFS review will assess 14 areas:
 - **Seven “Program Outcomes,”** which include six performance indicators with national standards
 - **Seven “Systemic Factors”**



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CFS REVIEW SEVEN OUTCOMES

● Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate

● Permanency

- Children will have permanency and stability in their living situations
- The continuity of family relationships and connections will be preserved for children

● Child and family well-being

- Families will have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs
- Children will receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs
- Children will receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs



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NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	<u>Standard</u>	<u>VA*</u>
● Recurrence of maltreatment (<i>in 12 mo.</i>)	6.1%	3.77%
● Incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care	0.57%	0.34%
● Incidence of foster care re-entries (<i>in 12 mo.</i>)	8.6%	3.6%
● Stability of foster care placement (<i>no more than 2 in 12 mo.</i>)	86.7%	84.8%
● Length of time to achieve reunification in less than 12 months	76.2%	73.6%
● Length of time to achieve adoption in less than 24 months	32%	17.9%

**Virginia's FY 2001 data*

National standards are set very high at the 75% level of all states' data

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CFS REVIEW SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Seven systemic factors that directly affect a state's capacity to deliver services leading to improved outcomes:

- Statewide information systems
- Case review systems, including hearings and service planning
- Quality assurance systems
- Staff training
- Service array
- Agency responsiveness to communities
- Foster and adoptive parent recruitment, licensing, and retention



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CFS REVIEW APPROACH

Three-fold approach to review:

- Statewide Assessment – includes:
 - Overview of Virginia's processes
 - Assessment of systemic factors
 - Analysis of statewide data over three years
 - Recommendation of local review sites
 - Virginia submitted 182-page document on May 7, 2003
 - Document will be posted on the Internet
- On-site Review
 - Review in three localities
 - On-site review team consists of equal number of federal and state representatives
- Program Improvement

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CFS REVIEW PROCESS: ON-SITE REVIEWS

On-site Reviews *(Week of July 7, 2003)*

- Fairfax, because it is the largest metropolitan area
- Bedford and Norfolk selected by Statewide Stakeholders Committee and HHS agreed
- To explore and corroborate findings of the statewide assessment

Activities in three sites

- Review **50** cases in total
 - Include interviews with child, family, workers, foster parents, service providers, etc. associated with case
- Conduct focus groups/interviews with local and state level stakeholders, including judges, foster parents, DSS staff, etc.



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CFS REVIEW RESULTS

- Federal report identifies areas in substantial conformity and needing improvement
- For areas not in substantial conformity, state must complete a **Program Improvement Plan**, addressing:
 - Action steps and dates of completion
 - Benchmarks and methods for evaluation
 - Percentage of improvement toward national standards
- After Program Improvement Plan is implemented, state **reports progress quarterly** and is reviewed after two years
 - Failure to demonstrate progress could result in financial penalties



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CFS STATE ACTIVITIES

- Statewide Stakeholders Committee, with 50 members, meets monthly
 - Guide preparations for review and program improvements
 - Key to selection of local sites
 - Stakeholders will continue to be involved in development and implementation of improvement plans
- Preparation of the Statewide Assessment involved:
 - Six subcommittees developed sections
 - 20 focus groups conducted across state for input
 - Surveys of LDSS staff, youth, providers, and foster parents
 - Statewide case reviews using federal instrument for Foster Care and Child Protective Services

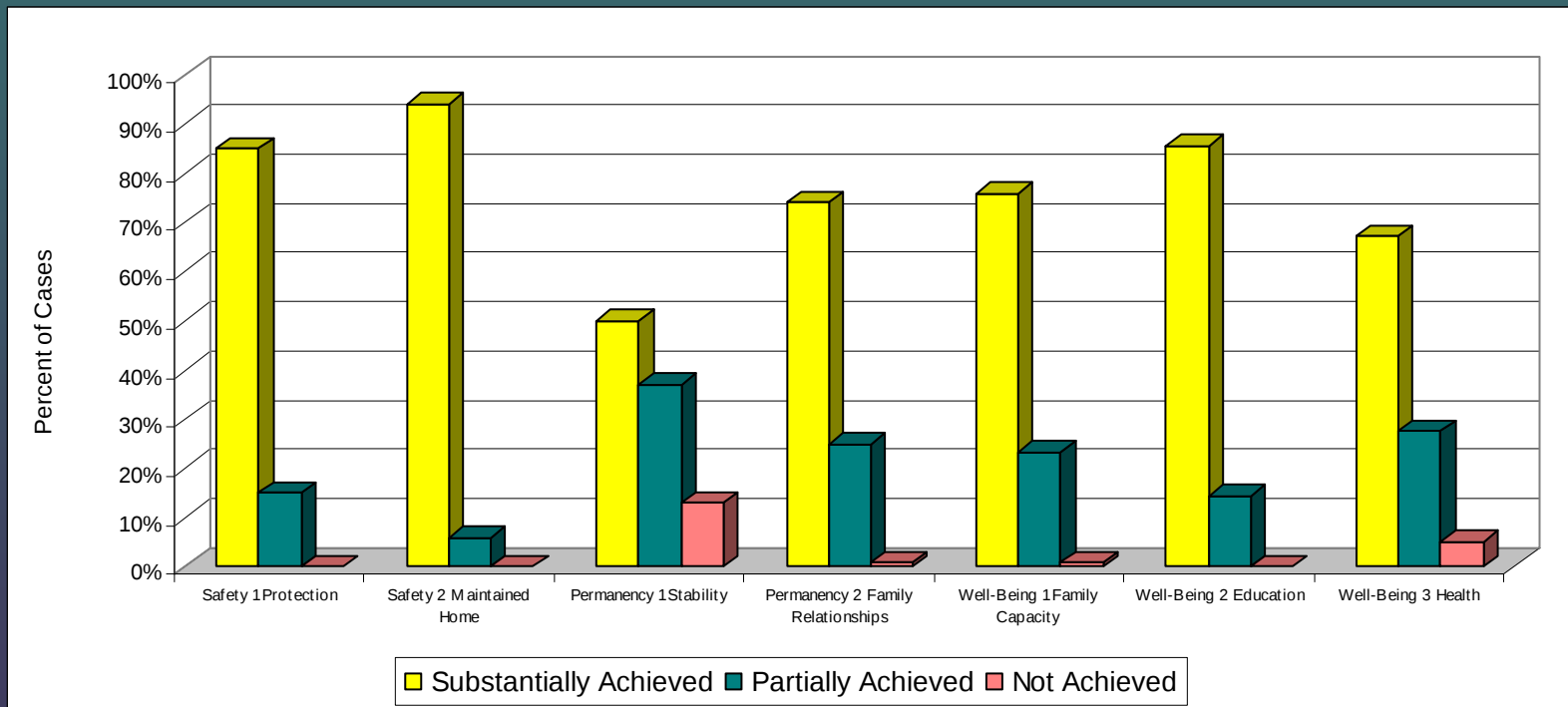


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2002 CASE REVIEW RESULTS

Safety, permanency and well-being outcome results of
VDSS Foster Care and CPS case reviews



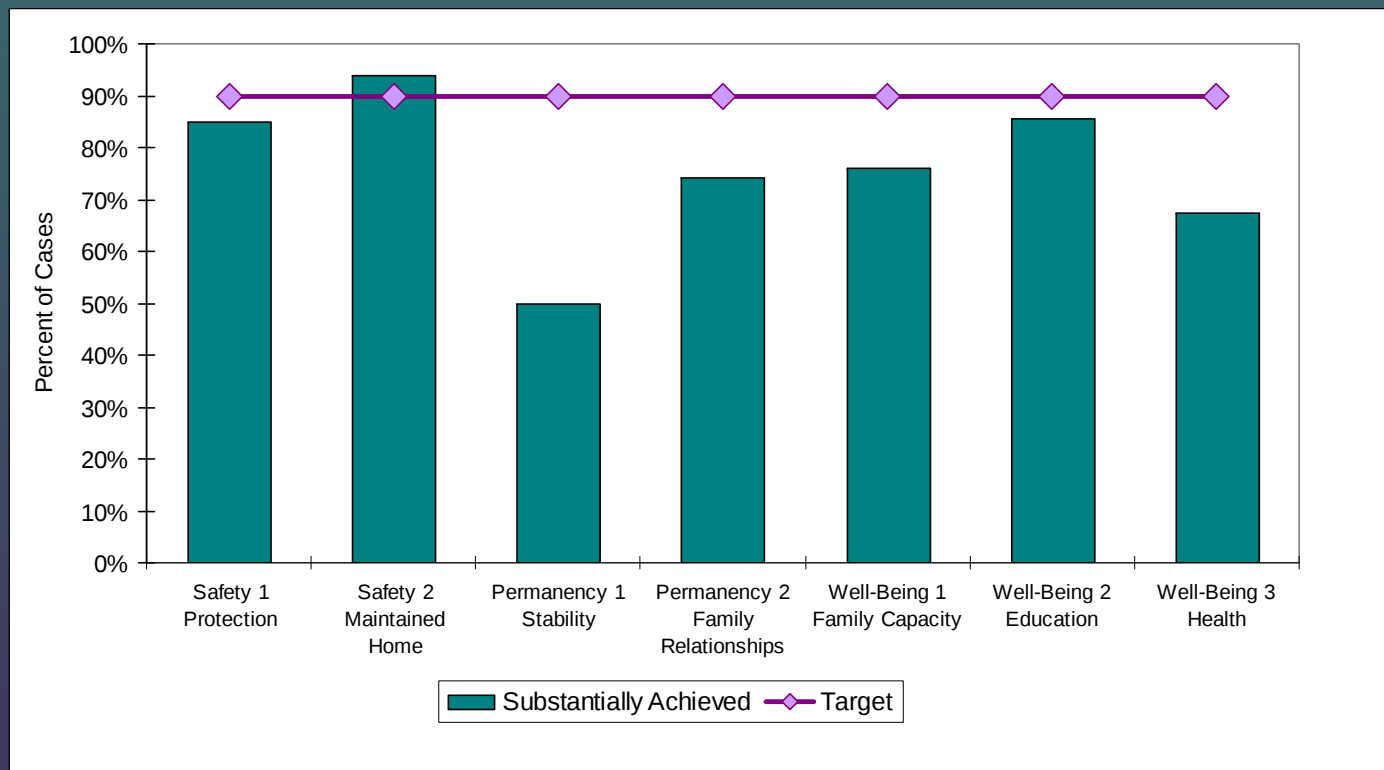
(Safety outcomes are from CPS case review; permanency and well-being are from Foster Care case review)





2002 CASE REVIEW RESULTS

Safety, permanency and well-being outcome results compared to federal target that 90% of cases achieve substantial compliance



(Safety outcomes are from CPS case review; permanency and well-being are from Foster Care case review)



CFSR RESULTS IN OTHER STATES

- Of the 32 states reviewed, **none** has passed all components of this review.
- These states have passed between two and nine components of 14.
- States were much more successful in meeting systemic factors than outcomes.
 - 31 passed Agency Responsiveness; only 12 passed Case Review
 - 7 passed Well-being 2; none passed Permanency 1 and Well-being 1
- Of the six performance indicators, one state met five and two states met none. (VA meets three indicators.)



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OUTCOME RESULTS IN 32 STATES

Outcomes	States Achieved	States Not Achieved
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	5	27
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.	4	28
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	0	32
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	5	27
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.	0	32
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	7	25
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	1	31

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NEXT STEPS AFTER REVIEW

- Final Report on Virginia's review results will be issued in September
- Program Improvement Plan will be developed, with input sought across the state
- Final Report on Virginia's review results and Program Improvement Plan will become public documents
- All local departments will be involved in improvement strategies



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SUMMARY

- VDSS is focused on improving child and family services throughout the Commonwealth
- CFS Review provides an opportunity to assess Virginia's programs and meet challenges for improvement
- Results could generate legislative, regulatory, and practice changes
- Stakeholders are partners with VDSS in planning and program improvements

Thank you!

To learn more about the Child and Family Services Review, visit:

VDSS website at: <http://www.dss.state.va.us/family/cfsr>

Federal web sites at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp>

