

CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

2012—2013

ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

"Assuring that every child, and especially every youth, has a family he or she can turn to in good times and bad, should become a national rallying cry. Families for children and youth in foster care is possible, it is powerful, and it must be a priority. It is what we know our own children need and deserve; our foster children should have no less."

Raymond L. Torres
Executive Director
Casey Family Services



2012 DATA SNAPSHOT

STATS AT-A-GLANCE

- 2,744 CHILDREN ENTERED FOSTER CARE
- 29% OF CHILDREN HAD PREVIOUS OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS
- 3,069 CHILDREN LEFT FOSTER CARE
- 38% OF CHILDREN REVIEWED RETURNED HOME
- 31% OF CHILDREN REVIEWED ADOPTED

2012 REVIEWS

- 5,794 REVIEWS HELD
- 3,716 CHILDREN REVIEWED
- 405 REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS

AREAS OF CONCERN

- 37% CASE PLAN BARRIERS
- 22% LEGAL BARRIERS
- 19% AGENCY POLICY VIOLATIONS
- 10% LEGAL HEARINGS NOT HELD TIMELY
- 8% ADOPTION SERVICE DELAYS
- 4% LEGAL HEARINGS NOT HELD

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE 17 MONTHS OR LONGER

- 1,079 CHILDREN
- 66% LEGALLY FREE FOR ADOPTION
- 20% IN CARE SIX OR MORE YEARS

SC HEART GALLERY

- 70,777 WEBSITE VISITORS
- 982 INQUIRIES
- 273 EVENTS
- 170 CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED
- 46 VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS

ADOPTIONS

- 596 FINALIZED ADOPTED
- 33% WITHIN 24 MONTHS
- 14% AGE 13 AND OLDER

PEOPLE POWER

- 188 VOLUNTEERS
- 8,424 CASE REVIEW HOURS
- 14,430 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 51 SERVICE PROJECTS

REVIEW BOARD OF THE YEAR 2012

- REVIEW BOARD 5E

REVIEW BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2012

- JACK MCCALL, REVIEW BOARD 13B

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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

“ Permanence is not a philosophical process, a plan, or a foster care placement . . . Rather, permanence is about locating and supporting a lifetime family ” .

The Casey Center for Effective Child Welfare Practice

INCREASE ADOPTIONS FOR OLDER YOUTH

The State Board of Directors recommends all child welfare stakeholders collaborate to increase finalized adoptions by 50% for youth in foster care ages 13 or older by December 31, 2013. As of December 31, 2012, the FCRB had documentation that 350 youth ages 13 and older were legally free for adoption. In calendar year 2012 a total of 82 youth age 13 and older were adopted. A 50% increase is a total of 120 finalized adoptions for these youth in care who are at the highest risk to age-out of the foster care system.

This recommendation builds on the 2012 recommendation to achieve the Target Advocacy Goal (“TAG”) of increasing finalized adoptions for youth in foster care ages 15 to 17. In 2012, this TAG was exceeded because 44 youth in this age range had adoptions finalized in 2012 and only 20 youth had adoptions finalized in 2011.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In order for a state social service system to receive federal matching funds for its foster care program, the state must have a "case review system." Federal law defines a case review system as a procedure for assuring that (1) each child has a case plan and (2) the status of each child is reviewed at least every six months by either a court or an administrative review. In South Carolina, the Children's Foster Care Review Board is the state agency statutorily charged with providing the federally mandated case review system.

Review Board members are community volunteers nominated by their local legislative delegation and appointed by the Governor. At reviews, Board Members gather information from, and meet with, the Department of Social Services' Case Manager, parents/legal guardians, Guardian ad Litem, child (10 or older), foster parents, and any interested party (e.g. counselor, teacher). The Review Board determines the progress being made toward returning the child to his or her parents, or if that is not possible, whether DSS is making maximum efforts toward adoption. The Board then meets privately to discuss case-specific information and to formulate its recommendation. The Board presents its recommendation and any areas of concern to the persons who attended the review.

Review Board coordinators, who are employees of the Foster Care Review Board, directly support each of the 42, five-member Review Boards. They prepare information prior to the review, document information at the review, and produce the Board's recommendation after the review. The Board's recommendation is sent to the Family Court, DSS, and the Guardian ad Litem. Once a child's case is reviewed, Review Board members and staff advocate to address case-specific concerns that create barriers to permanency for a particular child. In addition to that, the data collected at reviews is compiled and utilized to identify trends within the system that unnecessarily delay returning children home or delay adoptions for those children who cannot return home. Having an independent entity collect and review this information is a critical check and balance to ensure the safety and well-being of some of South Carolina's most vulnerable children.

VISION

South Carolina will make child well-being a top priority by assuring safe, permanent families for all children in foster care.

MISSION

The mission of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board is to provide external accountability for the foster care system and to advocate on behalf of children in foster care.

SUMMARY OF REVIEWS

5,794

The Review Board analyzes ongoing, comparative data related to children in foster care in order to gain a better understanding of the trends impacting the system, as well as future implications related to each child reviewed by local review boards.

During calendar year 2012, local review boards held 405 local review board meetings, completing 5,794 case reviews for 3,716 children in foster care. There has been a steady decline in the number of reviews held and children reviewed over the past several years.

Data regarding entry into foster care for 2,744 children was received from the Department of Social Services (DSS) and entered in the Review Board data management system during calendar year 2012. Twenty-nine percent of these (29%), or 795, children had at least one previous out of home placement. Local review boards held first reviews for 1,413 of these children, while 1,020 children left foster care prior to a case review.

INDICATOR	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHILDREN REVIEWED	5,384	5,424	4,986	4,427	3,716
REVIEWS HELD	9,068	8,961	8,130	7,149	5,794
REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS	465	450	434	432	405
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	1,222	1,248	1,514	1,332	1,565
CHILDREN RE-ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	499	504	558	513	724
CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	1,977	1,964	2,175	2,163	1,916

AREAS OF CONCERN

7,448

The monthly review process allows local review boards to identify system concerns that are barriers to permanence for children in foster care. These system deficiencies, or Areas of Concern, are items that are not in compliance with law or policy.

In 2012, local review boards identified 7,448 areas of concern. Legal barriers, including delayed and late hearings, accounted for 36% of all Areas of Concern. No court order at review was the most frequently noted legal concern in 2012 (999), followed by removal hearings not held timely (351). The most frequently identified program area of concern, inappropriate and incomplete case planning, accounted for 15% (1,096) of all Areas of Concern.

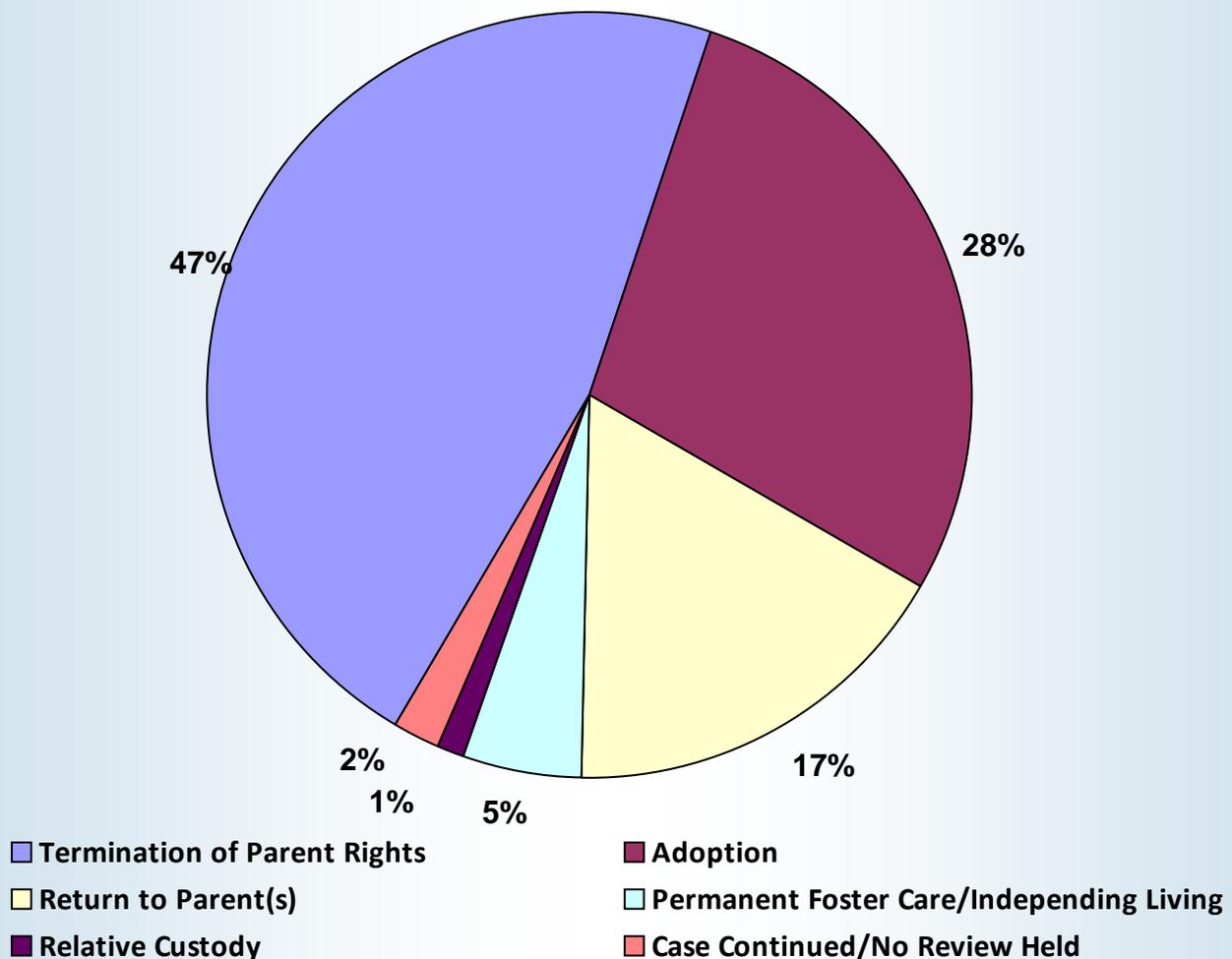
SUMMARY OF REVIEWS

CASE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Local review boards carefully consider input from interested parties prior to issuing a recommendation on each child's case. Board members are required by statute to consider the most appropriate permanent recommendation possible for each child. Recommendations are sent to the Family Court, the South Carolina Department of Social Services, and Guardians ad Litem.

During calendar year 2012, local review boards reviewed 60% of the children entering foster care. The graph below illustrates the frequency, type, and percentage for each recommendation issued by local review boards for children reviewed in 2012.

REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS



ENTERING FOSTER CARE



2,744

This represents the total number of children who entered foster care between January and December 2012, slightly more than in 2011.

Forty-six percent (46%) of children who entered foster care in 2012 entered due to physical neglect; while 30% entered care due to abuse. The remaining children entered foster care due to drug exposure/testing positive for drugs (14%), reason not reported (9%), abandonment (3%), and voluntary placement (1%).

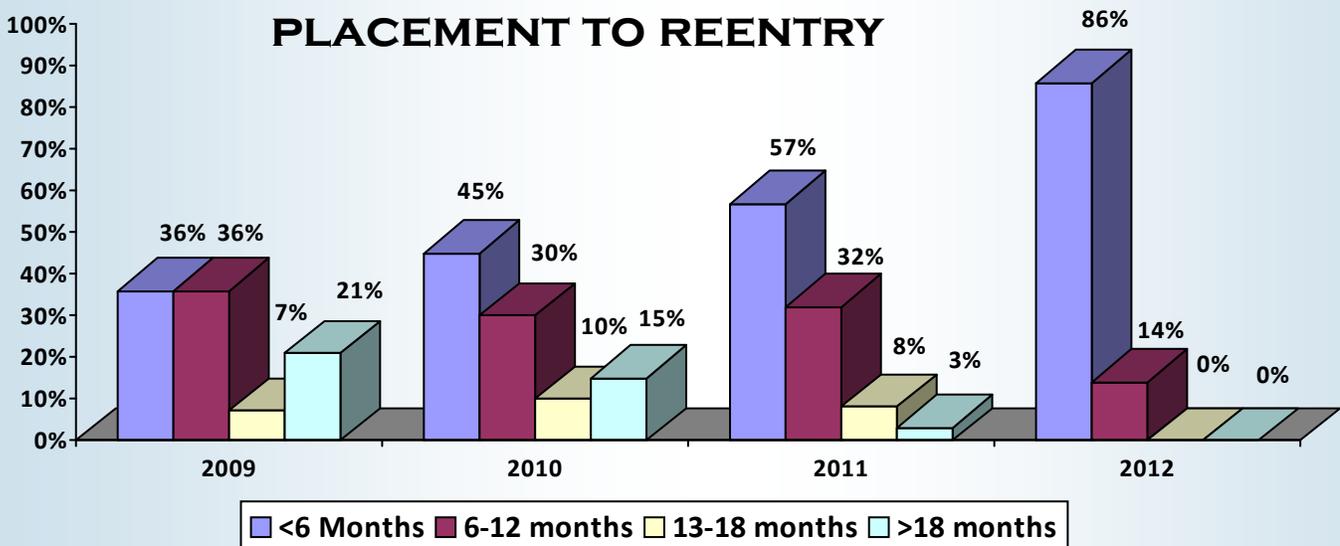
PREVIOUS OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

795

Of the 2,744 children reported to have entered foster care in 2012, 29% (795), had at least one reported previous out of home placement. Forty-two percent returned to foster care from the home of a parent, 37% from the home of a relative, and 5% returned to foster care from an adoptive home.

As the chart below illustrates, the length of time from DSS placing a child with a family to the child returning to foster care has been decreasing since 2009. In 2012, children returned to foster care five times faster than in 2009. In 2009, the average length of time between placement and re-entry was 15.4 months; in 2010 it was 9.2 months; in 2011 6.4 months; and in 2012 it was three months. This rapid return to foster care should be examined more closely to evaluate the quality of the placement decisions and to assess whether the families received an adequate level of support.

LENGTH OF TIME FROM PLACEMENT TO REENTRY



LEAVING FOSTER CARE

3,069

The Department of Social Services (DSS) reported that 3,069 children left the foster care system in 2012. Of this 3,069 local review boards reviewed 1,916 children prior to their leaving foster care. The remaining children left foster care prior to a case review.

Returning a child to a parent or finalizing an adoption are the most permanent options for children who leave foster care. In 2012, 64% of children reviewed were returned to a parent or had a finalized adoption. The following table summarizes data for all children leaving foster care in 2012.

INDICATOR	ALL CHILDREN	CHILDREN REVIEWED	CHILDREN NOT REVIEWED
CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE	3,069 (100%)	1,916 (63%)	1,153 (37%)
PERMANENCY OUTCOMES			
RETURNED TO PARENT	1,362 (44%)	725 (38%)	637 (55%)
FINALIZED ADOPTION	595 (20%)	592 (31%)	4 (<1%)
OTHER OUTCOMES			
RELATIVE CUSTODY	799 (26%)	326 (17%)	473 (41%)
EMANCIPATED OR TURNED 18	264 (9%)	253 (13%)	11 (1%)
OTHER /NOT REPORTED	49 (2%)	20 (1%)	28 (3%)



“Having family helps with identity formation, a sense of belonging, and the security of knowing that no matter what, you will always have a place to go. Having family to care about them can be the single most healing experience for many youth in foster care.”

*Sarah Greenblatt,
Casey Family Services*

REMAINING IN CARE

1,079

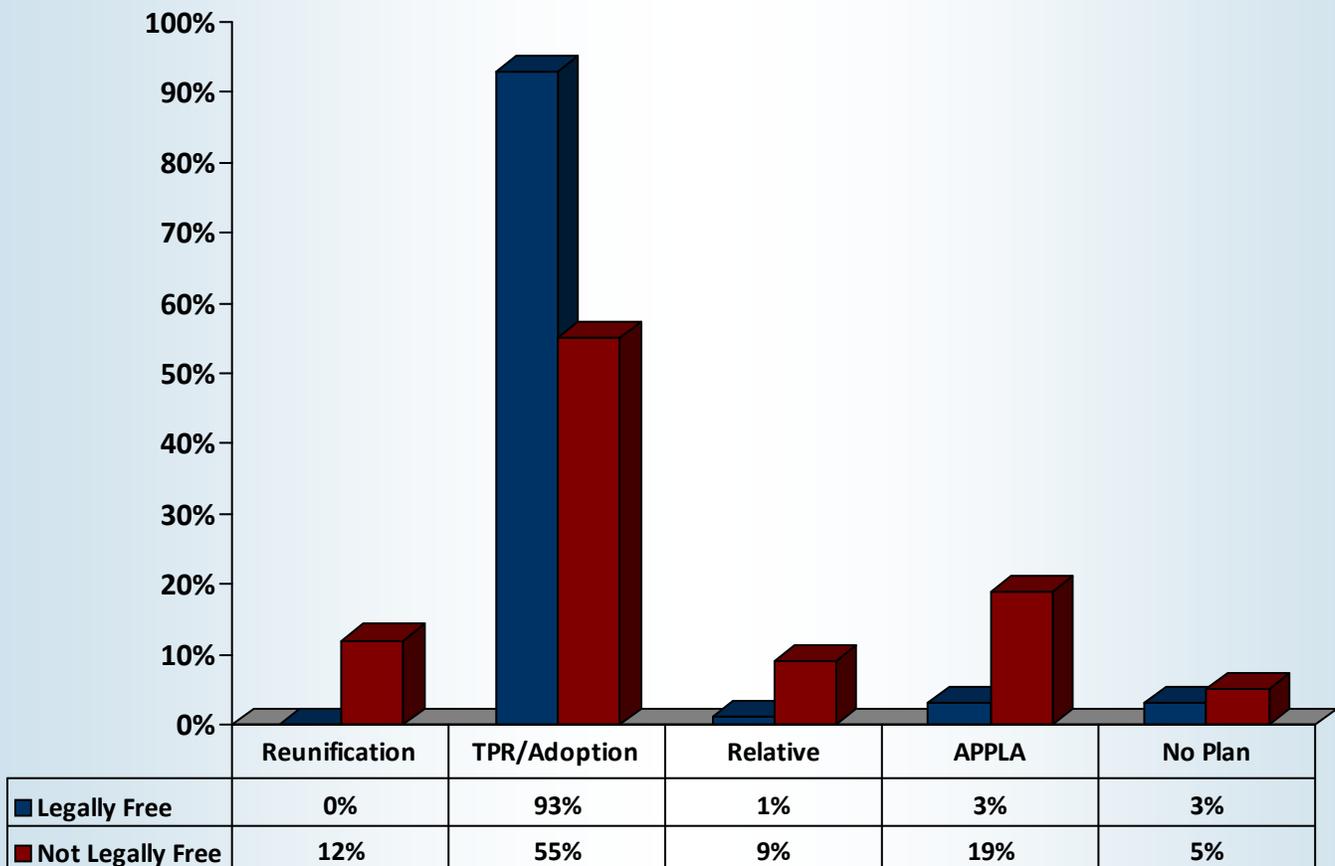
There were 2,980 children in foster care reported to the Review Board by the Department of Social Services, as of December 31, 2012. Of these, 36% (1,079 children) have been in the foster care system for 17 continuous months or longer for their most recent foster care entry.

LEGALLY FREE:

Of these children remaining in care 17 months or longer, 66% (703) are currently legally free for adoption. The average length of time in care for these children is 4.4 years, or 55 months. The length of time in foster care ranges from seventeen months to 17.3 years ; and 57 children have spent 10 or more years in foster care.

The following graph compares the agency plan at the last foster care review for children who have been in foster care for 17 months or longer and whether they are currently legally free for adoption.

AGENCY PLAN FOR CHILDREN IN CARE 17 MONTHS OR LONGER



ADOPTIONS

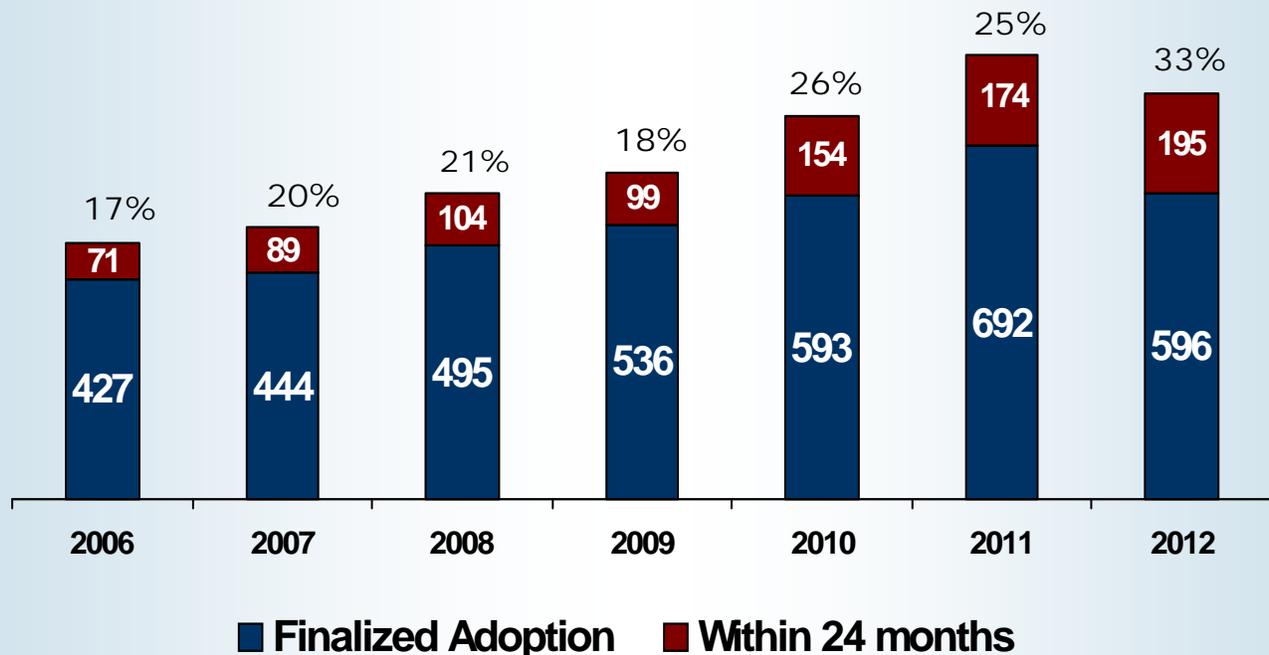
596

Of all children who left foster care in 2012, 19% (596) had finalized adoptions; thirty-three percent (194) of these adoptions were completed within the federal standard of 24 months, significantly more than previous years. The average length of time a child spends in foster care before a finalized adoption remained at 38 months (3 years).



The average age at adoption was 6.8 years, and in 2012 adoptions were finalized for 82 children age 13 and older. Teen adoptions accounted for 14% of all finalized adoptions, another substantial increase over previous years. Positive permanency for these young people should continue to be a priority for the child welfare system in South Carolina.

FINALIZED ADOPTIONS BY CALENDAR YEAR



SOUTH CAROLINA HEART GALLERY

Heart Galleries across the United States provide public awareness of the need for foster care adoption and help find “Forever Families” for individual children.

The South Carolina Heart Gallery continues to benefit from the generosity of local photographers who donate their time and talent to provide beautiful portraits of waiting children, and from public exhibit space offered by faith communities, libraries, restaurants, and other businesses.

2012 STATISTICS:

170	CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED
273	PUBLIC EXHIBITS/MEDIA FEATURES
70,777	WEBSITE VISITORS
982	INQUIRIES RECEIVED FROM FAMILIES INTERESTED IN ADOPTING
44	CHILDREN MATCHED WITH FAMILIES



Upper left: Photographer Amber Gillum; Upper right: Heart Gallery staff Selina Westerwelle and Amanda Blackmon, and Kim Holmes, SCDSS; Lower left: Photographer Mike Baker; and Lower right: Review Board Coordinator Nina Spinelli with husband and photographer Nick Spinelli

OUTCOMES BY COUNTY

The following table compares 2012 Review Board data for South Carolina's 46 counties for children reviewed, children entering/reentering, children leaving care, and permanency. Permanency is defined as a child returned to a parent or having a finalized adoption. For children who did not achieve permanency, 26% (801) went to the custody of a relative and 10% turned 18 or were emancipated.

For children entering and leaving care, these numbers reflect all children reported to the Foster Care Review Board by the Department of Social Services. They include children that were reviewed and children that DSS reported leaving care prior to a review being held. All numbers are rounded to the highest whole number.

County	Reviews Held	Children Reviewed	# Entered FC	Previous Out-of-Home Placement	# Left FC	Permanency		Other Outcomes	
						% Returned to parent	% Adopted	% Relative Custody	% Other
State Total	5,793	3,715	2,748	28% (761)	3,073	44% (1,356)	20% (597)	26% (801)	10% (319)
Abbeville	39	25	18	28% (5)	15	60% (9)	7% (1)	26% (4)	7% (1)
Aiken	133	96	76	33% (25)	76	32% (24)	33% (25)	23% (18)	12% (9)
Allendale	14	7	3	0	7	43% (3)	28.5% (2)	28.5% (2)	0
Anderson	413	260	92	46% (42)	154	36% (55)	36% (55)	19% (30)	9% (14)
Bamberg	20	13	4	0	6	50% (3)	33% (2)	0	17% (1)
Barnwell	33	25	21	33% (7)	22	59% (13)	5% (1)	18% (4)	18% (4)
Beaufort	67	41	37	11% (4)	28	43% (12)	46% (13)	11% (3)	0
Berkeley	171	109	96	32% (31)	87	55% (48)	15% (13)	22% (19)	8% (7)
Calhoun	18	11	6	67% (4)	8	50% (4)	0	38% (3)	12% (1)
Charleston	563	349	221	30% (66)	261	41% (108)	18% (48)	29% (75)	12% (30)
Cherokee	141	92	72	25% (18)	71	27% (19)	16% (11)	39% (28)	18% (13)
Chester	33	20	16	31% (5)	13	54% (7)	0	23% (3)	23% (3)
Chesterfield	69	54	37	46% (17)	43	63% (27)	16% (7)	19% (8)	2% (1)
Clarendon	53	33	15	40% (6)	15	73% (11)	7% (1)	7% (1)	13% (2)
Colleton	65	42	41	24% (10)	30	73% (22)	0	20% (6)	7% (2)
Darlington	184	125	93	41% (38)	92	54% (50)	15% (14)	23% (21)	8% (7)
Dillon	67	49	28	43% (12)	30	43% (13)	17% (5)	27% (8)	13% (4)
Dorchester	121	70	51	20% (10)	47	49% (23)	19% (9)	23% (11)	9% (4)
Edgefield	14	10	13	69% (9)	6	0	33% (2)	50% (3)	17% (1)

OUTCOMES BY COUNTY

County	Reviews Held	Children Reviewed	# Entered FC	Previous Out-of-Home Placement	# Left FC	Permanency		Other Outcomes	
						% Returned to parent	% Adopted	% Relative Custody	% Other
State Total	5,793	3,715	2,748	28% (761)	3,073	44% (1,356)	20% (597)	26% (801)	10% (319)
Fairfield	29	17	12	17% (2)	10	10% (1)	30% (3)	60% (6)	0
Florence	228	155	99	28% (28)	126	51% (65)	13% (16)	28% (35)	8% (10)
Georgetown	29	17	23	0	17	29% (5)	12% (2)	47% (8)	12% (2)
Greenville	589	361	280	24% (68)	299	61% (183)	20% (60)	10% (30)	9% (26)
Greenwood	20	11	25	20% (5)	27	56% (15)	22% (6)	22% (6)	0
Hampton	28	20	12	33% (4)	13	92% (12)	8% (1)	0	0
Horry	279	190	144	27% (39)	184	47% (87)	14% (25)	27% (50)	12% (22)
Jasper	19	11	14	0	17	35% (6)	12% (2)	41% (7)	12% (2)
Kershaw	84	51	50	38% (19)	52	58% (30)	13% (7)	27% (14)	2% (1)
Lancaster	106	73	40	40% (16)	62	37% (23)	34% (21)	23% (14)	6% (4)
Laurens	156	92	70	4% (3)	72	26% (19)	20% (14)	54% (39)	0
Lee	36	23	6	0	19	42% (8)	26.5% (5)	5% (1)	26.5% (5)
Lexington	300	207	171	23% (40)	201	36% (73)	19% (38)	34% (68)	11% (22)
Marion	99	54	28	46% (13)	41	46% (19)	22% (9)	15% (6)	17% (7)
Marlboro	40	26	12	67% (8)	16	38% (6)	44% (7)	0	18% (3)
McCormick	8	4	2	50% (1)	1	0	0	0	100% (1)
Newberry	75	43	21	29% (6)	32	41% (13)	22% (7)	34% (11)	3% (1)
Oconee	104	62	45	27% (12)	36	31% (11)	33% (12)	19% (7)	17% (6)
Orangeburg	92	57	49	24% (12)	52	37% (19)	25% (13)	21% (11)	17% (9)
Pickens	263	167	129	29% (37)	146	31% (45)	17% (25)	40% (59)	12% (17)
Richland	368	238	274	23% (64)	279	46% (127)	11% (32)	30% (85)	13% (35)
Saluda	13	9	7	29% (2)	6	33% (2)	17% (1)	33% (2)	17% (1)
Spartanburg	295	194	181	15% (27)	186	35% (65)	23% (42)	31% (57)	12% (22)
Sumter	63	42	21	14% (3)	35	43% (15)	34% (12)	9% (3)	14% (5)
Union	55	34	9	11% (1)	23	17% (4)	44% (10)	26% (6)	13% (3)
Williamsburg	50	28	5	80% (4)	8	37% (3)	25% (2)	25% (2)	13% (1)
York	147	98	79	48% (38)	102	48% (49)	16% (16)	26% (27)	10% (10)

BARRIERS BY COUNTY

The Foster Care Review Board is statutorily mandated to report on deficiencies in the child welfare system. One tool for measuring deficiencies are areas of concern. These are defined as non-compliance with law and/or policy and are identified during the review of a child's case.

The following table summarizes data collected during reviews held in calendar year 2012. The data compares Areas of Concern of individual counties. All numbers are rounded to the highest whole number.

County	Total Areas of Concern	Case Plan Barriers	Agency Policy Violations	Legal Barriers	Hearings Not Held	Hearings Not Held Timely	Adoption Service Delays
State Total	7,448	37% (2,754)	19% (1,383)	22% (1,628)	4% (314)	10% (739)	8% (630)
Abbeville	81	35% (28)	11% (9)	27% (22)	1% (1)	14% (11)	12% (10)
Aiken	155	45% (70)	16% (24)	22% (34)	0	6% (10)	11% (17)
Allendale	18	39% (7)	11% (2)	39% (7)	0	11% (2)	0
Anderson	404	46% (184)	16% (63)	20% (83)	6% (24)	6% (24)	6% (26)
Bamberg	14	21% (3)	29% (4)	36% (5)	0	0	14% (2)
Barnwell	31	55% (17)	0	16% (5)	0	23% (7)	6% (2)
Beaufort	46	55% (25)	13% (6)	15% (7)	0	2% (1)	15% (7)
Berkeley	212	42% (89)	5% (11)	12% (26)	19% (39)	7% (15)	15% (32)
Calhoun	26	35% (9)	4% (1)	38% (10)	4% (1)	11% (3)	8% (2)
Charleston	1,004	35% (354)	20% (199)	21% (209)	3% (29)	13% (129)	8% (84)
Cherokee	212	37% (79)	18% (38)	25% (52)	<1% (1)	14% (29)	6% (13)
Chester	36	6% (2)	69% (25)	17% (6)	0	0	8% (3)
Chesterfield	82	38% (31)	28% (23)	32% (26)	0	0	2% (2)
Clarendon	34	4% (1)	26% (9)	29% (10)	0	26% (9)	15% (5)
Colleton	67	57% (38)	6% (4)	21% (14)	10% (7)	6% (4)	0
Darlington	207	40% (83)	16% (34)	34% (70)	2% (3)	4% (9)	4% (8)
Dillon	71	38% (27)	10% (7)	22% (16)	0	10% (7)	20% (14)
Dorchester	214	45% (95)	14% (30)	16% (35)	3% (7)	18% (39)	4% (8)
Edgefield	6	50% (3)	17% (1)	0	0	0	33% (2)

BARRIERS BY COUNTY

County	Total Areas of Concern	Case Plan Barriers	Agency Policy Violations	Legal Barriers	Hearings Not Held	Hearings Not Held Timely	Adoption Service Delays
State Total	7,448	37% (2,754)	19% (1,383)	22% (1,628)	4% (314)	10% (739)	8% (630)
Fairfield	32	9% (3)	72% (23)	13% (4)	0	0	6% (2)
Florence	162	48% (77)	21% (33)	25% (41)	1% (2)	1% (2)	4% (7)
Georgetown	17	53% (9)	6% (1)	23% (4)	0	0	18% (3)
Greenville	1,145	33% (380)	21% (242)	23% (262)	5% (60)	12% (131)	6% (70)
Greenwood	26	46% (12)	15.5% (4)	19% (5)	0	15.5% (4)	4% (1)
Hampton	43	37% (16)	9% (4)	40% (17)	5% (2)	2% (1)	7% (3)
Horry	267	42% (112)	16% (42)	16% (42)	7% (19)	7% (20)	12% (32)
Jasper	10	50% (5)	20% (2)	20% (2)	0	10% (1)	0
Kershaw	118	30% (36)	16% (19)	30% (35)	8% (9)	8% (10)	8% (9)
Lancaster	44	12% (5)	43% (19)	36% (16)	0	2% (1)	7% (3)
Laurens	341	30% (103)	24% (83)	18% (61)	1% (4)	15% (49)	12% (41)
Lee	10	40% (4)	0	30% (3)	10% (1)	10% (1)	10% (1)
Lexington	501	33% (167)	20% (102)	12% (57)	7% (36)	12% (61)	16% (78)
Marion	79	65% (51)	19% (15)	9% (7)	0	6% (5)	1% (1)
Marlboro	30	44% (13)	7% (2)	33% (10)	0	3% (1)	13% (4)
McCormick	10	50% (5)	10% (1)	0	0	0	40% (4)
Newberry	150	54% (81)	13% (20)	13% (20)	0	9% (13)	11% (16)
Oconee	127	42% (53)	10% (13)	22% (28)	4% (5)	6% (8)	16% (20)
Orangeburg	44	27% (12)	7% (3)	25% (11)	0	32% (14)	9% (4)
Pickens	296	32% (96)	15% (44)	29% (85)	11% (34)	5% (14)	8% (23)
Richland	573	30% (171)	26% (141)	21% (123)	5% (30)	9% (54)	9% (54)
Saluda	13	54% (7)	38% (5)	0	0	0	8% (1)
Spartanburg	239	46% (110)	14% (34)	23% (54)	0	14% (34)	3% (7)
Sumter	28	57% (16)	21% (6)	11% (3)	0	7% (2)	4% (1)
Union	57	32% (18)	21% (12)	40% (23)	0	7% (4)	0
Williamsburg	40	17% (7)	10% (4)	57% (23)	0	3% (1)	13% (5)
York	126	32% (40)	15% (19)	44% (55)	0	7% (9)	2% (3)

AWARDS

The State Board of Directors selects a Review Board and Review Board Member of the Year. Community partners, staff and review board members nominate boards and individual review board members. The Professional Development and Awards Committee of the State Board reviews all nominations and makes recommendations to the State Board.

Local Review Board 5E, Kershaw and Richland Counties, was selected as the 2012 Review Board of the Year. Review Board Members are **Sandra Inabinet, Mary Long, Heidi Lovit, and Laurie Parks**. Together these ladies run this Board like a well-oiled machine. One of their biggest strengths is that they work as team. When they take on an issue or a project, they all participate equally.

REVIEW BOARD 5E REVIEW BOARD OF THE YEAR



Left to Right: Sandra Inabinet, Heidi Lovit, Mary Long, Michelle Dhunjshah, and Laurie Parks

In 2012, three of the four members had perfect attendance at their review board meetings. All four of them attended the 2012 Annual Professional Development Day in Columbia.

They have established an excellent working relationship with staff at the Kershaw County Department of Social Services (DSS). They have participated in quarterly partners meetings and have advocated on individual cases. They have supported DSS by providing toiletries for the Independent Living Program. They also provided refreshments for DSS staff at joint training sessions.

Members of the Board arranged for a South Carolina Heart Gallery Exhibit at the Jewish Community Center. They hosted a lovely opening night reception to bring attention to the need to find families who are open to adopting these waiting children.

These ladies have also communicated with their local elected officials, keeping them abreast of issues impacting safety and permanence for children in foster care. They took it upon themselves to arrange and attend a meeting with several of their local elected officials, the Review Board Executive Director/General Counsel, and the DSS Deputy State Director for Human Services to discuss strategies for improving the Child Welfare System.

Needless to say, these ladies exemplify how a cohesive group of committed volunteers can make a difference in their community and in the lives of the children. They are very deserving of this honor.

AWARDS

JACK MCCALL REVIEW BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jack McCall, Review Board 13B, Greenville County, was selected as the 2012 Review Board Member of the Year. Appointed to the local review board in December, Mr. McCall is a true leader, driven by what he can do for others. He has earned the respect of his fellow board members and

other community partners through his sincere approach to making an impact for children and families in Greenville County.

Mr. McCall enthusiastically attends community meetings and trainings related to child welfare and permanency planning. He has routinely attended Palmetto Power meetings in Columbia. He also attended Permanency Roundtable Values and Skills Training. Following the training he shared the information learned with his fellow review board members and encouraged them to participate in future Permanency Roundtables.

Under Mr. McCall's leadership, Review Board 13B held a fundraiser and purchased an I-Pad for a child in foster care who is non-verbal and struggles to find a way to express himself.

In July of 2012, he presented the Review Board's Annual Report and shared details about the collaborative vision of DSS's new administration. Mr. McCall provided a transcript of his presentation to all Greenville County Foster Care Review Board members.

During review board meetings, Mr. McCall is known for providing encouragement to caseworkers, parents, foster parents and Guardians ad Litem who have worked diligently and make a difference in a child's case. His focus on service is a true illustration of his desire to make a difference in the lives of the children in foster care.



Michelle Dhunjishah and Jack McCall

A hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of house you lived in . . . what kind of car you drove . . . what your bank account balance was . . . but what will matter is that you were important in the life of a child.

Adapted from a quote by Forest Witcraft

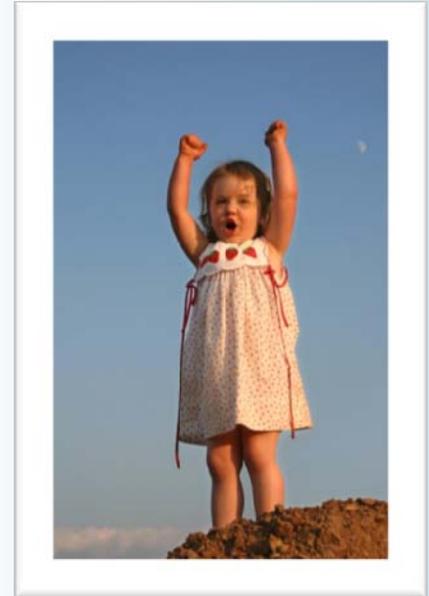
PEOPLE POWER

14,430 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Review Board volunteers are the most important part of the independent review of children and youth who must be removed from their homes. They freely give of their time and resources to strengthen services for children and keep a sense of urgency about moving children to forever families.

During calendar year 2012, local review board members from 42 local review boards demonstrated their commitment in the following ways:

- **8,424** hours were spent reviewing the cases of children in foster care.
- **51** service projects were completed by local review boards to support children in foster care and those who serve them.
- **25** local review boards routinely participated in meetings with community partners to discuss systemic trends and issues impacting children in foster care.
- **16** local review boards sent quarterly reports to their local legislative delegations outlining local review board activities and issues impacting safety and permanency for children in foster care.
- **5** local review boards formally presented the Foster Care Review Board's Annual Report to their legislative delegation.
- **16** local review boards assisted at a Heart Gallery Photo Shoots.
- **5** local review boards secured venues or hosted events for Heart Gallery exhibits.
- **4** local review boards met with a Family Court Judge from their judicial circuit to discuss the role of the review board and to see how they could be of assistance to the court.



WHO WE ARE

STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5th Congressional District, Cherokee County
1st Congressional District, Berkeley County
2nd Congressional District, Richland County
3rd Congressional District
4th Congressional District, Spartanburg County
6th Congressional District
7th Congressional District
Member-at-Large, Greenville County

Martha (Sissy) Brock, Chairperson
Charles (Chuck) Koches
Jo Hecker
Vacant
Monica Hill
Vacant
Vacant
Vernon McCurry

STATE OFFICE STAFF

Executive Director/General Counsel
Program Director
Program Supervisors

Michelle Dhunjishah
Beth Green
Robin Campbell
Stephen Clyburn
Jennifer Anstead
Kathryn Bozik
Doretta Crosson-Irby
Shirel Frazier
Dawn Mike
Toya Scott
Nina Spinelli
Stephanie Spink
Michelle White

Review Board Coordinators

Millie Qualls
Selina Westerwelle
Amanda Blackmon
Hayley Salley

Heart Gallery Coordinator
Heart Gallery Program Assistant
Heart Gallery Recruitment Specialists

Vacant
Lisa Vosburgh
Jeanette Davis
Corlette Minor
Heather Valentine

Staff Attorney
Research and Planning
Business Manager
Administrative Assistants

This report was prepared by the Children's Foster Care Review Board, South Carolina Governor's Office. For additional information please contact Lisa S. Vosburgh, Data and Research Administrator, at the address listed on the back cover, telephone (803) 734-4194; email: lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov; or Web: www.oepp.sc.gov/fcrb.

SOUTH CAROLINA FOSTER CARE REVIEW

Advocating Permanent Families for Children

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

MAILING ADDRESS:

1205 Pendleton Street, Room 436
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

E-mail: fcrb@oepp.sc.gov

Phone: (803) 734-0480

Fax: (803) 734-1223

Website: www.oepp.sc.gov/fcrb/



State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R HALEY
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE
POLICY AND PROGRAMS