

Aadvocating

permanent families for children



Foster Care Review Board

South Carolina Department of Administration

2015—2016 Activities and Recommendations

2015 DATA SNAPSHOT



STATS AT-A-GLANCE

- 3,725 CHILDREN ENTERED FOSTER CARE
- 28% OF CHILDREN ENTERING CARE HAD PREVIOUS OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS
- 3,506 CHILDREN LEFT FOSTER CARE
- 49 % OF CHILDREN RETURNED HOME
- 21% OF CHILDREN REVIEWED WERE ADOPTED

2015 REVIEWS

- 6,711 REVIEWS HELD
- 4,032 CHILDREN REVIEWED
- 424 REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS

AREAS OF CONCERN

- 28% CASE PLAN BARRIERS
- 30% AGENCY POLICY VIOLATIONS
- 30% LEGAL BARRIERS
- 5% ADOPTION SERVICE DELAYS
- 5% LEGAL HEARINGS NOT HELD TIMELY
- 2% LEGAL HEARINGS NOT HELD

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE 17 MONTHS OR LONGER

- 1,335 CHILDREN
- 59% LEGALLY FREE FOR ADOPTION
- 27% IN CARE FIVE OR MORE YEARS

SC HEART GALLERY

- 2,468 INQUIRIES
- 258 ADOPTION EVENTS
- 159 CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED AND 144 VIDEOTAPED
- 35 VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS

ADOPTIONS

- 369 FINALIZED ADOPTIONS
- 34% WITHIN 24 MONTHS
- 13% AGE 13 AND OLDER

PEOPLE POWER

- 195 VOLUNTEERS
- 7,824 CASE REVIEW HOURS
- 11,438 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 17 BOARDS COMPLETED SERVICE PROJECTS

2015 REVIEW BOARD OF THE YEAR

- REVIEW BOARD 7A, SPARTANBURG COUNTY

2015 REVIEW BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

- RHONDA LITTLETON, REVIEW BOARD 13C, GREENVILLE COUNTY

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 Foster Care Review Board.



RECOMMENDATION

The South Carolina 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 the General Assembly.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW FOR FAMILY PRESERVATION CASES

State Board Recommendation

Since 1974, the Foster Care Review Board (“FCRB”) has provided an external, third-party review system for all children residing in foster care in South Carolina. This independent system of accountability has successfully utilized citizen volunteers to promote safe, permanent homes for children in foster care in a timely manner and has increased public awareness regarding issues faced by children and families involved with the child-welfare system.

The Department of Social Services (“DSS”) and the FCRB will continue to develop an independent review system for Family Preservation cases, in addition to foster care cases, that will provide routine, child-specific reviews in order to ensure immediate and enduring safety for all children within DSS oversight.

SUMMARY OF REVIEWS



6,711

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

During calendar year 2015, local review boards held 424 local review board meetings, completing 6,711 case reviews for 4,032 children in foster care. In 2015 there was a 13% increase in the number of reviews and an 11% increase in the number of children reviewed.

Data regarding entry into foster care for 3,725 children was received from the Department of Social Services and entered in the Review Board data-management system during calendar year 2015. Local review boards held reviews for 1,838 of these children, while 1,887 children either left foster care prior to a case review, or had not been reviewed as of December 31, 2015. Twenty-eight percent (28%), or 1,056 children had at least one previous out-of-home placement.

INDICATOR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CHILDREN REVIEWED	4,427	3,716	3,475	3,630	4,032
REVIEWS HELD	7,149	5,794	5,876	5,914	6,711
REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS	432	405	403	418	424
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	1,332	1,565	1,568	1,829	1,838
CHILDREN RE-ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	513	724	661	768	915
CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	2,163	1,916	1,676	1,543	1,704

Areas of Concern

9,309

The monthly review process allows local review boards to identify systemic 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 agency policy.

In 2015, local review boards identified 9,309 areas of concern, a 26% increase from 2014. Legal barriers, including delayed and late hearings, accounted for 37% of all areas of concern. No court order at the time of the review was the most frequently noted legal concern in 2015 (1,867), followed by interested parties not being invited (1,072). The most frequently identified program area of concern was no current case plan (958). Agency policy violations, including case plan barriers, accounted for 58% of all areas of concern and delays in adoption services accounted for 5%.



SUMMARY OF REVIEWS

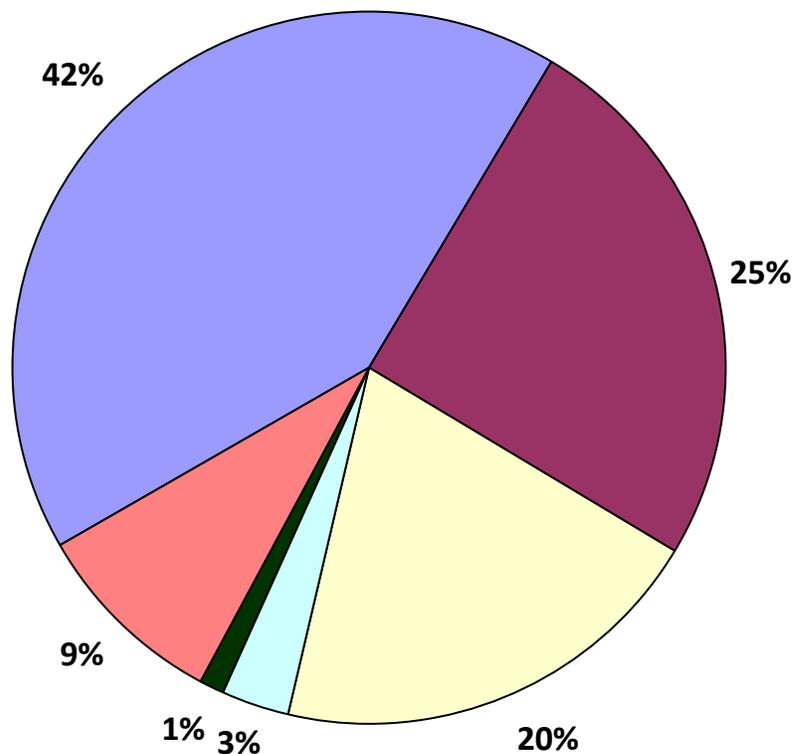
Case Decisions and Recommendations

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 permanency recommendation possible for each child. Recommendations are sent to the Family Court, DSS, and Guardians ad Litem.

If a required interested party is not invited or if additional information is needed for the board members to make a permanency recommendation, no recommendation is made and the review is continued. Reviews that are continued or not held are rescheduled within three months of the original review date.

The graph below illustrates the percentage and type for each of the 6,711 recommendations issued by local review boards in 2015.

Review Board Recommendations



ENTERING FOSTER CARE



3,725

This is the number of children who entered foster care between January and December 2015, 16% more than in 2014.



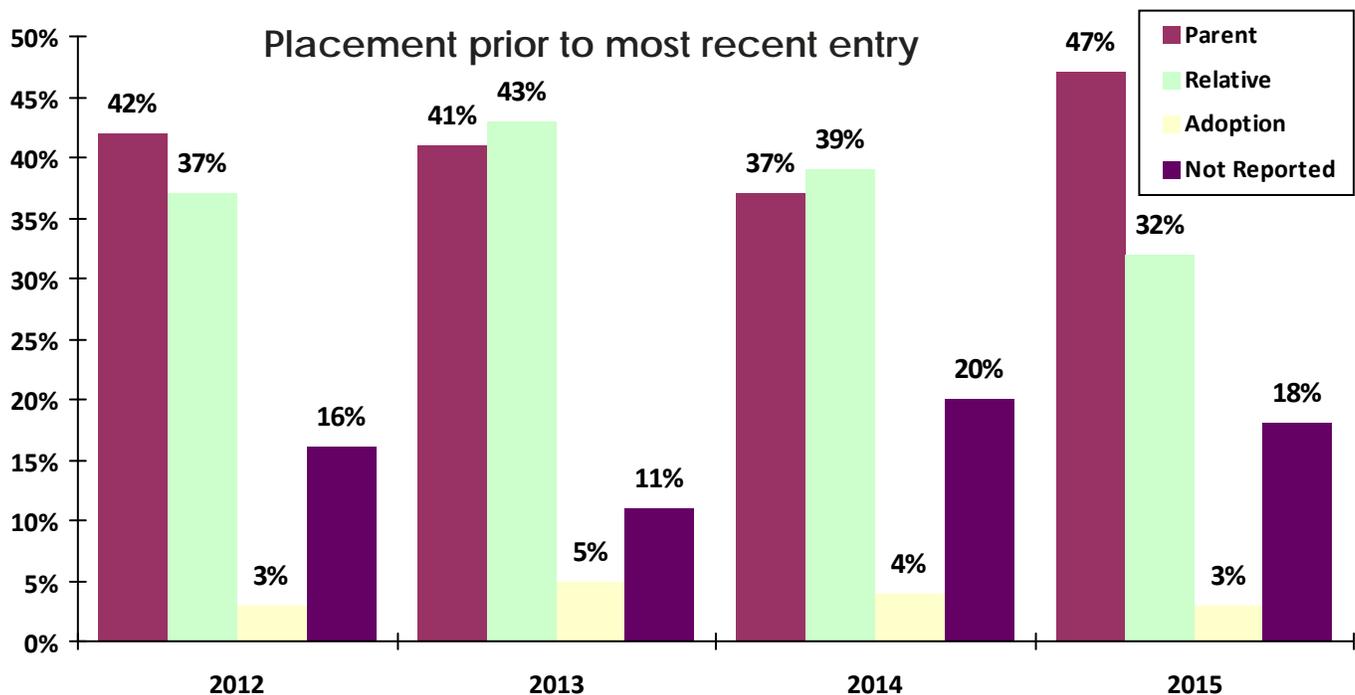
Thirty-seven percent (37%) of children entering foster care in 2015 entered due to physical neglect, while 33% entered care due to abuse. The remaining children entered foster care due to drug exposure/testing positive for drugs (22%), reason not reported (5%), abandonment (2%), and voluntary placement (1%).

Previous Out-of-Home Placements

1,056

Of the 3,725 children reported to have entered foster care in 2015, 28% (1,056) had at least one reported previous out-of-home placement. Of the 1,056, forty-seven percent (47%) entering foster care came from the home of a parent, 32% from the home of a relative, and 3% from an adoptive home.

The Review Board reports on all out-of-home placements for children who enter foster care because moving from home to home, or coming in and out of foster care, creates additional trauma for a child. The chart below displays prior placement data for the most recent entry to foster care by calendar year.





LEAVING FOSTER CARE

3,506

DSS reported that 3,506 children left the foster care system in 2015. Of these 3,506 children, local review boards reviewed 1,704 of these 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 2015, 69% 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 2015.

INDICATOR	ALL CHILDREN	CHILDREN REVIEWED	CHILDREN NOT REVIEWED
CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE	3,506	1,704	1,802
PERMANENCY OUTCOMES			
REUNIFICATION	49% (1,723)	48% (810)	51% (913)
FINALIZED ADOPTION	11% (369)	21% (366)	<1% (3)
OTHER OUTCOMES			
RELATIVE CUSTODY	31% (1,079)	18% (299)	43% (780)
EMANCIPATED OR TURNED 18	6% (229)	12% (209)	1% (20)
OTHER /NOT REPORTED	3% (106)	1% (20)	5% (86)

The following table compares the reason children left foster care with the agency plan presented at the last review.

REASON LEFT CARE	DSS PLAN AT LAST REVIEW						
	Adoption	Reunification	Relative	Non-Relative	APPLA /IL	TPR	No Plan
ADOPTION	81%	1%	1%	0%	0%	16%	1%
REUNIFICATION	0%	88%	1%	0%	1%	5%	5%
RELATIVE CUSTODY	4%	54%	18%	1%	2%	13%	8%
NON-RELATIVE CUSTODY	0%	72%	7%	14%	0%	0%	7%
DECEASED	50%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%
EMANCIPATED	38%	16%	4%	0%	37%	4%	1%

ADOPTIONS

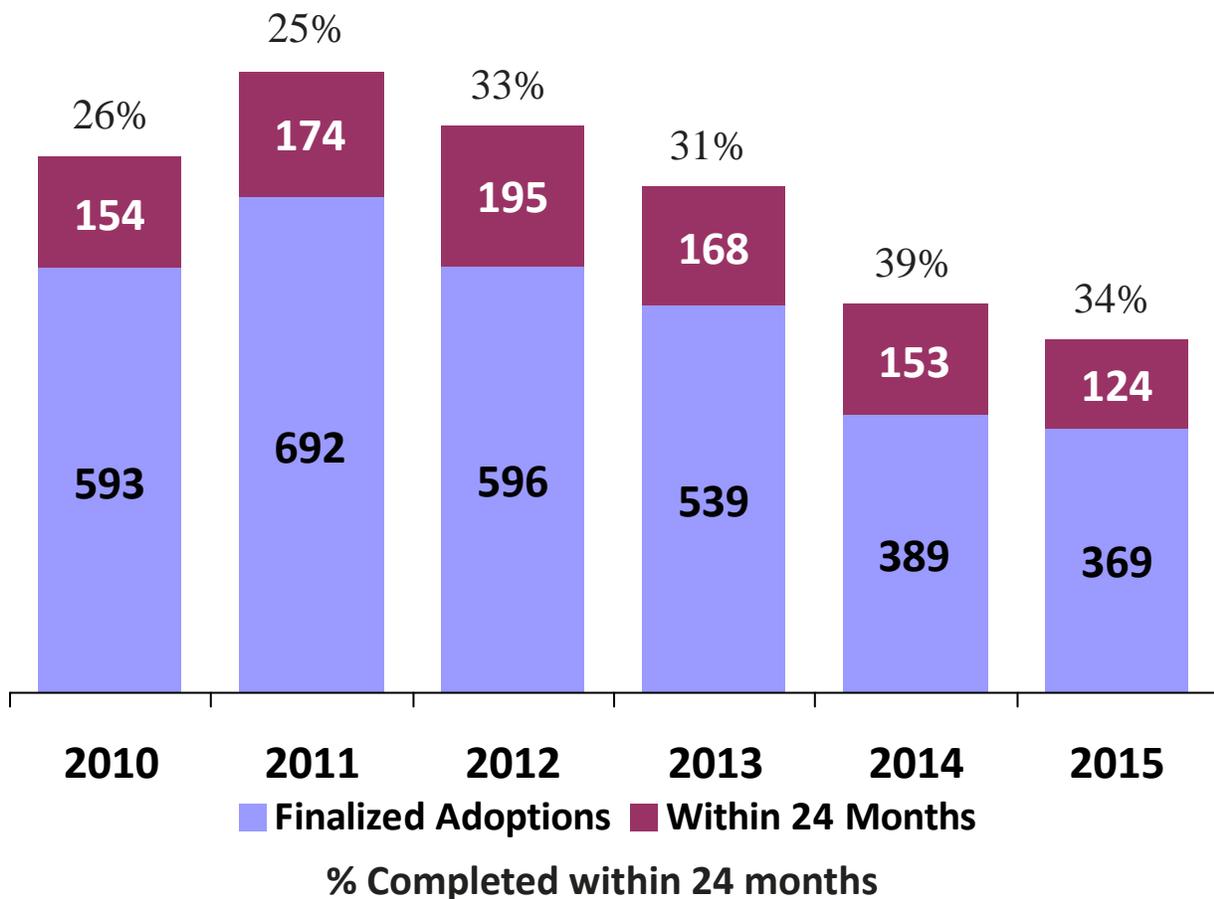


369

Of all children who left foster care in 2015, 11% (369) had finalized adoptions; thirty-four percent (34%), or 124, of these adoptions were completed within the federal standard of 24 months, slightly lower than 2014. The average length of time a child spends in foster care before a finalized adoption remained at just under three years.

The average age at adoption was 6.4 years, and in 2015 adoptions were finalized for 47 children age 13 and older. Teen adoptions accounted for 13% of all finalized adoptions. Positive permanency for older youth should continue to be a priority for the child-welfare system in South Carolina.

Finalized Adoptions by Calendar Year





REMAINING IN CARE

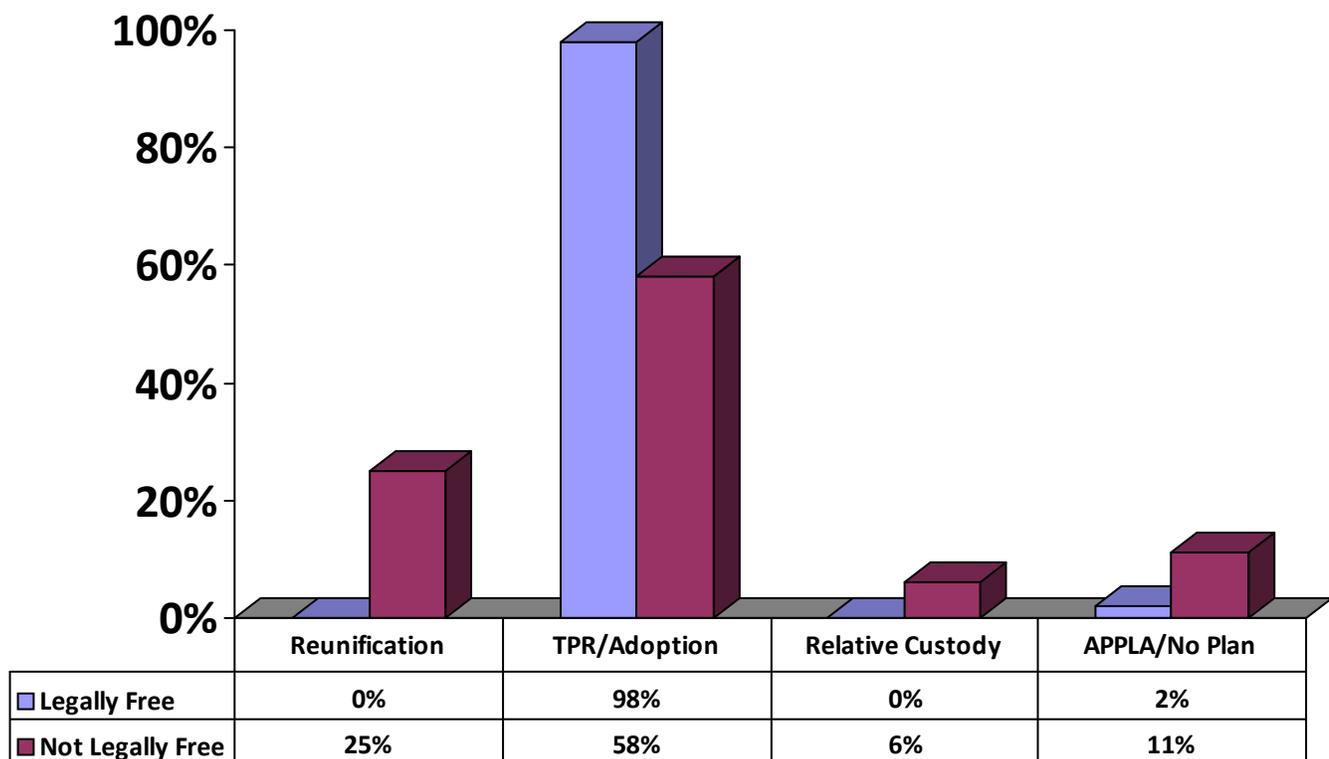
1,335

There were 3,763 children in foster care as reported to the Review Board by DSS as of December 31, 2015. Of these, 35% (1,335) have been in the foster-care system for their most recent foster-care entry for 17 continuous months or longer.

Of these children remaining in care 17 months or longer, 59% (792) are currently legally free for adoption. The average length of time in care for these children is 3.8 years, or 46 months. The length of time in foster care ranges from 17 months to 18 years; and 214 children (27%) have spent five or more years in foster care.

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

DSS Plan for Children in Care 17 Months or Longer



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.

The new, more interactive Heart Gallery website became operational and features photos, bios, AND video profiles of waiting children. With the updated website, the Heart Gallery has seen an overall 85.7% increase in inquiries and a 234% increase in new family intakes.

2015 STATISTICS:

159	CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED
144	CHILDREN VIDEOTAPED
258	PUBLIC EXHIBITS/MEDIA FEATURES
2,468	INQUIRIES RECEIVED FROM FAMILIES INTERESTED IN ADOPTING
54	CHILDREN MATCHED WITH FAMILIES
35	VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS
324	NEW SC FAMILIES INITIATED THE ADOPTION PROCESS
37	HOME STUDIES COMPLETED AND ACCEPTED FOR APPROVAL



Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation Public Library, Florence, SC



Photo Exhibit, Dutch Square Mall, Columbia



Open your heart.
Open your home.

ADOPT!

sheartgallery.org



HEART GALLERY

The South Carolina Heart Gallery (SCHG) was selected as a 2015 *Angel in Adoption* award recipient. The SCHG was nominated by Congressman Trey Gowdy for this honor. The *Angels in Adoption™* program is the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's signature public awareness campaign and provides an opportunity for all members of the U.S. Congress to honor the good work of their constituents who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans in the United States and abroad. Each year, more than 140 Angels are honored through the *Angels in Adoption™* program.

The nomination reads as follows: The South Carolina Heart Gallery ("SCHG") has changed the lives of hundreds of South Carolina's legally free children and youth, who were and still are waiting for forever families. The SCHG uses the power of photography to find homes for children and youth lingering in foster care. Volunteer photographers take beautiful portraits of the children and youth that are then displayed in public venues across the State of South Carolina. The portraits, which capture the spirit and personality of the children, are what moves families to open their hearts and homes to the children. The SCHG portrait displays also raise public awareness about the need for adoptive families.

The SCHG started in 2005, as a volunteer effort by Millie Qualls, and it has flourished under her leadership. Over the past ten years, 1,326 children were photographed and 190 photographers donated their time and talent. With the addition of video interviews, 231 children were videotaped so the children and youth may be featured in television ads and on social media. The SCHG has featured children and youth in 1,805 exhibits and venues. 519 children have been matched with families. Additionally, the SCHG has expanded to assist prospective adoptive families by responding to inquiries, completing intakes, and completing home studies. The SCHG has received and responded to 10,899 inquires, completed 635 new family intakes and 130 adoptive home studies.



California Representative Karen Bass and Millie Qualls

OUTCOMES BY COUNTY



The following table compares 2015 Review Board data for South Carolina's 46 counties for children reviewed, children entering/re-entering, children leaving care, and permanency. Permanency is defined as a child being returned to a parent or having a finalized adoption. For children who left care but did not achieve permanency, 31% (1,079) went to the custody of a relative and 10% (335) turned 18 or the reason they left care was not reported.

For children entering and leaving care, these numbers reflect all children reported to the FCRB by DSS. They include children who were reviewed and children that DSS reported leaving care prior to a review being held.

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	6,711	4,032	3,725	28% (1,056)	3,506	49% (1,723)	11% (369)	31% (1,079)	9% (335)
Abbeville	24	14	8	37% (3)	9	45% (4)	22% (2)	11% (1)	22% (2)
Aiken	154	88	104	29% (30)	95	65% (62)	2% (2)	28% (26)	5% (5)
Allendale	10	5	5	0	5	40% (2)	0	20% (1)	40% (2)
Anderson	401	237	163	35% (57)	116	39% (45)	24% (28)	23% (27)	14% (16)
Bamberg	8	5	10	0	11	36.5% (4)	9% (1)	36.5% (4)	18% (2)
Barnwell	50	30	23	35% (8)	20	60% (12)	10% (2)	25% (5)	5% (1)
Beaufort	65	44	49	31% (15)	48	44% (21)	6% (3)	46% (22)	4% (2)
Berkeley	125	81	106	13% (14)	118	59% (69)	10% (12)	27% (32)	4% (5)
Calhoun	10	5	4	0	4	0	0	75% (3)	25% (1)
Charleston	511	329	234	37% (87)	297	42% (125)	8% (25)	37% (110)	13% (37)
Cherokee	105	64	62	19% (12)	62	38% (24)	15% (9)	27% (17)	20% (12)
Chester	41	26	13	38% (5)	23	56% (13)	22% (5)	22% (5)	0
Chesterfield	90	59	32	44% (14)	35	40% (14)	26% (9)	23% (8)	11% (4)
Clarendon	45	29	32	6% (2)	24	58% (14)	29% (7)	13% (3)	0
Colleton	100	49	70	16% (11)	68	47% (32)	6% (4)	41% (28)	6% (4)
Darlington	110	70	61	39% (24)	70	67% (47)	11% (8)	14% (10)	8% (5)
Dillon	112	79	58	36% (21)	56	82% (46)	4% (2)	7% (4)	7% (4)
Dorchester	109	69	62	47% (29)	63	25% (16)	25% (16)	34% (21)	16% (10)
Edgefield	7	5	9	22% (2)	9	22% (2)	22% (2)	56% (5)	0



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	6,711	4,032	3,725	28% (1,056)	3,506	49% (1,723)	11% (369)	31% (1,079)	9% (335)
Fairfield	30	15	12	25% (3)	6	33.3% (2)	0	33.3% (2)	33.3% (2)
Florence	104	68	79	29% (23)	68	65% (44)	7% (5)	19% (13)	9% (6)
Georgetown	37	25	56	21% (12)	49	18% (9)	6% (3)	70% (34)	6% (3)
Greenville	625	372	384	27% (105)	310	38% (117)	17% (51)	33% (104)	12% (38)
Greenwood	72	38	38	13% (5)	53	38% (20)	7% (4)	45% (24)	10% (5)
Hampton	8	6	10	10% (1)	6	17% (1)	0	83% (5)	0
Horry	358	208	145	27% (39)	139	55% (77)	14% (19)	21% (29)	10% (14)
Jasper	33	23	37	38% (14)	36	72% (26)	8% (3)	17% (6)	3% (1)
Kershaw	105	65	36	39% (14)	51	31% (16)	22% (11)	29% (15)	18% (9)
Lancaster	100	65	63	27% (17)	56	36% (20)	23% (13)	37% (21)	4% (2)
Laurens	235	128	124	35% (43)	122	51% (62)	12% (15)	34% (42)	3% (3)
Lee	11	6	9	0	11	64% (7)	0	18% (2)	18% (2)
Lexington	428	252	231	31% (71)	185	35% (64)	6% (12)	47% (87)	12% (22)
Marion	60	39	28	21% (6)	38	58% (22)	13% (5)	13% (5)	16% (6)
Marlboro	19	13	31	29% (9)	22	55% (12)	0	36% (8)	9% (2)
McCormick	0	0	3	67% (2)	1	100% (1)	0	0	0
Newberry	71	40	35	37% (13)	37	46% (17)	3% (1)	48% (18)	3% (1)
Oconee	205	117	79	23% (18)	64	28% (18)	36% (23)	22% (14)	14% (9)
Orangeburg	130	82	60	15% (9)	65	74% (48)	1.5% (1)	23% (15)	1.5% (1)
Pickens	333	188	106	29% (31)	96	41% (39)	15% (14)	33% (32)	11% (11)
Richland	540	319	467	22% (101)	458	64% (291)	2% (10)	29% (135)	5% (22)
Saluda	9	6	5	40% (2)	8	50% (4)	0	25% (2)	25% (2)
Spartanburg	731	421	338	26% (87)	288	45% (129)	11% (33)	37% (105)	7% (21)
Sumter	123	82	88	59% (52)	37	81% (30)	5% (2)	11% (4)	3% (1)
Union	11	7	15	20% (3)	16	25% (4)	6% (1)	63% (10)	6% (1)
Williamsburg	32	18	9	11% (1)	13	70% (9)	0	15% (2)	15% (2)
York	224	141	132	31% (41)	138	60% (82)	4% (6)	9% (13)	27% (37)

BARRIERS BY COUNTY



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

The following table summarizes data collected during reviews held in calendar year 2015. The data compares areas of concern in individual counties. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

County	Total Areas of Concern	Areas of Concern per Child	Case Plan Barriers	Agency Policy Violations	Legal Barriers	Hearings Not Held	Hearings Not Held Timely	Adoption Service Delays
State Total	9,309	2.3	28% (2,570)	30% (2,827)	30% (2,830)	2% (208)	5% (415)	5% (459)
Abbeville	28	2.0	18% (5)	28% (8)	54% (15)	0	0	0
Aiken	177	2.0	34% (60)	34% (61)	17% (30)	0	5% (8)	10% (18)
Allendale	9	1.8	34% (3)	22% (2)	11% (1)	0	11% (1)	22% (2)
Anderson	600	2.53	29% (174)	32% (191)	26% (155)	6% (38)	5% (32)	2% (10)
Bamberg	12	2.4	42% (5)	33% (4)	17% (2)	0	0	8% (1)
Barnwell	4	.13	25% (1)	25% (1)	50% (2)	0	0	0
Beaufort	133	3.0	35% (47)	34% (45)	20% (27)	3% (4)	1% (1)	7% (9)
Berkeley	122	1.5	19% (23)	48% (59)	19% (23)	1% (1)	1% (1)	12% (15)
Calhoun	14	2.8	43% (6)	0	43% (6)	0	14% (2)	0
Charleston	752	2.3	30% (225)	15% (114)	37% (277)	3% (22)	7% (56)	8% (58)
Cherokee	111	1.7	18% (20)	32% (35)	43% (48)	1% (1)	4% (5)	2% (2)
Chester	30	1.2	20% (6)	0	80% (24)	0	0	0
Chesterfield	17	.30	6% (1)	24% (4)	70% (12)	0	0	0
Clarendon	42	1.5	34% (14)	2% (1)	38% (16)	12% (5)	14% (6)	0
Colleton	173	3.5	26% (45)	31% (54)	26% (44)	2% (4)	3% (5)	12% (21)
Darlington	35	.50	14% (5)	0	83% (29)	0	3% (1)	0
Dillon	170	2.2	33% (56)	12% (20)	52% (89)	0	0	3% (5)
Dorchester	146	2.1	35% (51)	28% (41)	21% (31)	7% (10)	3% (5)	6% (8)
Edgefield	11	2.2	46% (5)	18% (2)	9% (1)	9% (1)	9% (1)	9% (1)



BARRIERS BY COUNTY

County	Total Areas of Concern	Areas of Concern per Child	Case Plan Barriers	Agency Policy Violations	Legal Barriers	Hearings Not Held	Hearings Not Held Timely	Adoption Service Delays
State Total	9,309	2.3	28% (2,570)	30% (2,827)	30% (2,830)	2% (208)	5% (415)	5% (459)
Fairfield	22	1.5	23% (5)	0	73% (16)	0	4% (1)	0
Florence	105	1.5	30% (31)	36% (38)	30% (32)	0	2% (2)	2% (2)
Georgetown	59	2.4	48% (28)	19% (11)	20% (12)	0	5% (3)	8% (5)
Greenville	491	1.3	22% (107)	36% (178)	24% (119)	1% (6)	14% (68)	3% (13)
Greenwood	181	4.8	19% (35)	26% (47)	33% (59)	6% (10)	2% (4)	14% (26)
Hampton	15	2.5	7% (1)	53% (8)	26% (4)	0	7% (1)	7% (1)
Horry	254	1.2	28% (72)	34% (86)	22% (55)	1% (3)	2% (4)	13% (34)
Jasper	53	2.3	32% (17)	15% (8)	42% (22)	4% (2)	0	7% (4)
Kershaw	211	3.3	22% (47)	50% (106)	21% (45)	1% (2)	2% (3)	4% (8)
Lancaster	60	1.0	17% (10)	13% (8)	67% (40)	3% (2)	0	0
Laurens	422	3.3	32% (135)	27% (114)	26% (109)	1% (6)	5% (20)	9% (38)
Lee	12	2.0	0	17% (2)	50% (6)	0	33% (4)	0
Lexington	831	3.3	17% (142)	43% (358)	27% (221)	4% (30)	4% (38)	5% (42)
Marion	77	2.0	45% (35)	16% (12)	38% (29)	0	1% (1)	0
Marlboro	26	2.0	27% (7)	54% (14)	19% (5)	0	0	0
McCormick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newberry	135	3.4	43% (58)	30% (41)	17% (23)		2% (3)	8% (10)
Oconee	259	2.2	25% (65)	42% (109)	25% (65)	1% (3)	5% (12)	2% (5)
Orangeburg	58	.71	17% (10)	0	72% (42)	0	9% (5)	2% (1)
Pickens	509	2.8	29% (148)	25% (127)	29% (146)	3% (14)	9% (45)	5% (29)
Richland	1,421	4.5	29% (418)	38% (541)	27% (379)	2% (21)	1% (18)	3% (44)
Saluda	10	1.7	30% (3)	40% (4)	20% (2)	0	0	10% (1)
Spartanburg	1,205	2.9	29% (351)	29% (350)	35% (422)	1% (10)	3% (42)	3% (30)
Sumter	66	.80	18% (12)	6% (4)	38% (25)	8% (5)	20% (13)	10% (7)
Union	8	1.1	38% (3)	25% (2)	25% (2)	0	0	12% (1)
Williamsburg	10	.60	10% (1)	10% (1)	50% (5)	0	30% (3)	0
York	223	1.62.3	34% (77)	7% (16)	51% (113)	4% (8)	<1% (1)	4% (8)

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 members. The Professional Development and Awards Committee of the State Board reviews all nominations and makes recommendations to the State Board.

Local Review Board 7A: Spartanburg County, was selected as the 2015 Review Board of the Year. Review Board 7A Members are **Rick Beltram** (appointed in January 2016), **June Bond** (resigned in December 2015), **Chuck Horton**, **Bill May**, **Juanita Thaxton**, and **Ashley Wright** – This board has worked hard to improve all aspects of the child welfare system. They have worked on behalf of the children in foster care by providing snacks and volunteering at a Heart Gallery photo shoot. They arranged for the Spartanburg Independent Living Overcomers Group to attend a Wofford football game and enjoy a meal from Wendy's. Additionally, a board member donated furniture needed to help successfully reunify a family. Upon learning that a teenager needed to complete community service hours, a 7A board member made arrangements with the Spartanburg Public Library for the teen to complete the required community service hours at the library. In collaboration with and in support of DSS, a 7A board member regularly attends partners meetings, and the board was represented at the stakeholders meeting with Director Alford in December. Also in December, the board hosted breakfast for 50 DSS foster care case managers.

Review Board 7A Review Board of the Year



7A Review Board Members June Bond, Rick Beltram, and Juanita Thaxton, Review Board Coordinator Angel Sbardella, and former Review Board Director Michelle Dhunjishah.



AWARDS

Rhonda Littleton of Review Board 13C: Greenville County, is the 2015 Review Board Member of the Year. Since her appointment on FCRB 13C in January 2012, Rhonda has worked tirelessly for the benefit of children in foster care. Rhonda has combined a personal passion and a professional calling by creating A Home for Me: Fostering and Adoption Network, initially a ministry at First Baptist Church, Simpsonville and now a non-profit agency/ministry. She has been an advocate for recruiting foster and adoptive families, for increasing awareness regarding child welfare issues in the state, and for supporting children, foster and adoptive families with the necessary resources. Rhonda is an excellent collaborator, working with numerous child welfare stakeholders throughout the state. As one of her supporting nomination letters says, "Rhonda is a woman who lives every day in service to the children of South Carolina that are currently languishing in the foster care system".

Rhonda Littleton
Review Board
Member of the
Year



Former Review Board Director
Michelle Dhunjishah and Rhonda
Littleton



Rhonda Littleton and Review Board
Coordinator Malory Hogg

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS



11,438 Volunteer Hours

The total number of volunteer hours, 11,438, contributed by nearly 200 volunteers statewide was valued at \$255,837 to the state of South Carolina. The hours spent reviewing cases and providing additional services to board members' individual communities is highly appreciated by the FCRB Staff and State Board of Directors.

FCRB volunteers are objective, independent reviewers of cases of children in foster care. Local review boards held 424 meetings and spent 7,824 hours reviewing cases for 4,032 children in foster care. The review boards issued Advisory Recommendations to DSS and the Family Court for permanent case plans for each child reviewed and identified areas of non-compliance with agency policy or statute(s) in each case. Review board members also generously donated an additional 3,614 hours supporting and strengthening services to expedite safe, permanent families for children. Local review boards contributed the following in 2015:

- **17** review boards completed service projects to support programs and events for children in foster care and those who serve them.
- **13** review boards sponsored Heart Gallery exhibits, or donated refreshments and assisted at photo shoots where children who are legally free for adoption had professional photographs taken for adoptive recruitment.
- **15** review boards participated in quarterly meetings with child-welfare partners to discuss trends and issues impacting children in foster care.
- **8** review boards provided quarterly reports to legislators on local review board activities and trends impacting children in foster care.
- **8** review boards presented the Foster Care Review Board's Annual Report to their legislative delegation to inform legislators of trends in the foster-care system.



Pat Snider (13E) and Betty Garrison (13A)



Review Board Members Sissy Brock (7B), Vernon McCurry (13C), and Chuck Koches (9E)



STATE BOARD AND STAFF

STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Jo Hecker, Chairperson
Charles (Chuck) Koches
Dan Bracken
Monica Hill
Martha (Sissy) Brock
Andrea McCoy
Vacant

STATE OFFICE STAFF

Division Director

Vacant

Program Director

Kate Bozik

Program Supervisors

Laurie Davidson
Stephanie Spink

Review Board Coordinators

Doretta Crosson-Irby
Jessica Haygood
Malory Hogg
Rachel Johnson
Tashima Martin
Teika McCollough
Angel Sbardella

Heart Gallery Coordinator

Millie Qualls

Heart Gallery Program Support Specialist

Latrice Williams

Heart Gallery Recruitment Specialists

Amanda Blackmon
Hayley Salley

Staff Attorney

Lindsey McCallister

Data and Research Administrator

Lisa S. Vosburgh

Business Manager

Jeanette Davis

Administrative Assistants

Corlette Minor
Heather Valentine

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Advocating Permanent Families for Children



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Website: <http://fcrb.sc.gov>

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 Foster Care Review Board is to provide external accountability for the foster care system and to advocate on behalf of children in foster care.