Children's Bureau
Child and Family Services Review
Round Two Key Findings Report
Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS)

The Children's Bureau administers the Child and Family Services Reviews. The reviews comprise two phases: (1) the Statewide Assessment, during which the State analyzes its child welfare data and practice, and (2) the onsite review, during which Federal and State teams examine outcomes for children and families by conducting case record reviews and case-related interviews, and assess State systemic issues through stakeholder interviews.

Following the onsite review, Federal staff prepare a Final Report, which is provided to the State after the onsite review or resolution of a discrepancy. States are provided a courtesy copy of the Final Report before the official Final Report is issued. In order for the State to be found in substantial conformity in any one of the seven outcomes reviewed, the outcome must be determined to be substantially achieved in 95 percent of the cases reviewed. States that are found not to be in substantial conformity on any of the seven outcomes or seven systemic factors must prepare a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) that includes action steps and benchmarks for bringing the State into substantial conformity. The PIP is due within 90 days after the State receives the courtesy copy of the Final Report. This report presents key findings from the Tennessee Final Report of the review.

I. Identifying Information and Review Dates

Children's Bureau Region: Regional Office IV

Date of Onsite Review: August 25-29, 2008

Period Under Review: April 1, 2007- August 29, 2008

Date Courtesy Copy of Final Report Issued: March 4, 2009

Date Program Improvement Plan Due: June 1, 2009

Date Program Improvement Plan Approved: April 1, 2010

II. Highlights of Findings

A. The State met the national standards for two of the six standards.

B. The State achieved substantial conformity with zero of the seven outcomes.

C. The State achieved substantial conformity with five of the seven systemic factors.

III. State's Conformance With the National Standards				
Data Indicator or Composite	**National Standard**	**State's Score**	**Meets Standard**	**Does Not Meet Standard**
Absence of maltreatment recurrence (data indicator)	94.6 or higher	92.9		X
Absence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care (data indicator)	99.68 or higher	99.2		X
Timeliness and permanency of reunifications (Permanency Composite 1)	122.6 or higher	119.4		X
Timeliness of adoptions (Permanency Composite 2)	106.4 or higher	136.7	X	
Permanency for children and youth in foster care for long periods of time (Permanency Composite 3)	121.7 or higher	152.4	X	
Placement stability (Permanency Composite 4)	101.5 or higher	85.9		X

IV. State's Conformance With the Outcomes		
Outcome	**Achieved Substantial Conformity**	**Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity**
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.		X
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.		X
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.		X
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.		X
Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.		X
Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.		X
Child and Family Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.		X

V. State's Conformance With the Systemic Factors		
Systemic Factor	**Achieved Substantial Conformity**	**Did Not Achieve Substantial Conformity**
Statewide Information System	X	
Case Review System		X
Quality Assurance System	X	
Staff and Provider Training	X	
Service Array and Resource Development		X
Agency Responsiveness to the Community	X	
Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention	X	
VI. Key Findings by Item[1]		
Outcomes		
Item	**Strength**	**Area Needing Improvement**
1. Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment		X
2. Repeat Maltreatment		X
3. Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in the Home and Prevent Removal or Re-entry Into Foster Care		X
4. Risk Assessment and Safety Management		X
5. Foster Care Re-entries		X
6. Stability of Foster Care Placement		X
7. Permanency Goal for Child		X
8. Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Placement With Relatives		X
9. Adoption		X
10. Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	N/A	N/A

[1] Visit the Children's Bureau Web site <www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/tools_guide/sumfinding.htm> for more detailed information about the Child and Family Services Reviews outcomes and systemic factors.

Outcomes		
Item	**Strength**	**Area Needing Improvement**
11. Proximity of Foster Care Placement	X	
12. Placement With Siblings	X	
13. Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care		X
14. Preserving Connections		X
15. Relative Placement		X
16. Relationship of Child in Care With Parents		X
17. Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents		X
18. Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning		X
19. Caseworker Visits With Child		X
20. Caseworker Visits With Parents		X
21. Educational Needs of the Child		X
22. Physical Health of the Child	X	
23. Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child		X
Systemic Factors		
Item	**Strength**	**Area Needing Improvement**
24. Statewide Information System	X	
25. Written Case Plan		X
26. Periodic Reviews	X	
27. Permanency Hearings	X	
28. Termination of Parental Rights		X
29. Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers		X

Systemic Factors		
Item	**Strength**	**Area Needing Improvement**
30. Standards Ensuring Quality Services	X	
31. Quality Assurance System	X	
32. Initial Staff Training	X	
33. Ongoing Staff Training	X	
34. Foster and Adoptive Parent Training	X	
35. Array of Services	X	
36. Service Accessibility		X
37. Individualizing Services		X
38. Engagement in Consultation With Stakeholders	X	
39. Agency Annual Reports Pursuant to CFSP		X
40. Coordination of CFSP Services With Other Federal Programs	X	
41. Standards for Foster Homes and Institutions	X	
42. Standards Applied Equally	X	
43. Requirements for Criminal Background Checks	X	
44. Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes		X
45. State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements	X	