

The well-being of a child in DCF's care should be paramount over any type of measurement tool. For example, it should not count negatively against a CBC's scorecard if a child is moved if it is in the best interest of the child. For instance:

1) If siblings were separated because of a lack of bed space, then it is possible later to reunify in the same placement, it should not count against the agency to move one of the children.

2) Right now, there is an exemption to the scorecard if a sibling group of 4 or more are placed into a group home (for the under 12 years old rule). It should be that ANY sibling group, 2 or more, should be exempt to the rule. It is just as important to keep 2 siblings together as it is for 4 or more. Of course, if there is an available foster home for the under 12 population, then great. If not, there are very capable group homes that can tailor to keeping siblings together.

3) It should not be counted negatively on the scorecard for a move if the movement happens within the same agency. For example, in our agency, we have 5 different licenses; 4 for parent-based models and 1 for 24 hour shift care. It should not count negatively if we ask for a child to move from one home to another, especially if it is meant to help the child in some way.

Some, but not all, CBC's are making decisions on the future of the children in their care based on whether it will affect their scorecard negatively. These decisions are not always what is best for the children. We have had cases where we have siblings in 2 different houses, asked for them to move in the same home, and have been told no because it would count as a move against them.