

Action Child Protection

Florida Department of Children and Families Case Review May 2015

Review Completed by Action for Child Protection

Central Region Overview

Date: 7/1/2015

Overview and Method

Action for Child Protection, Inc. completed a case record review requested by the Florida Department of Children and Families to assess the implementation of the Florida Safety Methodology. Cases were randomly selected from three regions in Florida and the sample was provided to Action for Child Protection. Cases were reviewed off-site by Action staff utilizing Qualtrics survey software and FSN access provided by the Department.

This report provides:

- Summary of key findings for the five main focus points of the review: Present Danger, Information Collection, Impending Danger, Safety Determination and Safety Planning.
- Data profile for cases reviewed within the Central Region for CPI.

Sample Size: 30 Assessments

Present Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 5 (17%) cases were identified by the review team case information indicated present danger.
- Total of 4 (13%) cases were identified by the worker indicated present danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 1 (less than 1%) case between the review teams identification of present danger and the worker identification of present danger. This is a decrease in disparity of 14% since the Fall 2014 review.

Strengths

- High degree of consistency between review team and workers in identification of present danger threats.
- Present danger assessments provided detailed information to support the threats and subsequent actions.

Areas for Consideration

- In several cases the review team used a review of the case notes to determine if present danger was identified, as the present danger assessment narratives were insufficient to determine present danger.

Information Collection

Data Summary

- 72% of the cases reviewed were found to have sufficient information collection. This is an increase in 5% since the Fall 2014 review.

Strengths

- Information collection for child functioning was found to be high within the region.
- Several cases were found to have sufficient information for all domains.
- Several cases reviewed were found to have adequate and good quality information.

Areas for Consideration

- Information collection for adult functioning and parenting general were the lowest and was often found to be associated to lack of further engagement or contact with families after initial contact, regardless of if there was or was not present danger.

Impending Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 5 (17%) cases were identified by the review team as impending danger.
- Total of 5 (17%) cases were identified by the worker as impending danger.
- This resulted in a difference of **0 (0%)** cases between what the review team identified as impending danger and the worker identified as impending danger. This is a decrease in 8% since the last review.
- Total of 4 (13%) cases were identified by the review team as not having sufficient information to determine impending danger.
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Strengths

- Cases where information was determined to be of good quality and sufficient supported the identification of caregiver protective capacities and the danger threats.
- When danger threats were identified, high degree of consistency with review team in the identification of an accurate danger threat.

Areas for Consideration

- In several cases, the referral to services for the family was used as the justification for no impending danger, despite information regarding potential impending danger. The referral to services often time coincided with a cessation of information collection.

- In cases where there was substantial history, the analysis of the history and the current family conditions, was absent.

Safety Decision

Data Summary

- For all cases reviewed the reviewers found that *83% of the cases that were identified as safe by the worker were accurate*. This is an increase in 20% since the Fall 2014 review.
- In 13% of the total cases reviewed, the review team was not able to identify if the safety decision (either safe or unsafe) was accurate based upon the information in the case record.
- The review team identified 5 cases where children were determined to be unsafe. The workers identified 5 cases where children were determined to be unsafe. This represents a decrease in disparity between the review team and worker safety determination since the Fall 2014 review.

Strengths

- Several cases where information was sufficient, the safety decision was accurate.

Areas for Consideration

- Several cases lacked information to inform the safety decision for impending danger.
- In cases involving domestic violence, the assessment of caregiver protective capacities was insufficient to support the safety decision, in particular when no danger threat was identified.
- Several of the cases relied on others outside the home or actions of others to justify the safety decision.

Safety Planning

Data Summary

- A total of 5 cases were reviewed for safety plans. In those cases, 40% (2) were identified as having detail and sufficiency to control for danger threats.

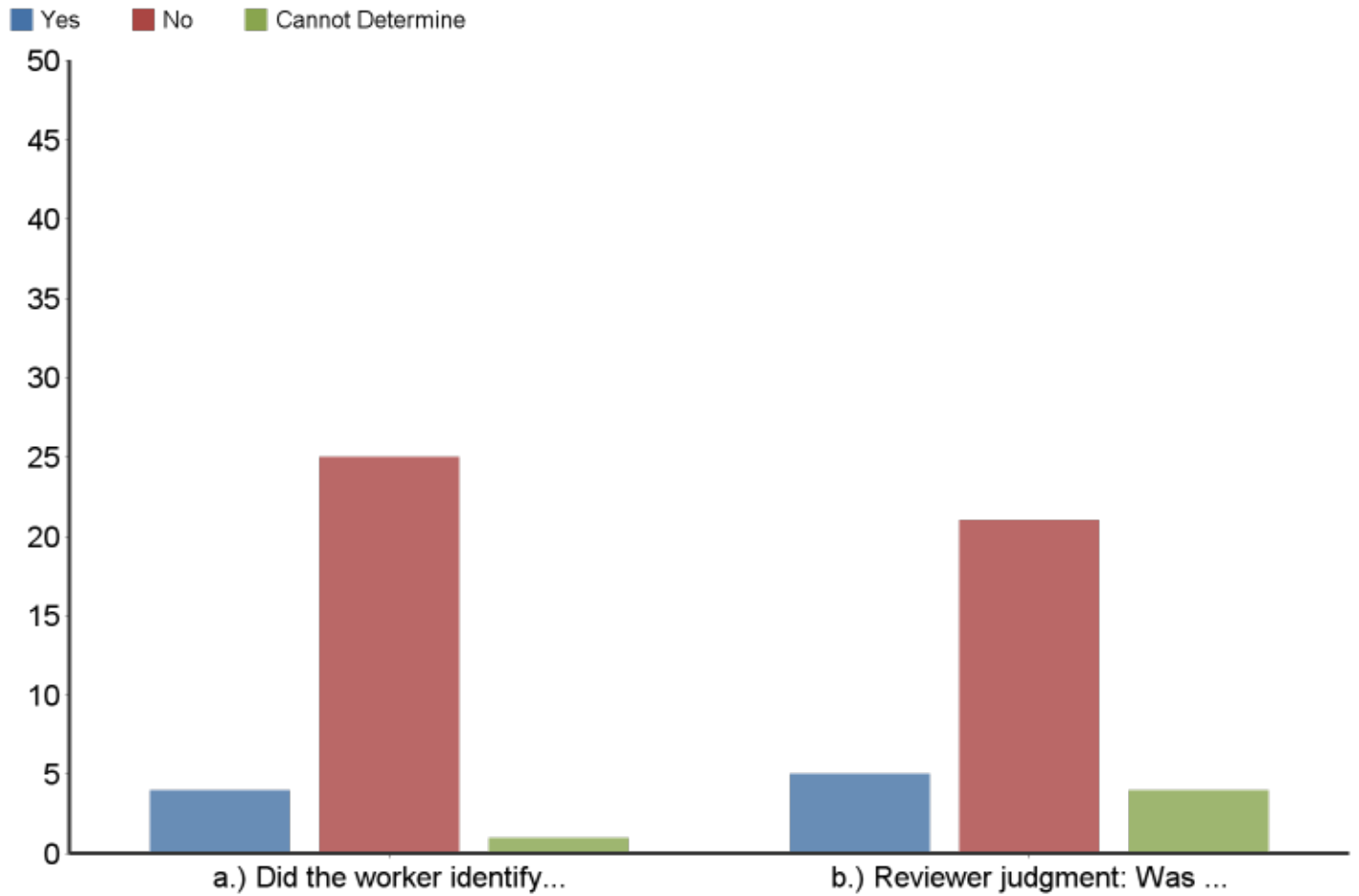
Strengths

- For cases where information was available, the safety planning analysis and conditions for return were supported.

Areas for Consideration

- 60% of the safety plans reviewed did not have detail to identify that safety was being managed by the safety plan.
- Conditions for return were often treatment focused and not related to the safety planning analysis.
- Safety planning analysis, on several cases, was based upon the present danger assessment with no indication that further assessment of the home, the parents, or the ability for an in home safety plan was explored despite the information in the case indicating an in home plan may have been appropriate.

Present Danger Assessment




#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Did the worker identify present danger at any point in the investigation process?	4	25	1	30	1.90
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was there information to indicate present danger in this case?	5	21	4	30	1.97


Which of the following Safety Threats were identified due to present danger? Check all that apply. If present danger has not been identified, leave Worker Identified column blank. Identify any present danger safety threats you believe existed in the case.

#	Question	Reviewer Identified	Worker Identified	Response	Average Value
1	Parent/Legal Guardian's intentional and willful act caused serious physical injury to the child or the caregiver intended to seriously injure the child.	-	-	-	-
2	Child has a serious illness or injury (indicative of child abuse) that is unexplained, or the parent/legal guardian/caregiver explanations are inconsistent with the illness or injury.	-	-	-	-
3	The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and a child has already been seriously injured or will likely be seriously injured. The living conditions seriously endanger a child's physical health.	1	-	1	1.00
4	There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee to avoid agency intervention and /or refuses access to the child and the reported concern is significant and indicates harm.	1	1	2	1.50
5	Parent/Legal Guardian is not meeting the child's essential medical needs and the child is/has already been harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	-	-	-	-
6	Child shows serious emotional symptoms requiring intervention and/or lacks behavioral control and/or exhibits self-destructive behavior that the parent/legal guardian is unwilling or unable to manage.	-	-	-	-
7	Parent/Legal Guardian is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.	2	2	4	1.50
8	Parent/Legal Guardian is not meeting child's basic and essential needs for food clothing and/or supervision and the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	1	1	2	1.50
9	Parent/Legal Guardian is threatening to seriously harm the child; is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.	-	-	-	-
10	Parent/Legal Guardian views child and/or acts toward the child in extremely negative ways and such behavior has or will result in serious harm to the child.	-	-	-	-
11	Other	-	-	-	-

Did the worker initiate a present danger safety plan when present danger was identified?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		4	100.00%
2	No		0	0.00%
	Total		4	100.00%

Reviewer judgment: Was the present danger safety plan sufficient to control the present danger threats identified?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		4	100.00%
2	No		0	0.00%
	Total		4	100.00%

Reviewer Comments: Present Danger and Present Danger Safety Plan: Include areas of strengths and areas needing attention.

Text Entry

There was sufficient justification for present danger decision.

There was sufficient information about present danger

Area of Need: The case notes were used to determine that there was no present danger. In addition it appears that the referral to services, which was made the same day was used to justify the decision regarding no present danger versus the information assessed.

There was sufficient information about present danger.

The present danger assessment was sufficient.

Area of Need: Appears that the decision to not identify present danger was due to the fact that the children were supposedly going to remain with the MGM and that the mother was going to live there too. There was not contact with the parents until Feb. when the present danger assessment was completed in January. The parents have a history of leaving the children and then coming to get them from the relatives. The parents were alleged to both be using substances, home in disarray, and violence in the home. The relative having the children did not mitigate the present danger-it may have been considered a family made arrangement, at which time the worker would then have completed a present danger plan to formalize the family made arrangement.

Area of Need: The PDA says no present danger and there are insufficient case notes to support the decision.

Area of Need: The PDA does not address the substance misuse concerns at present danger, however the case notes do. In addition, based upon the information in the PDA, there may have been an additional need for a report on the father for inadequate supervision considering he was leaving the child with the mother in a household that was potentially dangerous and unsafe.

The worker did not identify the present danger threats specifically in the present danger form. There was sufficient information in the written portion of the present danger assessment to determine the cause of the present danger.

PDA does not detail how conclusion was reached. DV case, father arrested. PDA says kids know what to do if situation develops but this is not an adequate safety plan. FFA says no contact order but also says mom is going to let him back in the home.

The children could not be located so that was the present danger. The children were located the next day and so sufficient action was taken.

There was good information provided about present danger.

Area of Need: The case notes and PDA do not address the concerns regarding substance misuse, in particular when the child discloses knowing of the mother and friend smoking from a pipe in a closed room. In addition the hotline report alleges that the mother appears due to her physical appearance to be using meth, but there are not indicators that this was assessed based upon the case notes and PDA.

Strength: The PDA was well-written and supported the determination of no present danger occurring in the home.

It was documented that there was no present danger.

There was an adequate present danger safety plan put in place.

Area of Need: It appears that there should have been two PDA's for the family, however there is only one. The one in the record does not address the concerns noted in regards to the high speed chase and the conditions in the home with the father. The children were sheltered, however it is unclear the rationale at the time of the contact with the family regarding the shelter. The safety plan notes it is an impending danger plan, but through notes, it appears that this was not the case.

There was sufficient information provided about present danger.

Area of Need: Initially the worker did not identify present danger, despite information in the case notes indicating that there was present danger. The pattern of behavior of the mother, her active usage, warrant for arrest are indicators of present danger.

The interview protocol was followed while collecting information relevant to the investigation, including:

- **"Yes" indicates the individuals were interviewed at any point in the investigation process**
- **"Yes, Unclear if Separate/Private interview was conducted" indicates the individuals were interviewed during the investigation, but it is unclear if they were interviewed separate/private (Applies for family/household members)**
- **"No" indicates the individuals were relevant to the case, but not interviewed at any point in the investigation process**
- **"NA" indicates that individuals are Not Applicable to the case**

#	Question	Yes	Yes, Unclear if Separate/Private	No	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Alleged child victim	23	6	1	30	1.27
2	b.) Siblings/Other children in the household	11	2	-	13	1.15
3	c.) Non-Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	10	2	3	15	1.53
4	d.) Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	21	8	-	29	1.28
5	e.) Other Household Members	2	4	1	7	1.86
6	f.) Relevant Collaterals	20	-	6	26	1.46

This section is concerned with evaluating the sufficiency of information for the six domains of information collection. Reviewers should be evaluating the information in the FFA in regards to the sufficiency criteria for each domain.

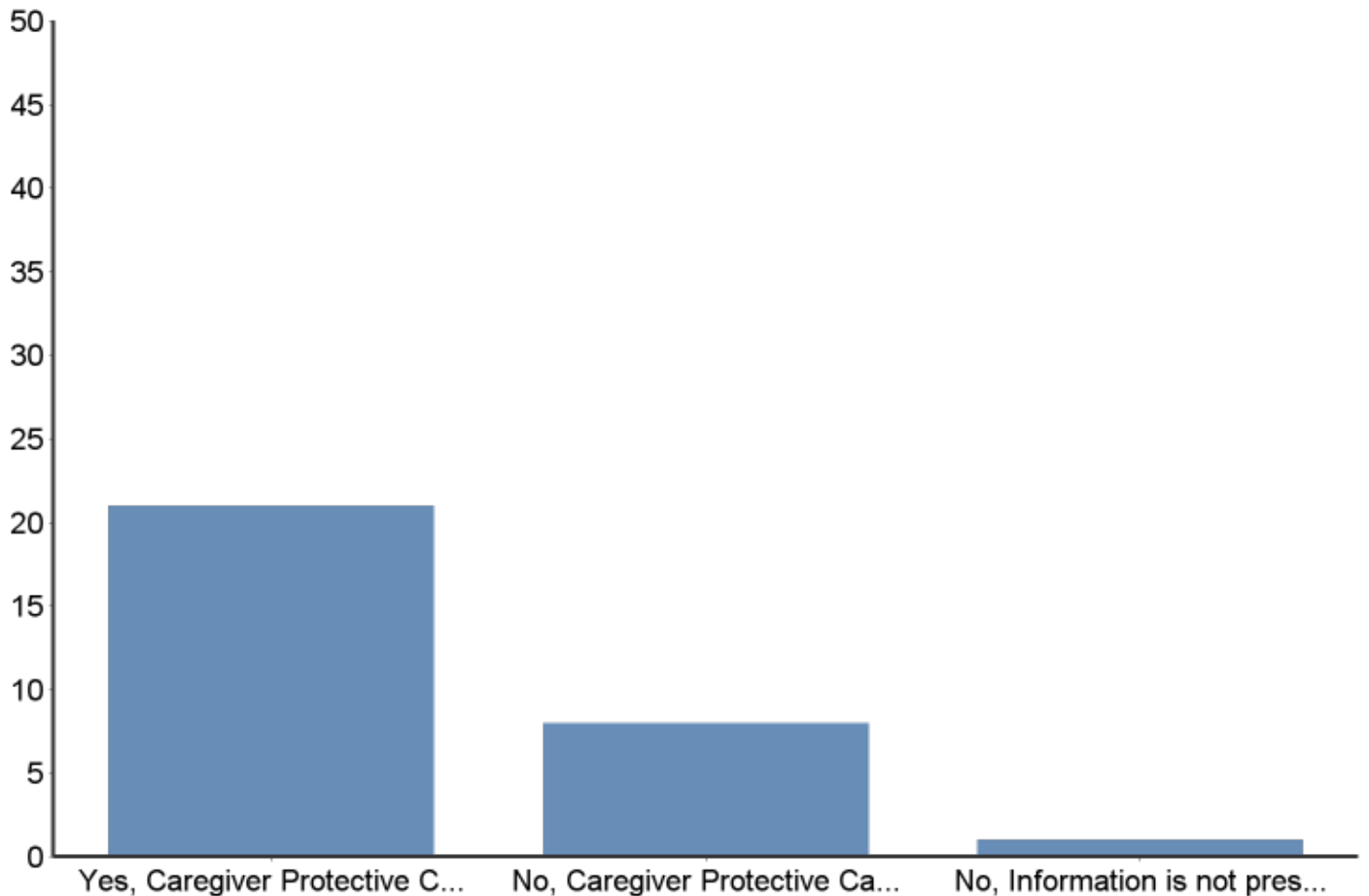
Reviewer should select “YES” if information is clearly documented and sufficient for decision making. Reviewer should select “NO, information is present but not sufficient” if the concepts are noted in the investigation but the information is not sufficient to support decision-making.

Reviewer should select “NO, information not present” if the worker did not include the concepts in the investigation.

#	Question	YES, Information is Sufficient	NO, Information is present but not sufficient	NO, Information is not present	Response	Average Value
1	a. Extent of alleged maltreatment (What is the extent of the maltreatment?)	25	4	1	30	1.20
2	b. Nature of maltreatment? (What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment?)	25	4	1	30	1.20
3	c. Parenting disciplinary practices (What are the disciplinary approaches used by the parent, including the typical context?)	20	9	1	30	1.37
4	d. General parenting (What are the overall, typical, pervasive parenting practices used by the parent? Do Not Include Discipline.)	19	10	1	30	1.40
5	e. Adult functioning (How does the adult function on a daily basis? Include behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament).	19	10	1	30	1.40
6	f. Child functioning (How does the child function on a daily basis? Include pervasive behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament.)	22	7	1	30	1.30

This question is concerned with evaluating the assessment of caregiver protective capacities.

Reviewer should select "YES" if information supports the identified caregiver protective capacities. Reviewer should select "NO, information is present but identified Caregiver Protective Capacities are not supported by the information. Worker may have selected caregiver protective capacities that are accurate, however may have selected others that are inaccurate or not supported by the information as being present, but rather absent.
Reviewer should select "NO, information not present" to support the assessment of caregiver protective capacities when information is absent from the record to inform the caregiver protective capacities.



Reviewer Comments: Information Collection: Include areas of strength and areas needing attention.

Text Entry

While there was some very good information collection from the maltreating parent and children, there were not sufficient collaterals contacted about the family. There is a long history of concern regarding the children and additional information from more collaterals would have been helpful for decision-making.

As far as collaterals, there was no follow-up concerning the inpatient hospitalization of the child victim. It is possible because of the nature of the allegations that this information could not be released.

Area of Need: Focus of information collection was reconciliation of the CPT findings and moving the family to prevention services. Lack of further exploration, in particular in regards to the child and how he is functioning and how the parent is addressing the child's school and emotional needs.

There was information to inform protective capacities but it was mainly obtained by the parents and the child victim. There was one collateral but there was no contact with the caregivers of the older children or school. Other sources of information may have provided a fuller picture of the parents' protective capacities.

There was a delay in contact with the family and it was documented that another worker had been assigned to complete the investigation because another worker had not completed the work. The subsequent worker provided sufficient information. Although there was sufficient collateral information, it might have been helpful to contact the grandparent who had care of the older children.

There was generally good information gathered but there was no information from collaterals concerning the family's situation. There was contact with service providers that were provided as part of ongoing services.

Information is not reconciled. Not clear how mother's protective capacity was assessed.

There was good information about adult functioning.

Good information from collaterals, children and parent.

Area of Need: The information collection appears to be limited and disjointed in the FFA. In reviewing the notes, it still is unclear regarding the actions and assessment.

Strength: The areas that are not explored during present danger are addressed in the FFA. Area of Need: The information collection appears focused on the incidents and not reconciling of information in particular in regards to the history of the family and their current functioning. In addition the CPC's are not supported by the case information. Furthermore the mother tests positive for benzos and this is never fully assessed.

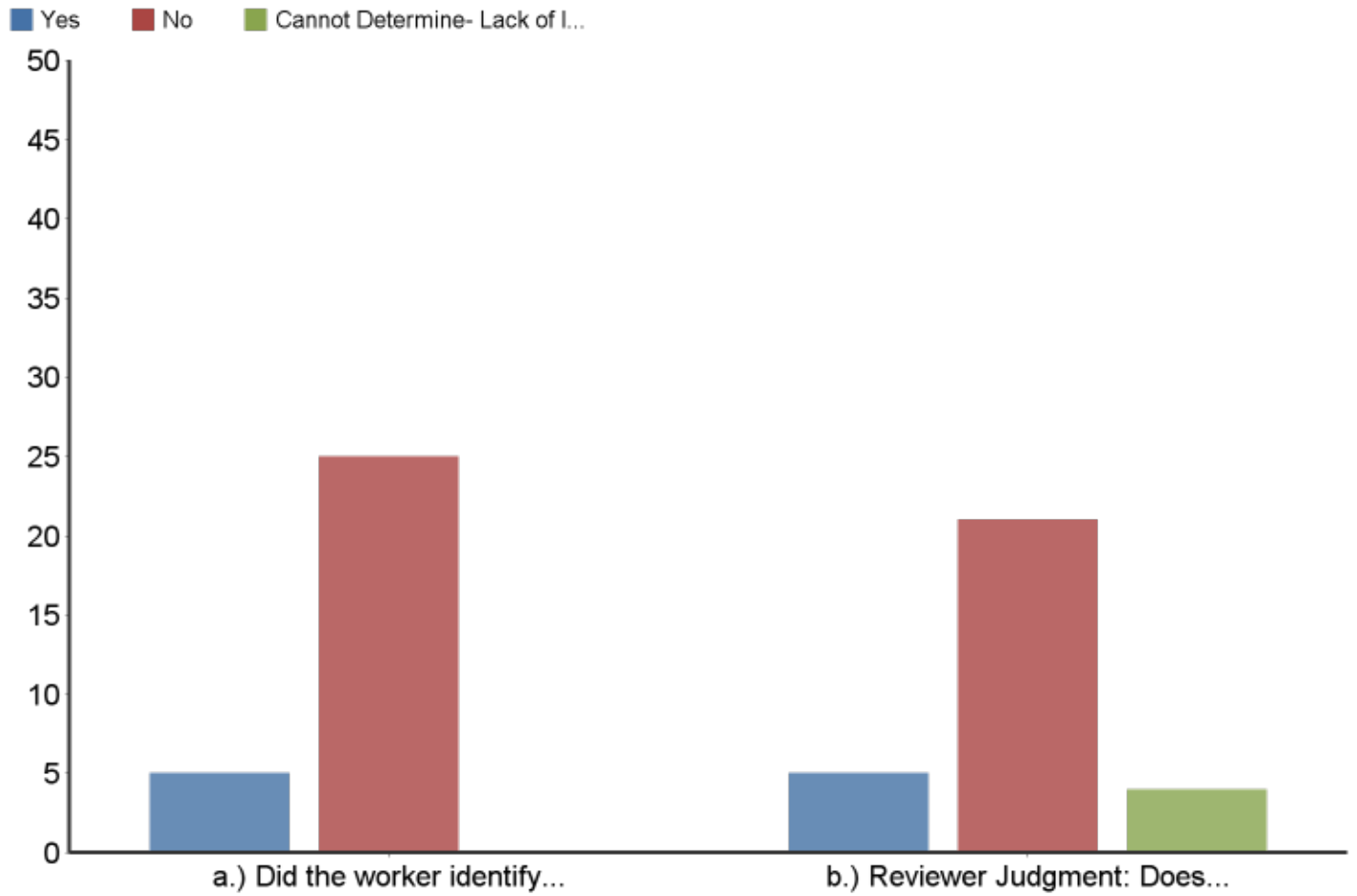
The child functioning information in the FFA was contradictory with information from later in the investigation. The children's functioning was much more diminished according to evaluations by the school. The services and supports put in place for the family and children did seem sufficient.

There was very good information gathered about the child victim.

There was little information about the father's disciplinary practices. There was information about the mother.

Area of Need: Information in FFA is insufficient based upon the factors that this is a family that has been involved in CM for a significant period of time. It does not appear that the information regarding her involvement with CM was used in the FFA. Additionally, it is unclear how the baby was in the mother's care considering that the other two children were in the process of being terminated. There was a prior report regarding the baby when born and no action was taken, despite the information and the level of risk for the child.

Impending Danger


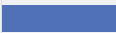


#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Did the worker identify impending danger at the conclusion of the Family Functioning Assessment?	5	25	-	30	1.83
2	b.) Reviewer Judgment: Does the information collected indicate impending danger in this case?	5	21	4	30	1.97

Which of the following Safety Threats were identified due to impending danger? Check all that apply. If impending danger has not been identified, leave Worker Identified column blank. Identify any impending danger threats you believe exist in the case.



#	Question	Reviewer Identified	Worker Identified	Response	Average Value
2	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver's intentional and willful act caused serious physical injury to the child, or the caregiver intended to seriously harm the child.	-	-	-	-
3	Child has serious illness or injury (indicative of child abuse) that is unexplained or the parent/legal guardian/caregiver explanations are inconsistent with the illness or injury.	-	-	-	-
4	The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and a child has already been seriously injured or will likely be seriously injured. The living conditions endanger a child's physical health.	1	-	1	1.00
5	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is not meeting the child's essential medical needs and the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	-	-	-	-
6	Child shows serious emotional symptoms requiring intervention and/or lacks behavioral control and/or exhibits self-destructive behavior that the parent/legal guardian/caregiver is unwilling or unable to manage.	-	-	-	-
7	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is violent, impulsive or acting dangerously in way that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.	4	5	9	1.56
8	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is not meeting child's basic and essential needs for food, clothing, and/or supervision and the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	1	-	1	1.00
9	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child; is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.	-	-	-	-
10	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver views child and/or acts toward the child in extremely negative ways and such behavior has or will result in serious harm to the child.	-	-	-	-
12	Other.	-	-	-	-
17	There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee to avoid agency intervention and/or refuses access to the child and the reported concern is significant and indicates serious harm.	-	-	-	-

Does the documentation in the FFA clearly describe how impending danger threats are occurring in the family?

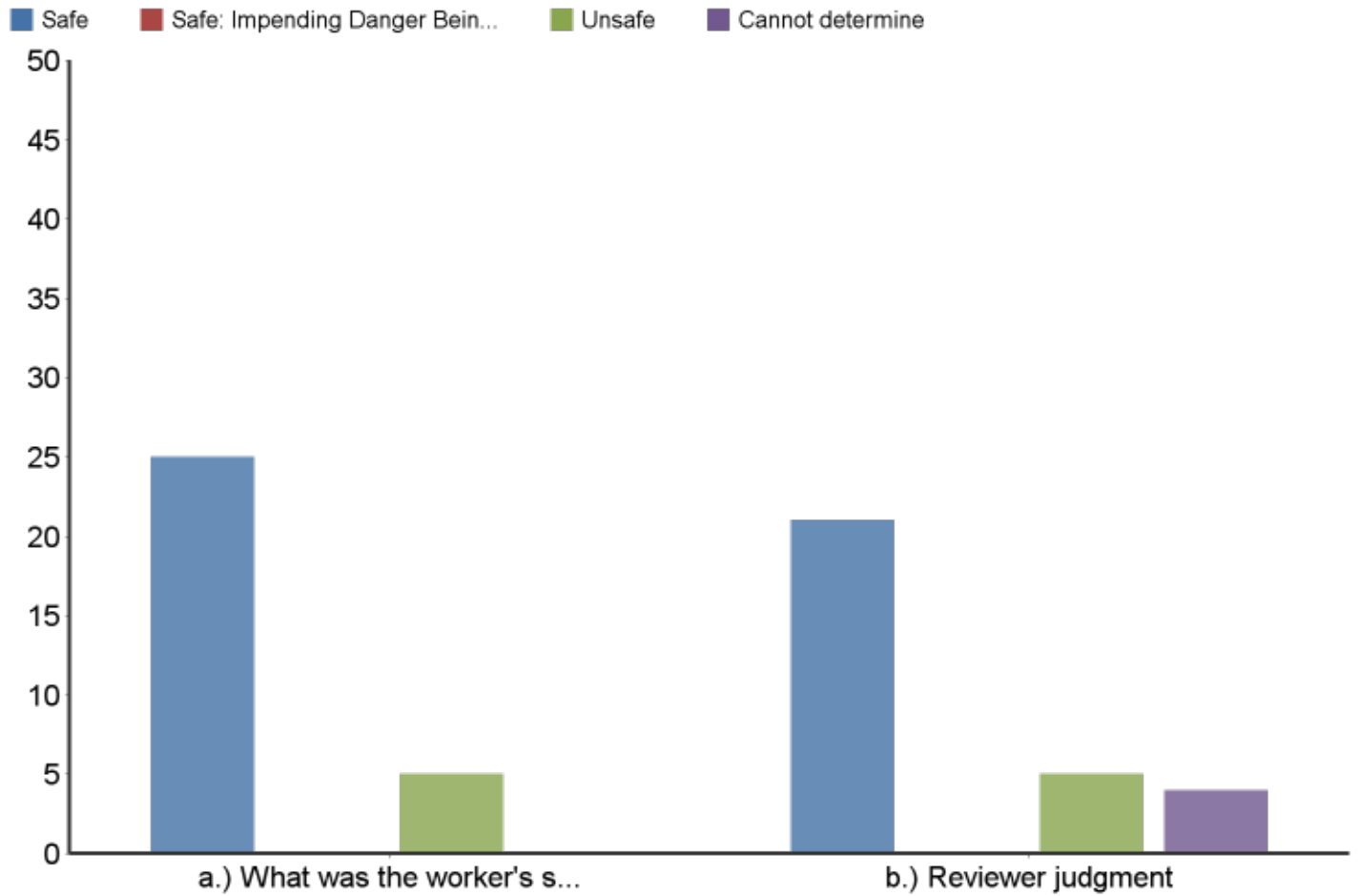
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		4	80.00%
2	No		1	20.00%
3	NA-No Impending Danger Identified by Worker or Reviewer		0	0.00%
	Total		5	100.00%

Reviewer judgment: the information collected is adequate and reflects good quality?

Was there enough depth and breadth in all information collection a) to provide a reasonable understanding of family members and their functioning and b) to support and justify decision-making. For safety intervention decisions, the information must be enough to identify, support, reconcile and justify the presence or absence of threats to safety and to inform and justify the kind of safety plan/safety management that occurs or that a safety plan or safety management is unnecessary.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		19	63.33%
2	No		11	36.67%
	Total		30	100.00%

Safety Decision



#	Question	Safe	Safe: Impending Danger Being Managed by Protective Parent/Legal Guardian	Unsafe	Cannot determine	Response	Average Value
1	a.) What was the worker's safety decision?	25	-	5	-	30	1.33
2	b.) Reviewer judgment	21	-	5	4	30	1.73

Reviewer Comments: Impending Danger and Safety Decision: Include strengths and areas needing attention.

Text Entry

While there were certainly aspect of the investigation that included good information collection, there seemed to be a lot of concerns that were not fully addressed.

The only issue noted in the investigation was there was a delay in seeing the other children in the home probably due to the children being in another location.

There was a lot of information that indicated the child was safe but there was not a lot of depth to the gathering of information beyond interviews with the parents and child victim.

Although this family had a long history of reports, it appeared that in the current situation the children were safe. The family did accept services.

Mother made arrangements for children to live with grandmother; mother agrees to drug treatment

There was good documentation of the concerns in the home. The worker did not complete the present danger form identifying the present danger threats.

The case is determined to be safe but it is not clear how the violent behavior was determined to be controlled without intervention. CPI says family agreed to participate in services and father is ordered to ager management, so clearly there are issues. The subsequent contacts by CM indicate that the family is not interested in participating and CM says they are going to have to close the referral.

The safety decision was appropriate.

Area of Need: The FFA identified that the children were safe, however case notes indicate that there was a legal staffing to seek legal intervention for the family. It is unclear the rationale for this staffing. In addition there is a referral and strong recommendation that the father receive services based upon the CPT recommendations. Further the information collection does not address the prior history with the father and the current implications regarding the prior history, if any.

There were many issues in the family but the safety decision was appropriate.

Area of Need: Should be noted that during the initial contacts with the family, before the FFA is completed the family is referred to services for prevention.



The family was referred to appropriate services.

The child's living situation was safe but her runaway behavior did make her unsafe. This was not caused by the caregivers.

There was sufficient information to make the determination about impending danger.

Area of Need: The FFA is limited in the information and appears to be more of a present danger assessment rather than an FFA.

Reviewer: Does the family proceed to case management services due to an unsafe child or child that is safe with impending danger being managed?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		4	13.33%
2	No		26	86.67%
	Total		30	100.00%

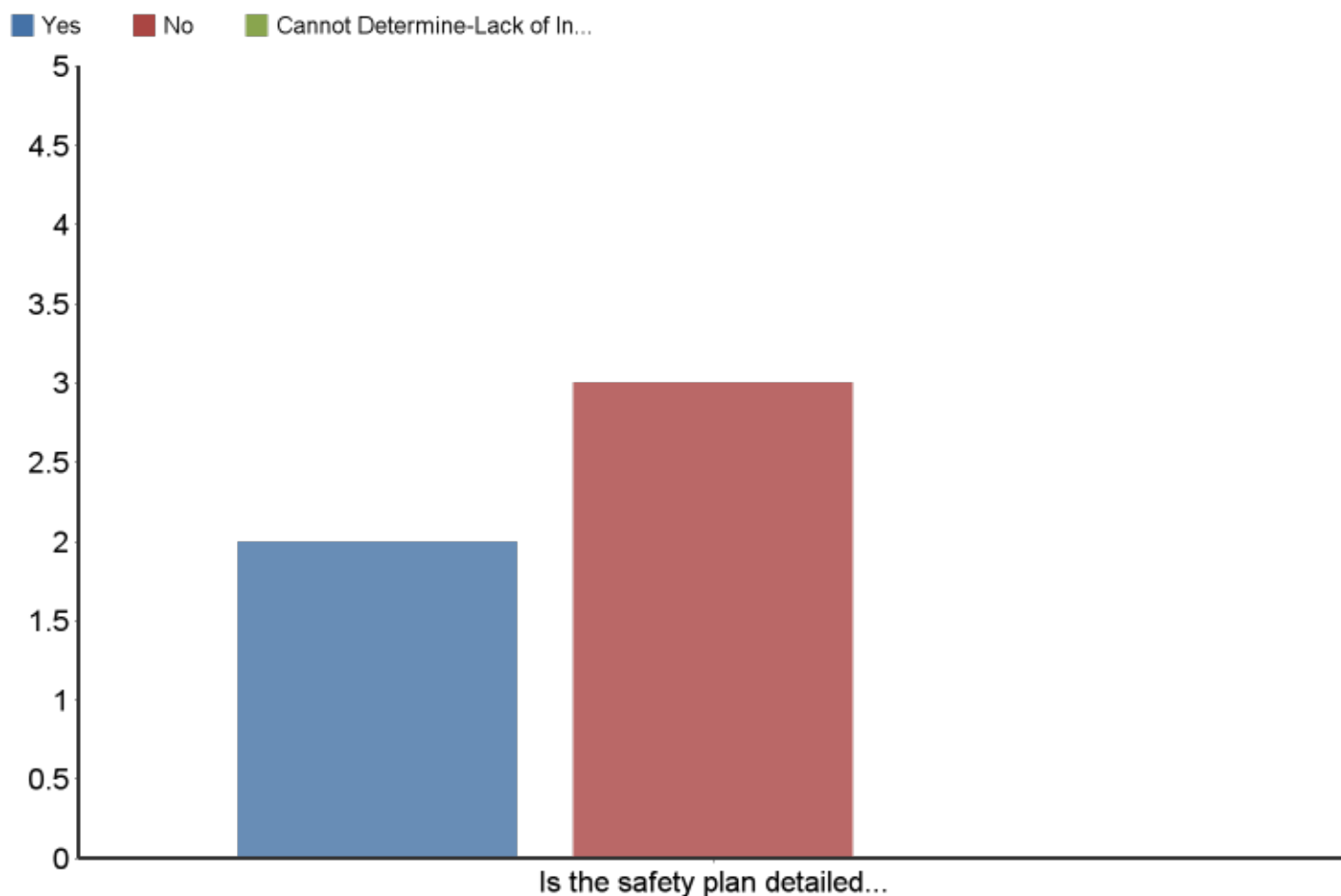
Safety Plan:

#	Question	No	Yes, In-Home Safety Plan	Yes, Out-of-Home Safety Plan	Cannot Determine-Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Was a Safety Plan developed in this case?	-	2	3	-	5	2.60
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was a safety plan necessary in this case?	-	2	2	1	5	2.80

Safety Planning Analysis Safety Plan Justification: Accurate, logical and understandable to inform the type of safety plan developed.

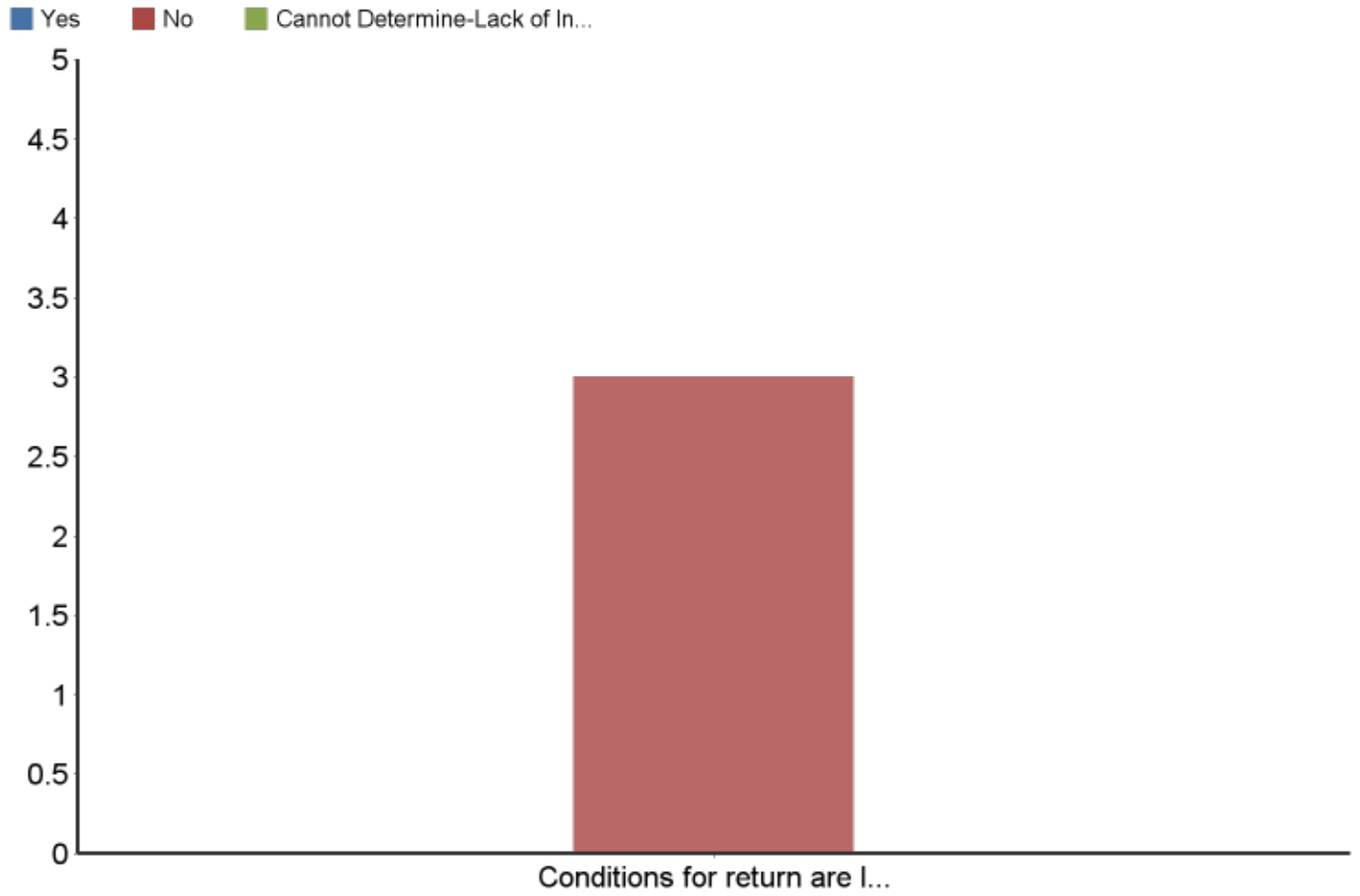
#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	Does the safety planning analysis and justification clearly support the type of safety plan developed.	2	3	-	5	1.60

Safety Plan: Safety plan is able to control for danger. Services and level of effort are detailed to include persons responsible for safety services.



#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine-Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	Is the safety plan detailed and sufficient level of effort to control for danger threats?	2	3	-	5	1.60

Conditions for Return: Conditions address the safety planning analysis determinations that were keeping the child from remaining in the home and the conditions for return are realistic and will allow for an in home safety plan to be implemented.



#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine-Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	Conditions for return are logical and attainable and relevant to the safety planning analysis and justification.	-	3	-	3	2.00

Text Entry

Area of Need: The safety planning analysis indicated an in home plan-that was not supported by the case information. The plan developed was an out of home plan with placement with the relative. There was no conditions of return created, as the safety planning analysis was insufficient and identified the wrong type of plan based upon the case information.

Area of Need: Conditions for return are treatment based. In addition, the safety plan appears to be more aligned with present danger. The safety planning analysis was not supported by the justification.