

Florida Department of Children and Families Case Review July 2015

Review Completed by Action for Child Protection Northeast 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 FSFN 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 Northeast Region for CPI.

Sample Size: 41 Assessments

Present Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 10 (24%) cases were identified by the review team case information indicated present danger.
- Total of 12 (29%) cases were identified by the worker indicated present danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 2 (5%) cases between the review teams identification of present danger and the worker identification of present danger. This is a decrease in disparity between the review team and worker since the Fall 2014 review.

Strengths

- There were several cases where the present danger assessment provided specific detail regarding the workers assessment to support the assessment and subsequent plans were established to control for the present danger.
- Present danger threats identified were accurate and aligned with the review team findings.
- There were several cases where domestic violence was alleged and the worker assessment reflected good quality and understanding regarding domestic violence.

Areas for Consideration

• Cases with multiple reports where present danger assessments were not conducted for the additional reports that were received. This may be in part to viewing the report as an additional, and no reconciliation of concern for safety.

Information Collection

Data Summary

• 73% of the cases reviewed were found to have sufficient information collection. This is an increase of 8% since the Fall 2014 review.

Strengths

- Information collection for child functioning, maltreatment, and nature of maltreatment 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 parenting discipline was 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.
- Several cases where additional information was not obtained, despite availability to gather the information. This was primarily seen when families were referred to services during the initial contacts.

Impending Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 14 (34%) cases were identified by the review team as impending danger.
- Total of 15 (37%) cases were identified by the worker as impending danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 1 (2%) cases between what the review team identified as impending danger and the worker identified as impending danger.
- Total of 9 (22%) cases were identified by the review team as not containing sufficient information to determine impending danger.

Strengths

• Cases were 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

- The assessment of impending danger, including information collection, in several cases
 was not indicated. Often times these cases were cases where the worker had identified
 preset danger and the FFA and danger threat identified were based upon information at
 present danger.
- In cases where violence was occurring the assessment of impending danger was often focused on the location of the "alleged" maltreater and not on the household.
- 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 66% of the cases that were identified as safe by the worker were accurate. This is an increase of 8% from the Fall 2014 review.
- In 24% 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. This is a decrease of 4% since the Fall 2014 review.
- The review team identified 14 cases where children were determined to be unsafe. The workers identified 13 cases where children were determined to be unsafe.

Strengths

- Several cases where information was sufficient, the safety decision was accurate.
- When children were found to be unsafe by the worker, there was a high degree of consistency with the review team safety determination.

Areas for Consideration

- One case identified other as the impending danger threat and information in the FFA does not support the use of other as the impending danger threat.
- Several cases lacked information to inform the safety decision for impending danger, these were often associated to families that had been referred to services and the use of services as the justification for the decision-making was noted.

Safety Planning

Data Summary

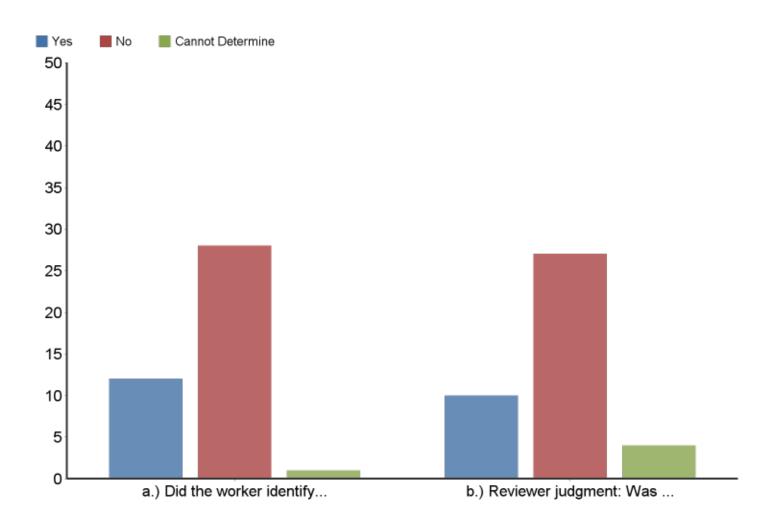
- A total of 13 cases were reviewed for safety plans. In those cases, 92% were identified as having detail and sufficiency to control for danger threats.
- Less than 1% of the cases the review team was not able to determine the sufficiency and detail due to either the plan not being developed or the plan lacking information.
- For applicable cases, conditions for return were logical, attainable, and relevant 66% of the time.

Strengths

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

Areas for Consideration

 Conditions for return were often treatment focused and not related to the safety planning analysis.



#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Did the worker identify present danger at any point in the investigation process?	12	28	1	41	1.73
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was there information to indicate present danger in this case?	10	27	4	41	1.85

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.	-	-	-	-
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.	1	1	2	1.50
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.	-	1	1	2.00
7	Parent/Legal Guardian is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.	9	10	19	1.53
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	1.00
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	-	-	-	-

6

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		12	100.00%
2	No		0	0.00%
	Total		12	100.00%

7

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		12	100.00%
2	No		0	0.00%
	Total		12	100.00%

8

Text Entry

Gogd information to justify present danger decision.

Appropriate assessment of present danger.

There are two reports for the family. The first report has a PDA associated with the report, however there is no second PDA. Information in the PDA does not support how the decision regarding no present danger was identified. The concerns regarding substance misuse and the FVTC are not explored in the PDA, nor the condition of the child.

No present danger.

Father was arrested and incarcerated and was to remain incarcerated to present danger decision is justified. Safety plan was developed within 2 weeks which was good decision because of uncertainty about incarceration length and mother's history.

There was not sufficient explanation for the determination of present danger. It might have been an issue but it was not justified in the documentation.

This was a case where they could not initially locate the family so the efforts were to find them and the worker did a great job of that. When they were located child of concern in report was determined to be failure to thrive.

The present danger assessment was appropriate.

Sufficient information about present danger decision.

Strength: older children in this case called grandparents for help and went to their house.

Present danger decision is supported.

Sufficient information about present danger.

The decision concerning present danger was appropriate.

Strength: Identification of present danger was confirmed by the worker, despite the father being incarcerated due to the history and the ongoing pattern of concerns within the home. Present danger plan ensured that the mother and the child were able to remain together through the use of another responsible person.

Area of Need: The case information is significantly lacking in detail. The present danger assessment identifies that the mother will be relocating due to the DV, however there is no additional follow up with the family in regards to the mothers actions or inactions. The lack of contact with the family-with no worker diligence- creates concerns in regards to the safety of the child, as the father was released from jail and there is a history of FV within the home.

Area of Need: Worker did not identify the accurate present danger threat. There is no information to support the present danger threat identified by the worker. The danger threat that was present was the parent was violent, impulsive and acting dangerously as well as the lack of supervision.

The present danger assessment was appropriate.

Area of Need: The present danger assessment was not sufficient, and supporting FSFN notes were also insufficient to determine present danger assessment. Based upon the information of the mother being gone from the home for a week, would indicate that she is actively using substances and would further support the allegations in the hotline narrative.

The decision concerning present danger was appropriate.

Case documentation clearly describes that mother leaves her 6 children home alone while she works the night shift. Oldest is 10 years old. There is no description of how worker determined the children are ok to be alone the PDA says mom is able to identify and protect against any danger threats, but this is not consistent with leaving her kids alone all night.

Area of Need: There are three hotline reports associated to this case. Mother was arrested with the child and LE placed the child with the relatives-which was due to present danger identified by LE. The worker did not identify the present danger, which appears to be missed by the worker.

Good information to justify present danger decision.

There was not sufficient explanation for the determination of present danger. It might have been an issue but it was not justified in the documentation.

Arranged for grandparent to move into the home.

Adequate assessment of present danger.

The children were vulnerable due to the mother's attempt to harm herself and there has been a history of the behavior.

The safety plan appeared sufficient.

Sufficient information about present danger.

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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	20	21	-	41	1.51
2	b.) Siblings/Other children in the household	14	7	-	21	1.33
3	c.) Non-Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	13	9	5	27	1.70
4	d.) Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	29	12	-	41	1.29
5	e) Other Household Members	1	5	1	7	2.00
6	f.) Relevant Collaterals	33	3	5	41	1.32

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.

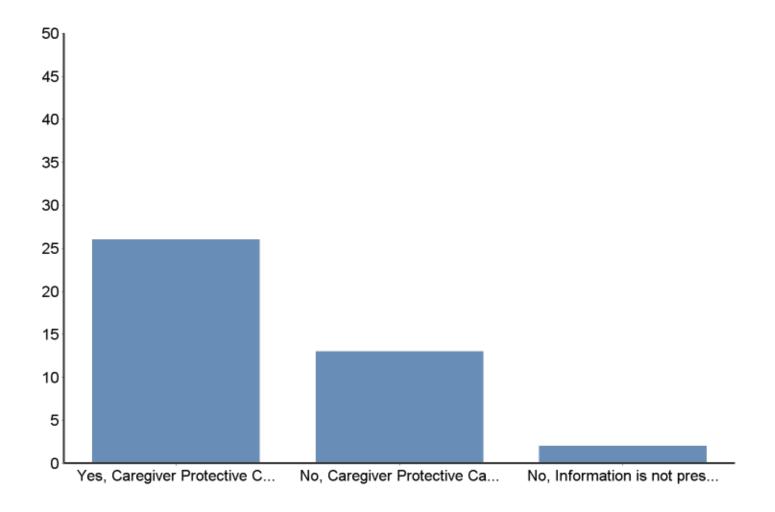
Reviewer should select "NO, information not present" if the worker did not include the concepts in the investigation.

#	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?)	32	6	3	41	1.29
2	b. Nature of maltreatment? (What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment?)	33	6	2	41	1.24
3	c. Parenting disciplinary practices (What are the disciplinary approaches used by the parent, including the typical context?)	23	12	6	41	1.59
4	d. General parenting (What are the overall, typical, pervasive parenting practices used by the parent? Do Not Include Discipline.)	30	9	2	41	1.32
5	e. Adult functioning (How does the adult function on a daily basis? Include behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament).	27	12	2	41	1.39
6	f. Child functioning (How does the child function on a daily basis? Include pervasive behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament.)	34	7	-	41	1.17

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.



Text Entry

Good documentation

There was not much information related to the adult functioning of the maltreating caregiver. There was some discussion about him but it was not entirely clear how he functioned. There was also some detail about the discipline used by the step-father but it was not clear how often it happened and for how long. There was generally good information about the childrens' activities.

There are two caregivers residing in the home and the second caregiver is not identified in the FFA. While there is good information in the domains, the lack of assessing the second caregiver, particularly regarding the allegations, the information domains were rates as insufficient. In addition the second report is not contained in the FFA and it appears that the FFA was closed without the second hotline report being assessed. The family was sent onto services shortly after the initial contact with the family. There is no subsequent PDA and limited information regarding the impending danger

Adequate information in the FFA.

Strength: Very thorough and extensive information on all family members.

It was difficult to determine if the mother was considered the maltreating parent since the paramour was not part of the investigation. There was no impending danger identified.

This case is well done in terms of case practice and documentation. Good example of a safe high risk case.

A sufficient amount of information was gathered and documented.

There was a lot of information that mother had a history of substance use and was currently involved. She didn't follow through with a substance abuse assessment so it is unclear if there was an issue with substances and the extent to which it may have impacted her protective capacities.

Strength: very good information in all areas

Generally very good FFA. Intake concern was that child did not have ADHD meds he needed and he also did not have glasses which he needed. These were not addressed in the FFA. Step-father was not able to be interviewed because he is a truck driver and is gone most of the time. All of his protective capacities were marked Yes which is not supported by the information in the case.

Good descriptions of child and adult functioning as well as protective capacities.

Information was generally sufficient.

Area of Need: Maltreatment domain is a cut and paste of the hotline narrative. Information in domains was surface information and lack of engagement with collaterals to inform the overall assessment was needed.

Area of Need: Information collection is insufficient to support decisions regarding safety. The narrative for the father identifies that the father was not able to located. However there is a FSFN note with an interview with the father 4 days after the FFA was completed. In addition, the efforts to contact the father and relatives did not occur until approximately 45 days post initial contact with the family. There is a lack of diligence in information collection and the FFA is incident focused, yet also is insufficient to address all the incidents that were alleged with the family.

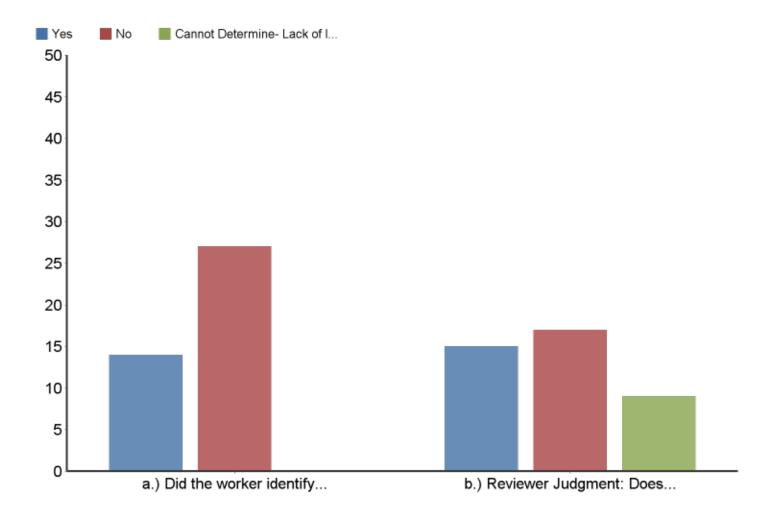
Area of Need: There is significant history with the family, including child testing positive for meth in 2013. Services were last in place in 2013/2014. Mother has relapsed significantly and the home where she is residing does not appear to have the ability to provide for safety without the agencies involvement. The FFA is lacking depth and breadth of information to support decision making. Information on the FFA is primarily incident focused.

A sufficient amount of information was gathered and documented.

Area of Need: FFA was a cut and paste from the last FFA completed four months prior. There is no new information in the domains and the information that is present in the domains contradicts what the case notes report regarding current status of the family. In addition, the other household members-who are clearly caretakers to the children-as the mother has left them for weeks at a time with the relatives-are not explored on the FFA. The mother is reported to be in treatment, however no collateral contact was made to confirm this or to assess her progress. In addition, there is no contact between the initial contact on the 22nd of December and the 17th of February. Mother was not contacted until Feb. 2015.

Information was generally sufficient.

Strength: generally good quantity and quality of information on all family members. Area needing attention:information is not reconcile. The decision to leave the children alone is not a good decision and the oldest child who was in charge is described as vulnerable and dependent on others for protection. Mother has extensive history with department for lack of supervision and this is acknowledged as a concern for safety



#	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?	14	27	-	41	1.66
2	b.) Reviewer Judgment: Does the information collected indicate impending danger in this case?	15	17	9	41	1.85

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.

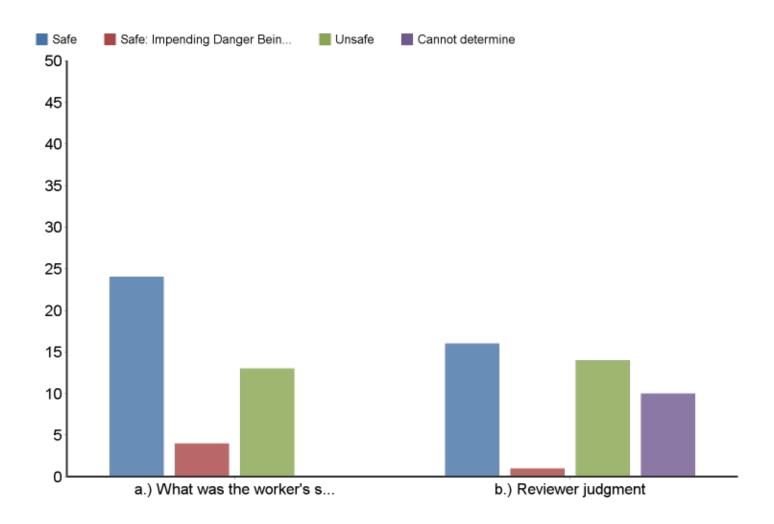
#	Question	Reviewer Identified	Worker Identified	Response	Average Value
2	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver's intentional and willful act caused serious physical injury to the child, or the caregiver intended to seriously harm the child.	-	-	-	-
3	Child has serious illness or injury (indicative of child 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.	-	-	-	-
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.	1	1	2	1.50
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.	15	14	29	1.48
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.	-	1	1	2.00
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.	-	-	-	-

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		12	80.00%
2	No		3	20.00%
3	NA-No Impending Danger Identified by Worker or Reviewer		0	0.00%
	Total		15	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		29	70.73%
2	No		12	29.27%
	Total		41	100.00%



#	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?	24	4	13	-	41	1.73
2	b.) Reviewer judgment	16	1	14	10	41	2.44

Text Entry

Good information to justify decision.

Although there could have been more information about the nature of the discipline, in general there was sufficient information to determine the safety of the children.

Due to having limited or no information-even with case note review- regarding the second report, it is unclear if impending danger was or was not identified. The family was sent on to services, unclear the justification or focus of those services. It appears that the worker's decision regarding safety was based upon the mother's willingness to engage in services versus completing the overall FFA

Child actually turned 18 during the investigation period. Child tested positive for THC so referrals have been made for treatment. Several attempts to follow-up with family are documented in contacts.

Good safety decision, reflects good analysis of impending danger

Information collected for the FFA indicated that the children were safe.

Strength: well done in all ways.

There was sufficient information to make the safety decision.

There were some inconsistencies in the information about the mother that were not fully addressed concerning safety.

Strength: good analysis of threats in this family

Information supports decision

Good documentation of impending danger and safety decision.

The information was sufficient to make the safety decision.

Area of Need: Child was identified as safe. There is no information in the FFA to support this final decision for safety.

Area of Need: Other was identified as a danger threat and there is no supporting information to support the danger threat of other. In addition, there does not appear to be a supervisory consult regarding the decision to use other as a danger threat. The safety decision regarding safe with impending danger being managed is inaccurate. The child was safe and the case was closed with an open safety plan. There is information in the case notes that there was in fact a de-facto removal that occurred through the safety plan. In addition the safety plan does not appear to be one that is sustainable and one that the mother was not engaged in developing.

There was sufficient information to make the safety decision.

Area of Need: There is a significant lack of information regarding this case. The concerns are in regards to substance misuse, to include IV injection with the children present. The other caregivers in the home are not assessed and there is supporting information regarding the mother's drug use. There was little to no contact with the family and relevant collaterals to determine a safety decision.

The information was sufficient to make the safety decision.

It appears that the CPI worked to engage the mother in a parenting class and the mother took advantage of day care provided. But in the end the case was closed for Family No Longrr Cooperative and documentation says mother can not be bothered to finish the parenting class. Documentation does not show how worker reconciled the mothers history and current actions to determine the children are safe.

Strength: The CPC's identified by the worker were supported by the case information.

Good information to justify decision.

Information collected for the FFA indicated that the children were safe.

At the point of this FFA this appears accurate; subsequent report resulted in a safety plan which was justified

Sufficient information to support impending danger

Good documentation of impending danger and safety decision.

FFA documentatoin supports the lack of danger threats.

The court case for drugs closed recently; services ended. Not clear how current safety of children was reconciled. Perhaps court drug case supported information.

Strength: clear impending danger supported by case documentation

There was not sufficient information on the adult functioning and protective capacities of the childrens' mother.

There was not sufficient information on the adult functioning and protective capacities of the childrens' mother.

Information collected for the FFA indicated that the children were safe.

Sufficient information to support impending danger

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		14	36.84%
2	No		24	63.16%
	Total		38	100.00%

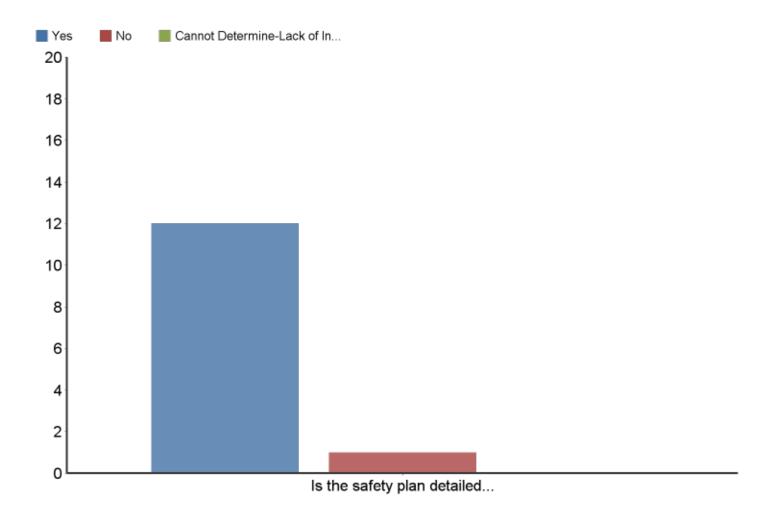
Safety Plan:

#	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?	-	12	1	-	13	2.08
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was a safety plan necessary in this case?	-	11	1	1	13	2.23

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

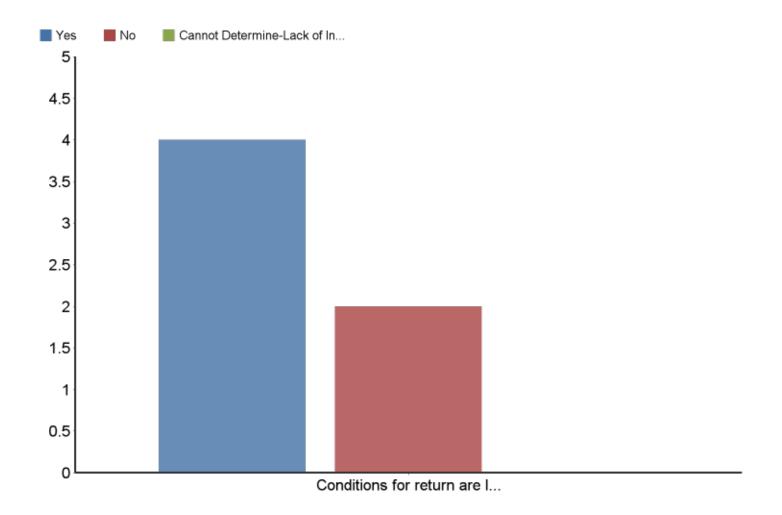
#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value	
1	Does the safety planning analysis and justification clearly support the type of safety plan developed.	12	1	-	13	1.08	

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?	12	1	-	13	1.08	

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.	4	2	-	6	1.33	

Reviewer Comments: Safety Plan and Conditions for Return: Include strengths and areas needing attention.

Text Entry

The initial safety plan had to be ended due to conflict between the mother and her mother-in-law. An alternate safety plan was initiated.

Reasonable safety plan

Area of Need: Impending danger safety plan is treatment focused and does not address the safety for the child, to include the mother's substance use that is not fully assessed during the FFA.

in -home safety plan good; no need for conditions for return

Sufficient safety plan.

There was sufficient oversight by the safety plan monitors and there was to be contact with the CPI weekly.

Reasonable safety plan

Sufficient safety plan.

Good use of family members for safety plan

The initial safety plan had to be ended due to conflict between the mother and her mother-in-law. An alternate safety plan was initiated.

There was sufficient oversight by the safety plan monitors and there was to be contact with the CPI weekly.

Area in need of improvement: conditions for return state: 1)complete substance abuse eval and complete all recommended tasks 2) provide negative UA's 3) participate and report to random UA's 4) complete a parental fitness evaluation. These are compliance steps which do not describe the conditions which must exist for an in-home plan.