

Florida Department of Children and Families Case Review July 2015

Review Completed by Action for Child Protection

Sun Coast 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 Sun Coast Region for CPI.

Sample Size: 31 Assessments

Present Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 9 (29%) cases were identified by the review team case information indicated present danger.
- Total of 7 (23%) cases were identified by the worker indicated present danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 2 (7%) cases between the review teams identification of present danger and the worker identification of present danger.
- Total of 0 (0%) cases identified as not having information in the present danger assessment or case record to indicate an assessment of present danger was concluded.

Strengths

- There were several cases where the present danger assessment provided specific detail regarding the workers assessment to support the assessment.
- Cases where present danger was identified, the threats identified by the worker were aligned with the threats identified by the review team.

Areas for Consideration

- In cases where the present danger was not identified, the reliance on others to control the present danger was noted in the case notes and PDA, when information does not support the assessment of the others in the home accurately in relation to the present danger.

Information Collection

Data Summary

- 82% of the cases reviewed were found to have sufficient information collection.

Strengths

- Information collection for child functioning, adult functioning, maltreatment, and nature of maltreatment were similarly rated for sufficiency.
- The majority of cases were found to have sufficient information for all domains.
- The majority of cases reviewed were found to have adequate and good quality information.

Areas for Consideration

- In some cases the maltreatment and nature of maltreatment were incident based and did not consider the additional concerns noted within the family that may be maltreatment.

Impending Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 10 (29%) cases were identified by the review team as impending danger.
- Total of 9 (32%) cases were identified by the worker as impending danger.
- This resulted in a difference of **1 (3%)** cases between what the review team identified as impending danger and the worker identified as impending danger.
- Total of 4 (13%) cases were identified by the review team as not containing sufficient information to determine impending danger.

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 cases where there was substantial history, the analysis of the history and the current family conditions, was either absent or not fully assessed in consideration of impending danger.

Safety Decision

Data Summary

- For all cases reviewed the reviewers found that *77% of the cases that were identified as safe by the worker were accurate.*
- 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 8 cases where children were determined to be unsafe. The workers identified 7 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

- Several cases lacked information to inform the safety decision for impending danger.
- In some cases the reliance on case notes where needed to inform the safety decision due to insufficient information in the Family Functioning Assessment.

Safety Planning

Data Summary

- A total of 7 cases were reviewed for safety plans. In those cases, 86% were identified as having detail and sufficiency to control for danger threats.
- For applicable cases, conditions for return were logical, attainable, and relevant 50% of the time.

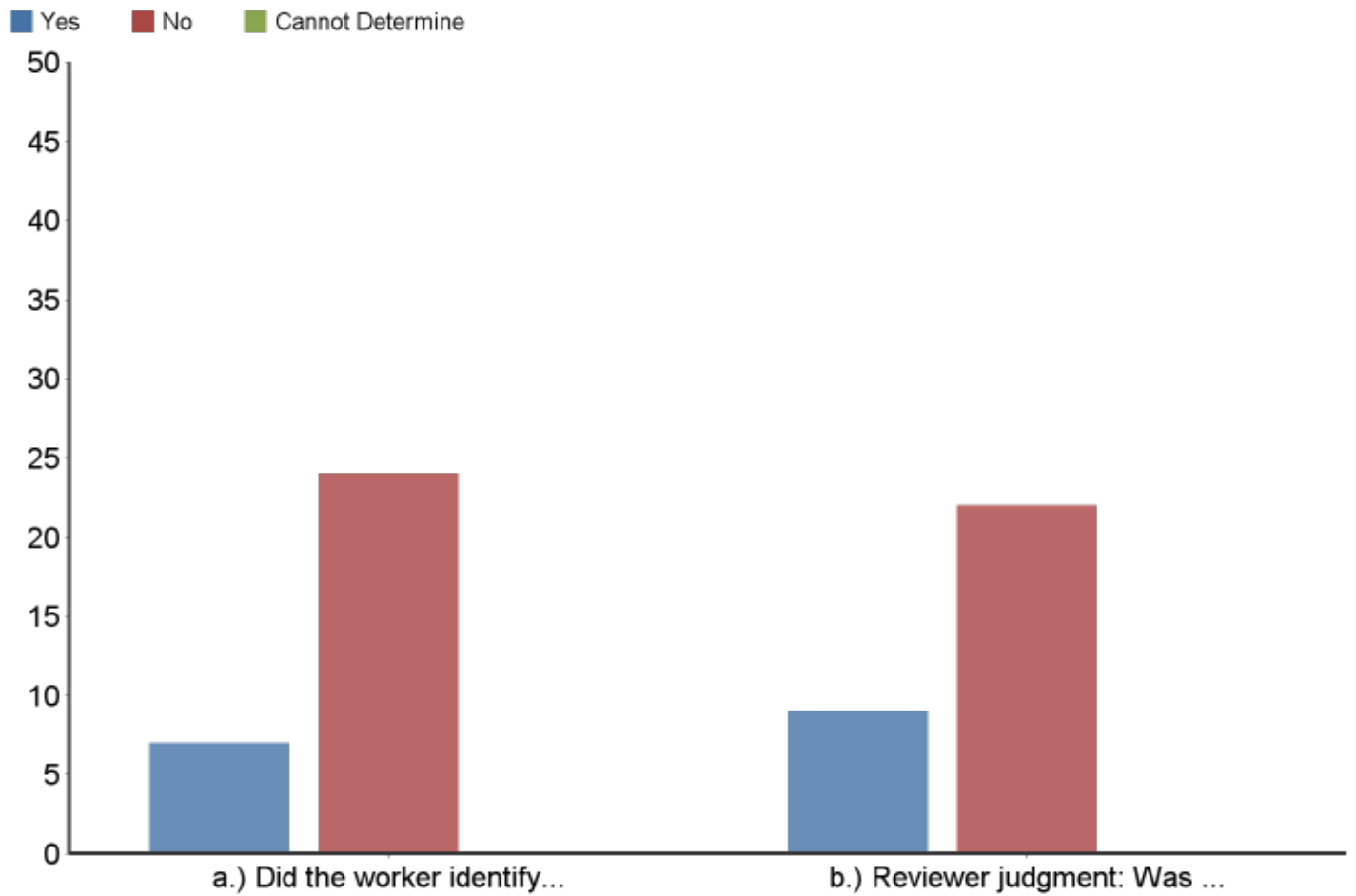
Strengths

- For cases where information was available, the safety planning analysis were supported.

Areas for Consideration

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

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?	7	24	-	31	1.77
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was there information to indicate present danger in this case?	9	22	-	31	1.71

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.	3	1	4	1.25
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.	-	-	-	-
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.	1	-	1	1.00
7	Parent/Legal Guardian is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.	6	5	11	1.45
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.	2	2	4	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		7	100.00%
2	No		0	0.00%
	Total		7	100.00%

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

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		6	85.71%
2	No		1	14.29%
	Total		7	100.00%

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

Text Entry

Area of Need: The PDA does not contain information to support the lack of present danger, however the case notes provide the needed information.

There was sufficient information for the assessment of present danger.

There was adequate information concerning present danger.

The present danger decision and present danger safety were both appropriate and warranted.

There was good information to support present danger decision.

There was sufficient information provided about present danger.

There was sufficient information concerning present danger.

Strength: While there were many concerning factors identified, the worker did a good job providing both in the case note and the PDA how the condition in the home was not present danger.

Three PDA's reviewed, all conclude no present danger. Case was open to CM when new reports came in.

Strength: Nicely supported present danger assessment.

Area of Need: While the parents on this case were not the violent member of the household, the household conditions were dangerous due to the adult daughter residing in the home, uncontrolled anger that results in her threatening family members with weapons. There were three separate LE call outs to the home due to the violence in the home by the adult daughter. The mother and father recognized the danger, however reported being unable/unwilling to alter the living arrangements.

There was sufficient information to determine present danger.

Strength: PDA was completed and nicely supported by the narrative.

There was documentation to support present danger decision.

Area of Need: The worker did not identify the child needs-in particular the behavior management as a present danger threat despite information supporting this threat. The present danger plan contained the action of shelter, but did not address how the shelter was going to control for the child's needs as a present danger.

Strength: Very detailed PDA, supported the assessment of no present danger.

The present danger decision and present danger safety were both appropriate and warranted.

There was good information collected to determine present danger.

There were two present danger assessments completed. The first PDA did not support the identification of the absence of present danger. The concerns were in regards to a parent who was under the influence, driving with child, and upon contact was not coherent. The assessment was focused on the other parent and their ability to "protect." Information obtained during the call and through case review did not support the conclusion that the other parent was aware, aligned, or action orientated for child safety. The CPI did take action that day, however did not identify the present danger. What is concerning is that the PDA did not identify present danger, action was taken (for 1 day) and then the child was back in the home. Thus when the second PDA was created, the child had been back in the home. The second PDA was conducted roughly two weeks later when the "protective" parent was arrested. His arrest was drug related and based upon the information regarding both parents, the child was identified as being in present danger.

Strength: Good narrative to support the lack of present danger identified.

Good documentation to support present danger decision.

Children removed; drug dealing in home, violence.

Area of Need: Child at hospital for 7 days, however it was learned that there were two other children in the home with the mother that are not assessed for present danger, despite information that the mother was snorting dilaudid and one child born substance exposed and going through withdrawal.

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	28	3	-	31	1.10
2	b.) Siblings/Other children in the household	12	4	-	16	1.25
3	c.) Non-Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	13	2	1	16	1.25
4	d.) Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	27	4	-	31	1.13
5	e.) Other Household Members	8	5	-	13	1.38
6	f.) Relevant Collaterals	26	-	5	31	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.

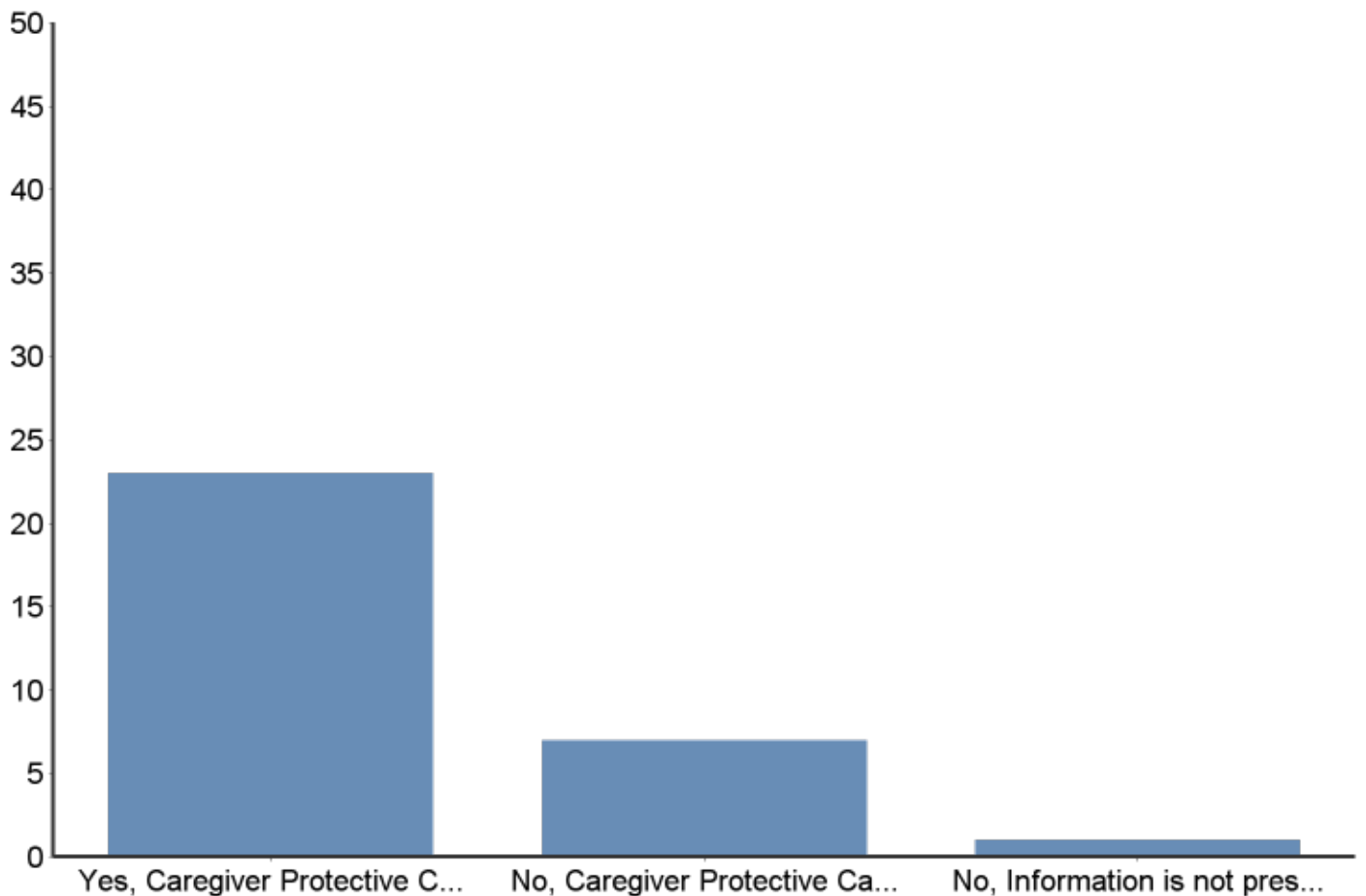
Reviewer should select “YES” if information is clearly documented and sufficient for decision making. Reviewer should select “NO, information is present but not sufficient” if the concepts are noted in the investigation but the information is not sufficient to support decision-making.

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?)	27	4	-	31	1.13
2	b. Nature of maltreatment? (What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment?)	27	4	-	31	1.13
3	c. Parenting disciplinary practices (What are the disciplinary approaches used by the parent, including the typical context?)	24	6	-	30	1.20
4	d. General parenting (What are the overall, typical, pervasive parenting practices used by the parent? Do Not Include Discipline.)	24	7	-	31	1.23
5	e. Adult functioning (How does the adult function on a daily basis? Include behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament).	24	7	-	31	1.23
6	f. Child functioning (How does the child function on a daily basis? Include pervasive behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament.)	27	4	-	31	1.13

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

Area of Need: Lengthy history with the mother, including in home services prior. Mother has significant substance abuse and incarceration. The lack of information regarding the incorporation of prior history, collateral contacts that were relevant, and reconciliation of information were missing in the FFA.

There was mention in a companion additional investigation that there were other household members, these were not mentioned in the first investigation. It is difficult to determine if they were in the household at the time of the first investigation or not.

There was sufficient information about protective capacities. It might have been helpful to have a little more detail about the non-maltreating parent's history of contact with the maltreating parent.

Very good information collection.

Good information collection.

There was sufficient information gathered.

There was not enough information gathered concerning the mother's protective capacities. The mother of the alleged child victim, a newborn, had an extensive history of substance abuse and it appeared that all decisions were based on current drug screens rather than determining if the mother had sufficient supports for sobriety.

Good case, good documentation in adult functioning which supports the absence of protective capacity.

Strength: Sufficient FFA with good information, only sections missing is analysis sections.

Area of Need: The focus on the FFA appears to be on the incidents without reconciliation of the danger occurring in the home and the lack of action by the parents for protection of their own children. The family was referred to services for the companion case, however no immediate action was taken, despite all members of the house acknowledging the dangerous conditions of the adult sister in the home.

There was good information collected.

While there was quite a bit of information about the adult functioning of both parents, the reason the mother was taking psychotropic medication was not explained and part of the allegation concerned the mother acting psychotic.

Area of Need: The step-father residing in the home does not appear to have been assessed or utilized in the decision making regarding safety in the home. The information is not contained in the FFA or identified in case notes as being fully assessed.

Strength: Information provided is good and supports the decision making. Area of Need: Clarification of domains-while information was provided and supported the decision making and was sufficient-the lack of clarity and overall concise aspects of the domains was lacking.

Very good information collection.

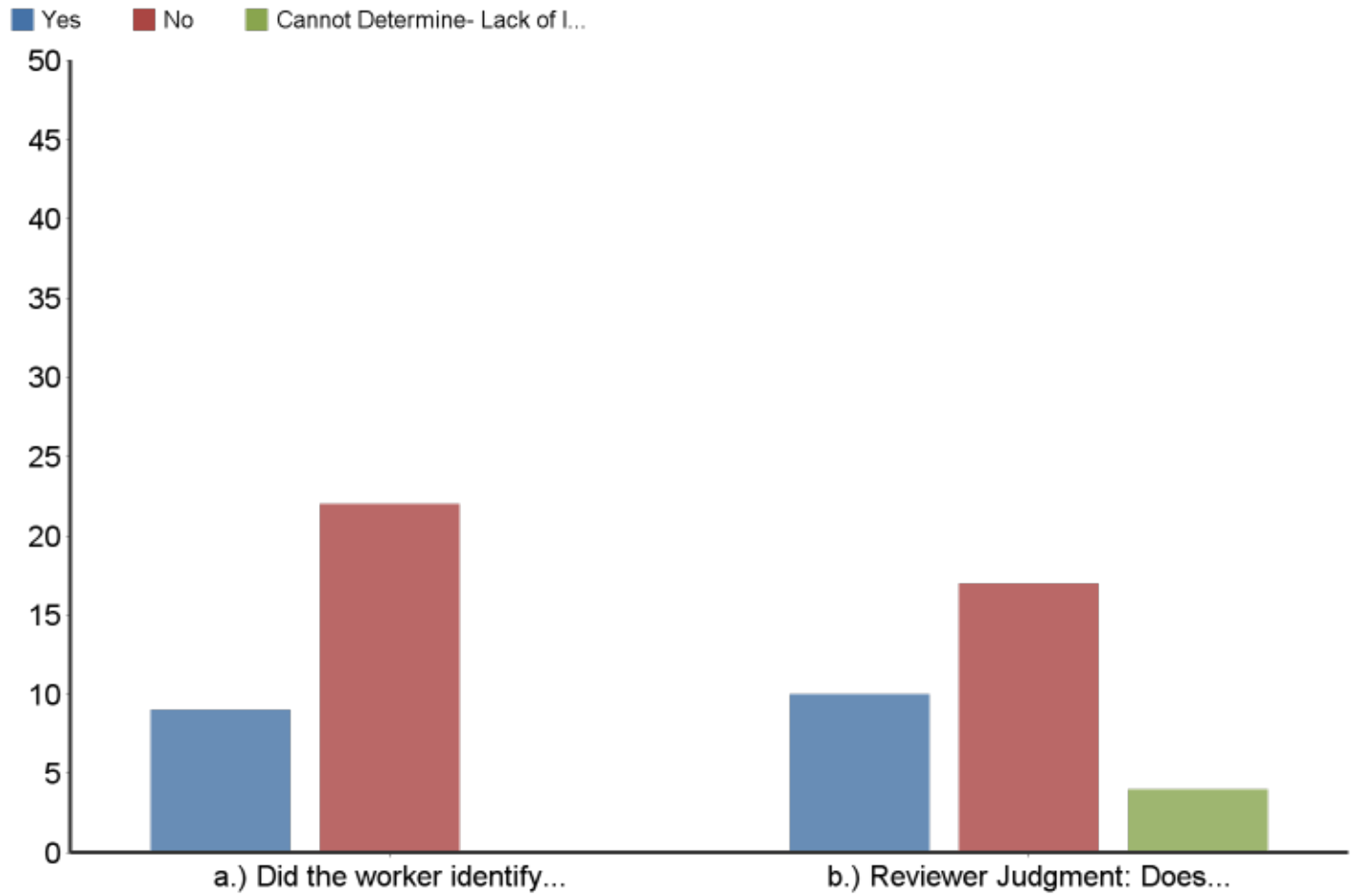
There was no contact made with collaterals or the children's father. It appears, however, that there was no indication at all of maltreatment.

Strength: The worker completed a detailed FFA and provided good justification regarding the safety threats and the need for intervention.

Strength: There is a lot of good information in the assessment and worker reconciles information regarding the mother and her parenting. Area of Need: Maltreatment and Nature appear to be more of an overview of the investigator actions rather than understanding the domain and purpose of the domain. Adult functioning domain was lacking depth and breadth to identify CPC's and to assess past the incident of alleged maltreatment.

Good information collection.

Area of Need: Maltreatment and nature do not consider the father's response to the mother's substance abuse and use. In addition, the father also has substance abuse history. There are three children all under the age of three in the household and the information reports that all the CPC's are yes, despite the mother substance use and the mother acknowledgement of needing assistance. In addition, the father's plan or action or awareness of the mother's use is not fully explored to determine that he is able to control the out of control substance use of the mother.





#	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?	9	22	-	31	1.71
2	b.) Reviewer Judgment: Does the information collected indicate impending danger in this case?	10	17	4	31	1.81

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.	2	2	4	1.50
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.	1	-	1	1.00
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.	7	7	14	1.50
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.	2	2	4	1.50
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?

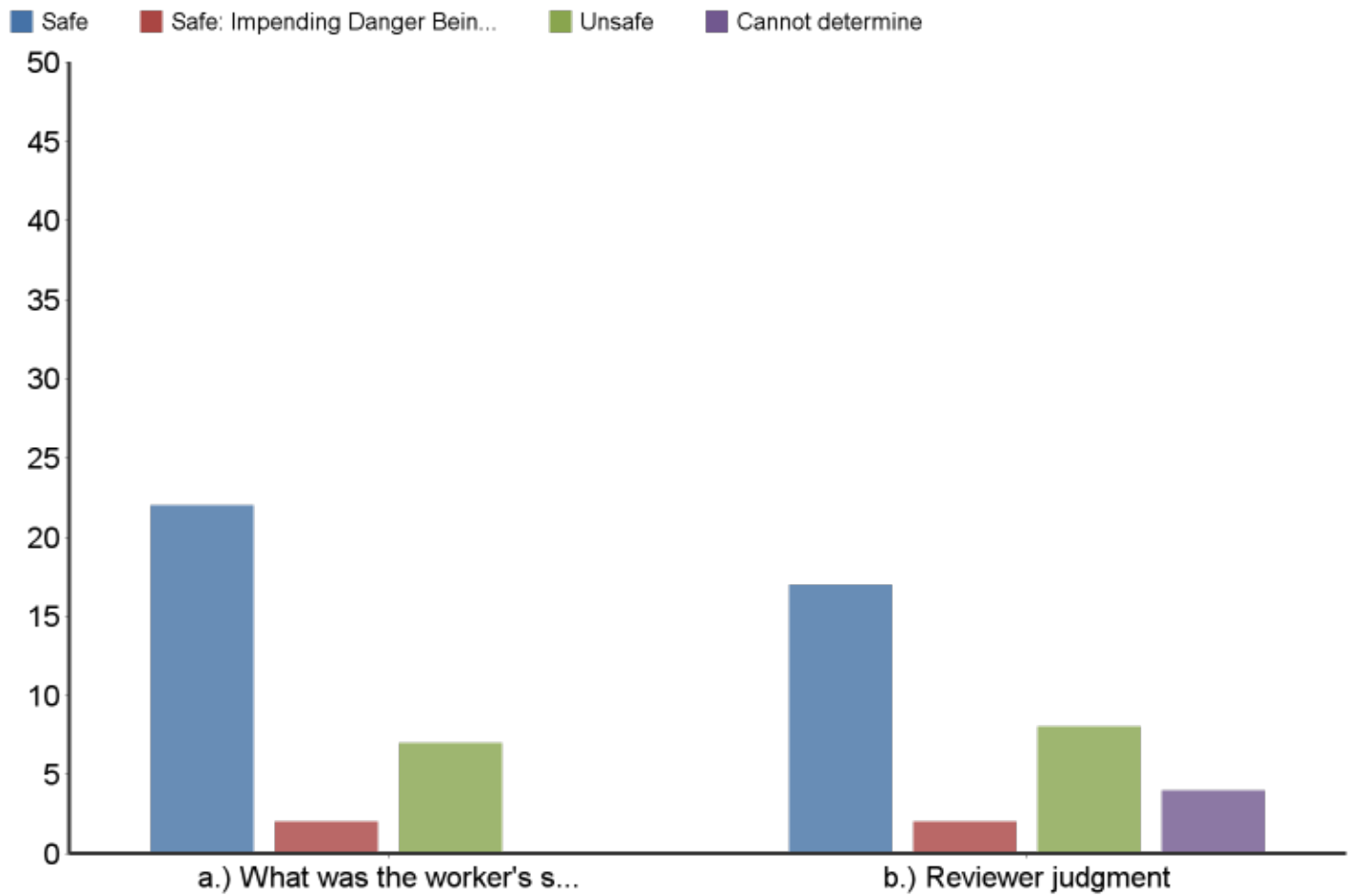
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		9	90.00%
2	No		1	10.00%
3	NA-No Impending Danger Identified by Worker or Reviewer		0	0.00%
	Total		10	100.00%

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		25	80.65%
2	No		6	19.35%
	Total		31	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?	22	2	7	-	31	1.52
2	b.) Reviewer judgment	17	2	8	4	31	1.97

Text Entry

Area of Need: The information collection was limited in scope and appears to be based upon limited contact with the family. FFA is more incident focused and does not include an assessment of the significant history with the family.

Generally the information was sufficient, but there was no mention of other household members.

There was documentation of impending danger being managed.

Good information to justify decision-making.

The impending danger and safety decision were well supported by information.

The child was safe at the conclusion of the investigation. The young ages and immaturity of both parents might impact the safety of the child at some point but protective capacities were currently sufficient. There were also services in place and child was being seen regularly.

The report indicated that the mother expressed interest in getting drugs while the newborn was in the hospital. There was not sufficient information about interviews with the hospital staff and their observations or other collaterals that may have been familiar with the mother's pattern of substance use. While there was sufficient information about present danger, more information was needed to determine impending danger.

Children sheltered and placed with grandparents.

Grandfather has guardianship and is living with the children. mother is not in the home and has an open case with case management.

The impending danger and safety decision were well documented although it was necessary to read case documentation to understand the full context of the investigation.

There was a lot of good information gathered about child functioning and protective capacities but more information about the mother's mental health and ability to control her impulses would have been helpful.

Area of Need: Concur with the decision regarding unsafe for the children, however the threat of household conditions does not appear to be supported by the case information and exploration regarding the teen's drug usage, selling of drugs, and behaviors are not fully assessed in regards to the danger threat and how children being removed is going to address their behaviors and control for their actions.



There was sufficient information gathered even though there were no collaterals or contact with the father.

Good information to justify decision-making.

The decision was well supported and the mother was offered services, which she accepted and accessed.

Good action related to present 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		8	25.81%
2	No		23	74.19%
	Total		31	100.00%

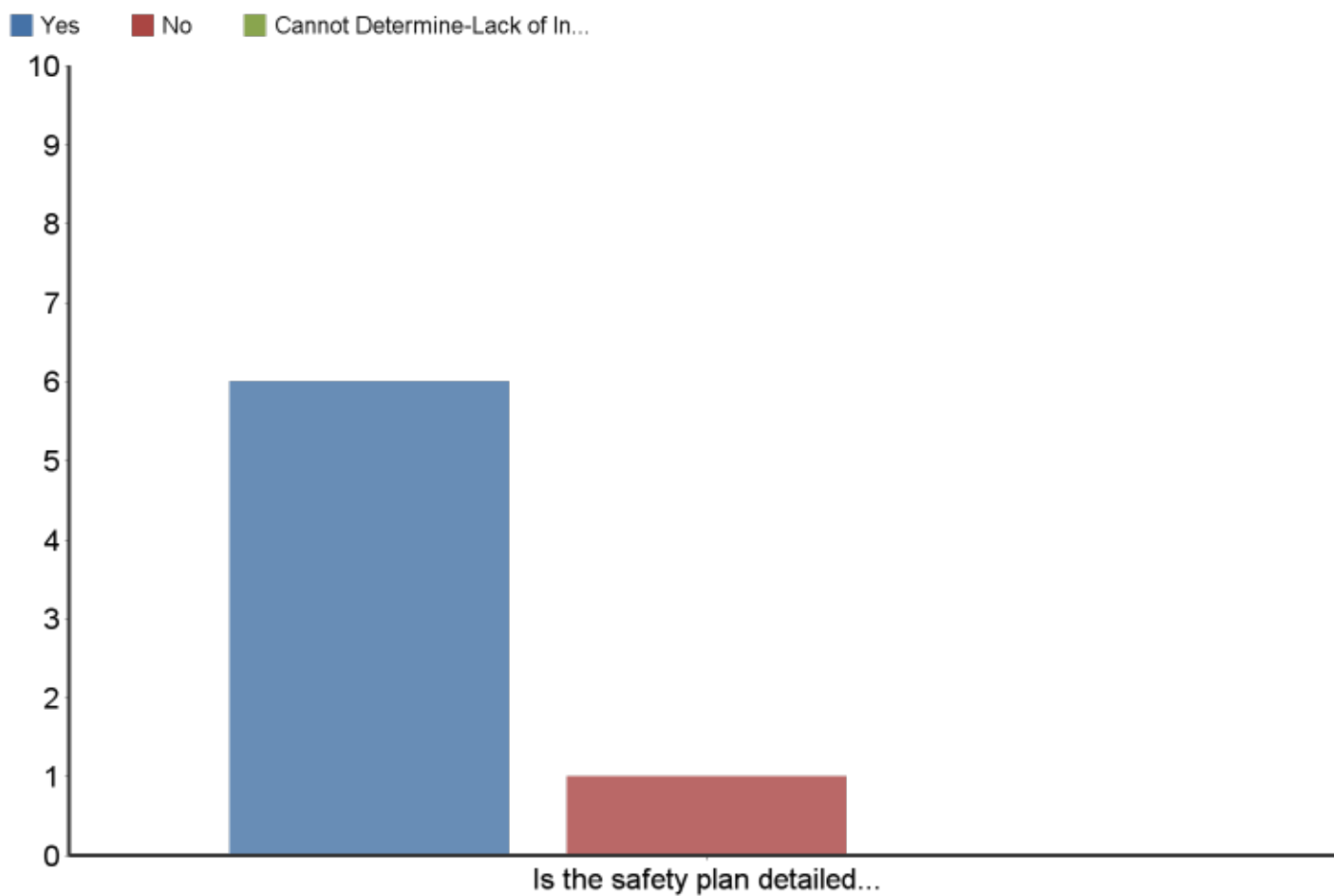
Safety Plan:

#	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?	-	1	6	-	7	2.86
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was a safety plan necessary in this case?	-	1	6	-	7	2.86

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

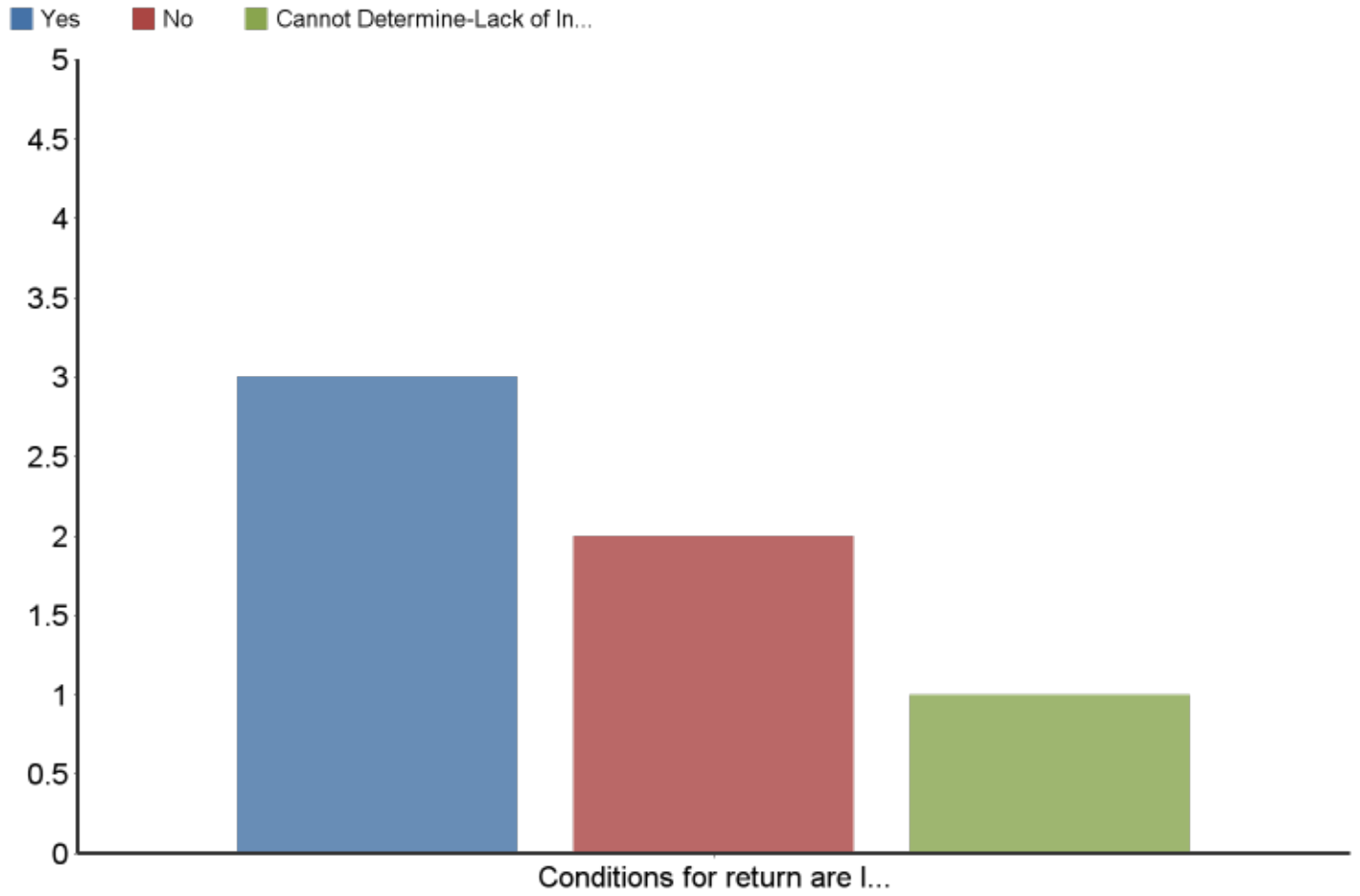
#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	Does the safety planning analysis and justification clearly support the type of safety plan developed.	7	-	-	7	1.00

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?	6	1	-	7	1.14

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	2	1	6	1.67

Text Entry

The safety plan was appropriate and warranted.

Area of NeedConditions for return are focused on the achievement of sobriety and treatment, rather than addressing how the home would be calm and consistent for the in home safety plan.

FFA does not state the conditions for return.