



Florida Department of Children and Families Case Review February 2016

Review Completed by Action for Child Protection

State Overview

Date: 2/11/2016

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 the six 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 a summary of key findings for the five main focus points of the review: Present Danger, Information Collection, Impending Danger, Safety Determination, and Safety Planning.

Present Danger Assessment

Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine	Total Responses
a.) Did the worker identify present danger at any point in the investigation process?	61	90	0	151
b.) Reviewer judgment: Was there information to indicate present danger in this case?	64	66	20	150

Data Summary

- Total of 64 (42%) cases were identified by the review team case information indicated present danger.
- Total of 61 (40%) cases were identified by the worker indicated present danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 3 (2%) cases between the review team identification of present danger and the worker identification of present danger. This is a slight increase from the July 2015 review (1%)
- Total of 20 (13%) cases were identified as not having sufficient information either in the case notes or the present danger assessment to determine if present danger was or was not indicated. This is an increase in 3% for cases where the information in the case record

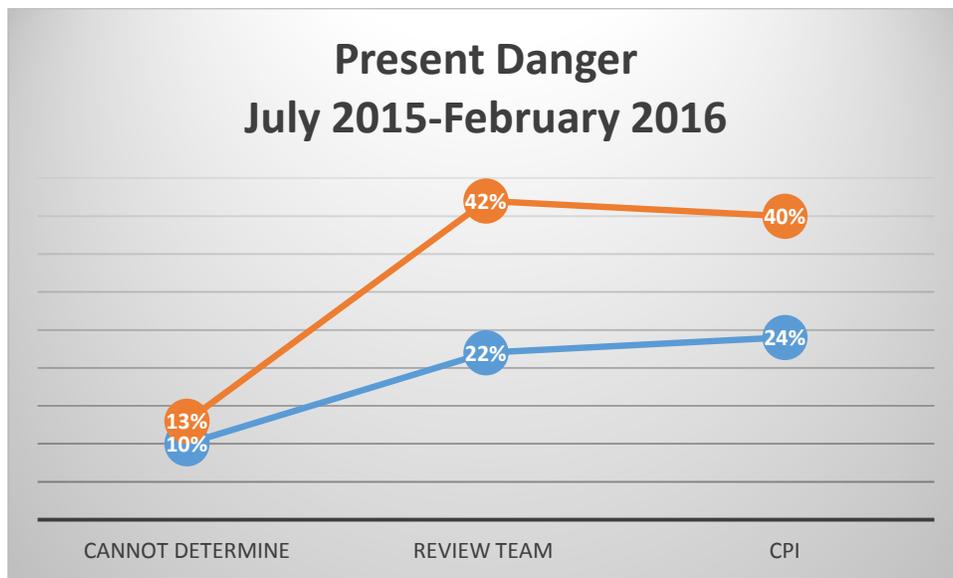
and the PDA were not sufficient to determine the assessment of present danger since the July 2015 review.

Strengths

- In several of the cases the worker detailed the assessment of present danger concisely and clearly articulated their assessment, either for present danger or that present danger did not exist.
- There continues to be a high degree of consistency regarding the assessment of present danger with the external review.
- In cases where the worker did identify present danger, they were able to provide good detail to support the identification of the danger threat and how the current family condition was immediate, significant and clearly observable.

Areas for Consideration

- There was an increase in cases identified as having insufficient information in the case record to determine the assessment of present danger. This data aligns with the current RSF data regarding information and the assessment of present danger.
- In cases where there was a need for additional present danger assessments, either due to subsequent reports or additional contacts, the assessments were often missing.



Blue Represents Data from July 2015

Orange Represents Data from February 2016

Question	YES, Information is Sufficient	NO, Information is present but not sufficient	NO, Information is not present	Total Responses
a. Extent of alleged maltreatment (What is the extent of the maltreatment?)	104	38	6	148
b. Nature of maltreatment? (What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment?)	107	40	1	148
c. Parenting disciplinary practices (What are the disciplinary approaches used by the parent, including the typical context?)	93	43	12	148
d. General parenting (What are the overall, typical, pervasive parenting practices used by the parent? Do Not Include Discipline.)	88	57	3	148
e. Adult functioning (How does the adult function on a daily basis? Include behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament).	94	54	0	148
f. Child functioning (How does the child function on a daily basis? Include pervasive behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament.)	104	42	2	148

Information Collection

Data Summary

- 60% of the cases reviewed were found to have sufficient information collection in all six information domains. This represents a decrease in fidelity of 5% from the July 2015 review. Of note is the inclusion of all regions in this review post full implementation of the regions and the review team utilizing only the FFA in determining sufficiency of information collection.
- 67% of the cases reviewed were found to have sufficient information collection in at least one or more of the information collection domains.

Executive Offices:
925 6th Street NW #4
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 345-2500

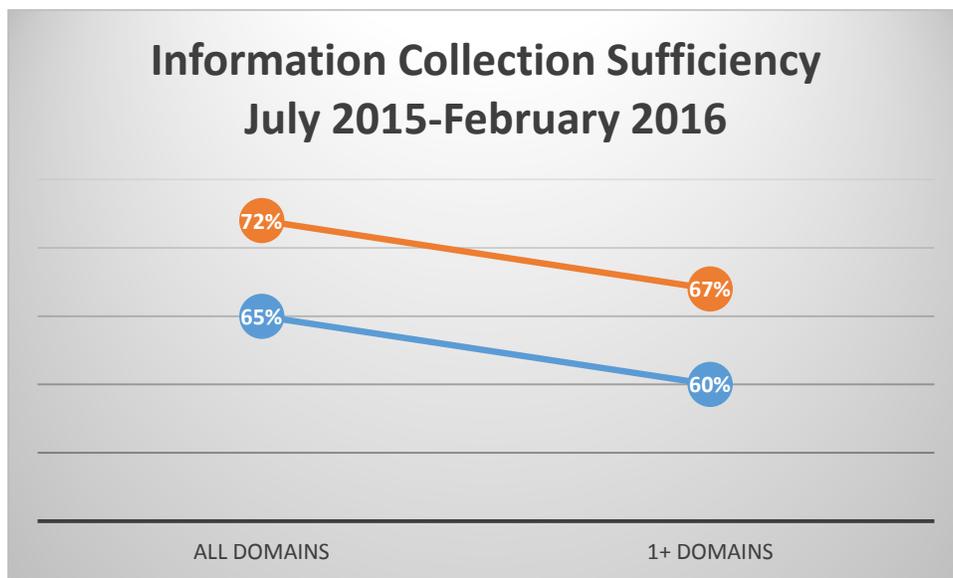
2101 Sardis Rd North, Suite 204
Charlotte, NC 28227
(704) 845-2121
www.actionchildprotection.org

Strengths

- Information collection for maltreatment, extent of maltreatment, and child functioning was found to be consistently high across all regions.
- 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 all domains has declined since the last review, with a range from 9% decrease for general parenting to 3% decrease for parenting discipline.
- During this review there was an increase in cases where there was information represented in the FFA, however was not sufficient and an increase in insufficient information collection.



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Orange Represents Data from February 2016

Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Total Responses
a.) Did the worker identify impending danger at the conclusion of the Family Functioning Assessment?	81	68	0	149
b.) Reviewer Judgment: Does the information collected indicate impending danger in this case?	76	43	30	149

Impending Danger Assessment

Data Summary

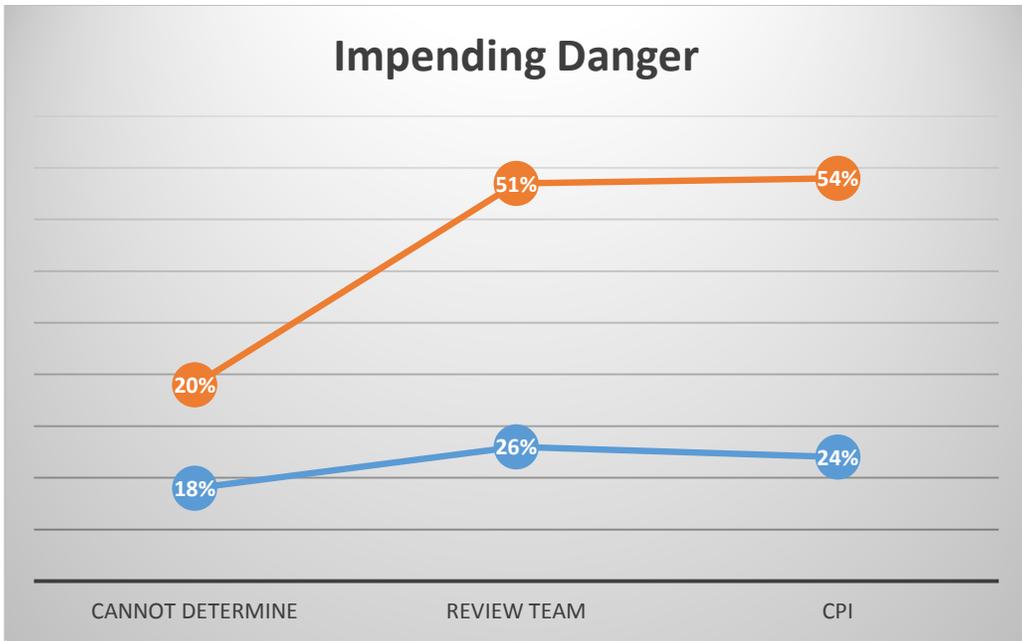
- Total of 76 (51%) cases were identified by the review team as impending danger.
- Total of 81 (54%) cases were identified by the worker as impending danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 5 (3%) cases between what the review team identified as impending danger and the worker identified as impending danger. This represents an increase in fidelity of 13% since the Fall 2014, however there was a 2% decrease in fidelity since the July 2015 review
- There was an increase in the number of cases during this review where the review team was not able to determine if the decision regarding impending danger was supported, 30 cases (20%). This is a 2% increase in cases where information is absent to inform the overall safety determination since the July 2015 review.

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(s).

Areas for Consideration

- Often times when the worker identified present and impending danger, the information collection did not support the continued identification of a danger threat.
- The assessment of caregiver protective capacities was found to be overly positive or overly negative based upon whether a danger threat was or was not identified.
- The review sample included known cases where impending danger was identified and families were transferred to case management, therefore the sample and review numbers regarding the number of children determined to be unsafe should not be utilized to represent an increase or decrease in case management interventions.



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Question	Safe	Safe: Impending Danger Being Managed by Protective Parent/Legal Guardian	Unsafe	Cannot determine	Total Responses
a.) What was the worker's safety decision?	67	3	78	1	149
b.) Reviewer judgment	41	2	71	35	149

Safety Decision

Data Summary

- For all cases reviewed the reviewers found that *61% of the cases that were identified as safe by the worker were accurate*. This is a decrease of 11% in fidelity since the July 2015 review.
- For all cases reviewed the reviewers found that *91% of the cases that were identified as unsafe by the worker were accurate*.
- The review team found that 48% of the cases had one or more children that were identified as unsafe. Worker identified children as unsafe in 52% of the cases. This is a difference of 4% between the review team and the worker's safety decision. This is a decrease of .5% in reviewer to worker difference since the last review. This represents a high degree of consistency when children are identified as unsafe.
- In 23% 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.

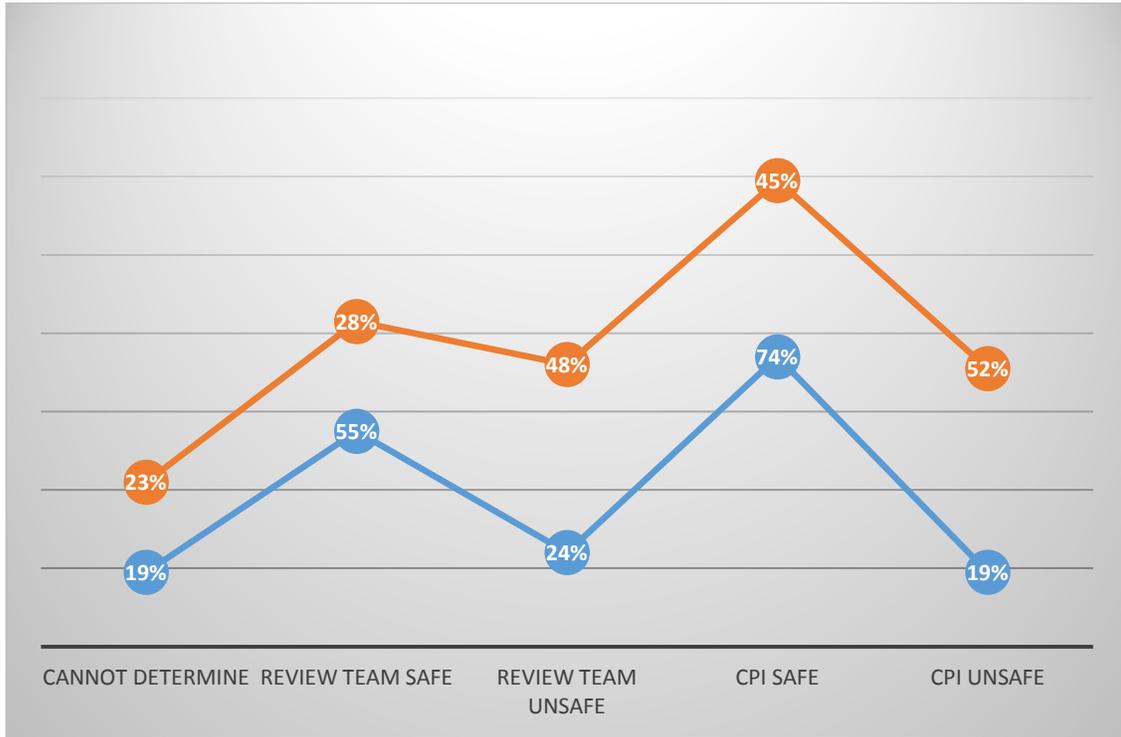
Strengths

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

Areas for Consideration

- Several cases did not have sufficient information to determine if the safety decision was accurate, either that the child was or was not safe. Approximately 23% of the cases reviewed did not have information to support the overall safety decision.

Safety Determination



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Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine-Lack of Information	Total Responses
Is the safety plan detailed and sufficient level of effort to control for danger threats?	50	10	17	77

Safety Planning

Data Summary

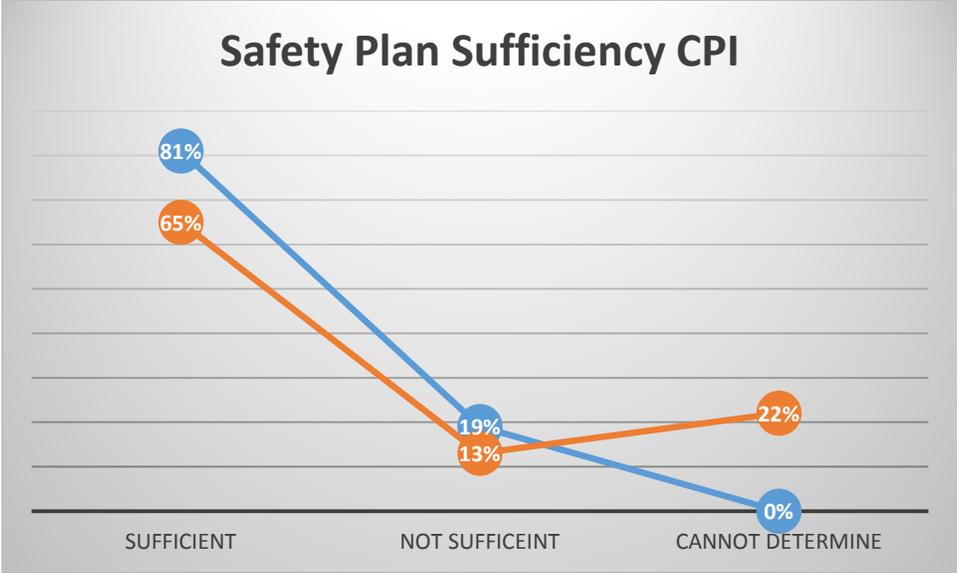
- A total of 77 cases were reviewed for safety plans. In those cases, 65% were identified as having detail and sufficiency to control for danger threats.
- 22% of the cases the review team was not able to determine the sufficiency and detail due to either the plan not being developed or the plan lacking information. This is an increase of 21% since the July 2015 review.

Strengths

- For the cases where information supported the safety planning analysis and conditions for return, there was evidence of worker engagement and assessment to inform the analysis.

Areas for Consideration

- The safety planning analysis and conditions for return were not supported by the information in the FFA.
- 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.



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1. 1. Present Danger Assessment

#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine	Total Responses
1	a.) Did the worker identify present danger at any point in the investigation process?	61	90	0	151
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was there information to indicate present danger in this case?	64	66	20	150

2. 3. 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	Total Responses
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.	1	1	2
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.	2	3	5
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.	6	8	14
4	There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or	3	1	4

	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.	3	5	8
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.	4	2	6
7	Parent/Legal Guardian is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.	43	40	83
8	Parent/Legal Guardian is not meeting child's basic and essential needs	19	22	41

	for food clothing and/or supervision and the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.			
9	Parent/Legal Guardian is threatening to seriously harm the child; is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.	1	1	2
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.	3	2	5
11	Other	0	0	0

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

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	59	97%
2	No	2	3%
	Total	61	100%

4. 5. Reviewer judgment: Was a present danger safety plan needed in this case?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	2	100%
2	No	0	0%
3	Cannot determine	0	0%
	Total	2	100%

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

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Yes		48	81%
2	No		11	19%
	Total		59	100%

6. 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 within the Family Functioning Assessment . Reviewer should select “NO, information is present but not sufficient” if the concepts are noted in the Family Functioning Assessment 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 Family Functioning Assessment. This decision is based upon the review of the Family Functioning Assessment as recorded in FSFN by the CPI. Case notes are reviewed, however reviewer determination is based solely on FFA completed. Feedback notes should indicate if the case record either negated or supported decision making not otherwise reflected in the FFA.

#	Question	YES, Information is Sufficient	NO, Information is present but not sufficient	NO, Information is not present	Total Responses
1	a. Extent of alleged maltreatment (What is the extent of the maltreatment?)	104	38	6	148
2	b. Nature of maltreatment? (What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment?)	107	40	1	148
3	c. Parenting	93	43	12	148

	disciplinary practices (What are the disciplinary approaches used by the parent, including the typical context?)				
4	d. General parenting (What are the overall, typical, pervasive parenting practices used by the parent? Do Not Include Discipline.)	88	57	3	148
5	e. Adult functioning (How does the adult function on a daily basis? Include behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament).	94	54	0	148
6	f. Child functioning (How does the child function on a daily basis? Include pervasive behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament.)	104	42	2	148

7. 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.

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Yes, Caregiver Protective Capacities are supported by information		98	67%
2	No, Caregiver Protective Capacities are not supported by the information.		39	27%
3	No, Information is not present to assess the Caregiver Protective Capacities.		10	7%
	Total		147	100%

8. Impending Danger

#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Total Responses
1	a.) Did the worker identify impending danger at the conclusion of the Family Functioning Assessment?	81	68	0	149
2	b.) Reviewer Judgment: Does the information collected indicate impending danger in this case?	76	43	30	149

9. 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	Total Responses
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.	4	4	8
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.	6	4	10
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.	6	8	14
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.	10	7	17
6	Child shows serious	7	6	13

	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.	54	62	116
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.	26	27	53
9	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child; is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.	2	3	5
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.	3	2	5
12	Other.	0	0	0
17	There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be	0	0	0

	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.			
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10. Reviewer judgment: the information collected is adequate and reflects good quality to support: a) 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		Response	%
1	Yes		63	73%
2	No		23	27%
3	NA-No Impending Danger Identified by Worker or Reviewer		0	0%
	Total		86	100%

11. Safety Decision

#	Question	Safe	Safe: Impending Danger Being Managed by Protective Parent/Legal Guardian	Unsafe	Cannot determine	Total Responses
1	a.) What was the worker's safety decision?	67	3	78	1	149
2	b.) Reviewer judgment	41	2	71	35	149

12. Is there evidence the CPI Supervisor was regularly consulting with the CPI, recommending actions when concerns are identified, and ensuring recommended actions followed up on urgently?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	105	72%
2	No	40	28%
	Total	145	100%

13. 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	Response	%
1	Yes	74	50%
2	No	74	50%
	Total	148	100%

14. 1. Safety Plan:

#	Question	No	Yes, In-Home Safety Plan	Yes, Out-of-Home Safety Plan	Cannot Determine-Lack of Information	Total Responses	Mean
1	a.) Was a Safety Plan developed in this case?	0	22	52	3	77	2.75
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was a safety plan necessary in this case?	0	17	45	15	77	2.97

15. 2. 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	Total Responses
1	Does the safety planning analysis and justification clearly support the type of safety plan developed.	52	12	13	77

16. 3. 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	Total Responses
1	Is the safety plan detailed and sufficient level of effort to control for danger threats?	50	10	17	77

17. 4. 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	Total Responses
1	Conditions for return are logical and attainable and relevant to the safety planning analysis and justification.	21	15	20	56