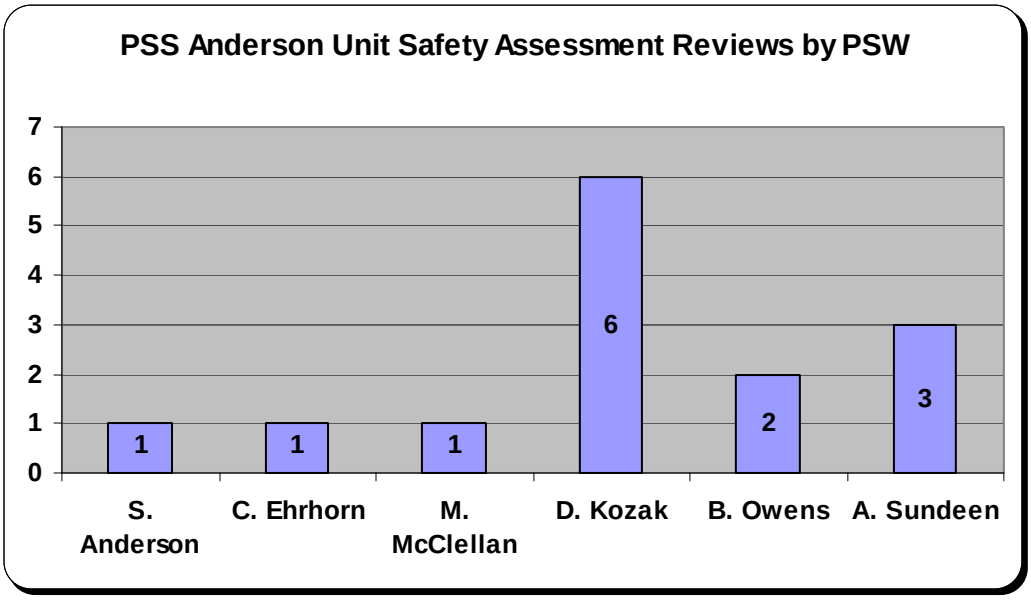
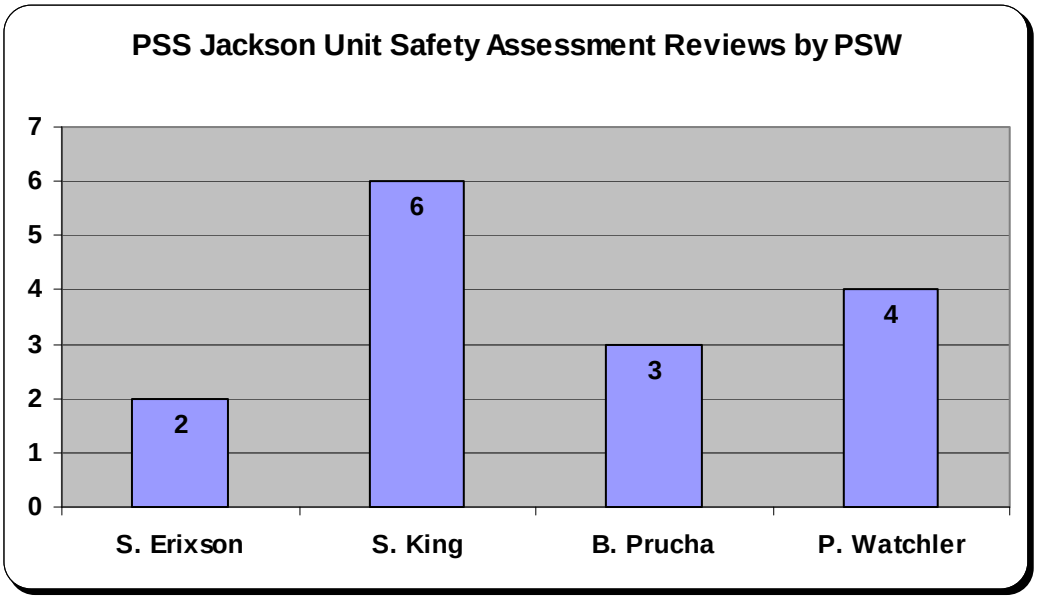
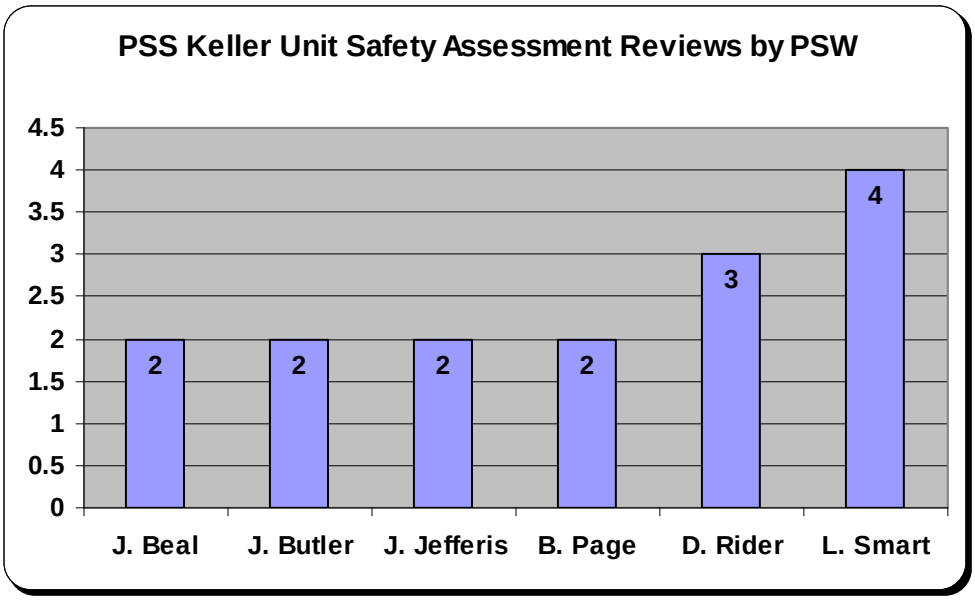
Safety Model Quality Assurance Report
Eastern Service Area

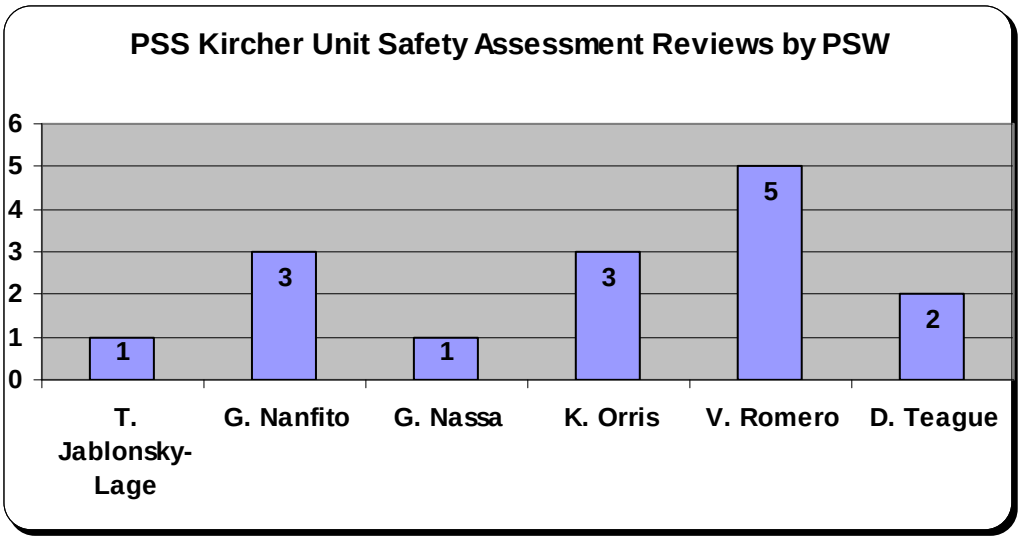
Quality Assurance Team completed the first round of Safety Assessment Reviews Eastern Service Area (ESA) in April 2008. A total of 90 Safety Assessments were randomly selected from finalized assessments on N-Focus during January 2008-April 2008. The reviews consisted of 15 cases from each of the following Protection and Safety Supervisors; Stephanie Anderson, Roxanne Jackson, Tamera Keller, Kris Kircher, Diane Martig and Kari Pitt.

The following charts represent Safety Assessment Reviews completed by Protection and Safety Workers by their assigned Supervisory Unit. *There were two safety assessments whose assignment was entered as Rhonda Newman and Nakia Beauford. These two assessments were completed by workers either in Stephanie Anderson's and/or Diane Martig's Units.*






PSS Keller Unit Safety Assessment Reviews by PSW
4.5
4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
2
2
2
2
3
4
J. Beal
J. Butler
J. Jefferis
B. Page
D. Rider
L. Smart


PSS Kircher Unit Safety Assessment Reviews by PSW
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
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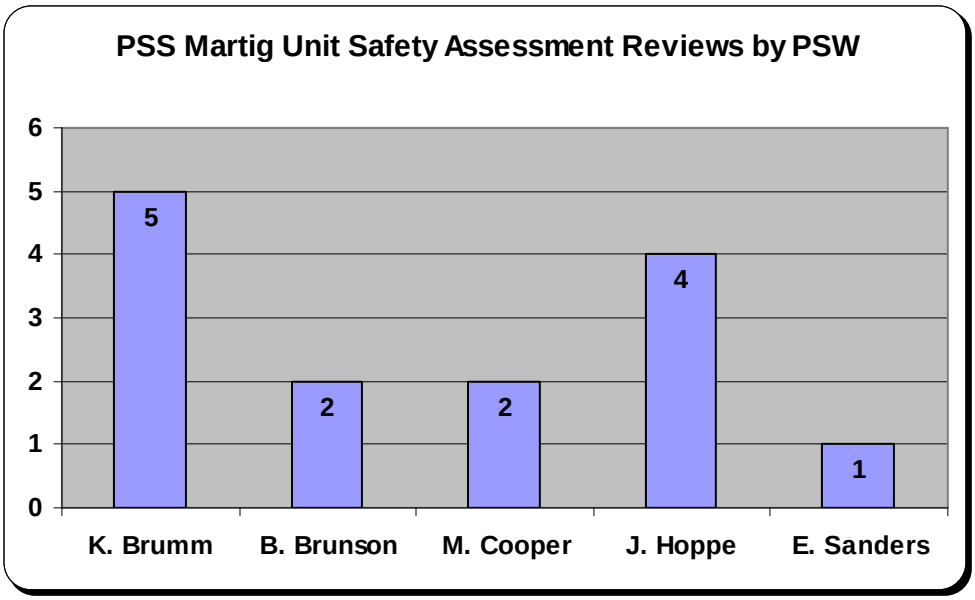
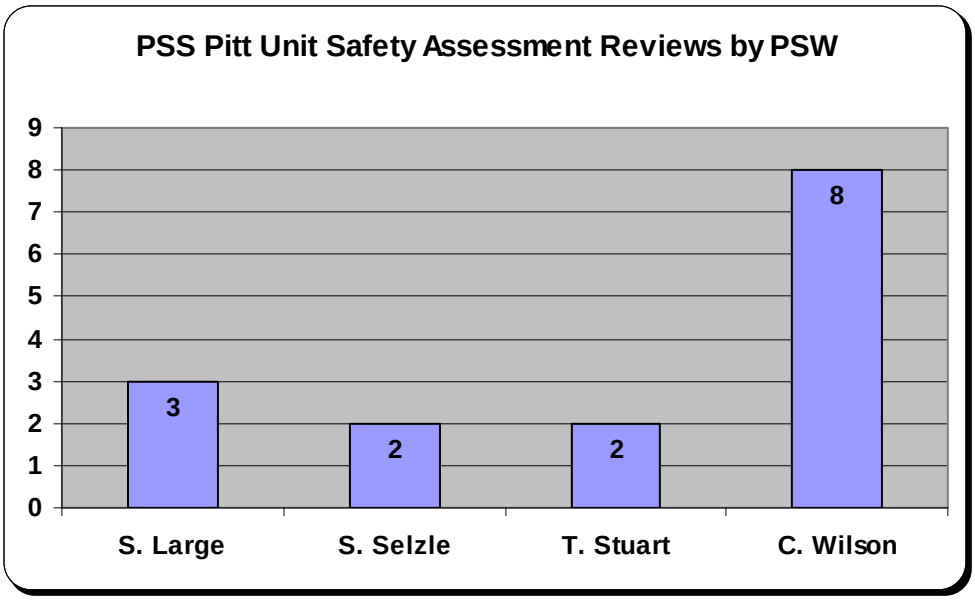
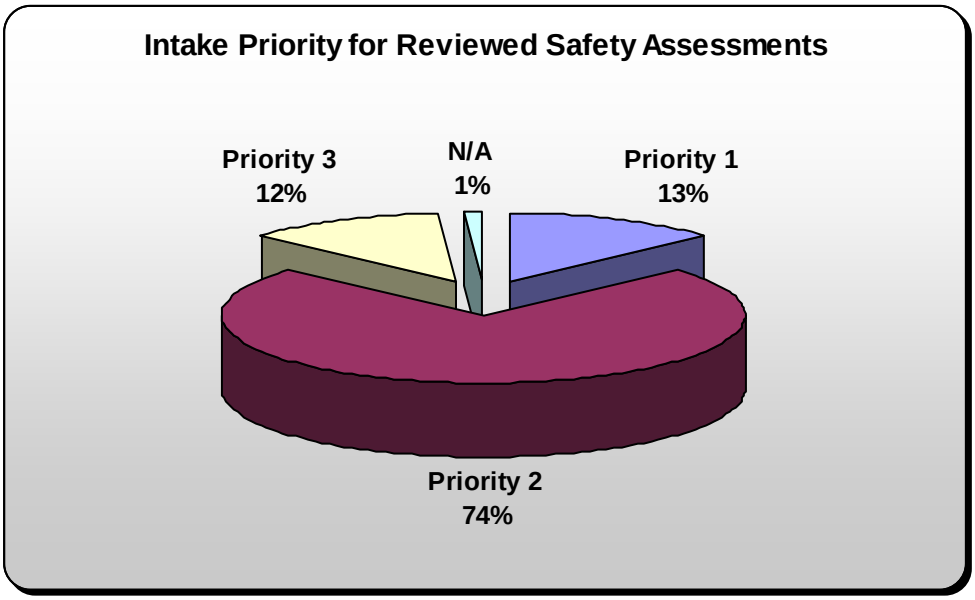
5
2
T. Jablonsky-Lage
G. Nanfito
G. Nassa
K. Orris
V. Romero
D. Teague


PSS Martig Unit Safety Assessment Reviews by PSW
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
5
2
2
4
1
K. Brumm
B. Brunson
M. Cooper
J. Hoppe
E. Sanders



Intake Priority



The following is a summary of data from 90 Safety Assessment reviews.

Initial Response/Contact Information (Chart 1):

- Initial contact with child victim was made within required time frame in 69.7% of the Safety Assessments (62 out of 89 instances, 1 was given an N/A).
- Other children in the household were present in 31 of the 90 reviewed assessments. Other children in the home were interviewed 90.3% (28 out of 31 instances). *In evaluating the explanation given to reasonably justify the lack of contact, there appears to be an error. Justifications were recorded for a total of six reviews. The previous question indicated that there were only three instances that warranted a justification.*
- 34 reviewed assessments had a non-maltreating caregiver listed in the intake. Non-maltreator was interviewed 31 out 34 instances (91.2%).
- Other adults were present in 20 of the 90 reviewed assessments. 70% of these adults were interviewed by workers.
- Interview with maltreator occurred in 82 out of 90 or 91.1% reviewed assessments.
- Interview protocol was followed in 51 out of the 90 assessments (56.7%). For those assessments that did not follow protocol, documentation in 35 out 38 or 92.1% of safety assessment reviews did <u>not</u> indicate any reason for the deviation from the protocol. Data discrepancy of one is present.

Present Danger (Chart 2):

- Worker identified present danger at the initial contact with the child victim and/or family in <u>17</u> of the 90 reviewed Safety Assessments (18.9%). *Statewide, it appeared early in the reviews that workers were identifying present danger when the situation did not met the present danger criteria. National Resource Center indicates that Present Danger occurs in 8-10% cases.*
- 81 out of 90 (90%) Reviewers agreed with the worker's assessment of Present Danger.
  - Eight instances the worker identified present danger; reviewers disagreed with the conclusion of present danger in all of the eight instances.
  - One instance in which the worker did NOT identify present danger; reviewer disagreed with the assessment.
- 18 Safety Assessments had an Immediate Protective Action taken.
  There were 17 instances when present danger was identified; however, 18 Safety Assessments contained an Immediate Protective Action.
  - Reason for the protective action was explained to the parent/caregiver in 10 out 18 instances (55.6%).
  - Protective Action included a provision for oversight in 16 out of 18 instances (88.9%). However, oversight requirement was sufficient to assure that the Protective Action was implemented in accordance with expectation and assured child safety in only 7 out of 16 (43.8%).
  - Protective Action contained parent's willingness to cooperate in 4 out 18 instances (22.2%).
  - Protective Action contained a description of the persons responsible for the protective action in 14 out of 17 instances (82.4%).
    Data entry error, one assessment that contained a Protective Action was not reflected.

- Protective Action contained confirmation of person responsible for Protective Action (trustworthiness, reliability, commitment, availability, alliance to plan) in 12 out of 18 instances (66.7%).
- Descriptive of how Protective Action will work was reflected in 7 out of 18 instances (38.9%).
- Timeframes of the Protective Action was documented in 1 out of 18 instances (5.5%).

- Overall, 0.0% Protective Action Plans were judged to be sufficient by Reviewers.

Domains (Chart 3):

- **Maltreatment –** Sufficient information was collected in 56 or 62.2% of the assessments.
  - Comments; Include findings/conclusions and evidence to support findings, include removal of child, address all areas of concern in the intake.
- **Nature –** Sufficient information was collected in 51 or 56.7% of the assessments.
  - Comments; Information contained in domain is evidence and goes to supporting the finding, therefore should be contained in maltreatment. Analysis of events/factors surrounding the abuse and neglect. Pattern of why the abuse and neglect is occurring in the home.
- **Child Functioning –** Sufficient information was collected in 61 or 67.8% of the assessments.
  - Comments**;** Worker observation of child (ren), description of overarching statements surrounding child's development or behavioral difficulties, assessment of all children living in home.
- **Disciplinary Practices –** Sufficient information was collected in 54 or 60% of the assessments.
  - Comments; Include situations in which the parent implements discipline for the child (ren), future discipline plans in assessments involving infants, children's statements of discipline in home, patterns of discipline with older children.
- **General Parenting –** Sufficient information was collected in 56 or 62.2% of the assessments.
  - Comments; Routines within the home, include past parenting of children that may have been relinquished or terminated, family activities, parental roles, include parenting for all individuals living in the home if they take role in caring for children.
- **Adult Functioning –** Sufficient information was collected in 55 or 61.1% of the assessments.
  - Comments; Need to include all adults living in the home, community or family supports, Mental Health, Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse information.

Collateral Source (Chart 3):

- 65 out of the 90 assessments indicated that information should have been collected from a collateral source. Collateral information was collected in 60% or 39 out the 65 cases.
  - Comments; Incorporate the information gained from collaterals into the assessment. Many times a contact is recorded on the contact sheet but the information gained is not incorporated into the assessment. Suggest workers

utilize the narrative portion in the contact sheet to document the family's relationship to the contact.

Maternal/Paternal Relatives (Chart 3):

- Maternal relatives were identified in 48 or 53.3% of the cases.
- Paternal relatives were identified in 31 or 34.4% of the cases**.**
  - Comments; Documentation needs to contain at a minimum first name, last name, and location (city & state).

ICWA (Chart 3):

- Information regarding ICWA was obtained in 73 or 81.1% of the cases.
  - Comments; Workers need to utilize the kinship narrative and include a statement as to how ICWA information was obtained by PSW. For example, ICWA does not apply to family or N/A. Need to include statement of how the worker learned that it did not apply.
  - Examples; Per mother/name and father/name there were no ICWA affiliations.
    Father was asked about enrollment or qualification he may meet in Native American Tribe in which he denied eligibility for him or his son.
    According to parents/name, no ICWA affiliations.

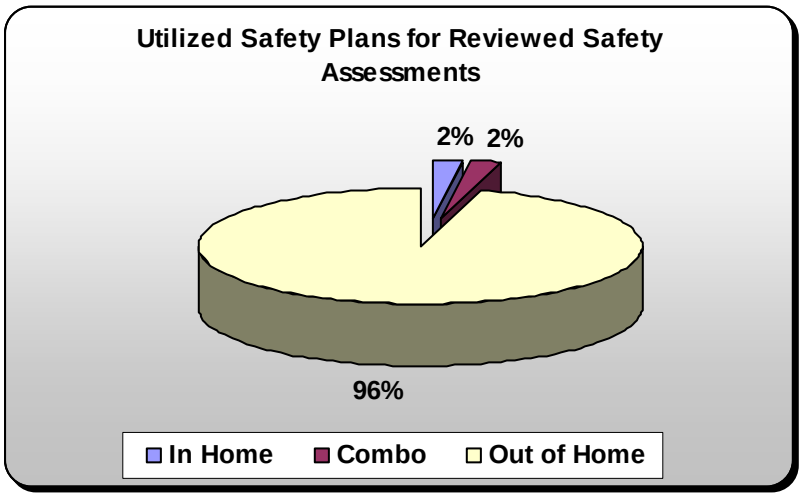
Impending Danger (Chart 3 & 4):

- 55 out of 90 (61.1%) reviewed assessments the information sufficient to provide a reasonable understanding of family members and their functioning.
- 73 out of 90 (81.1%) reviewed assessment contained information sufficient to support and justify decision making.
- 55 out of 90 (61.1%) reviewed assessments the documentation was sufficient in the six domains to accurately assess the 14 factors.
- Safety threats were identified in 44 of the reviewed assessments.
  - 39 out of 44 (88.6%) instances the reviewer agreed with the worker on all of the safety factors identified "yes".
  - Within the safety factors identified "yes", 39 out of 44 (88.6%) contained threshold documentation for identification of impending danger.
- 65 out 90 assessments (72.2%) reviewer agreed with the worker on all of the safety factors identified "no".
- Safety Assessment Conclusion;
  - Reviewer agreed with Protection and Safety Worker's conclusion that a child was safe in 36 out 46 instances (78.3%)
  - PSW identified Impending Danger in 45 out 90 (50%) of the reviewed assessments.
  - Reviewer agreed with Protection and Safety Worker's conclusion that a child was unsafe in 43 out of 44 (97.7%). There was one instance in which the reviewer did not agree with the worker's conclusion that the child was unsafe. *Data discrepancy, there should have been one more in which the reviewer agreed or disagreed with the worker's conclusion.*

Safety Plan (Chart 5): Note there are some minimal data discrepancies in the representation of safety plans that would result in small percentage changes.

- A safety plan was established at the conclusion of the safety assessment in 45 out 90 (50%) reviewed assessments.
  - 1 in home safety plan; Reviewer indicated in two instances or 4.5% the worker should have considered an in home plan.
  - 1 combination safety plan; Reviewer indicated in one instance or 2.3% the worker should have considered a combination plan.
  - 42 or 93.3% safety plans were out of home; Reviewer indicated that in two instances or 4.5% the worker should have considered an out of home plan.

  There are 44 recorded safety plans, data discrepancy of one.



- 41 out 44 (93.2%) safety plans contained a contingency plan; reviewer judged the contingency plan to be appropriate in 22 out of 40 (55%) reviewed assessments. Data discrepancy present.
  - Example of sufficient contingency plan;
    1) If foster parents are unable to provide care for the child, they will contact case manager, supervisor or CPS Hotline, to notify so that alternative foster care placement can be arranged.
    2) If father is unable to participate in plan as outlined, caseworker will have meeting and make modifications accordingly.
    3) If foster parent is unable to ensure that the child is safe the caseworker will be notified immediately and an alternate placement will be found.
    4) If relative, is no longer able to provide care for children, then alternative placement into licensed foster care will be located.
  - Example of insufficient contingency plan;
    1) The placement unit will need to find another placement.
    2) Child will be made a state ward and placed into foster care.
    3) This is an out of home safety plan and there is not a need for a backup plan.
    4) The assigned caseworker should be contacted.

5) Their designee will take over.
6) None.

- Suitability of the safety plan participants was completed 31 out 44 (70.5%).
  - Reviewer judged that there was sufficient information to support the decision of the suitability of the safety plan participants in 27 out 43 (62.8%). Data discrepancy present.
  - Comments; Need to ensure suitability is completed for all participants including two-parent foster families, providers and informal supports. Include background checks on suitability.
- 35 out 43 (81.4%) safety plans addressed who was going to make sure the child was protected.
- 24 out of 43 (55.8%) safety plans addressed what action is needed.
- 26 out of 43 (60.5%) safety plans addressed where the plan and action are going to take place.
- 9 out of 43 (20.9%) safety plans addressed when the action will be finished.
- 21 out of 43 (48.8%) safety plans addressed how it is all going to work and how the actions are going to control for safety.
- 3 out of 44 (6.8%) safety plans contained caregiver promissory commitments.
- 3 out of 44 (6.8%) safety plans involved in home services.
- 38 out of 44 (86.4%) safety plans contained a plan for oversight.
  - Reviewers determined that the oversight requirements were sufficient to assure that the safety plan was implemented in accordance with expectation and was assuring child safety in 21 out 41 (51.2%) reviewed safety plans. Data discrepancy is present.
- 34 out of 41 (82.9%) safety plans adjusted as threats increased or decreased.
  - Comments; For 17.1% safety plans that did not adjust, it is usually due to a child changing placements to include moving back home, implementation of services or modifications in visitations.
- Overall, 15.9% (7 out 44) Safety Plans were judged to be appropriate by Reviewers.

Supervisor Checklist:

Category	Eastern
The Nebraska Safety Assessment Instrument was completed correctly and completely (27 out 90)	30%
Documentation is on N-FOCUS (89 out of 90)	98.9%
Required Time Frames were met (66 out of 90)	73.3%
A reasonable level of effort was expended given the identified safety concerns (74 out of 99)	83.1%
Safety of the child/youth was assured during the assessment process (87 out 90)	96.7%
Sufficient information was gathered for informed decision making (53 out of 88)	60.2%
Available written documentation was obtained from law enforcement and others as appropriate (11 out of 16, 73 N/A)	68.8%
ICWA information was documented (75 out of 90)	83.3%
Information was obtained about non-custodial parent, relatives, and other family support (44 out of 90)	48.9%
An Immediate Protective Action was appropriately implemented to assure child safety (11 out of 20, 70 N/A)	55.0%
A Safety Plan was appropriately completed and implemented to assure child safety (15 out of 46, 43 N/A)	32.6%
A Safety Assessment was documented in accordance with required practice (30 out of 89)	33.7%
A Protective Action was documented in accordance with required practice (1 out 19)	5.26%
A Safety Plan was documented in accordance with required practice (11 out of 46)	23.9%
The family network and others were appropriately involved in the gathering of information (53 out of 84)	63.1%
The family networks and others were appropriately involved in developing Safety Plans (22 out of 42)	52.4%
Policy and procedures related to safety intervention were followed (47 out of 90)	52.2%
Safety plan is sufficient to protect child from threats of severe harm (23 out of 45)	51.1%
Efforts to coordinate with law enforcement were documented (49 out of 55)	89.1%
Interview protocols were followed or reason for deviation was documented (53 out of 89)	59.6%
The appropriate definition was used in making the case status determination (82 out of 90)	91.1%
The finding was correctly documented in N-FOCUS (87 out of 90)	96.7%
Factual information supports the selected finding (82 out of 89)	92.1%
Proof of certified notice to the alleged perpetrator is located in the file. *At this time, Reviewers do not review copy of "hard" file.*	N/A