

September 12, 2016



Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 2018  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-4407, enclosed please find the annual report prepared by the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers, comprised of the information provided by each of the seven Child Advocacy Centers.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivy Svoboda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light red shadow effect behind the text.

Ivy Svoboda  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers

# September 2016

## Child Welfare Non-Court Involved Cases



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Child Advocacy Centers  
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*Enhancing Nebraska's Response  
to Child Abuse*

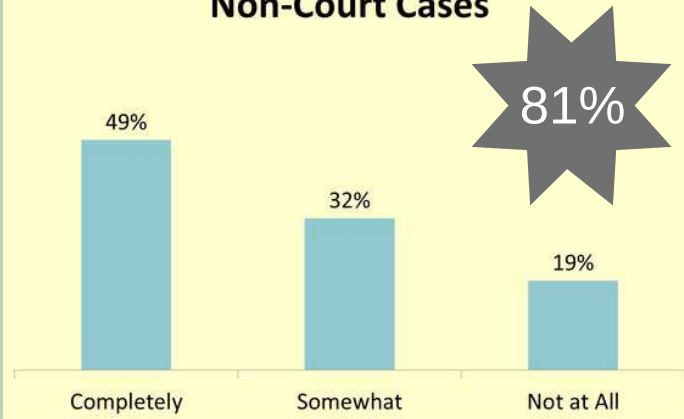


# Case Results

## Non-Court Involved Cases

July 2015 - June 2016

### Overall Success Rate of Closed Non-Court Cases

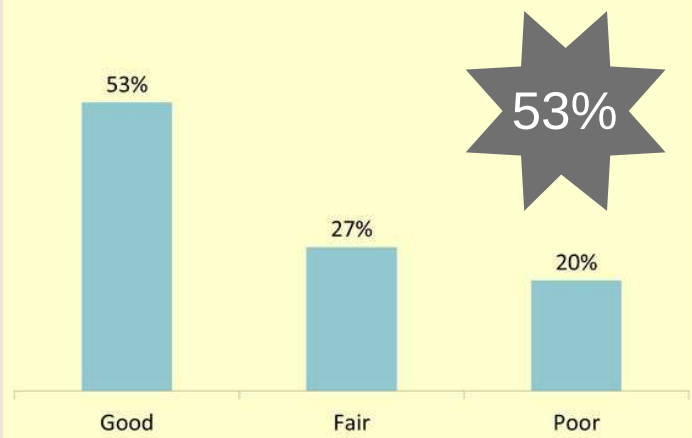


81% of closed cases were either "completely successful" or "somewhat successful." (78% in Year 2, 82% in Year 1)

# 1010 New Cases

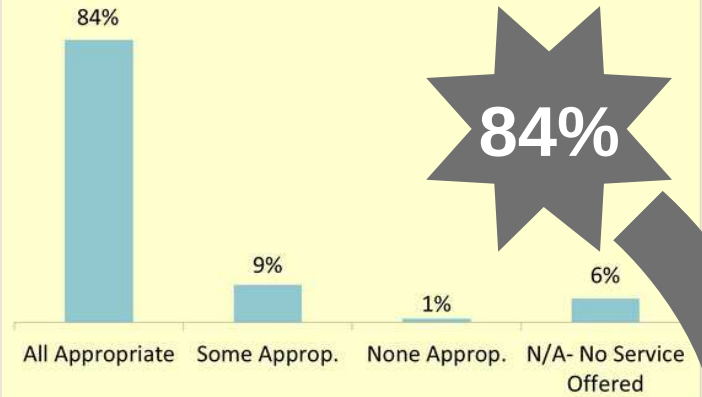
1175 New Cases in Year 2  
1120 New Cases in Year 1

### Overall Parental Compliance



53% of non-court involved caretakers had "good" parental compliance. (55% in Year 2, 49% in Year 1)

### Overall Appropriateness of Services Offered



84% of cases closed with an agreement that all services provided to the family were appropriate. (73% in Year 2, 68% in Year 1)



### 84% Agreement!

When a non-court case is closed, the DHHS staff assess the overall appropriateness of services offered to the families. This reporting year is a 16% increase from Year 1 and an 11% increase from Year 2! CACs have noticed the members of the multi-disciplinary teams are more engaged in collaboration and team discussion, Likewise, DHHS staff are utilizing the teams' resources to help families.

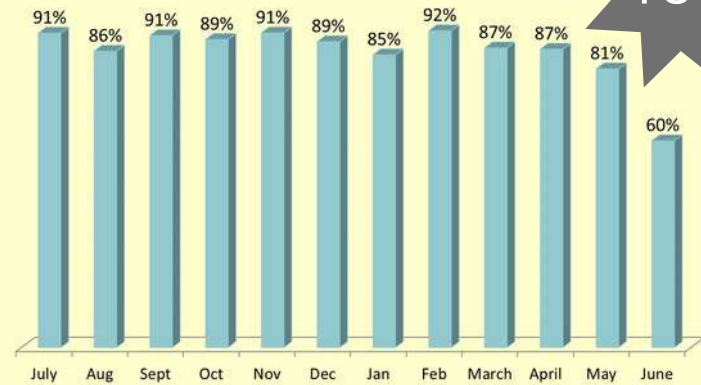
# Case Results

## Non-Court Involved Cases

July 2015 - June 2016

- ★ On average, cases stayed open 125.6 days, slightly over 4 months (128.7 days in Year 2, 156.8 days in Year 1)
- ★ 863 or 85% of non-court cases closed with NO court intervention (88% in Year 2, 86% in Year 1)

### Percent of New Cases with a Case Plan Upon Closing



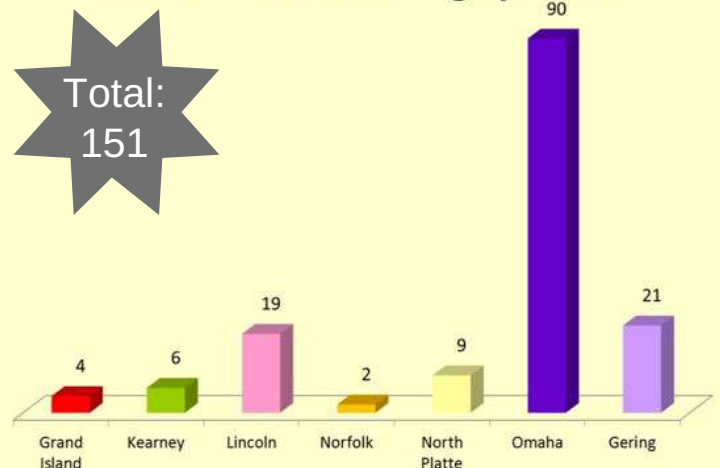
73%

Overall, 73% of cases had an active case plan that identified goals and services that families must achieve. (75% in Year 2, 82% in Year 1)



At times, filing an affidavit in court may be necessary for a family who needs more intensive supervision. 151 cases (15%) resulted in a court filing. (12% in Year 2, 14% in Year 1)

### Total # of Court Filings per CAC



Total: 151

### Areas Needing Focus

#### Service Identification and Accessibility

- Team members expressed interest in being able to follow up with non-court cases after being reviewed by the Team to determine if the recommendations provided during the case review were followed and if they were effective for the families.

#### Case Closure Process

- Several CACs expressed concerns with the process for closure of non-court cases. The process for assessing success or lack thereof within the case could be strengthened via a more meaningful way of data tracking.
- Teams also reported interest in creating a process for staffing cases prior to case closure to ensure that the family has their needs met and all available resources have been utilized.

#### Data Documentation

- CACs continue to voice concern about the lack of case plan information being documented in NFOCUS. The case plan supports the family in achieving their goals of increasing safety within their family by outlining the necessary steps to achieve those goals.
- Some CACs reported that some of the non-court cases do not appear on the DHHS monthly reports. They also noted that some of the cases where families decline services are not included in the reports, providing no opportunity for the Non-Court team to review the case.

# Definitions

## Non-Court Involved Cases

Non-court cases include families who are offered ongoing services provided by DHHS (or a contracted agency like NFC), but do not have juvenile court involvement. These services are voluntary and may include family support, case management, and referrals to community agencies for mental health, substance abuse, or other resource assistance.

## Case Closings

At closing, non-court cases are reviewed at team meetings coordinated by each CAC. These teams are comprised of county attorneys, initial assessment workers, ongoing caseworkers, and professionals from the community.

## Court Filing

At times, it may be necessary to file an affidavit in court on a non-court involved family who needs more intensive supervision.

## Case Plan

The case plan identifies goals and services families must achieve.

## Criteria Examined At Case Closure

### Overall Success of the Case

**Completely:** Family met all case plan goals

**Somewhat:** Family met some case plan goals

**Not at all:** Family did not meet any case plan goals or refused voluntary services

### Parental Compliance

**Good:** Parents are consistently working toward completion of case plan

**Fair:** Parents are inconsistently working toward completion of case plan (e.g. they need multiple reminders to complete tasks, make appointments, etc.)

**Poor:** Parents are not working towards completion of case plan and/or they refused voluntary services

### Appropriateness of Services Offered to the Family

**All appropriate:** Caseworker referred family to all services that could help them

**Some appropriate:** Caseworker referred family to some services, but may have missed others (e.g. referred for substance abuse services but not domestic violence services in a family with clear domestic violence issues)

**None appropriate:** Caseworker did not refer family to any services that could help them

**No services offered:** Caseworker did not have a chance to refer to services (e.g. family refused voluntary services)

# Success



## What Makes A Team Successful?



One county team continues to meet one to two times a month with strong community provider representation. Meetings are structured to foster open communication between agencies and the caseworkers and their supervisors. Treatment Team members represent a variety of disciplines in the community and are able to share recommendations tailored to a family's specific needs. Some of the current non-court cases were referred to the Team by the County Attorney's Office with the expectation that the cases would be reviewed prior to closure to ensure the case has received all available supports. DHHS workers have maintained open communication with both the Team and County Attorneys on these cases. DHHS workers and supervisors have even started to refer cases to the Team for assistance in generating ideas on which resources or services may best benefit a family.

## Case Example

An intake was received due to a mother testing positive for methamphetamine as well as concerns about housing instability. To keep the five-year-old child safe, he was informally placed with his aunt and uncle while the mother received needed services and support. At case review, the multi-disciplinary team brainstormed additional recommendations with the caseworker on services to offer the family. The mother located an acceptable intensive outpatient treatment and found housing. Through these accomplishments, her son was reunited with her. The case closed successfully in July 2015 and the family has had no other CPS hotline intakes since!

## Contact Information

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## Participating CACs:

