

OPEGA Review of Child Protective Services - Overview

(1) Information Brief – Oversight of Child Protective Services (January 2022)

1. Understand the current structure of oversight of DHHS/OCFS and child protective services broadly;
2. Understand the roles and responsibilities of the entities involved in child protective services oversight, including Child Welfare Ombudsman and oversight panels required by law;
3. Identify barriers and/or gaps in information sharing;
4. Identify best practice and models of oversight of child protective services; and
5. Examine effectiveness of the oversight structure.

(2) Evaluation Report - Child Protective Services Investigations (March 2022)

1. Understand how initial investigations are designed and conducted, including the legal and policy framework and priorities over time;
2. Evaluate how well the initial investigations are performed;
3. Understand how DHHS/OCFS assures quality of investigations;
4. Understand roles and coordination between key parties, including DHHS/OCFS, Assistant Attorneys General (AAGs), and courts, in decision making regarding child safety;
5. Understand and assess how stakeholders (for example: mandated reporters, service providers and state agencies) interact, communicate, and share information; and
6. Consider perspectives of DHHS/OCFS staff and stakeholders.

Remaining Piece of Work

(3) Evaluation Report – Child Protective Services: Reunification and Permanency

1. Understand how reunification and permanency assessments are designed and conducted, including the legal and policy framework and priorities over time;
2. Evaluate how well reunification assessments are performed;
3. Understand roles and coordination between key parties, including DHHS/OCFS, courts, AAGs, attorneys, and guardians ad litem; and
4. Consider perspectives of DHHS/OCFS staff and stakeholders