

Local youth services branches get mixed reviews

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Washington County Children and Youth Service does a better job of moving children from foster homes into adopted families than its sister agencies in Pennsylvania, a new report suggests.

But the agency has been placing more kids into detention centers than the state average, a rating in need of improvement, according to a report released Wednesday by Pennsylvania Partnership for Children.

"There is a lot of good going on," said Lori Harbert, the county's CYS administrator. "There is always improvement that needs to be implemented."

Greene County also received both good and bad news in the report.

Greene has a low re-entry rate for children who have been returned to their families from foster care. But fewer children who are removed from homes are placed with their relatives than foster families than most other county agencies in the state, the report suggests.

Karen Bennett, human services administrator in Greene, said the agency there is doing a better job of terminating parental rights in some cases and reunifying foster children with their real families.

"I look at things like this as benchmarks, where we are and how we can improve," Bennett said.