

State's child welfare system rated

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By Eleanor Chute, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children today released its first report on how the state's 67 counties perform in the child welfare system.

For Allegheny County, the report gave good ratings for reunifying more children with their families within 12 months. The children are less likely to have to re-enter the system. The county also does well with placing children with relatives.

It noted the county needs to improve in two other areas: Children stay in care 12.5 months, which is nearly two months longer than the state average. It also takes a longer time to get a guardianship, nearly 34 months, compared with a state average of 24 months.

"This report sets measures today that will enable us to look back every year and see how we are doing in achieving our goal of a forever family for every child," said Joan Benso, president and CEO of the organization.

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children is a nonprofit child advocacy group based in Harrisburg. More information on the report, part of the Porch Light Project, can be found at <http://www.papartnerships.org>.

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