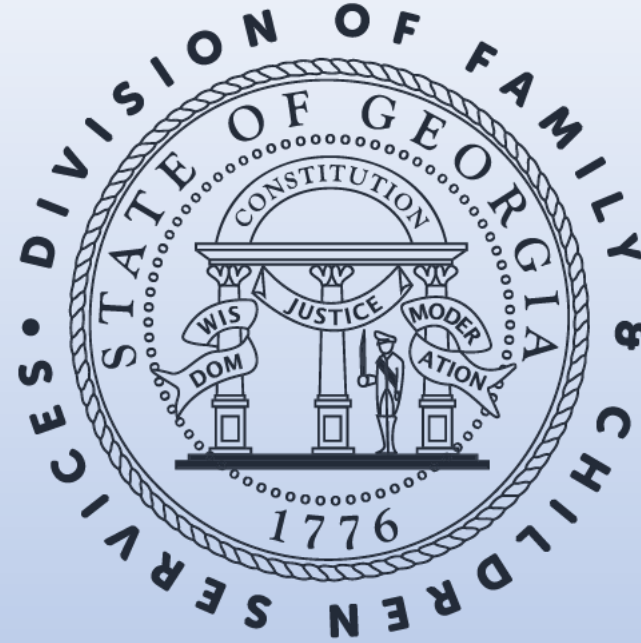




**Candice Broce**

Director



# CPA Monthly Series

OPM Resource Development

# MEET OUR *Team*

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## AGENDA

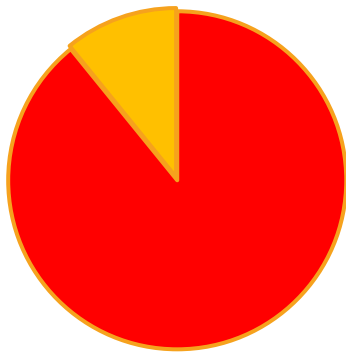
1. Unapproved Re-Evaluation Data & Re-evaluation Submission Reminder
  2. Safety Measures in Foster Homes
  3. OPM Monitoring Managers - Key Points
  4. Recognition & Reminders
- 



# Unapproved Re-evaluations July 2022 Monthly Series

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## Unapproved Re- Evaluations



**230** Overdue Re-Evaluations currently and **22** homes have Kenny A Placements

**22** Overdue Re-evaluations are pending OPM review

**\*\*208** Overdue Re-Evaluations remain outstanding

■ Re-Evaluations Overdue ■ Pending OPM

# Unapproved Re-evaluations August 2022

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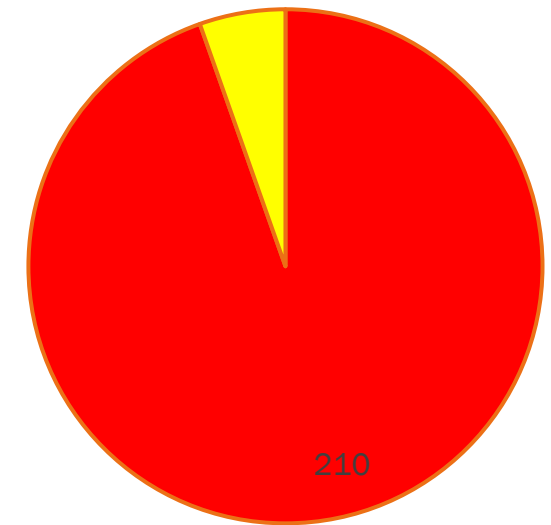
**210** Overdue Re-Evaluations

**56** provider with at least one of more overdue home

**40** Kenny A Placements

**12** Overdue Re-evaluations pending OPM review

**198** Overdue Re-Evaluations remain outstanding



■ Re-Evaluations Overdue    ■ Pending OPM

# Overdue Foster Home Re-Evaluations

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210 Overdue Re-Evaluations

2019: 2

2020: 1

2021: 10

2022(Quarter 1&2): 104

# Re-evaluation Submissions

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# Wait!

## Before You Submit

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- Ensure all forms completed in their entirety and are signed and dated.
- Ensure have utilized the updated versions of all forms (Caregiver home safety and compliance checklist, placement preference form and caregiver feedback survey).
- Ensure safety screens are completed within 90 days.
- Ensure safety screens do not contain any demographic information.

- Ensure the safety of the home is discussed in the physical home environment section.
  - Ensure all information reported on the SAFE update questionnaire is discussed in the narrative.
- 
- Ensure the narrative included a description of the sleeping arrangements (ODIS Policy 14.1).
  - Ensure all CPS history is evaluated in the narrative and not copied and pasted from the CPS letter.
  - If there is a pool or body of water in the home or community, an updated Water Safety Assessment is uploaded (ODIS policy 14.1).
  - Ensure the assessment is completed by the due date in gascore (ODIS 14.13).
  - SAFE training certificate needs to be uploaded in SCORE.



# Safety Measures in Foster Homes

Blake Boyer

- 11.15 CPAs must ensure that the number of children placed or approved to be placed in a foster home will not displace the foster family's children or other members living in the household from reasonable and expected accommodations (i.e., bed, personal space and privacy).
- Things to consider: does the placement of a child force a biological child in the home to move into the foster parent's bedroom? How will this affect the caregiver's self care and privacy? How sustainable will the sleeping arrangement be?

Sleeping Arrangements (minimum standard 11.15)

- Fulton and Dekalb:
- a. Only bedrooms shall be used as sleeping space for children.
- b. Each non-related child must have a separate bed.
- c. Any collapsible (pack and play), sofas, cots or other such temporary sleeping structures may not be used as the planned bed space for children.
- d. A maximum of two (2) children may sleep in a double or larger bed if they are siblings, the same sex and under age 5 years. Preferably all children will have separate beds, however, infants must always be in a separate bed or crib.
- e. No child shall sleep in a bed with an adult. Infants may not sleep in a bed with anyone.
- f. Preferably, a maximum of three (3) children will share a bedroom. The suitability of children sharing a room must be thoroughly assessed and based on the background/history of the children and the space.
- g. Children age five (5) years and older and of different sexes shall not share a bedroom.
- h. Cameras should not be used in a manner that violates privacy of youth. Cameras in bedrooms and bathrooms are prohibited.

## Sleeping Arrangements (Minimum Standard 11.15)

- Items to consider:
  - History of sexual abuse
  - Ability of children to have their own storage spaces and personal space
  - Is the sleeping arrangement the same as biological children (is the room designated for foster youth also used as an office or playroom?)
  - Is the room designated for foster youth on a different floor than everyone else?
  - Behaviors of children

## Sleeping Arrangements: Best Practice

# Pool Safety (Chapter 14.1)

- 1. Swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas must meet all state and local safety requirements (see Practice Guidance: Water Safety).
- a. Swimming pools must have a barrier on all sides.
- b. Swimming pools must have their methods of access through the barrier equipped with a safety device, such as a bolt lock.
- c. Swimming pools must be equipped with lifesaving and flotation devices (e.g. reaching poles and ring buoys).
- d. If swimming pools cannot be emptied after each use, the pools must have a working pump and filtering system.
- e. Hot tubs and spas must have safety covers that are locked when not in use.
- If the home is a barrier to the pool, what is the safety device used to prevent access? Depending on the age of the children in the home, a simple bolt lock may not be sufficient. If alarms are used, there still needs to be another safety device preventing access as children may still access the area after the alarm goes off.
- Give consideration to the height of the fence, and the safety device preventing access outside on the fence.



# Pool Safety (Chapter 14.1)

- Fences used as a safety barrier must be at least four feet in height, surround all sides of the pool, and have a gate that locks. Fences must have no vertical or horizontal openings that are more than four inches wide and must be constructed in such a manner that a young child cannot climb through or under the fence.
- . In order for the side structure of an above-ground pool to be considered an adequate safety barrier to a pool/body of water, the steps or ladders must be removed to make the pool inaccessible when not in use.
- In order for an exterior wall of a home to be considered an adequate safety barrier to a pool/body of water, there must be an alarm on all exits from the home leading to the pool/body of water. The alarm must meet the standard of 85 decibels.

# Example

- This pool ladder is secured like so to the fence. How could this still be a safety risk?
- What are some suggestions for storage of pool ladders?
- What are some ways homes can be made secure if the back is a barrier to the pool?



- When securing medications and cleaning supplies, agencies should give consideration to the age and abilities of children that are or will be in the home. High shelves, magnetic child locks, etc. may not be sufficient for children over the age of 5.
- When documenting the storage firearms, ensure that the firearms are unloaded and that they are in a separate locked location from the ammunition. Ensure the method of locking both are documented in assessments.

Meds/Cleaning Supplies/Firearms



# OPM Monitoring Managers: Key Points

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South Team OPM Monitoring  
Manager, Raven Newton -  
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Monthly Recognition

OPM's Notable Moments  
Goes Too....

## **Heather Lynn of Giving Children A Chance**

**We want to recognize Heather for her interviewing and assessing skills of two foster youth in the home who were under the age of 10. She did a good job in her assessment in the General Parenting section as it relates to assessing the caregiver's discipline techniques based on the type of behavioral the youth were displaying in the home. She described how the caregiver reacts to normal parenting on a day-to-day basis (Per Safe guideline).**

## **Wynter Bonner Of Twin Cedars**

**In the individual interviews the agency had with the youth, the youth disclosed some parenting practices in the home that were making her feel isolated and uncomfortable. The assessor documented in detail the conversations the agency had with the caregiver after that interview to address the foster youth's concerns. The agency was able to successfully help the caregiver see how the practices could be culturally problematic and how she could improve moving forward to help the child feel more comfortable.**



**Agencies at 100% Approved Homes**  
**In the Month of August**

❖ **Chris 180**

❖ **Murphy Harpst**

❖ **Twin Cedars**

❖ **Health Connect**

❖ **Methodist Home for Child Youth**

❖ **Goshen Valley**

❖ **National Youth Advocate**



**GOOD JOB**





Reminders

# Remember...

- Submit your immunization waiver requests to [opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov)
- Prospective caregivers who have submitted all required onboarding forms, all supplemental verification, home visits and initial trainings should be submitted to OPM RD for review within 30 days of completion.
- Remember your agency is the final approving authority.
- The onus is on your agency to ensure the home meets all SAFE and policy guidelines.

# Routinely Check Open Foster Home Status

## Open Foster Homes (in SHINES)

Show  entries

Filter:

FH ID	Primary/Secondary Caregiver	Initial Approval Date	Annual ReEvaluation	Current Status	Placements Allowed
10101	<a href="#">Cindy (Test) Holmwood (test)</a>	06/15/2016	Overdue: due 5/31/2021	Unapproved <i>On Hold</i>	No
9590	<a href="#">Sylvia Horne (TEST) and Ben Horne (TEST)</a>	09/04/2011	Due 8/31/2022	Approved	Yes
16604	<a href="#">Ronald McDonald</a>	01/05/2021	Due 12/31/2021	Approved	Yes
9589	<a href="#">Sarah Palmer (TEST) and Leland Palmer (TEST)</a>	11/15/2012	Overdue: due 4/30/2021	Unapproved	No
27524	<a href="#">Dawn Reed and Kevin Ummmm</a>	01/01/2020	Due 1/31/2022	Approved	Yes
8790	<a href="#">Poppy Sockavich (Test Only) and Jennie Sockavich (Test Only)</a>	07/01/2007	Overdue: due 7/31/2021	Unapproved	No
13398	<a href="#">Linda Wahlig and Barry Wahlig</a>	01/15/2021	Due 12/31/2021	Approved	Yes

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

Previous

1

Next

# Re- Evaluation Policy 14.13 Reminder

Provide caregivers at least 90 calendar days' notice of the need for any medical evaluations or criminal records checks (Fitness Determination Letter) for themselves or household members.

Conduct a fingerprint-based criminal history records check (CRC) of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database on all caregivers and adult household members at least every five years from the date of the Initial Family Evaluation. The CRC must be conducted within 90 days prior to the re-evaluation due date (see policy 19.8 Case Management: Criminal Records Checks).

The medical evaluation must be conducted and signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or public health department within 90 calendar days prior to the re-evaluation due date. Utilize the Prospective Foster or Adoptive Parent Medical Evaluation Report.

# Medical Form & OIG Letter Reminder

Medical and OIG Fitness Determination Letters expire 5 years from the home approval expiration date.

**Example:**

Next Re-Evaluation Due Date or Approval End Date: 1/31/2022

Medical & Fitness Determination completed 12/6/2017

The screenshot shows the GA+SCORE web application interface. At the top left is the GA+SCORE logo. At the top right is a 'QUICK LINKS' button. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: GA SCORE > Provider > Foster Home > Profile > Household Status. The main content area shows 'Rachel's Place (Test Only)' with details for 'Child Placement Services (5128) - Child Placing Agency (ACTIVE)' and 'Dawn Reed (365373) and Kevin Ummmm (381219) ID: (27524) ( Unapproved )'. There is a red notification '\*\*\*Open for editing\*\*\*' and a 'Snap Shot Report' button. A navigation bar contains 'PROFILE', 'MEMBERS', and 'SERVICE HISTORY' tabs. The 'PROFILE' tab is active, showing 'Household Status' with an 'Add Household Status' button. Below this, the following dates are listed: INITIAL APPROVAL DATE: 01/01/2020, MOST RECENT RE-EVAL DATE: 02/10/2021, and NEXT RE-EVAL DUE DATE: 01/31/2022. The 'NEXT RE-EVAL DUE DATE' is circled in blue.

# Medical Form & OIG Letter Reminder

Example Continued:

Next Re-Evaluation Due Date or Approval End Date: 1/31/2022

Medical & OIG Fitness Determination completed 12/6/2017

- Previous Medical and Fitness Determination Letter = 12/6/17. +5 years= 12/6/22.
- Current home approval end date= 1/31/22.
- The next home approval term dates = 2/1/22- 1/31/23.
- Re-evaluation end date of 1/31/22 is before 12/6/22.
- New Re-evaluation approval term of 1/31/23 is after the expiration date of 12/6/22.
- Therefore, an updated Medical and OIG Fitness Determination Letter are due with 1/31/22 re-evaluation.



# Questions

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# Suggestions

OPM RD TEAM would love your feedback and suggestions. Please send information to [opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov)

