

(a) The goals of the local boards are:

(1) To review every 6 months cases of children who have resided in public or private foster care under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Services for a period of more than 6 months to determine what efforts have been made to acquire permanent and stable placement for these children;

(2) To encourage and facilitate the return of these children to their natural parents or, upon a determination that the return is--not HAS--NOT--BEEN--DEMONSTRATED--BY--CLEAR-AND-CONVINCING-EVIDENCE-TO-BE is not in the best interest of the child, [to make the child eligible for adoption] TO ENCOURAGE PLACEMENT WITH RELATIVES, PROVIDED THE PLACEMENT HAS LEGAL STATUS, OR IF--NEITHER-ALTERNATIVE-IS-DEMONSTRATED-BY-CLEAR-AND-CONVINCING-EVIDENCE-TO-BE UPON DETERMINATION THAT NEITHER ACT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD, TO ENCOURAGE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ADOPTION;

(3) To encourage exertion of all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is unfeasible or impossible; and

(4) To report to the juvenile court the status of efforts to secure permanent homes for children.

(b) For each child whose case is reviewed a local board shall submit a written report to the juvenile court and the Department of Social Services, which may recommend:

(1) That return of the child to his parent or legal guardian is in the child's best interest;

(2) That continued placement outside of the home is HAS-BEEN-DEMONSTRATED-BY-CLEAR-AND-CONVINCING-EVIDENCE-TO-BE is in the child's best interest, and that the placement plan is appropriate for the child's needs;

(3) That continued placement outside of the home is HAS--BEEN-DEMONSTRATED-TO-BE is in the child's best interest, but that the placement plan is not appropriate for the child's needs; or

(4) That the initiation of proceedings for the termination of parental rights in order to free the child for adoption is HAS-BEEN-DEMONSTRATED-TO-BE is in the child's best interest.

(c) Public and private agencies and institutions which provide for or arrange foster care of children under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Services shall cooperate with the State board and local boards by furnishing necessary information for the proper functioning of the boards.