

administrative *update*

2016 SWAN/IL Spring Quarterly Meetings
SWAN Prime Contract — www.diakon-swan.org

Five Years With Act 101

On April 25, 2011, Act 101 of 2010 went into effect. This legislation amended the Adoption Act in several aspects. One of these required the Department of Human Services (DHS) to create a registry to collect and maintain social and medical history information on all adoptions finalized or registered in the Commonwealth. The newly created registry became known as the Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry (PAIR), which celebrates its fifth year this April!

PAIR allows adoptees, adoptive parents and birth parents to submit and update medical and social history information; authorize release of identifying information; and amend or withdraw authorization to release information at any time. As a reminder, the certified authorized representative must contact DHS to verify whether any information in PAIR can be shared with the requester. This cannot be done by phone. The necessary PAIR forms can be found at: www.adoptpakids.org/Forms.aspx.

Since its inception, PAIR has received:

- 425 birth family registrations
- 594 adoption registrations
- 121 birth family requests
- 901 adoptee requests
- 7,304 agency registrations

Additionally, PAIR has completed:

- 853 vital records searches for the adoptee
- 147 vital records searches for the birth family

These registrations and searches have led to 17 successful matches since 2011!

In order to assist courts and agencies, help guide those impacted by adoption, and raise awareness of Act 101 and the supports available to our network, the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) prime contract released two brochures: the PAIR brochure, *Resources for Adoptees and Their Birth Families* (August 20, 2014), and the adoption search brochure, *Are You Searching? Important Information for Those Impacted by Adoption* (February 6, 2015). ▶ [Continued on Page 4](#)

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EVENTS**2016 SWAN/IL
Spring Quarterly
Meetings**

March 30, Scranton
 April 6, Clarion
 April 7, Monroeville
 April 13, Philadelphia
 April 14, Lansdale
 April 20, Enola

**2016 SWAN/IL
Summer Statewide
Meeting**

June 14–15,
 Kalahari Resorts &
 Conventions,
 Pocono Manor

**24th Annual
Pennsylvania
Permanency
Conference**

June 15–17,
 Kalahari Resorts &
 Conventions,
 Pocono Manor

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Updated Benchmark Templates

In order to remain current in practice, various SWAN benchmark templates have been updated recently. The following updated templates are either available now at <http://www.diakon-swan.org/swan/documents/benchmarks/> and the SWAN Portal or will be added soon:

- Family Profile Authorization Agreement;
- Child Safety Assessment/Safety Plan;
- Home Safety Checklist;
- SWAN Family Approval Document;
- SWAN Family Approval Guidelines;
- Family Matching Activity Summary;
- Family Matching Log; and
- Finalization Supervisory Report.

To ensure that you are using current templates, access them through the benchmark directly attached to each SWAN referral. If you have any questions, please contact your regional technical assistant.

SWAN Post-Permanency Updates

- The JIFF (Juvenile Inventory for Functioning) is the required assessment tool for youth age 11 and older. If the JIFF cannot be used, then the CAFAS (Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale) and the FACES III (Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scale) can be used.
- Affiliates are encouraged to submit proposals for virtual support groups — either for a hybrid group to supplement an existing group or a specific type of virtual support group. Examples include lunchtime call-in groups, book clubs, and teen groups. Please contact your regional technical assistant or your Post-Permanency program technical assistant (PTA) with a proposal or to request additional information. (See sidebar.)
- SWAN has been gathering information on support groups across the state. A list of available groups and meeting times will be available soon on the Diakon-SWAN website. Please contact your PTA for more information. (See sidebar.)
- Just as we have check-ups for our physical health, Post-Permanency programs need periodic check-ups as well. A quality survey has been developed to help affiliates with this process. The form is available at www.diakon-swan.org/swan/documents/item/241/.

What's Happening at the Helpline?

In addition to taking calls from families requesting information on adoption, foster-adopt services and foster care, the SWAN Helpline has lots of other things going on.

The SWAN Helpline:

- Is the single point of entry for families accessing Post-Permanency services. Helpline technical specialists speak daily with families who are providing permanency and help them get their services started. Some of these calls can last more than an hour!
- Assists registering out-of-state families with the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE). The percentage of out-of-state PAE-registered families is approximately 25–30 percent. Many of these families are exclusively interested in older children. This process adds many more quality resource families to our available pool.
- Is able to give detailed information about Pennsylvania's waiting children to families who are registered with PAE and are approved for adoption. We have some regular callers who speak to us almost daily!
- Has a Facebook page, and Helpline technical specialists also respond to comments and questions on the SWAN Facebook page!
- Helpline technical specialists not only speak with families via phone, but also communicate with families through email.

Please call, email and visit us on Facebook!

1-800-585-7926

swanhelpline@diakon-swan.org

SWAN Helpline on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SWAN-Helpline

SWAN on Facebook: www.facebook.com/adoptpa

Update on Finalizations

During the second quarter of state fiscal year (SFY) 2015–2016 (October–December 2015), 269 children, including 37 older children (age 13 and older), completed the SWAN adoption finalization service.

The goal of another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA) often results in youth leaving foster care without a permanent family. Data from the SWAN Portal suggests that the number of older children with the primary goal of APPLA recently decreased. Among a total of 1,597 older children who completed SWAN services during SFY 2014–2015, 12.8 percent (205 children) had APPLA as their primary goal. So far in SFY 2015–2016, 1,770 older children completed SWAN services, and 10.3 percent (182 children) had APPLA as their primary goal.

Five Years With Act 101

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These brochures will aid you in providing information and direction to adoptees, birth parents and birth family members. Both are available at www.diakon-swan.org, under **Families – PA Adoption Info Registry** and **Adoption Search**, as well as on the **Publications** page. Remember, adoptees and families can register with PAIR at any point in their search process, so please download, print and distribute copies to make them aware of this resource!

For additional search support, or if you have questions regarding Act 101 or PAIR, please contact the SWAN LSI Warmline at lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org or 717-773-5667. Your question will be directed to a search or legal specialist.

Affiliate Contract Renewals Due

To all affiliate agencies: It will soon be time to renew the purchase of service agreements between Diakon-SWAN LLC and the provider affiliate agencies. Please look for the state fiscal year 2016–2017 agreements to arrive at the end of April or early in May 2016. Agreements should be signed and returned to Diakon by June 30, 2016. We look forward to working with all of you again in the coming fiscal year!

SWAN Prime Contract

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