statewide adoption and permanency network

Administrative Update

2010 WINTER STATEWIDE MEETING

New SWAN Portal Enhancements Unveiled

Since April 2008 the SWAN prime contractor has collaborated with Prelude Services, Diakon's IT provider, to redesign the SWAN portal.

All SWAN applications are being consolidated into a "single record" data system. This redesign aligns prime contract systems with industry standards and allows access to gather and report information more efficiently and effectively.

One enhancement to the system allows counties to submit CY130 and CY890 forms electronically. Additionally, affiliates will be able to electronically submit the affiliate-referred family profiles and CY131 forms for all families needing to register with the Resource Family Registry.

During the 2010 SWAN Winter Statewide meetings, counties and affiliates will see a sneak peak of the new system enhancements. The updated system is expected to be rolled out in spring 2010.

Special Points of Interest:

- SWAN portal updated and enhanced
- Counties and affiliates can enter forms electronically
- Try out the new system during the Winter Statewide

Guidelines for Child Profile Addendums Due Out

Guidelines to help determine when and how to complete Child Profile addendums will soon be available. The new guidelines will be sent to affiliates and counties by e-mail and broadcast fax.

Addendums to an original Child Profile document must be completed when significant new information is obtained and within 90 days after the county request.

In addition, addendums should be completed during the first or second year after the original Child Profile if the child is not yet placed with a family.

A Child Profile addendum is completed by duplicating the original Child Profile and then inserting new information, essentially creating a new document. The addendum must be signed and dated by the writer and should also include the date of the original Child Profile and any previous addendums.

Among the types of new information that should trigger an addendum are updates about placement chronology, birth family history, child's birth and delivery, medical history and development, child's mental health, substance abuse, past education, placement goal, legal status, behavioral issues and significant relationships.

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SWAN's Seamless System at Work

The Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange and the SWAN Helpline continue to improve service to families through the Seamless System of Support initiative.

Since this program began in October 2008, the SWAN Helpline received 1,517 calls from families who were seeking more information about children found on adoptpakids.org.

Families with a completed, approved family profile and who are registered with PAE can call the SWAN Helpline to receive in depth information about children who are featured on the Web site. With that information in hand, if a family remains interested in the child, the child's worker, the family's worker and the CSR worker, if there is one, will receive an e-mail expressing that family's interest.

Families may ask about up to three children at a time. For more information please call the SWAN Helpline at 800-585-7926 (SWAN).
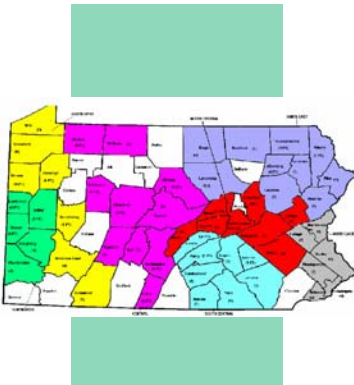
All About SWAN LSI Coordinators

Counties are always asking, "who is my SWAN LSI coordinator and what do they do?" You might not be surprised to learn that a SWAN LSI coordinator is a very valuable resource in your county. The SWAN LSI currently has seven regional coordinators.

SWAN LSI coordinators supervise paralegals and consult with counties to assess and prioritize paralegal activities, just to name a few things.

SWAN LSI regions are unique to the distribution of paralegals across the state. To see the full-sized version of the SWAN LSI regional map to the left, please visit www.diakon-swan.org and click on Legal Services Initiative, then Publications to view the SWAN LSI 2009-10 County Map.

LSI Coordinators
Belinda Muschar
Southwest
Melissa Eller
Northwest
Kim Walkingshaw
Central
Pat Hostetter
South Central
Laurie Mann
North Central
Lorelei Johnson
Northeast
Troy Miller
Southeast

2009 SWAN Finalizations

1,316 children received finalization services through the SWAN contract between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009, according to SWAN's data system.

SWAN finalization services are used for children of all ages provided the child is in the custody of their county children and youth agency. These services are particularly helpful for children who are more difficult to place as this service plans to address barriers.

Males accounted for 52% of those finalized adoptions. Children over the age of 9 represented 28% of those finalized. Children of color represented 55% of those finalized.

Finalizations in 2009 increased by 80% over 2008 because of increased funding for the services and their help to families to successfully navigate the adoption process.

2010 Winter Statewide Meeting

Families May Be Reauthorized for Post-Permanency

Families may be eligible for a reauthorization of SWAN Post-permanency services under certain conditions.

Criteria that may make a family eligible for reauthorization are:

1) a change in the family or household composition;

2) new issues arise after a previous assessment of "no services requested";

3) a family relocation breaks existing support linkages, or

4) significant adjustment issues when a child returns from an out-of-home placement.

Reauthorizations are limited by funding availability. All families must begin the request for reauthorization by first contacting the SWAN Helpline.

Visit us at

www.diakon-swan.org

Families Happy with Post-Permanency Services

Most families are happy with SWAN Post-Permanency services, according to follow-up calls conducted by the SWAN Helpline.

Support groups throughout the state were found to be very successful. Families also cite reauthorizations as "extremely helpful."

Some affiliates go to great lengths to let families know about Post-Permanency services. These affiliates tend to receive more referrals and have greater success with respite and support groups.

Some affiliates still need basic information about SWAN's Post-Permanency services, especially when training new staff. For more information about training, affiliates should contact their regional technical assistant.

To help affiliates meet the challenges of creating a Post-Permanency Family Support Plan, the SWAN prime contractor is working on a Family Support Plan template that will ensure all portions of the plan are included.

Update on PAE's Registered, Waiting Families

This is a reminder to all agencies who register waiting adoptive families with the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE). We routinely match those families with children who are registered with PAE.

When families are no longer approved by your agency to be matched with a child, then those families must either be closed or matching must be suspended.

You can suspend matching for a family by sending an e-mail to Dawn Sariano at dsariano@diakon-swan.org. Families can be closed by sending an updated CY131.

PAE currently has 1,250 waiting adoptive families. However, nearly 300 of those families have been registered for more than 3 years. PAE will notify these families and affiliate agencies if the family profile is outdated.

Please suspend matching on these families or close them out if they are no longer active.

Phone: 717-236-8490
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