



statewide
adoption and
permanency
network

SWAN PRIME CONTRACT MANAGEMENT
 DIAKON LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
 FAMILY DESIGN RESOURCES

Administrative Update

2012 FALL QUARTERLY MEETINGS

What Works to Achieve Permanency

What is 43 and 5? It is the number of older children for whom the Older Child Matching Initiative, OCMI, has achieved permanency in the last three and a half years and in the last month. The numbers alone are amazing but when you hear the individual stories they are even more amazing. If you want to know what magic makes this happen, it can be boiled down to this: the recruiters working with these children do not give up, and they do everything they can to recruit families.

Even though the achievements just mentioned reflect the work of OCMI, many of the recruitment efforts that help get older children to permanency are also available to county caseworkers and child specific recruitment workers. These include all the units of service but also much, much more. Does your child have a high quality photograph or have they used the professional photographers from the Heart Gallery? Using that photograph to register the child with PAE exposes the child to all the visitors to the www.adoptpakids.org website.

Another recruitment tool is the television taping of children through one or more of the four television stations in Pennsylvania that feature SWAN's children. Once taped, the child can attach the video to their listing on the website. You can feature your waiting child on the quarterly meetings' CD that will go to all waiting families.

The child's record with the prime contractor can include additional detail about the child that cannot be put in their public child narrative. This extra

information can then be shared with any approved adoptive family who inquires at SWAN Helpline through the Seamless System.

Is there something more you can do routinely for children? The answer is "yes" with guidance, direction and determination. A free resource available to all county caseworkers and CSR workers is to ask for case specific consultation with the PAE coordinators.

Each of the four PAE coordinators bring a unique skill set to the work they do, and they work collaboratively with each other to assure each child receives the highest level of service. **Jon Douglas** is assigned to the western counties and has had extensive experience with all the units of service. He is committed to making sure that every child waiting for permanency is registered with PAE. In the north and northeast **Jill Ferraro Bruce** brings knowledge of the units of service and the resources of the SWAN LSI program. **Jennifer Casner-Hockenberry** works in the southeastern part of the state, and her clinical experience as a therapist has proven invaluable in understanding the children we serve. Last but not least **Karen Lollo** serves the central and south central part of the state. It is Karen's 20+ years with PAE that connects the thread from the past to the future for PAE. This is a very knowledgeable and motivated team and they are a resource for you to use to help find permanency for our waiting children.

Special Points of Interest:

- Use all recruitment tools and resources available
- Ask the PAE coordinators for their expertise

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LSI Expansion Underway

The SWAN Legal Services Initiative, LSI, program is in the process of yet another exciting expansion. The FY 2012-13 expansion gives LSI another 23 paralegal positions throughout Pennsylvania.

By November, LSI will have 132 paralegals supporting 62 counties. As the program continues to grow, LSI paralegals are now playing a more active role in counties, further challenging the boundaries and

supporting counties to better identify and remedy barriers to permanency for Pennsylvania's children in out-of-home care.

With new laws and bulletins, LSI paralegals can be an excellent resource for agencies in developing new policies to assure a county is in compliance. For example, LSI paralegals can support county-identified authorized representatives with their search requests.

As the need for searches increases, the LSI program is there to support staff with the upcoming release of the 2012 Diligent Search Packet. This new edition will include information about Act 101, expanded information on international searches and up to date websites to support any search request! Be sure to check the LSI page on the prime contractor website for this upcoming release!

New Adoption

**Day Planner's
Guide planned for
a winter release!**

National Adoption Month is Coming!

Finally, November is right around the corner, and the annual National Adoption Month provides us with many unique and exciting ways to showcase and honor our children and newly created families.

Our Adoption Awareness Event CD

**can help you plan an
event to help celebrate
the month.**

You can also get a PDF version of the event planner at http://www.diakon-swan.org/news/uploads/Adoption_Awareness_Event_Protocol_-_Final.pdf

or by navigating to the Adoption Awareness and Matching Event Planner under Publications at www.diakon-swan.org.

The packet is also available on CD by contacting your regional technical assistant.

Don't Forget about PAIR

Please remember to register and upload children who have been adopted to the Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry, known as PAIR, at www.pagov-pair.org. Since the enactment of Act 101, agencies and courts are required to register information for adoptions that occur or

are registered in Pennsylvania.

You will need to upload the adopted child's child profile or social summary, the medical records or medical information and any other pertinent social or medical information. Please note that only one file can be uploaded with each completed registration. All the child's documents should

be scanned into a single file before uploading. If two agencies are working with a child, agencies should work together to determine which should upload the information.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional technical assistant for details on how to upload child information to PAIR.

Fall Quarterly Meetings

Portal Enhancements Soon

Many enhancements will soon be made to the SWAN portal. For example, for each child and family record, agencies will soon be able to view a child or family summary screen, streamlining access to both current and historic information.

Submitting new forms or updating existing forms will become more efficient and more intuitive to the user. Additionally, system performance will be faster, the *Forget Password* feature will operate more effectively, and the *Return to Previous* and *Cancel*

buttons will operate as originally designed.

The prime contractor's goal is to assure the SWAN portal is a resource to our network and that we continue to offer solutions to providers of child and family services. Much time and energy was spent refining functionality within the SWAN portal.

To install these enhancements the SWAN portal will need to be taken offline for a full week. Recognizing that this will be disruptive to the network, Diakon/FDR

will be sure to provide you with a week's notice about when this will occur and what you should do to minimize the disruption. We will also soon provide more detailed information about what is changing. Finally, we will provide resources to help you navigate the SWAN portal's new features.

We are excited to offer updates and enhancements to our SWAN portal users. Thank you for your patience as we have navigated this transition and please, stay tuned.

TA Collaborative Update

The summer Administrative Update featured an article about the Pennsylvania's Child Welfare Technical Assistance, TA, collaborative – a cohesive group of TA providers who work in collaboration with county children and youth agencies to improve outcomes for children, youth and families.

In addition to meeting as a single statewide group, there are also benefits to meeting in smaller regional groups, so four TA Collaborative

meetings were held during August and September.

The agenda for these first meetings was focused on learning more about the roles each collaborative partner brings to the child welfare network and then to share ideas on how we might work as a team to enhance the support offered to the counties specific to Concurrent Planning.

These first meetings were led by SWAN and CWRC and were well-

attended by staff from both of these organizations as well as several participants from OCYF, AOPC and ABA. About 30 people attended each of the four meetings, and all walked away with a better idea of how they can work together as part of the larger group. The next regional meetings are scheduled for November.



Administrative Update

Latest on Finalizations

For January through August 2012, 614 children were finalized through the SWAN prime contract. This represents 80 percent of all children finalized when compared with the CY890 reported finalizations for the same time period.

SWAN finalization services are used for children of all ages who are in the care and custody of their county children and youth agency. The following are some of the highlights for the month:

- The 614 children finalized represent a decrease (730 finalized January through August 2011 in the SWAN contract) over the number finalized during the same time one year earlier.
- Children of color accounted for over 46% (N=280) of the children finalized. Forty-two of these children were 10 years old or older. Children of Hispanic ethnicity accounted for 13% (N=82) of all finalizations.
- A significant population of those finalized through August were age 10 or above. Children in the 10+ age group accounted for 20% (N=120) of all children finalized during in 2012.
- Children age 0-5 also represent a large percentage of the children finalized. During the year so far 346 children or 56% were in this age group.

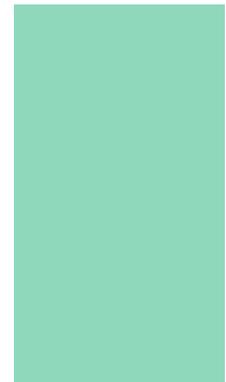
Only One Submission, Please

Affiliates, if you are submitting a CY 131 to PAE for a family for whom you are completing a SWAN family profile, you must submit the form electronically. Once submitted, please do not

also submit that form as a hard copy.

PAE is finding affiliates are submitting both electronic and hard copy CY 131's for the same family. That extra submission is

unnecessary and creates extra work for both affiliate workers and PAE. If you submit the CY 131 electronically, please do not also submit the same form as a hard copy.



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