



*statewide
adoption and
permanency
network*

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

Administrative Update

2010 SUMMER STATEWIDE MEETING

Thank you!

To: All county and affiliate agencies

Thanks to everyone for their work and commitment throughout the past five years of the SWAN prime contract.

Thank you for the privilege of serving this network and, more importantly, the children and families who benefited from your agency's commitment to this work. Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries in partnership with Family Design Resources hopes to have the opportunity to serve you again when Pennsylvania chooses the next five year awardee of the SWAN prime contract.

As we move ahead into the next quarter of service, we see contract extensions, the rollout of the new portal, continued expansion of the SWAN Legal Services Initiative program, and a new fiscal year and budget for SWAN services. Please keep these supports in mind:

- **SWAN Helpline** – assists families with foster care, kinship care, adoption and Post-Permanency services. You may call 800-585-SWAN.
- **Legal Services Warmline** – responds to any legal questions about the work of child welfare. You may call 1-888-793-2512, e-mail lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org or access the posted questions and answers at the SWAN Web site (select Legal Services Initiative and then choose FAQ).
- Continue to access **technical assistance and consultation** about using the allocated NBB to reflect the best practices to serve Pennsylvania's waiting children.
- Make referrals online, certify services and complete invoicing at the **new SWAN portal**.
- Complete the CY 890 forms – both new forms and updates—and complete the CY 130 and CY 131 online.
- Request training and ask questions by contacting your SWAN regional technical assistant.

With our deepest thanks and appreciation,

Linda Ciampi

Brenda Lawrence

Special Points of Interest:

- Thank you!
- Helpline is here to help
- Warmline is for legal questions
- Technical assistance is just a step (or a click) away

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Finalizations Update

During the past five years of the current SWAN contract, 4,047 finalizations occurred. This figure includes the 1,071 finalizations so far in FY 09-10.

SWAN finalization services may be used for all children from birth through age 18.

The purpose of the SWAN prime contract is to serve children for whom it is typically more difficult to find families.

Some highlights of the past five years:

- 55%, or 2,226, of children finalized through the SWAN prime contract were children of color.
- 855 teenagers were finalized. This represents 21% of all children finalized during the past 5 years.
- The majority of teenagers finalized during the current fiscal year were children of color. Of the 855 teens finalized 57% or 488 were children of color.

The work completed by Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network indicates the incredible resolve of the members of the network and brings to mind some appropriate words from a famous American president: "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to success is more important than any other one thing." Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865).

Counties — Don't Stop Now!

Don't wait for the state to pass a new budget to begin referrals in the new 2010-2011 fiscal year. SWAN allocations are approved and will be posted at the SWAN portal at the start of the fiscal year.

Counties should refer children and families for services as soon as needs are identified.

The new SWAN NBB includes even more funds for SWAN services than those allocated in 2009-

10, and to keep the work process running as smoothly as possible, please refer services at the start of the fiscal year.

Busy Summer Ahead for SWAN LSI

The SWAN Legal Services Initiative program is looking forward to its second expansion and another busy summer. OCYF/DPW is helping LSI to expand with perhaps as many as 20-25 new positions.

SWAN LSI places paralegals in county children and youth agencies to help expedite permanency for children. Paralegals perform diligent searches, file paperwork and assure the county systems benefit from additional support. Currently, LSI has 70 paralegals supporting 54 coun-

ties throughout Pennsylvania.

Jamie Barrack, a SWAN LSI paralegal supporting Dauphin County since joining Diakon/FDR in 2002, was named as a new SWAN LSI coordinator in June, bringing the number of SWAN LSI coordinators to 10 for the program.

2010 Summer Statewide Meeting

Matching Events Are Proven to Work

SWAN matching events are a proven and effective way to find families for children who need a home. Each April the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange and the SWAN Helpline contact everyone who attended a matching event that year to report on their results. Here is what that survey found.

Sixteen children were matched with approved adoptive families as a result of the matching brunch held at the 2009

Summer Statewide meeting in Lancaster. Fifty-three agencies, including eight county agencies, and 84 families attended. This matching brunch was held in conjunction with the annual SWAN/IL Permanency Conference.

At the 2010 SWAN/IL Winter Statewide meeting held in January at State College, 10 children were matched with approved adoptive families as a result of the matching dessert. At this

event, 45 private adoption agencies, 4 county agencies and 20 families attended.

Whether matches are made directly with a family or through a private agency, matching events result in a significant number of matches and are well worth the effort to attend.

The Office of Children, Youth and Families is required to submit a report on the value of matching events each year.

Visit us at

www.diakon-swan.org

Meeting the Needs of Older Youth

Over the past year the prime contractor responded to the increase in Child Preparation referrals for older youth by examining different ways agencies in the network provide these services.

As part of the Child Preparation Proposal Addendum created in

July 2009, the SWAN program technical assistants continued to ask affiliates how to meet the unique needs of older youth who receive Child Preparation services. Suggestions included in this addendum are the use of group work and its pairing with Independent Living.

Through these efforts, the prime contractor hopes to promote good practices occurring throughout Pennsylvania and further assist agencies in developing stronger services that meet the needs of older youth to see them safely towards a successful future.

Affiliate Contract Extensions

The Department of Public Welfare issued a 90-day contract extension of the SWAN prime contract to Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, effective July 1, 2010. Affiliate contracts will be extended, subject to the terms and conditions of

the original *Purchase of Affiliate Services Agreement*.

Affiliate contract extensions are being issued. Please respond to the extensions as soon as you receive them. Diakon will continue to process service referrals but will not

reimburse for services referred after July 1, 2010 until the contract extensions are signed and received.

Diakon/FDR is pleased to continue services to the SWAN network.

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