



**statewide
adoption and
permanency
network**

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

Administrative Update

2011 SUMMER STATEWIDE MEETING

Act 101 and PAIR—How They Work

At the request of the Office of Children, Youth and Families, OCYF, the SWAN prime contract has responsibilities for part of the implementation of the new Act 101. Some information about what we are doing and how we can assist you is listed in this article.

As you know Act 101 has three areas of focus – the notifications and facilitation of voluntary post-adoption contact agreements, the registry for adult adoptees and birth family members, and searching for family members after adoption.

The Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry, PAIR, is already up and running! The forms and information you need for Act 101 compliance are located at www.adoptpakids.org/Forms.aspx. The site includes all the forms needed to register or request information, as well as to withdraw consent. Also located on this page is the text of the Act 101 Bulletin and a brochure explaining the act that you can print out and give to adoptees and birth families.

The www.pagov-pair.org site is where agencies ONLY can upload required information about adoptions and adoptees. Adoptees and birth families must submit information on hard-copy forms, at least for now.

Whenever questions arise about the act, the forms or anything relating to Act 101 and PAIR, please contact the SWAN LSI Warmline. You

may call the Warmline at 888-793-2512, ext. 5376 or by email at lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org.

The SWAN prime contract is collaborating with the Child Welfare Training Program and the OCYF to determine how to continue to deliver training on Act 101, both the overview of Act 101 and the authorized representative training.

Also, the prime contract is collaborating with network partners to clarify how the act impacts delivery of the SWAN units of service (U.S.). As part of this clarification, a U.S. meeting is planned for affiliates on July 29, 2011. This meeting will focus on the benchmarks for the family profile, placement and finalization services. The meeting will explore how Act 101 affects these units. In September, another U.S. meeting is planned that will look at the post-permanency benchmarks and how the mediation portion of Act 101 will influence delivery of these services. In both of these meetings, the prime contractor and the network will work to define steps to guide counties through the services as they relate to Act 101.

In addition, the SWAN prime contract is examining options for affiliates that will establish a process to facilitate the negotiation and development of voluntary post-adoption contact agreements.

Post-Permanency Family Support Plan Available

In April, 2011 the SWAN post-permanency family support plan was approved by the state for use by SWAN affiliates that are doing post-permanency work with families.

Workers who have already used the document report it really assists in engaging families in the planning

process by encouraging their ideas about what *they* see as their needs and goals. It also helps families develop the skills they will need in the future to evaluate resources.

In using the plan, workers say it helps them focus on the family's goals and stay on target to meet the needs of the family.

The post-permanency family support plan is available on the SWAN website under the Publications link. A workshop on using the post-permanency family support plan to enhance services for families is offered on Wednesday, July 20 at the SWAN Summer Statewide Meeting.

Special Points of Interest:

- PAIR is up and running!
- Use Warmline for questions
- More Act 101 training coming
- U.S. meetings to work on how Act 101 affects units of service

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Adoption Search Guidelines Released

The SWAN Legal Services Initiative (LSI) is pleased to announce the official release of the 2011 SWAN Pennsylvania Adoption Search Guidelines.

With all of the changes that Act 101 of 2010 brought to adoption search, we have updated the guidelines to help searchers understand Act 101 as it applies to searches. To

obtain your copy, please visit the LSI Page – Adoption Search - of the Diakon-SWAN Web site.

For additional support, be sure to attend the Adoption Search institute offered at this year's Permanency Conference on Thursday afternoon, July 21. This institute will explore Act 101 as it relates to adoption

searches and will discuss the impact on agency practice and the scope of the searches involved.

As a reminder, you can contact Deb Mondillo at the SWAN LSI Warmline at lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org or (717) 236-5376 for guidance with your search inquiry.

Next U.S. Meeting Scheduled for July 29

A Unit of Service (U.S.) meeting is planned for July 29 for affiliates to discuss the revised Family Profile benchmarks. The meeting will also include discussion of the proposed revisions to both the placement and finalization benchmarks and will review how the new Act 101 requirements fit into these benchmarks.

The meeting will be held at the Child Welfare Training Center in Mechanicsburg, but participants may also join by video conference from either of the two convenient locations at the Montgomery County Children and Youth office in Norristown or at Family Pathways in Butler. The multi-location format is so more affiliates can participate,

while also reducing travel time. The registration is still available on the prime contract's website, under Events.

The purpose of the U.S. meetings is for affiliates to discuss timely topics about the different SWAN units of service.

SWAN LSI to Expand Again

It's another very busy summer for the SWAN LSI program. LSI is planning for its 2011-12 expansion to begin by the end of this month.

Similar to last year, OCYF/DPW responded to county requests by expanding the LSI program to further support current and additional county CYS agencies to expedite permanency. LSI expects to add one new county and 16 new paralegal positions. We

are also extending a part-time paralegal position to full time in one of the current LSI counties. This will bring the total count to 111 SWAN LSI paralegals supporting 62 counties!

LSI is also excited to announce Diane Hogan began her new role as a SWAN LSI coordinator this month. Diane has been with Diakon/FDR since 2009 as an LSI paralegal supporting Crawford County. Heather Reigle will also begin

her new role as an LSI coordinator later this summer. Heather has served as a regional technical assistant with the prime contract for the past four years.

This will bring the total number of LSI coordinators, who supervise the SWAN LSI paralegals, to 12. Please join the prime contractor in congratulating Diane and Heather in their new positions!

2011 Summer Statewide Meeting

Finalization Report

During the fiscal year 2010-11 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011), a total of 1,065 finalization units of service were completed for children in Pennsylvania's child welfare system.

The highest monthly number of 123 was in October 2010. SWAN finalization services are used for children of all ages from birth through age 18.

A total of 92 teenagers were finalized during the fiscal year. This number represents 8.6% of all children finalized during this fiscal year.

The goal of the network is to move children to permanency more quickly. As a result of that work, the average age of children for whom the finalization unit of service is referred continues to get younger. A total of 526 children or 49% of those finalized through SWAN were age 0-5.

Children ages 6-12 represented 29% of all children finalized, with 420 finalizations.

The ultimate work of the Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption and Permanency

Network is to help children and families find happiness and peace. On World Peace Day in 1994, Pope John Paul II talked about the role of the family in creating peace but could have been addressing our network when he said, "Finally, how can we forget the many people who for various reasons feel that they have no family? To them I would like to say that there is a family for them, too ..." Congratulations to each of you on your contribution to world peace!

Visit us at

www.diakon-swan.org

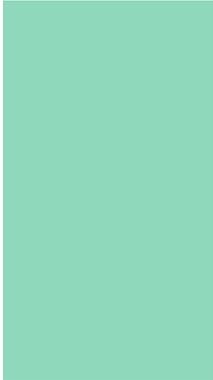
Understanding CY890's in the SWAN Portal

The first and most important point to know about the new portal is that a **single child record** now exists.

All the information in a child's record is compiled from all the forms entered for a child. For example, if a child's goal and goal date were entered from a referral form, then that information does not need to be re-entered when completing the CY890 form. It will be shown automatically, or pre-populated, whenever a new form is created that uses some of the same information from previously-entered forms.

Other important things to know about forms and the CY890's:

- For any child with a goal of adoption it is important to establish a baseline CY890 as soon as the child's goal becomes adoption. CY890's are **not** to be initiated when the goal is anything other than adoption, such as when the goal is reunification. This information could, however, be entered for a potential update to a CY890.
- CY890 forms in the portal are processed within 2-3 business days of SWAN receiving them unless the information is incomplete. In that case, SWAN will contact the caseworker by email to request the missing information.
- It is **critical** to include dates when entering any status for a child. For example, the date a child's goal becomes adoption must be entered, not just that the goal is now adoption. This is equally true for all the other statuses, including placement, TPR, intents and finalization. A first-time CY890 will not be approved unless it includes the dates that a goal becomes adoption as well as the dates of the child's placement type.
- Finally, at least one CY890 must be completed for the child to show up on the county's CY890 report.



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