



*statewide
adoption and
permanency
network*

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

Administrative Update

2011 SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

SWAN's Role in Act 101

Act 101 is effective April 25, 2011. This act is three-fold, creating: 1) the option to enter into a voluntary post-adoption agreement, 2) an expanded registry that includes both medical and social history information and 3) a policy on how to respond to requests for information related to adoption.

The prime contract for the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, SWAN, which currently has responsibility for maintaining the Adoption Medical History Registry, AMHR, will begin assuming responsibility for the new Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry, PAIR, on the date the new act becomes effective.

While the PAIR will continue to collect much the same medical information that the AMHR collected, the new registry will also

collect much more. Adoptees and birth families will be able to register medical, social, educational and cultural information and request contact with their birth relative.

This is an exciting new time and opportunity for adoptees and birth family members. The SWAN prime contract will keep you informed about the registry, including how you will submit or request information from it, as the act is implemented. Stay tuned for more details about how the registry is going to work. We will continue to keep you informed about related trainings and information about the PAIR and how you and the children and families you serve can get the most from it.

We Will Come to You

Does your county use SWAN's Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange, PAE? Do you know who your coordinator is? PAE has three coordinators: Jennifer Casner-Hockenberry, southeast and west; Denise Maxwell-Howell, central; and Karen Lollo, south central counties. The coordinators are available to train both county and affiliate staff on using PAE's services and recruitment strategies for locating permanent resources for children.

Since the beginning of this year, the coordinators have traveled around the

state sharing the best ways to use PAE's services to meet the needs of children.

Whether you have new or seasoned staff, a coordinator will be glad to come to your county to speak about how PAE can assist in finding permanency for children. A list of the county assignments for each coordinator is in your quarterly packet. You may also ask your regional TA for the contact information and make the connection for you.

Don't delay permanency; call your PAE coordinator today!

Special Points of Interest:

- Act 101 effective April 25
- New and expanded registry created
- More information can be collected and shared

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Court Preparation Training to Debut

Since the roll-out of the preview for the court preparation training at the SWAN/IL Winter Statewide Meeting, the SWAN prime contract staff who are developing this training have been revising and updating it in anticipation of a late spring or early summer debut.

As a result of the upcoming release, the SWAN LSI coordinators will be contacting their counties to schedule meetings with the LSI county liaisons and county solicitors to review the curriculum and perform a needs assessment. The information gained from these meetings will

assist the team in tailoring portions of the training to meet the requirements and needs unique to each county.

If you are interested in bringing this training to your county, or if you have any questions about it, please contact your LSI coordinator or LSI division manager.



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Don't Forget the Warmline!

The SWAN LSI staff reminds everyone of the invaluable and free resource that's available.... the SWAN LSI Warmline!

The LSI Warmline is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to support attorneys, public and private agency directors, caseworkers, supervisors and families with their legal or adoption search questions.

Since January, the SWAN LSI Warmline has answered questions from over 158 individuals. With the passing of new legislation and the anticipated release of upcoming legislation and related policies, LSI knows that it's a challenge to understand the implications of each new policy or law. The LSI Warmline is available to help

you navigate through these issues and answer your questions.

To reach the SWAN LSI Warmline, call 1-888-793-2512 ext. 5376 or send your inquiry to: lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org. You can also visit the Diakon-SWAN Web site to review previous questions – as the answer to your question may already be there!

Visit us at

www.diakon-swan.org

U.S. Meetings Scheduled for May 2

The next Unit of Service (U.S.) meeting is planned for Monday, May, 2, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. U.S. meetings are designed for affiliates to discuss timely topics about the different units of service.

The agenda will include follow-up about the benchmarks for child specific recruitment and child preparation, while beginning to look at the

family profile benchmarks. Also, expect some discussion about implications for SWAN services because of Pennsylvania's new adoption act, Act 101.

The May meetings will be held at the Pa. Child Welfare Training Program in Mechanicsburg, but participants may also join by video conference from either Butler or Norristown.

Affiliates will be notified by e-mail when registration is open, which will be on the SWAN Web site at www.diakon-swan.org, under Events.

Future U.S. meetings will be held July 29 and September 9, 2011 in locations to be announced later. Stay tuned for those announcements and save the dates for these upcoming events!

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