

administrative *update*

2015 SWAN/ IL Fall Quarterly Meetings
SWAN Prime Contract—www.diakon-swan.org

Concurrent Goal Changes Coming

Effective July 1, 2015 all children entering foster care with a goal of reunification must have a concurrent plan for permanency established within 90 days of their placement. Effective January 1, 2016 all children who were already in out of home care will have a concurrent plan for permanency, regardless of their court-ordered permanency goal.

These mandates impact the following forms managed under the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN):

- SWAN Eligibility Report/Update Form (CY890); and,
- Child Registration/Update Form (CY130).

The SWAN portal now includes the entry of the child's primary and concurrent goal when submitting a CY130 and CY890. Whenever the concurrent goal is entered, the date the concurrent goal is established is required.

All county agencies should submit a CY890 on all children and youth with a primary or concurrent goal of adoption. When the child's primary or concurrent goal of adoption changes to another permanency goal, county agencies need to submit an updated CY890.

The Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE) accepts a CY130 on children and youth with a primary or concurrent goal of adoption. PAE does not require the court-ordered goal of adoption to register a child. Registration is acceptable also where the county of custody determines that restoring a child to their biological family is neither possible nor appropriate.

All forms should continue to be submitted through the SWAN portal at www.diakon-swan-network.org. If you have any questions, please contact your SWAN regional technical assistant.

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Secure Email Information

To secure protected health information (PHI) Diakon/FDR has adopted a secure email program. A secure email program prevents PHI from being accessed by unauthorized persons. In addition to medical information, PHI includes identifying information such as name, social security number, date of birth, etc.

The secure email program contains two major components.

First, if PHI for a child or family is required in an electronic correspondence, Diakon/FDR staff will include identifying information in the email and the email will be encrypted. Recipient must view encrypted emails from a secured website. Instructions on how to access an encrypted email are posted to the SWAN prime contractor website www.diaakon-swan.org.

The second portion of protecting PHI involves excluding it in electronic correspondence. If PHI is not essential in an electronic correspondence, Diakon/FDR staff will refrain from including it in emails. Instead, a child or family will be referred to by their SWAN#, PAE ID#, Referral#, etc. The email recipient will then search for the child or family on the SWAN portal using the provided information.

For support to retain
and nurture resource
families, visit:

<http://www.diaakon-swan.org/seamlessystem/>

Update on Finalizations

In federal fiscal year 2014-15, 1,083 children completed the SWAN finalization unit of service, of which 118 (11%) were aged 13 and older.

Child Specific Recruitment (CSR) helps identify adoptive resources for children in the custody of a county agency. Based on data within the SWAN portal from FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15, 973 older children completed a CSR unit of service. Approximately 46% (445) of these youth had their case closed. Of those, 217 children (49%) had a finalized adoption, 67 (15%) were reunified with their parents, 18 (4%) were living with relatives, 48 (11%) were placed into permanent legal custodianship, 68 (15%) were emancipated, and 27 youth (6%) had "other" closure reasons.

PRTs gaining ground in Pennsylvania

County children and youth agencies in Pennsylvania are using Casey Family Programs' Permanency Roundtable Project (PRTs) to break down barriers to permanency for children and youth in their care.

- Allegheny and Washington counties have used the Casey PRTs since 2012 and have now incorporated the PRT process into their quality assurance effort. They report ongoing success in finding permanency for their youth in care.
- In March 2015 Franklin and Fulton counties reviewed five youth using the Casey PRT process. By the following week, two youth had permanent resources identified.
- 21 youth in Bucks County were reviewed as part of the Casey PRT project in May and June of 2015.

The Casey PRT is a professional case consultation intended to support the county caseworker and expedite permanency for the young person reviewed. It also helps make improvements and positive systemic change to the child welfare system. The underlying values of a Casey PRT are:

Urgency- A relentless insistence to stop adverse outcomes for youth who age out of foster care without a permanent family.

Teaming- A supportive and non-blaming process that encourages workers to enlist new people, perspectives and energy in an effort to expedite permanency for children.

Outcomes- Learning and accountability that leads to positive results.

Optimism- Increased level of hope, energy and support.

Contact your SWAN regional technical assistant if you are interested in learning more about the Casey PRT project.

Virtual Support Groups in Post-Permanency

In June 2015, affiliates were introduced to virtual support groups for Post-Permanency families. These virtual support groups complement the current Post-Permanency traditional support groups.

Virtual support groups are a convenient way for families to participate by telephone and internet and can be held across the state or right in their backyard. Affiliates will be able to provide their expertise in niche areas such as kinship, international adoptive families, attachment and trauma and domestic adoption.

SWAN Post-Permanency affiliates that are interested in providing these services will need to complete a Virtual Support Group Proposal Addendum, which was sent by email to all affiliates on July 1, 2015.

Update on SWAN Post-Permanency

SWAN's Post-Permanency services have changed! Among the updates are a revised reauthorization protocol, addition of the JIFF assessment tool, virtual support groups and a new brochure.

The 2015 **revised reauthorization protocol** defines the criteria for a family assessment referral by the Helpline to the selected affiliate and is available from your regional technical assistant.

The **Juvenile Inventory for Functioning (JIFF) assessment** is now the preferred affiliate assessment tool for youth age 11 and older and their caregivers. The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) and the Family Adaptability and Cohesion Scale (FACESIII) are still available when the JIFF cannot be used. Both assessment tools are on the SWAN portal.

Affiliates may now submit proposal addendums for **virtual support groups**. See the article on the previous page for details.

Families requesting **support group referrals** no longer need an assessment first. When a family requests only a support group referral, Helpline can make that referral to the selected affiliate.

The SWAN portal is now updated to accept support group referrals. Affiliates should be on the lookout for support group service referrals to be received without the initial post-permanency assessment requirement. Billing requirements for the initial support group service will remain the same, and the family can be authorized for additional services through the reauthorization process as long as they meet the reauthorization criteria.

A new **Post-Permanency brochure** is also now available. It may be downloaded at the Diakon-SWAN website under Post-Permanency Services on the Families tab or at http://www.diakon-swan.org/media/uploads/swan_post_permanency_brochure_2015.pdf.

Families can reach Helpline staff at 1-800-585-SWAN (7926) and SWANHelpline@diakon-swan.org.

Update on the SWAN LSI Legal Reports

Have you ever wondered about the latest developments in child welfare law? Look no further than the SWAN Legal Services Initiative (LSI) legal report!

Every month the SWAN Legal Services Initiative prepares a report on current legal developments impacting child welfare practice. The report includes summaries of the key facts, holdings and rationale of Pennsylvania state and federal court decisions as well as any new statutes, court rules or regulations that are released.

The report consolidates the legal information in one, easy-to-read document to help your agency comply with new and existing laws and also helps to complete legal research. As one county law department explains, "The LSI monthly legal reports are extremely helpful for solicitors . . . it helps our lawyers in preparing cases for trial, presenting arguments in court, and writing appellate briefs that assist in expediting permanency for children in foster care."

Each legal report can be found on the SWAN website, www.diakon-swan.org, under the Publications tab. If you have any questions about the report feel free to contact the LSI Warmline at lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org.

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