

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)
Department of Human Services

OCYF Personnel Update

Caitlin Vachon, Bureau of Policy, Programs and Operation, Division of Operations has been promoted to ChildLine manager effective December 12. Caitlin began her career with OCYF at Loysville Youth Development Center. Caitlin joined ChildLine in 2012 as a hotline caseworker and became a ChildLine supervisor in 2014. Caitlin has over two years of experience as a ChildLine manager, spending much of that time working on the CWIS project as well as leading the trauma-informed workplace initiative through the implementation of mindfulness and self-care for ChildLine employees. Caitlin can be reached at cvachon@pa.gov.

Procedures to Request Waiver of Regulation(s)

The Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) released bulletin 3130-20-04, 3140-20-03, 3150-20-01, 3170-20-01, 3350-20-03, 3490-20-07, 3680-20-03, 3700-20-03, 3800-20-05, entitled "Procedures to Request Waiver of Regulation(s)" on December 2, 2020. This bulletin and the new waiver submission procedures outlined therein were effective immediately.

The updated waiver process streamlines and expedites the processing of waiver requests and offers flexibility when possible to meet the needs of families and individuals. The new procedures include the creation of a Resource Account specifically for waiver submissions and inquiries and a condensed version of the "Request for Waiver of Regulation" form.

Questions regarding regulatory requirements or licensure for your agency should still be directed to your applicable OCYF Regional Office. Any other questions about this bulletin, procedure or form may be directed to ra-pwocyfwaivers@pa.gov.

Trauma-Informed Workgroup

As a result of the governor's Executive Order, issued July 31, 2019, Pennsylvania will become a trauma-informed state. Pennsylvania's workforce will administer trauma-informed services to serve our most vulnerable populations, centered around Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) with a focus on the following priorities:

- Building a network to connect and support community-based, grassroots movements across the commonwealth.
- Prioritizing changes at the state level to affect culture, policy, and practice.
- Healing from the trauma of a major disaster such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Healing from the damage of racism, communal, and historical trauma.

This initiative will take place over a ten-year period and will be a phased approach, including becoming trauma-aware, followed by trauma-sensitive, then trauma-informed with the goal of being healing centered.

The Office of Children, Youth and Families has formed a Trauma Team workgroup, under the direction of the Governor's Office of Advocacy and Reform. The Trauma Team workgroup is responsible for developing a workplan to prepare the OCYF workforce to provide support to service providers in their journey to become trauma-aware by the end of 2021. This includes education on being trauma-aware, measurement of trauma-aware qualifications and the ability to provide technical assistance for providers to maintain this credential.

The Trauma Team is currently reviewing all resources relating to trauma-informed care that are available for providers, considering future use of a provider survey to gauge the providers' level of being trauma aware and using a DHS-wide measuring tool to assist licensing staff in confirming the qualifications of providers. There is collaboration across departments to avoid duplicating efforts and to ensure consistent practices throughout DHS.

Future updates regarding this initiative will be provided as they are available.

Educational Barrier Project

The American Bar Association (ABA) Education Barriers to Permanency Project focuses on improving education outcomes for children in foster care as a key component to permanency and life success. The project combines the expertise of two successful ABA Center on Children and the Law projects—the ABA Permanency Barriers Project and the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education. The Education Barriers Project guides its work around three principles:

1. School stability strengthens placement stability and often speeds permanency for children and families;
2. School success guides life success, focusing on the full educational experience (including student needs and supports) improves school and life outcomes; and
3. Collaboration between schools, child welfare agencies, and courts is key to supporting students in foster care.

The Education Barriers to Permanency Project is available to provide support to counties through either a long-term project or targeted technical assistance (e.g., trainings, meeting facilitation) to support the needs and priorities of the county.

Westmoreland County is currently engaged in the third year of the long-term project, which involves working with the county child welfare agency, Westmoreland County school districts, court leadership, and other community partners. Through the Education Barriers Project, Westmoreland County has been able to: identify strengths and challenges to supporting students in foster care; develop strategies, practices, and policies that improve education stability and success; receive targeted technical assistance from the ABA on key priority areas identified by the county and collaborate on a long-term reform strategy.

County agencies interested in the Education to Barriers Project can learn more [here](#). For a one page summary to share with colleagues as you consider if your county is interested in this support, please see [here](#).

County agencies interested in the Education Barriers to Permanency Project should contact Kathleen McNaught at Kathleen.mcnaught@americanbar.org.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Pennsylvania decided to delay the implementation of the Title IV-E prevention services provisions until October 1, 2021 from July 1, 2021. This means that the Title IV-E funding limitation for congregate care after the first 14 days unless the child welfare residential provider is certified as a

specialized setting and the child/youth is eligible for Title IV-E is also delayed. The specialized settings that OCYF created enhanced programmatic requirements for are:

- Pregnant, Expecting and Parenting Youth in Care
- Victims of or Those at Risk for Sex Trafficking
- Youth Transitioning to Adulthood (ages 18-21)

This past fall, a second round of Specialized Settings applications were due to OCYF. Pennsylvania received applications from 20 providers totaling 102 licenses across the Commonwealth. If all become certified, there will be at least one Specialized Setting from each category in all four regions, with the exception of the Northeast region, which at this time will not have a Pregnant, Expecting and Parenting Youth in Care facility.

The goal is to have the providers certified in the Spring of 2021 so rate negotiations can occur with the county for the FY 2021/22 contracts. Even though the state is not opting into this specific Family First provision until October 1, 2021, the implementation tasks for round two of the Specialized Settings should be complete by July 1, 2021.

Please note that the Title IV-E limitations for congregate care placements (other than in specialized settings) apply to any placement occurring on or after October 1, 2021. Pre-existing placements will remain IV-E reimbursable for IV-E eligible youth.

Extension of Aftercare Services and Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)

Effective July 1, 2020, Pennsylvania extended Chafee aftercare services to age 23 and Chafee ETG to age 26.

The extension of aftercare services from age 21 to 23 will allow former foster youth to receive IL services, which include needs assessment/case planning, life skills training, prevention services, education, support services, employment, location of housing, room and board, retreats and camps, indirect services, and program administration. Youth who achieved permanency through adoption or permanent legal guardianship prior to age 16 are not eligible for Chafee aftercare services, ETG or the Fostering Independence through Education Program, known as FosterED.

The Chafee ETG program now allows youth to participate in the program up until their 26th birthday (previously 23rd birthday) and only up to five years, which need not be consecutive.

Chafee Education and Training Grant Programs

The Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG) application and instructions for the 2021–2022 academic year will be available in April 2021 and can be found online [here](#).

All current ETG award recipients will be automatically enrolled for the next academic year and do not need to complete another ETG application. The ETG award amount cannot exceed the student's cost of attendance.

Please contact the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency at 1-800-831-0797 with questions about current Chafee applications or a youth's status. If youth have questions regarding the ETG program, contact Teresa Musser at temusser@pa.gov or at 717-214-7385.

Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program

The Fostering Independence through Education Program, known as FosterED, began in the fall semester of 2020. FosterED requires Pennsylvania postsecondary institutions to award a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees for Pennsylvania resident youth who meet Chafee ETG eligibility requirements and have applied for all available federal and state grants. Tuition and mandatory fee waivers apply to public (state) colleges and universities, community colleges, private post-secondary schools and other eligible schools. Youth are eligible to receive the waivers for five years, which need not be consecutive, or until age 26.

In addition to the waivers, each post-secondary institution must appoint a Point of Contact (POC) to assist youth with eligibility, technical assistance, and other resources that may be available to them on and off campus. County and private provider IL caseworkers/coordinators may be contacted by the POC to verify a youth's eligibility. This is a critical step in assisting youth with verifying their eligibility when entering post-secondary education and financial aid packages being awarded.

Each post-secondary education institution is required to have their identified POC listed on their website. A list of POCs can be found on the Center for Schools and Communities [website](#). Additional information about the tuition waiver can be found at PHEAA.org/FosterEd.

Questions related to the FosterED program can be directed to Teresa Musser at temusser@pa.gov.

Child Welfare Case Management System

Child Welfare Case Management (CW CM) is a subsystem to Enterprise Case Management (ECM). County children and youth administrators and CW CM Steering team members have identified a primary and backup representative from each county case management system to participate on an ECM Communications team. The purpose of the ECM Communications team will be to ensure that ongoing and timely communications are maintained by developing an ECM project-level strategy, plan and timeline for communications with all ECM platform stakeholders. The first meeting of the ECM Communications team is planned for January 2021.

The CW CM Advisory Board members reached a unified recommendation on an approach to restart the Business Process Alignment (BPA) and User Story sessions. These sessions began in January 2020 but were put on hold in mid-March due to the pandemic. The sessions are planned to be restarted with Allegheny County to build a foundation of future-state process flows and user stories by reviewing the innovative and specialized business processes within the county. All other counties will have an opportunity to review the draft process flows and user stories to identify additional user stories that are needed to reflect a county's unique business processes. OCYF and KPMG are finalizing a document to provide to Allegheny County that provides detailed information on the estimated level of effort and county participants to restart the BPA/User Story sessions in 2021.

National Youth in Transition Database

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) collects information in the following areas: Baseline Population (every youth in foster care who reaches age 17), Served Population (any youth receiving independent living services regardless of age) and Follow-up Population (youth surveys at age 19 and 21 depending on Cohort period). Pennsylvania is currently in Cohort 3 for Follow-up Surveys for 21-year-old youth as of October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 (2021A.) Counties have until April 15, 2021 to submit their follow-up surveys as well as served population data. Counties can log onto www.getnytdpa.org to enter their served and survey data. NYTD questions can be directed to Teresa Musser, Office of Children, Youth and Families, at temusser@pa.gov or at 717-214-7385.

If you have any problems with password reset, or you don't remember what your username is (or have any other technical assistance questions related to NYTD), please contact the NYTD Help Desk at 1-800-436-4105 or getnytd@pcgus.com.

Mandated Reporter Training

In-person mandated reporter trainings are still not able to be conducted at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions; however, the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are continuing to offer virtual training opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic so that professionals and volunteers can participate in a safe learning environment. In-person trainings will be made available once possible. To schedule a virtual training with PFSA, contact their office at info@pa-fsa.org or at 1-800-448-4906. If you are in the medical profession and wish to schedule training with AAP for the Educating Physicians in their Communities-Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (EPIC-SCAN), contact AAP at scan@paaap.org or at 866-823-7226.

SWAN/IL Google Groups

There are over 700 members of the SWAN/IL ListServ through Google Groups. This is a great way to share confidential information across the network to seek colleague's advice and announce upcoming events. Anyone wishing to join the group must be an employee of a county children and youth agency, SWAN affiliate agency or IL provider. If interested, please contact Bobbi Whary by email at bwhary@diakon-swan.org or 717-558-1223.

Pennsylvania KinConnector Program

With the launch of KinConnector's website, kinconnector.org, on September 1, 2020, professionals and kinship families now have access to a variety of resources to help ensure children and the families who are caring for them are supported. The website includes a comprehensive, guided search feature of resources in the following topic areas: childcare, clothing, financial assistance, food, legal, medical, school and support groups. Also available on the website are training opportunities for both professionals and kinship families, printable resources, a blog section and a podcast series called "Kindred Voices."

KinConnector is always looking for additional resources that can support kinship families. OCYF not only encourages all county and provider agencies to learn more about the KinConnector program but to also share and provide local resource information to include on the website. Kinship families can visit kinconnector.org or contact the helpline at 866-546-2111 for additional support and assistance. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Desiree Weisser at OCYF at dweisser@pa.gov or 717-705-2911.

Accurint

Accurint is an online search tool available to every county throughout the state. It is able to assist with family finding efforts, contact information, criminal checks and identifying individuals for any type of family engagement meeting. Please be aware that only county employees may be Accurint administrators for your county's account. If you or your staff would like training in the Accurint software, please contact Accurint Education Consultant Bill News at william.news@lexisnexisrisk.com or 215-285-7108. Additionally, you can look up trainings at National Training Calendar Courses [here](#).

If you have any questions about Accurint, the number of Accurint users your county has, who your users are, etc., please contact W. Donald Dickinson at wildickins@pa.gov or 717-787-2726.

Child Abuse Prevention and Education (CAPE)

The Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) is planning Child Abuse Prevention Month event for April 2021. The theme surrounding the 2021 events will be "Thumbs Up for #ProtectPAkids." The events will be virtual and will include fundraising events lasting all month, expert presentations and interviews on topics related to child abuse prevention, recognition of the 2021 Blue Ribbon Champions, and a digital data map displaying child abuse data in Pennsylvania from the prior year. For the most up-to-date information related to Child Abuse Prevention Month events please visit PFSA's [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). Also, please continue to visit www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov for information related to the protection of Pennsylvania's children.

Credit Reports

Did you know that every Credit Bureau has a specific contact person and process to ensure foster care youth credit history checks are completed appropriately? If you are unsure of this information, have questions regarding credit report history of foster care youth or are having issues obtaining a credit history from one of the Credit Bureau's, please contact W. Donald Dickinson at wildickins@pa.gov or 717-787-2726 for assistance.

Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)

P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
717-787-3984
www.dhs.pa.gov

From the SWAN Prime Contract

Diakon-SWAN, LLC/Family Design Resources, Inc.

SWAN Portal Update

The SWAN prime contractor will be upgrading the SWAN Portal, now more than ten years old, to reflect current technology. Anticipated benefits of the upgrade include but are not limited to:

- User interface updated to a modern responsive design, improving user experience and optimized screen view despite viewing device;
- Mobile-friendly application design;
- Optimized functionality across major browsers;
- Increased data entry efficiency;
- Improved workflow;
- Optimized system performance;
- Increased data integrity; and
- Improved collaboration with affiliate and county agencies.

Affiliates and counties should look for future correspondences from the SWAN prime contractor about this upgrade. Feedback from and participation of the network will be key to the success of the project.

CSR Training

The SWAN prime contractor is pleased to announce that the Child Specific Recruitment (CSR) training has been added to SWAN’s E-Learning Center at swan-online.net. In this training, you will follow a CSR case step-by-step, from referral until a permanent connection is identified and the case closed. You will also be able to walk through a real-life CSR success story and see how the CSR team worked together to achieve permanency for an older youth. Additionally, you will learn about other considerations, such as the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, SWAN Connect, the affiliate agency’s role in the selection process and introducing the topic of permanency to youth, as well as laws and Pennsylvania permanency initiatives as they relate to CSR. Of course, benchmarks and required paperwork are covered too.

All SWAN E-Learning courses (Child Profile, CSR, Child Preparation, Family Profile, Post-permanency and Placement/Finalization) are free of charge and available to all members of the network. The courses can be self-directed or completed in collaboration with a supervisor. Each training is divided into modules, which allows the learner to exit and re-enter the course as needed. Please

take the time to visit the E-Learning Center at swan-online.net or through the [SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#) to view all of our courses.

Online Systems Offer a Variety of Resources

The SWAN prime contractor maintains several websites, including the SWAN Portal, the SWAN Permanency Toolkit, the SWAN E-Learning Center and the prime contractor public website, each of which provides a variety of resources and information to the network. Each platform has a unique purpose, and the content and documentation found on each are distinct.

[SWAN Portal](http://diakon-swan-network.org) (diakon-swan-network.org)

The SWAN Portal facilitates SWAN service referrals and information related to Pennsylvania permanency services. Users are assigned to the Portal according to their agency roles. County users typically use the Portal to refer children/families for SWAN units of service, register children with the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange and to match child with potential resource families. SWAN affiliate users typically use the Portal to invoice for completed permanency services, report cost/time applied to complete services, complete service benchmarks, register families with the Resource Family Registry and seek potential child matches for resource families. The SWAN Portal also houses the SWAN Portal user guides and the SWAN units of service benchmarks and benchmark forms.

[SWAN Permanency Toolkit](http://swantoolkit.org) (swantoolkit.org)

The Toolkit is a web-based permanency and adoption resource guide. In addition to the depth of content provided in the Toolkit, the network can find comprehensive information about the SWAN units of service benchmarks and benchmark forms and child welfare laws, bulletins and regulations. The site also contains links to practice-related materials that do not often change, for example, the *Incarceration Resource Manual*.

[SWAN Prime Contractor Website](http://diakon-swan.org) (diakon-swan.org)

This website is maintained by the prime contractor for the public and network, including agencies and resource families. The website includes timely news, event announcements and registration links; staff contact information and publications such as the quarterly *Administrative Update* and the *SWAN LSI Legal Report*.

[SWAN E-Learning Center](http://www.swan-online.net) (www.swan-online.net)

The E-Learning Center houses user-friendly, on-demand courses on each of the seven SWAN units of service. The courses are available to anyone in the network upon registration on the E-Learning site.

SWAN Family Profile Authorization Agreement

The SWAN Family Profile Authorization Agreement is a required document when completing the SWAN Family Profile unit of service. The agreement was updated on September 16, 2020 to reflect the current cost of the SWAN-paid Family Profile. The document also contains policy clarification for SWAN affiliate agencies regarding the release of the Family Profile document.

Affiliate agencies must be sure to use the updated version of the agreement, which can be found in the [Benchmarks and Templates section](#) of the SWAN Permanency Toolkit.

Virtual Permanency Roundtable County Convening Meeting

Want to learn more about the Casey Permanency Roundtable (PRT) Process and hear how other counties are using PRTs? Plan to attend the virtual PRT County Convening Meeting on March 2 via Zoom. This meeting will feature a PRT 101 presentation for counties interested in learning more about the process, as well as a panel discussion about the strengths and challenges of the PRT process.

Since 2012, SWAN has been responsible for implementing the PRT project. Developed by Casey Family Programs, PRTs are structured professional case consultations that seek to decrease the time children and youth spend in foster care by encouraging innovative thinking, applying best practice and eliminating barriers to legal permanency.

Presently, fifteen counties throughout the state use PRTs. Over 400 children and youth have participated, with 39% achieving permanency through reunification, adoption or PLC.

If you are interested in learning more about the PRT process or attending this meeting, please contact your SWAN regional technical assistant. An invitation announcing meeting details and registration is forthcoming.

Matching for Children and Families

The Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange reminds everyone about the expanded range of options for generating potential matches for children and families.

Electronic Matching

The SWAN Portal allows users to generate matches for PAE-registered children and for families who are active with the Resource Family Registry. The system produces three scores for each child and family based upon:

- Critical characteristics;
- Important characteristics; and
- Demographics.

To read more about what comprises these scores, see *Understanding the Matching Algorithm* accessible on the SWAN Toolkit.

Families can be matched with children whenever their family recruiter initiates the electronic match in the SWAN Portal, but they can also view all waiting children online at adoptpakids.org and ask for additional information by calling the SWAN Helpline at 1-800-585-SWAN.

Likewise, children can receive electronic matches when their recruiter initiates this match in the SWAN Portal. Both family and child matches can be run as often as needed.

For instructions about how to complete the electronic match process, please review the user guides in the SWAN Portal. Specific questions should be referred to any PAE coordinator.

Customized Matching

From time to time, a child's needs are significant or the matching request so specific that it is beyond the scope of the electronic matching process. PAE coordinators can take a personalized approach to matching.

These matches can be requested by any of the child's caseworkers: county, CSR or OCMI. The results of this type of match are not sent to the families; rather it is the responsibility of the requester to contact the family's caseworker if they would like additional information about the family.

To initiate customized matching, contact the child's PAE coordinator to discuss specific search parameters.

Finally, we would also like to remind and encourage caseworkers to keep all CY130 and CY131 forms as accurate and up-to-date as possible, reflecting current functioning for children and current interests for families. All forms of matching depend on quality data to be successful.

SWAN LSI Incarceration Resource Manual (IRM) Updated

We are excited to announce that the newest edition of the *SWAN LSI Incarceration Resource Manual* has been released. The manual now includes relevant updates from each county prison and an addendum detailing how COVID-19 has impacted visitation policies at facilities throughout the state.

The IRM can assist caseworkers and supervisors as they plan with incarcerated parents, as well as be a resource to support the counties’ efforts to engage with these parties. Additionally, the information contained in the IRM can help support the child-parent connection by:

- Supporting contact between the incarcerated parent and child by detailing guidelines and nuances regarding written and telephone communication.
- Supporting parent-child visitation by providing details on visitation schedules or video visitation.
- Supporting permanency by listing services available for the incarcerated parent and re-entry information.

The newest edition of the manual can be downloaded from [the SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#). Links to additional resources, such as state and federal facilities, are also included in the toolkit. Updates about county prison policies and procedures or questions may be forwarded to lsi-irmupdates@diakon-swan.org.

SWAN LSI Diligent Search Packet: A Comprehensive Search Tool

SWAN LSI is currently working on updating the *Diligent Search Packet*, so stay tuned for the 8th Edition, coming soon! The *SWAN LSI Diligent Search Packet* contains vital information and forms to help paralegals and agency staff search for permanent resources for children in the Pennsylvania child welfare system, as well as comply with federal and state mandates in their diligent search efforts. The *Diligent Search Packet* can be downloaded from [the SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#).

The SWAN LSI Warmline (lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org) is available to answer questions about the packet and searching. To seek training or assistance with diligent search, contact your assigned SWAN LSI coordinator (counties) or SWAN regional technical assistant (affiliates).

Highlights of SWAN LSI Impact in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020/21

The SWAN Legal Services Initiative (SWAN LSI) has continued to support the ongoing work of county children and youth services agencies on behalf of Pennsylvania’s children in need of permanency. While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected work environments and routines of many SWAN LSI staff, the impact of the program continues to be far-reaching. The chart below displays a representation of SWAN LSI outputs from the first two quarters (July 1 – December 31, 2020) of SFY 2020/21.

Children for whom at least one SWAN LSI Activity has been performed	20,951
Children with at least one Diligent Search completed by SWAN LSI	5,489
Children with a SWAN LSI Diligent Search that has been marked as found and verified (<i>designating that a person’s whereabouts identified in the search has been confirmed by an official resource</i>)	2,956
Children with TPR paperwork completed by SWAN LSI	1,534
Children with Adoption paperwork completed by SWAN LSI	505

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www.adoptpakids.org

SWAN Prime Contract
 P.O. Box 4560
 471 JPL Wick Drive
 Harrisburg, PA 17111-0560
 Ph: 717-236-8490 | Fax: 717-236-8510
www.diakon-swan.org

**From the PA Child Welfare Resource Center
(CWRC) Independent Living Project
University of Pittsburgh**

IL Site Visits/TA

The 2020-2021 Independent Living (IL) program site visits are underway across the state (virtually). The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center practice improvement specialist assigned to your county will be making contact to set up the site visit. The goal of these visits is to strengthen services and outcomes for older youth and to continue to build strong collaborative partnerships with providers and technical assistance staff.

Older Youth Retreat

The 2021 Older Youth Retreat will be held virtually this year. Please save the dates, August 9-13, and look for additional information to be shared in the Spring and on our [website](#).

Older Youth Webinars

The Child Welfare Resource Center continues to offer webinars bi-monthly in our Older Youth Webinar Series. If you are unable to view the live webinars, you can find the recorded webinars and handouts [here](#). Also, if you or a county/program you know has a promising practice that may be beneficial to highlight in a webinar, please contact Meghan O'Hare meo43@pitt.edu.

Youth Voices Amplified

Racial inequity has challenged our nation since its inception. Today, protests amplify the voices of those fighting for justice as a group, and youth voices are often within those groups. Youth Voices Amplified is a facilitated conversation with Pennsylvania youth to hear what change means to them, how they are pushing for change and what they wish allies knew/did to support their causes. Youth also share their views on being a black/brown youth involved in the foster care system. To listen to this conversation, visit [the CWRC website](#).

IL Networking Sessions

IL networking sessions are offered across the state in all regions to support both new and seasoned IL staff working with older youth. The meetings are driven by staff learning needs and include opportunities to share information, bring in relevant presenters and brainstorm with other staff how to address issues youth are experiencing or may need additional support in. These have been especially helpful in supporting both staff and youth during COVID-19. If you are interested in connecting with your regional IL networking group, please contact Meghan O'Hare meo43@pitt.edu.

Know Your Rights

The Juvenile Law Center (JLC) has transitioned the *Know Your Rights Guide* into an online format, which can be accessed [here](#). This guide provides youth information regarding their legal rights and services/benefits they are eligible for under law, how to protect their rights and get support and services they need and tools and advice on navigating the child welfare system to advocate for themselves.

PA Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Projects

The statewide YAB is currently working on the following projects:

- *COVID-19 Kits for Older Youth*: This fall, the youth felt it was important to provide resources regarding COVID-19 to older youth across the state. The youth decided to create a kit that can be sent out that includes a face mask, hand sanitizer and ways to stay healthy both mentally and physically.
- *Coloring Book Project*: In an effort to educate all youth about their rights in foster care, the YAB chose to develop a Know Your Rights coloring book, focused on youth ages five to seven and eight to ten years old. These coloring books will be youth-friendly and age-appropriate for younger children.

PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)
403 E. Winding Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-795-9048
www.payab.pitt.edu