



May 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

With great sadness, this notice is to inform you that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on large group gatherings, the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference, scheduled for June 17-19, 2020 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, has been cancelled. Every option was considered, and while difficult, we know it is the right decision. As an event sponsored by the Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families, safety and well-being must take the form of social distancing in accordance with the directives of the Governor and with respect to the guidance issued by the Commonwealth's Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If you have attended in the past, you know the Conference is a special gathering of foster and adoptive families and their children, child welfare and independent living professionals, legal professionals and advocates, all vested in the support and success of children and youth achieving permanency and the families who care for them. The Conference is a celebration of families created through adoption, permanent legal custodianship and kinship care as well as an incredible time of learning. We will miss seeing all of you.

Many individuals commit their ideas, time and energy to the planning of this event over the course of an entire year, and we thank all involved for your efforts toward what was to be another amazing Conference. We hope that you will look forward and plan to attend the 2021 Pennsylvania Permanency Conference scheduled for June 16-18 once again at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center.

If you have booked a hotel room at the Kalahari, please contact the resort directly at 877-525-2427 to cancel your reservations. The Kalahari will hold your reservation unless otherwise notified.

We urge you to personally continue to take steps to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus by following social distancing and hygiene measures. We join you in looking forward to a point in time when we are safely beyond the impact of this disease and can once again meet in person.

Stay tuned for exciting news regarding this year's Summer Statewide Meeting!

If you have any questions, reach out to the SWAN prime contract conferencing team at [conferencing@diakon-swan.org](mailto:conferencing@diakon-swan.org).

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carrie L. Keiser".

Carrie Keiser, Director  
Division of Programs  
Department of Human Services/OCYF

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jarrod E. Leo".

Jarrod E. Leo, Senior Vice President Finance  
Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries  
SWAN Prime Contractor

cc: Judith C. Damiano, M.S., SWAN Program Administrator, Family Design Resources, Inc.