**Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network in collaboration with**

**The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center’s Independent Living Project**

***SUMMER STATEWIDE MEETING 2015***

***Registration Form***

The 2015 SWAN/IL Summer Statewide Meeting will be held at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on June 23-24, 2015. Please register online through the Diakon website at [www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org) or mail this form to Conferencing, Diakon/ FDR, 471 JPL Wick Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17111. **If you register online, you do not need to mail this form to Diakon/FDR.** *Lunch will be provided.*

**The deadline for registration is Wednesday, June 10, 2015**.

Directions to the Lancaster Host are available online at the Diakon/FDR website, www.diakon-swan.org

*NAME:*

*PROFESSIONAL TITLE:*

*AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DEPT:*

*ADDRESS:*

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*EMAIL:*

*General Session – Day One*

*Someone’s Hero* ~ *Dr. Debra Peppers* ~ *9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

Using humor and inspirational insight, Dr. Peppers celebrates all whose life’s “calling” is children. Sharing successful research and poignant examples, Debra talks about common threads shared by those who live balanced lives, better equipping themselves for successfully investing in young people.

*Session Registrations*

**🞎 *DAY ONE* ~ *JUNE 23, 2015* ~ *1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.***

**Please choose** one **workshop session for the afternoon.**

* ***It’s What You Say and How You Say It***

Dr. Peppers shares established communication techniques by demonstrating the impact of conversation, facial expression, gestures, body language and tone. Both written and oral communication, as well as proactive anger-management techniques, provide the benefit of gaining more confidence, being understood and ultimately creating a more peaceful environment.

* ***Beyond the Bond: The Needs and Welfare Analysis in a TPR***

Proving that terminating the rights of a parent best serves the needs and welfare of a child is often the most difficult piece of a TPR hearing.  What role does the child’s bond with parents and caregivers play in the needs and welfare analysis?  What constitutes evidence of a child’s bond?  Who can testify about the bond?  What other factors are important in analyzing the needs and welfare of a child?  This three-hour session will explore these questions and provide strategies to better prepare for the needs and welfare analysis piece of the TPR process. Specific laws to be discussed include: the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Pennsylvania Adoption Act. Participants will also learn the importance of building a strong trial court record in the event of an appeal of a TPR decision to a higher court. This session will highlight the provisions of federal and state law that promote achieving permanency through TPR and adoption, and the importance of county child welfare agencies complying with these provisions since Title IV-E funding is based on that compliance.

* ***Assessment Tools Training – Part 1***

The assessment is the first step in the SWAN Post-Permanency process. The risk assessment process determines the degree to which key risk and safety factors of the Pennsylvania risk assessment are present in a family situation. This training looks at how to identify those factors and how to interpret them in the context of providing post-permanency services. The training will also look at how to use FACES III. The training will cover how to incorporate all the information gained from the assessment – including CAFAS and JIFF – into the SWAN Post-Permanency Family Support Plan. ***You must also register for Part 2 on June 24.***

* ***National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Results and Independent Living Services Q & A***

NYTD is more than a required federal data reporting system. This workshop will reveal and discuss the preliminary findings of Pennsylvania’s NYTD collection efforts for the baseline, follow-up (outcomes) and served populations. This new information will be valuable information about outcomes by better understanding what our youth know, how are they faring, and if services have an impact as we follow some youth at ages 19 and 21? Additionally, time will be allocated to focus on recent changes in federal and state laws that impact adolescents and county and provider agencies that deliver services. This will be a joint learning and sharing opportunity that will benefit intermediate and advanced level Independent Living and casework staff.

* ***Navigating a Difficult Journey***

Families who are built through adoption often experience a variety of challenges. In some cases these challenges may become so difficult they struggle with the heart-wrenching decision of dissolution. This workshop explores the dynamics of dissolution and identifies the conditions that can lead to it. The session examines why support during this period is critical. It also looks at different efforts that can be put in place to assist in maintaining the adoption. We will explore why “out of home” does not necessarily mean “out of the family.”

* ***Adolescent Issues: Risk, Resiliency and Positive Youth Development***

This training focuses on increasing the participant’s knowledge and developing an understanding of adolescent development, risk and resiliency, and strategies to work with youth and their caretakers. It provides child welfare practitioners with a framework for positive youth development, consistent with best practice and social work values.

**🞎 *DAY TWO* ~ *JUNE 24, 2015* ~ *9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.***

**Please choose ONE workshop session for the morning.**

**🞎**  ***Echoes of Denial: Seeking the Inner Voice of Older Youth***

A former foster youth shares her story to assist professionals in navigating the obstacles that can hinder older youth in finding permanency, which may be the youth themselves.

* ***Ask the Attorneys***

Panel presentation and discussion about common legal issues and questions that come through the SWAN LSI Warmline. Panelists will discuss various sides of legal issues, and participants will have the opportunity to ask follow-up questions.

* ***Responding Effectively to Search and Reunion Requests, Act 101***

An increasing number of people are requesting search and reunion services under Act 101. It takes courage to initiate the process, and needless delays and frustration can result when an individual feels they receive a cold reception. It is imperative that we competently and sensitively respond to these requests.

* ***Assessment Tools Training – Part 2***

The assessment is the first step in the SWAN Post-Permanency process. The risk assessment process determines the degree to which key risk and safety factors of the Pennsylvania risk assessment are present in a family situation. This training looks at how to identify those factors and how to interpret them in the context of providing post-permanency services. The training will also look at how to use FACES III. The training will cover how to incorporate all the information gained from the assessment – including CAFAS and JIFF – into the SWAN Post-Permanency Family Support Plan. ***You must also register for Part 1 on June 23.***

* ***Valuable Medical Assistance Resource for your Child***

This training is presented by the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) and the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OHMSAS) and is designed to inform participants about an important medical assistance (MA) benefit they may be missing. This workshop will teach participants how Health Choices’ Special Needs Units (SNU) and Case Management Units (CMU) can help them coordinate and obtain MA benefits and services for their child. Additional topics of discussion include: covered medical assistance services, policies and procedures and transitioning from pediatric to adult MA services.