Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network in collaboration with

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center’s Independent Living Project

**2019 SUMMER STATEWIDE MEETING**

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**Registration Form**

The Summer Statewide Meeting will be held at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania, **June 11–12, 2019**. **Please register online at** [**www.diakon-swan.org**](http://www.diakon-swan.org) **OR email this form to** [**conferencing@diakon-swan.org**](mailto:conferencing@diakon-swan.org)**.**   
(If you register online, please do not send this form to Diakon/Family Design Resources.) *Lunch will be provided.*

**The registration deadline is Friday, May 24, 2019**

**General Session: Day One -** *June 11, 2019*, *9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

Keynote – Creating a Culture for Healing and Connection, *Loryn Smith*

*The keynote presentation will address the impact of trauma on brain development and the effect on children, families, and professionals. Professionals and families hold potential misconceptions, which the session will challenge attendees to address. The session will also provide practical, hands-on tools to help ensure that children are effectively assisted throughout their adoption experience.*

*Session Registrations*

**DAY ONE: 1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.**

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

**Preventing Disruption and Dissolution,** *Loryn Smith, Keynote Presenter*This session will discuss ways to ensure that matches are appropriate and how to identify warning signs that the placement may be at risk. It will also highlight services that are shown to be effective in the supervisory period after placement. The presenter will discuss ways for agencies to build true partnerships with families, which includes managing expectations, cognizance of agency culture and practical interventions.

**It’s All Relative: Laws and Practice Regarding Relatives and Kin,** *Legal Training Specialists,**SWAN Prime Contractor*

Although the ancient proverb, “It takes a village,” has been widely accepted across cultures, our laws have only recently acknowledged the importance of extended family in a child’s life. In that time, the child welfare system quickly evolved into one that is focused on relative and kinship connections. This training will take a chronological, in-depth look at the state and federal laws that recognize the importance of the kinship connection. It will cover topics such as relative and kinship engagement requirements, the existence of the kinship placement preference, the creation of relative and kinship programs, and the practice implications that accompany these laws.

**Crossing Over: A Tool for Transitions into Adulthood,** *Lori Chaffers*, *Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services*This session will discuss the development and implementation of Cross-Systems Transition Conferences (CSTCs). CSTCs are used for older youth with complex behavioral health, intellectual disability, substance abuse and/or multi-system involvement to develop and implement a planned transition into the adult services.

**Ordinary Magic: Building Resilient Children and Youth,** *Pam Wagner, SWAN Prime Contractor*This workshop will look at the importance of resiliency and its relationship to trauma. It will explore what resiliency is and what actions foster/adoptive parents, professionals and caregivers can take to support resiliency in foster and adoptive children.

**14th Annual Pennsylvania**

**Permanency Conference**

**Brandon’s Forever Home Foster Youth Panel,** *Lorine Ogurkis and Panel*

This session will feature a panel discussion with current and former foster youth. Attendees will have an opportunity to listen to and discuss their stories while in care, including their realities, successes and downfalls of aging out of the foster care system.

**The Placement Unit: Preparing Waiting Families,** *Deb Thomas and Georgiann Unger, SWAN Prime Contractor*

The time between resource family approval and placement of a child in the home is critical to the family’s development. The Placement Unit of Service defines and guides the work needed during this period, including maintaining family engagement and cultivating good decision-making and planning practices. This workshop will explore all the practice components and required paperwork of the Placement Unit of Service.

**DAY TWO: 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**

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

**CORE Teen – a curriculum for families who support older youth with moderate to severe emotional and behavioral needs,** *Sue Cohick, Spaulding for Children; Casandra Dry, Diakon Adoption and Foster Care and Amanda Wargo, Berks County Children and Youth Services*This workshop will provide a brief overview of the CORE Teen Project, highlighting the three components of the curriculum: self-assessment, classroom instruction and right time video-based training. The presentation will also discuss the recent pilot of the curriculum in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida and North Carolina and what impact the results may have on dissemination and future implementation for Pennsylvania.

**Engaging Kin,** *Eliza White, University of Pittsburgh, The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center*

This workshop will focus on key areas of family finding legislation, statewide implementation and its effect on county practice. The presentation will explore the necessity of teaming with kin and supporting youth’s familial relationships to strengthen their protective factors and well-being. Attendees will learn about ways that participatory case planning practices, including FGDM, address and/or prevent re-entry into out-of-home placement.

**Exploring the Finalization Unit**, *Sandra Bennett, SWAN Prime Contractor*

The Finalization Unit of Service can raise a lot of questions for permanency professionals about families’ needs, supervisory visits, phases of adjustment, disruption and more. This workshop will walk participants through the documentation requirements of the Finalization unit and provide concrete practice ideas for working with families to achieve permanency.

**Creative Child Profiles: Sensitively Factual**, *Dianne Ott, SWAN Prime Contractor*

This session will highlight the importance of telling the child’s whole story in a way that presents an authentic child with strengths and endearing qualities; maintains racial, ethnic and cultural identity; and honors the child’s self-worth and dignity. Attendees will discuss creative tools and techniques to help tell that story when completing the Child Profile Unit of Service.

**Transgender Youth: Legal Issues and Practical Considerations**, *Sara Steeves, SWAN Prime Contractor*

To best serve transgender youth in care, it is crucial for workers to understand the federal and state laws and regulations that impact them. This session will discuss legal processes for topics like name changes and medical guardians, as well as best practice considerations for placement, name changes, medical care, mental health, education, safety and confidentiality. Participants will gain a framework of understanding through which they can more effectively evaluate placement, handle confidentiality issues, and identify supportive medical and mental health professionals. This training is best suited for an individual who has an understanding of the terminology surrounding sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, which will be presented only as an overview.