

The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids

Training & Technical Assistance E-Notes

October, 2008

Recruitment Works/Retention Matters

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and EMQ Children and Family Services have collaborated to produce a detailed manual for finding family connections for youth among kin and other caring adults. *Family Search and Engagement: A Comprehensive Practice Guide* is described by its authors as "a set of practices designed to locate, engage, connect, and support family resources for youth." This detailed and practical publication is designed to be used by practitioners directly involved in family finding activities. Sections include:

- Stages of the process
- Youth, Family, Worker Perspectives
- Internet Search Sites & Helpful Search Tips
- Case Examples and Illustrations
- Practical Tools

The guide may be downloaded at http://www.emq.org/press/docs/FSE_guide.pdf.

Interjurisdictional Placement Services

The 2006 Children's Bureau Report, *Interjurisdictional Placement of Children in the Child Welfare System – Improving the Practice*, recommended the development of a website with links to all State requirements for coverage of medical and educational expenses. AdoptUsKids is developing a web-based resource where all of a State's interjurisdictional requirements for foster care and adoption can be accessed in one location. AdoptUsKids will be presenting a prototype of its draft State Profile Map at the upcoming NASAP meeting. State Program Managers, as potential users, will be asked for their suggestions. We are planning to have this resource available on-line later this year.

Currently, valuable information regarding interjurisdictional requirements can be accessed through APHSA (American Public Human Services Association) and the Child welfare Information Gateway websites.

The APHSA website, <http://icpc.aphsa.org/Home/states.asp>, provides information for each of the States regarding Medicaid, medical services, therapeutic services, TANF, and educational services. In addition, the Child Welfare Information Gateway website, http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt_assistance/, provides information on Adoption Assistance benefits by State.

Tips & Tools

A new tool to assist prospective foster and adoptive parents explore their interest in becoming a resource family is available online from Iowa KidsNet. *Foster Care and Adoption Self-Assessment Guide: A Useful Tool to Help You Make an Informed Decision About Fostering or Adopting a Child* features two questionnaires addressing motivations for foster and adoptive parenting, as well as discussion of the potential responses to each of the questions.

The guide was authored by Richard Brozovich of Oakland Schools (Michigan) and can be

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A Note from Sharri

Dear Readers,

Next month is National Adoption Month, as I'm sure you know. I imagine many of you are busy preparing for the varied and creative ways you will recognize and support your current adoptive families, and promote adoption to prospective families. In a recent conversation with a state administrator, I was reminded that everyone has a role in carrying the message of the need for adoptive families for waiting children and youth.

This administrator told me of her practice to make sure everyone in her office, including the support staff from temp agencies, knew of the nature of their work and the need for families. Her efforts were rewarded when one of the temps told how she has had several opportunities to share about the need for families while explaining her current assignment to her family and friends.

found online at: http://www.iakids.org/userfiles/File/KidsNet_Assessment_Guide.pdf.

T/TA Highlights

The State of Ohio has invited AdoptUsKids to participate in its work to enhance recruitment and retention services. Sharri Black and John Levesque have visited the State for planning sessions with managers from the central office and from the State's largest counties.

One area of need quickly identified was for assistance with the preparation of recruitment narratives for the State's photolisting website. Six training-of-trainer sessions have been scheduled around the state using the AdoptUsKids *Lasting Impressions* guidebook and its related training curriculum. The first three sessions have already taken place and feedback has been very positive. Participants have appreciated the opportunity to learn about best practices and also for the chance to work "hands on" with narrative writing as part of the session.

Our partnership with Ohio remains underway and we will share additional news as the work progresses.

Recruitment and Retention Network

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (NFAPA) have developed an excellent partnership that provides training, support and mentoring for foster, adoptive, kinship and birth parents. NFAPA assists the State with recruitment of new resource families through the management of the 1-800-7PARENT Information Line. They also created a mentoring program titled FOCUS (Families Offering Care, Understanding and Support) in which experienced resource parents serve as mentors to new families. In addition, they host the statewide, toll-free Kin-nect Family Support Line, which provides kinship caregivers with emotional support, information & referrals, training and networking opportunities.

Visit www.nfapa.org to learn more about these services.

Please send us your stories and ideas that have shown results in recruitment, retention and interjurisdictional placements. Email your offerings to sharri@adoptex.org.

FYI

National Adoption Month 2008 materials are available now on the website of the Child Welfare Information Gateway at <http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/>.

This year's theme of adopting teens from foster care builds on the Ad Council's new public service announcement (PSA) campaign for the Children's Bureau, the Adoption Exchange Association, and The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids. The website includes links to National Adoption Month Highlights; the 2008 Presidential Proclamation; and an Activities Calendar.

So as you prepare for National Adoption Month, think of others in your office and network who could be enlisted to help carry the message that *"you don't have to be perfect, to be a perfect parent."*

We would love to hear about the activities or events you have planned to recognize and support your adoptive families. If you have news to share, please send it to Maureen Heffernan at msheffernan@earthlink.net.

Thanks for reading, and we'll see you next month!

Sharri Black
T/TA Director for AdoptUsKids



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Contact Us

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