

# The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids

## Training & Technical Assistance E-Notes January, 2007

### Recruitment Works/Retention Matters

Recruitment of Hispanic foster parents is the focus of an article in the October-December 2006 issue of the journal, *Families in Society*. Noting that Hispanics are one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, the article identifies issues of culture, language, and social policy which must be considered when recruiting Hispanic foster parents. The approach of the Hispanic Foster Care Recruitment and Retention project of Child Advocacy Resource Association (CARAS), a New Jersey organization, is described. The CARAS Recruitment Model addresses staffing, targeted recruitment, orientation, training, certification and retention. The article is entitled *Recruiting Hispanic Foster Parents: Issues of Culture, Language, and Social Policy* and is authored by Doris Capello Correa. It can be found at <http://www.familiesinsociety.org/Show.asp?override=true&docid=3568>.

### Inter-jurisdictional Placement Services

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law (P.L.) 109-248, was signed into law on July 27, 2006. Major provisions include:

- Amending the Title IV-E background check requirements
- Making information in the National Crime Information Databases (NCID) available to government agencies when investigating child abuse or neglect
- Requiring the Attorney General to conduct fingerprint-based checks of the NCID for child welfare agencies for certain purposes
- Requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a national registry of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect.

A Children's Bureau Information Memoranda on the law is available at [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/policy/im/im0604.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/im0604.htm).

A teleconference on implementing the law was held on November 15, 2006 for State foster care and adoption managers. The call was sponsored by the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and the Child Welfare League of America. Audio files from the teleconference are now available for downloading at: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/teleconferences/>.

### Tips and Tools

Voices for America's Children has published *Understanding Research: Top Ten Tips for Advocates and Policymakers*, an easy to follow guide to evaluating research studies and evaluation reports. The document offers clear guidelines for readers and provides understandable definitions for common research terms and procedures. It can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

### T/TA Highlights

*Coordinated Technical Assistance*

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### Memo from Melody

Happy New Year!

At the start of this new year, we are pleased to let you know that, in December 2006, the AdoptUsKids website passed the 7,000 mark. This means that 7,000 of the children previously featured on [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org) are no longer there because they have been placed with an adoptive family! In this season of celebration and hope, that is certainly an accomplishment to celebrate and a reason for hope.

Reflecting on the positive, lifelong differences our readers make in the lives of children and families, it is my continuing desire that AdoptUsKids provide you with the support and technical assistance needed to maintain and expand your work. To do this, AdoptUsKids T/TA is working on several new products and services. Over the next few months, look for a new publication to help you target your recruitment efforts more intentionally, curricula to support

AdoptUsKids has had some recent opportunities to collaborate in providing Coordinated Technical Assistance, which brings together two or more National Resource Centers in one state for a defined goal, project and/or period of time. Coordinated TA can support a State in analyzing and solving issues that impact multiple departments, program areas, regions or contracting partners.

### **An Example from Florida**

Seeking assistance to improve placement stability, the State of Florida received approval for coordinated technical assistance from the DHHS Regional Office. This was the catalyst for a joint effort by AdoptUsKids, the NRC for Child Welfare Data and Technology, the NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and the NRC for Organizational Improvement. Services provided included planning, case review, data collection, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and the development of recommendations for action. Each NRC assisted throughout the project in its area of expertise. Following the collaborative effort, AdoptUsKids consultants, Judy and John McKenzie, facilitated the development of locally-based recruitment and retention teams and helped them establish county-specific plans.

Florida has produced a detailed overview of the work to date in its **District 1 Placement Stability Project**, which can be downloaded at [http://216.38.216.37/adoptusa/documents/FL\\_TTA\\_D1PilotProject\\_Overview.doc](http://216.38.216.37/adoptusa/documents/FL_TTA_D1PilotProject_Overview.doc).

The State also developed a **Guide for (Data) Analysis of Placement Stability** which is available at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/telefiles/110906tele/GuideforAnalysis.doc>. The process described can be readily adapted for use in other areas.

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## **Recruitment and Retention Network**

The New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has found "unplanned transfer" conferences to be a means of retaining foster parents and facilitating communication. Agency policy provides that the meetings be available following placement disruptions. The conferences may include foster parents, DCYF staff and other team members who discuss the circumstances leading to the change in placement and the opportunities for learning. Says Gail DeGoosh, New Hampshire's Foster Care Program Manager, "Just having the policy has given some peace of mind to foster parents who know they have recourse." For more information, contact Gail DeGoosh, at (603) 271-4711 or [gdegoosh@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:gdegoosh@dhhs.state.nh.us).

Please send us your stories and ideas that have shown results in recruitment, retention and interjurisdictional placements. Email your offerings to [melody@adoptex.org](mailto:melody@adoptex.org).

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## **FYI**

The Children's Bureau has issued an Information Memorandum to inform State, Tribal and Territorial Title IV-B and IV-E agencies of the enactment of **The Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006**. The Memorandum provides basic information about the provisions of this law, discusses its implications, and highlights several areas for immediate attention by the States and Tribes. A copy can be accessed at <http://216.38.216.37/adoptusa/documents/ACYF-CB-IM-06-05.doc>.

our two latest guidebooks, checklists to facilitate the process of inter-jurisdictional placements, and an online resource to ease access to information about specific State requirements related to foster care and adoption. As these materials become available, we will be featuring them in future issues of E-Notes. We'll keep you posted on these and other items of interest, and will count on your feedback to fine-tune our efforts.

As always, we would love to hear from you with your comments and suggestions regarding E-Notes. Please use the links below to contact us and to forward E-Notes to others who might be interested.

Thanks for reading!

### **Melody Roe**

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## **Contact Us**

For more information about AdoptUsKids Training and Technical Assistance Services, contact Melody Roe at (303) 755-4756, ext. 241, or email [melody@adoptex.org](mailto:melody@adoptex.org).

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