

A Parent for Every Child

NYS Office of Children and Family Services
Diligent Recruitment Project

~ Year Two Update ~

“A service of the Children’s Bureau”



Project Description

A randomized study of innovative efforts to find permanent families for a minimum of 50 freed foster care youth with severe emotional, behavioral and developmental needs that require residential treatment.

~~ Over three years, 174 children will be selected for the study~~



Project Partners

- NYS Office of Children and Family Services
- Hillside Children's Center
- Parsons Child and Family Center
- You Gotta Believe!
- Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago



Target Group

- **Freed foster care youth in the care of:**
 - NYS Office of Mental Health facility
 - NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability facility
 - OCFS Division of Juvenile Justice;

Or

- **Freed foster care youth with a goal other than adoption who reside in a:**
 - Residential Treatment Center



~ *Update* ~

Children Selected for Year One

- Random selection of 80 Youth from target universe of children
 - Intervention group - 40 children to receive service by project staff
 - Control group - 40 children for comparison purposes only (no program intervention)



Intervention Group

- Evaluator provided names to Project Director for caseload assignments
- Cases assigned to permanency specialists based on location of facilities across NYS:
 - Hillside (10 children)
 - Parsons (10 children)
 - You Gotta Believe (20)



Control Group

- Names provided to Project Supervisor for assignments
- Regional adoption specialists (OCFS) assigned youth in their regions
 - Work with local districts with children
 - Complete template annually for each child
 - Submit data for entry in database



Development of Database

- Web-based interactive database
 - Pre-populated with administrative data
 - Project staff trained to navigate database
 - Data entry technology integrated into staff work
 - On-going quality control of data entries
 - Control group data entry by evaluators



Intervention Group

Our Goal

- To match each youth with a committed adult willing to assume the role of a lifelong parent.
- To provide each committed parent access to training, services and support.
- To support the efforts of the permanency professionals to improve permanency outcome for the youth.



Characteristics of Intervention Group

Age of PFEC children

Age	Count	%
10-11	2	5.0
12-14	6	15.0
15-16	15	37.5
17-18	14	35.0
19-19.5	3	7.5
Total	40	100.0

Characteristics of Intervention Group

Number of years in care

Number of years in care	Count	%
0-5	9	22.5
6-10	18	45.0
11-15	11	27.5
16-19	2	5.0
Total	40	100.0

Characteristics of Intervention Group

System type

System with custody	Count	%
OCFS	18	45.0
OMH	14	35.0
OMRDD	7	17.5
DJJOY	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0

Race and sex of children

Race	Count	%
White	11	27.5
African American	22	55.0
Hispanic	5	12.5
Other	2	5.0
Total	40	100.0

Sex	Count	%
Female	5	12.5
Male	35	87.5
Total	40	100.0



Permanency Specialists

- Specialists received adoption competency training and assigned cases.
- Specialists received clearance to access confidential records of youth.
- Specialists trained by evaluators in the use of the web-based database.



Permanency Activities

- All youth were assigned a permanency specialist based on the location of the facility caring for the youth.
- All youth records were reviewed by permanency specialists and mined for potential permanency options.



Permanency Activities

- Permanency specialists attend treatment and planning meetings at the facilities.
- Permanency specialists contacted:
 - Local districts with guardianship and custody of the youth selected for the project.
 - Residential facilities where the selected youth reside.



Permanency Activities

- Permanency activity on youth entered in database by specialists.
- **80%** of the youth had an initial contact with permanency specialists.
- Potential permanency resources for **12** youth.



Challenges

- Youth changing placement
- Distance of facilities
- Youth agreement to participate in search for permanent resource
- Facility staff feeling youth is not ready for a family
- OMRDD offer youth lifetime care options
- Agencies prohibiting staff from being permanent resource to youth in care



Next Steps

- Chronicing of youth – produce video tapes of PFEC youth .
- Complete report on characteristics of target population.
- Complete year one data collection on control group .
- Hold meetings with cross-systems stakeholders.
- Role out public awareness campaign.
- Complete and print Barriers Study.

