



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE E-NOTES NOVEMBER, 2008

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A NOTE FROM SHARRI

Dear Readers,

You may have noticed that we have a new name and have taken this opportunity to freshen up the layout of E-Notes. Most importantly, our former title, "AdoptUsKids T/TA", has been retired. We now have the distinction of being a National Resource Center, and will be known as the **National Resource Center for Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Parent at AdoptUsKids!** And yes, we have the longest name of any NRC in the Children's Bureau T/TA Network...but that is just fine with us! We are delighted with the change as we believe it more accurately reflects the work we have been doing and will be continuing in the future.

The new name made its debut with considerable fanfare by way of a video announcement at the Children's Bureau Policy to Practice Dialogue in Washington DC last month. The video was produced by John McKenzie, one of our executive consultants, and may be viewed by [clicking here](#).

As the National Resource Center for Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Parents at AdoptUsKids, we will increase our efforts to assist States and Tribes with their diligent recruitment efforts for foster and adoptive

RECRUITMENT WORKS/RETENTION MATTERS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, The Adoption Exchange Association, and The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids, in partnership with The Advertising Council, are pleased to announce a new public service advertising campaign focusing on the adoption of teens from foster care.

The new "You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who would love to put up with you" PSAs were released earlier this month for National Adoption Month. These light-hearted PSAs take a look at some of the everyday situations that parents and teens encounter and reinforce the notion that these are the moments that really count. Teens don't need perfection, but they do need parents.

[Click here](#) for more information, to view the ads or to order materials.

INTERJURISDICTIONAL PLACEMENT SERVICES

AdoptUsKids launched a blog, <http://adoptuskids.blogspot.com/>, in January 2008. The blog provides a forum for peer support for prospective and experienced foster and adoptive families. The blogs have provided an opportunity to gather information on a number of system challenges concerning interjurisdictional (IJ) placements. During the period of October 2007 through September 2008, 71 requests for assistance regarding interjurisdictional placements were received from families in 23 states.

The Top 5 Requests for Assistance Reported by Families on the Blog concerning interjurisdictional placements were:

- 48% of the requests were from families stating they could not find agencies to work with them in pursuing IJ placements or to pursue children outside of state,
- 13% stated that they were asked to search only in their county or in a limited number of surrounding counties,
- 10% reported communication challenges, *i.e.*, caseworker delay in returning calls, misinformation,
- 8% of families stated they thought they were being approved to adopt, but learned they were approved only to adopt a child they fostered, and
- 6% reported needing Post Adoption Services and general information.

Each request for assistance receives a response from the State's AdoptUsKids Recruitment Response Team that is closest to the family's geographic area. In addition, an email is sent to the State's Adoption Program Manager and ICPC office, thus providing the State with opportunities to respond to the families. Once the RRTs and State begin working together to help maneuver through these challenges, the issues are often resolved.

For more information on Interjurisdictional issues, contact Sharon Tintle, AdoptUsKids Consultant, NRCRRFAP, (850) 567-1549. Sharon_Tintle@comcast.net

TIPS AND TOOLS

Meeting the needs of special education students who must move while in the child welfare system is the topic of a resource available from the ABA Center on Children and the Law. *Questions and Answers: Mobility Issues and Special Education for Children in Out-of-Home Care* is a two page document in a question-and-answer format addressing such issues as:

- Does special education law address the issue of children who move schools?

parents, as required by Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. For more information on the services we offer, please see the link to the updated flier in the T/TA Highlights section of this issue of E-Notes.

One more bit of news: We have been designated as the lead NRC to provide support to the Diligent Recruitment of Families for Children in the Foster Care System Grantee cluster. We are looking forward to joining the grantees for their kickoff meeting in Alexandria, VA on November 20 -21.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our readers!

Sharri Black

NRC for Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Parents at AdoptUsKids

SUBSCRIBE OR FORWARD

Please help us share E-Notes with others by forwarding this issue, or by visiting the [T/TA website](#) to access our sign-up form.

CONTACT US

For more information about AdoptUsKids Training and Technical Assistance Services, contact Sharri Black at (303) 990-3750 or email sharri@adoptex.org.

PRINT THIS ISSUE

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For a printer-friendly text version, [click here!](#)

- What happens if a child enrolls in a new school district after a special education evaluation has begun, but before the old school district has completed the special education evaluation?
- How do you ensure that the old school sends the education records to the new school as quickly as possible?

The factsheet provides answers to these and other questions and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

T/TA HIGHLIGHTS

The Training and Technical Assistance services (T/TA) of the NRCRRFAP at AdoptUsKids are provided by a team of dedicated consultants, several of whom have been with us since our service began, more than six years ago. Over these years, the types of T/TA requested have grown and evolved. As a result, John and Judy McKenzie and Sharri Black have been conducting interviews with both current and prospective consultants in order to identify, enhance and expand the expertise we can make available to the States and Tribes. Once this process is complete we will compile and post a new Consultant's Directory on our website, and in coming months we plan to highlight the members of our team in this column.

To learn more about the type of services our consultants can provide, [click here](#) to download a copy of our T/TA flier.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION NETWORK

We were delighted to receive two responses to our request that readers send us news on the activities they have planned for National Adoption Month!

Beech Brook in Cleveland, Ohio will be honoring adoptive and kinship families with an Adoption Celebration and Resource Fair. The event will include a "Permanency Celebration", entertainment for all ages, refreshments, and resource booths staffed by representatives of community service resources.

In St. Petersburg, Florida, *Project Patchwork* is sponsoring a "Night of Shared Journeys" as a way of building adoption awareness in the community. The gala event will celebrate adoption through photographs and stories of birth parents, adopted children, and adoptive parents.

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

On October 24, 2008, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families issued ACYF-CB-PI-08-05, an Information Memorandum (IM) for State, Tribal and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, Indian Tribes and Indian Tribal Organizations. The IM is titled *NEW LEGISLATION - The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law (P.L.) 110-351)*. [Click here](#) to access the Memorandum.