

The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids

Training & Technical Assistance E-Notes
October, 2007

Recruitment Works/Retention Matters

The adequacy of foster parent reimbursement rates is the focus of a joint project of Children's Rights, Inc., the National Foster Parent Association and the University of Maryland School of Social Work. The effort included a survey, conducted by the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA), of state foster care reimbursement levels and the development of an economic model for basic care of foster children. The survey found wide variation among the states in both reimbursement levels and in the methods used to establish rates.

Released this week, the project report, *Hitting the M.A.R.C.: Establishing Foster Care Minimum Adequate Rates for Children* is available online at <http://www.childrensrights.org/pdfs/MARC/MARCSummaryReport.pdf>.

Inter-jurisdictional Placement Services

The Children's Bureau has issued an Information Memorandum (IM) addressing collaboration between Child Welfare and Child Support Enforcement Agencies.

ACYF-CB-IM-07-06 provides information to State Title IV-D and Title IV-B/IV-E agencies on three main issues:

1. Referrals by the Title IV-B/IV-E agencies to the IV-D agency (this includes determining what constitutes an "appropriate" referral and also defining the difference between requests for location services and full case referrals);
2. Applications for child support on behalf of children not receiving Title IV-E foster care payments; and
3. Electronic interfaces between the Title IV-D agency's state child support enforcement systems (CSES) and the Title IV-B/IV-E agency's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS).

The memorandum can be found at:

http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2007/im0706.htm.

Tips and Tools

Racial Disparity in Foster Care Admissions is the title of a new Chapin Hall report regarding placement rates in a cross section of urban and rural counties. Described as the first study to examine how racial disparity in foster care placement differs locally, it is based on case data from 1,034 counties contained in Chapin Hall's Multistate Foster Care Data Archive for the years 2000 to 2005. Key findings include:

- 1 The rate of disparity decreased somewhat between the years 2000 to 2005 because the placement rate for white children increased while the rate for black children declined. (In 2000, black children entered care at a rate 2.9 times higher than white children, and by 2005, that proportion had fallen to a rate of 2.3 times higher.)
- 1 African-American infants are nearly three times more likely than white infants to be

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Memo from Melody

Welcome to Fall! Here in Colorado, this is a beautiful time with sunny, blue-sky days and crisp, cool nights. Whatever the weather is in your part of the country, I am glad you are able to be with us as AdoptUsKids begins a new program year.

As you may have heard, the Children's Bureau has chosen the Adoption Exchange Association (AEA) and its collaborative partners to continue developing, managing and implementing the AdoptUsKids project for another five years. We are excited and gratified to be given the opportunity to continue this work. Thanks to all of you for your words of encouragement during the long wait and for your notes of congratulations and best wishes!

Looking ahead, the Children's Bureau along with the Ad Council and AdoptUsKids are in the final stages of planning for the launch of the new Spanish-language recruitment campaign. Stay tuned for more details to follow in the

placed in foster care.

- Placement disparities by race are lower in counties with high poverty rates and in those with larger proportions of African-Americans, of female-headed households and of adults with less than a high school education.
- Disparity increased for teens across all types of urban/rural settings.

The researchers conclude that the study begins to explain the overrepresentation of African-American children in the nation's foster care systems. The report was authored by Fred Wulczyn and Bridgette Lery and is available for download at http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1463.

T/TA Highlights

Juana Dano from Northwest Adoption Resource Exchange recently visited Florida to assist the State in updating the records of children served on the AdoptUsKids website. Juana and Kathy Waters, State Program Manager for Adoption, convened a series of telephone conference calls with the Community Based Care (CBC) agencies that now provide the State's services to children and families.

Since Florida has moved from a State-delivered adoption system to the CBC approach, one goal of the work was to assure that the data for children registered under the previous system was properly connected with the organization currently responsible for the child's care. In addition, the intensive focus was meant to assure that updated contact information was in place for each registered child so that inquiries will receive a timely and accurate response. In addition, the CBC staff had an opportunity to learn first-hand about AdoptUsKids and to receive on-the spot answers to questions regarding the listing process for children. Juana found the conference calls to be productive and is looking forward to continued collaboration on behalf of Florida's waiting children.

Recruitment and Retention Network

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services has published a handbook for adoptive families which guides parents through the entire adoption process from identifying a child to post-adoption services and maintaining connections. *How to Adopt a New York Waiting Child* can be accessed at:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub1128.pdf>.

This guide and several from other states have also been collected by the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and can be found as a group on the [NRC website by clicking here](#).

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

FYI

The new website of The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) can be visited at www.nicwa.org.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HR 2669) has been signed into law. The new law removes a barrier to adoption for adolescents by increasing access to federal financial aid for college. According to Voice for Adoption, a national advocacy organization, youth who are adopted after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid.

next couple of weeks.

Thanks for reading!

Melody Roe

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Contact Us

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