



National Association of State Foster Care Managers

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
AUGUST 3, 2009 ANNUAL MEETING
MARRIOTT CRYSTAL GATEWAY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

... Networking... Educating... Improving...

STATE SHARING SUMMARY

State ____ Rhode Island _____

(X) State Administered () County Administered

Foster Care Manager/Presenter ____Maureen Robbins_____

StatePopulation_1,050,788_____StateChildPopulation ____22.0%__ 231173_____

Total Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care as of 3/31/09 ____2657_____

(Note: this includes youth in our juvenile correctional facility as they are under DCYF care)

Congregate_910_____ Family Foster Care_1017 Relative Foster Care ____358_____

(as defined by your state)

Please check:

Does this number represent an:

- () increase
- () decrease
- (X) no significant change
since the last year

Number of Foster Homes that are Licensed/Approved in your State____993_____

Please check:

Does this number represent an:

- () increase
- () decrease
- (X) no significant change
since the last year

Please identify one or two innovative programs in your state. We are interested in initiatives that have proven to be successful or if not, the lessons you have learned. We look forward to hearing your presentation.

In February of 2008, the RI DCYF set up Permanency Support Teams in its four regions. The purpose of the teams was to support the work that was being done by the Family Service caseworkers and supervisors. The goal was to try and remove barriers to permanency. The teams have been well received by the direct service staff and their work has been quite successful. A formal description of the effort is below:

The Goal of the Permanency Support Division is for all youth to leave state care with positive, permanent adult connections and options for a successful future.

Goals

1) To improve timeliness to permanency, (reunification, guardianship and adoption,) and to develop a process for tracking permanency for each child placed in out of home care. The measurable outcomes could be tied into:

- improved timeliness of establishing the permanency goal,
- an increase in the percentage of kids moving to reunification within 12 months of entering care,
- adoption finalization within 24 months of last date of removal,
- increased percentage of guardianships/decrease APPLA with no identified adult.

This process would include permanency team meetings scheduled at routine intervals throughout the case.

2) To educate and support staff and resource families regarding the transition from foster parent to adoptive PARENT

3) To enhance the recruitment process for resource (visiting, foster and adopt) families

4) To enhance the matching process for foster and adoptive placements, more consultation with involved professionals

5) To encourage positive relationships, honest communication and provide education regarding open adoption agreements for DCYF staff and all families, (adoptive, bio, foster)

6) To enhance practice regarding older youth transition (Real Connections work)

7) To assist FSU by meeting with families to provide education regarding adoption assistance and to negotiate the subsidy contract

8) To provide pre/post adoption support, foster care support

9) To guide practice for DCYF staff, Community Providers and Families regarding permanency decision making/expectations during case travel

10) To enhance the visiting resource program

11) To enhance mentoring services and provide prevention services regarding placement disruption

12) To have a team presence in the regions; to support FSU staff by reviewing cases, tracking cases for permanency decisions, completing record mining to seek existing connections for a child and in preparation for full disclosure, and completing other work such as splitting records in RICHIST and Hard Copy

Permanency Support Unit

Unit Staff

Chief Casework Supervisor/State Foster Parent Administrator: **Maureen Robbins**
Chief Human Services Policy & Systems Specialist/State Adoption Administrator: **Diane Savage**
Senior Human Services Policy & Systems Specialist/State ICPC Administrator: **Kathy Letourneau**
Community Services Coordinator/Foster & Adoptive Parent Recruiter: **Robin Perez**
Senior Word Processing Typist/ Foster Parent Secretary: **Toni Harden**
Community Partners: Rhode Island Foster Parent Association – Real Connections, Casey Family Services, Northern Rhode Island Family Resources, Children’s Friend & Service, Adoption Rhode Island, The Children’s Museum

***Regional Teams* (each team will be comprised of public child welfare staff as well as community partners dedicated to promoting, developing and supporting a range of permanency outcomes for youth.)**

Region I

Margie DyBala, Clinical Training Specialist
Beverly Peservich, Social Caseworker II
Community Partners(Casey/ARI/CF&S/RIFPA/Children’s Museum)

Region II

Jennifer Uriati, Clinical Training Specialist
Diane Savage, Adoption Subsidy Coordinator
Community Partners(Casey/ARI/RIFPA)

Region III

Angela Iannotti, Clinical Training Specialist
Grace Gunnip, Social Caseworker II
Community Partners (ARI/RIFPA/Children’s Museum)

Region IV

Lori Geiselman, Clinical Training Specialist
Betsy Cambra, Social Caseworker II
Community Partners (ARI/RIFPA/FRNRI)