



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: South Dakota

(x) State Administered () County Administered

Foster Care Manager/Presenter: Stacy Nemec

State Population: (2007) 796,214 State Child Population: 196,890

Total Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care as of 3/31/09: 1267

Congregate: 342 Family Foster Care: 753 Relative Foster Care: 172
(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: 761

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.

Please bring 40 copies of your typed State Sharing Summary to the NASFCM Annual Meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTING FORM UTILIZED AS A TOOL IN THE PROCESS TO STABILITY AND PERMANENCY

After the 2001 review, SD developed a comprehensive monthly reporting form that initiates the sharing of information and identifies potential issues in the placement. This process has helped to ensure the safety of the child, monitor progress towards the permanent plan and address the well being of the child. Our process applies to kinship care, foster care and fost/adoptive care. This form is not looked at as just a monthly reporting form but more of a tool used in the process that helps to ensure the child's well being.

STEPS TO THE PROCESS:

1. The resource family must complete, sign and date the monthly reporting form and send it to the child's Family Services Specialist.
2. The Supervisor must review the form; discuss any issues with the Family Services Specialist who must make plans to visit the Resource Family
3. Within a month, the Family Services Specialist must schedule a visit with the Resource Family and the child.
4. During the monthly visit, the Family Services Specialist will talk with the Resource Family about issues and accomplishments identified on the most current form. The Family Services Specialist will then document discussions in each section.

The process has been beneficial in maintaining rapport and support with the resource family, identifying issues early on in the placement, maintaining stability, successful case planning, leading discussion in developing permanency plans and allowing for planning early on in the child's placement.

Results from the CFSR reviews have shown that there is a correlation between quality caseworker visits and placement stability, permanency and resource family support. If you would like to hear more on South Dakota's monthly reporting process Merlin Weyer of the South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services will be providing a more in depth discussion on Improving the Quality of Caseworker Visits (Wednesday 3:30 to 5:00 Breakout Session).