

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)
Department of Human Services

Adoption Assistance Manual Release

Previously, OCYF and the Department of Human Services have issued separate but related policies on adoption assistance eligibility determinations. OCYF has consolidated and replaced previous guidance into a cohesive Adoption Assistance (AA) Manual released on July 30, 2021 (OCYF Bulletin 3140-21-04). The AA Manual specifically replaced the special transmittal for the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008, the special transmittal for Act 80 of 2012 and Act 91 of 2012 (specifically the Act 80 policy on Adoption Assistance, now known as Act 14 of 2019), the special transmittal to the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 regarding the delay of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Delink for Applicable Child, the policy clarification for child eligibility regarding special needs, and the policy clarification regarding adoption assistance suspension.

A Message for Child Welfare Professionals that Support K-12 Students in Foster Care

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we cannot yet predict what the 2021-2022 school year will bring. To best support K-12 students in foster care through this academic year here are some reminders for child welfare professionals.

- Check-in often with students and their caregivers to monitor attendance, assess their needs and to support the students' social-emotional well-being and academic progress.
- Link students to available resources, programs, and activities to address academic loss and accelerate learning.
- Collaborate with school districts and community partners to ensure access to technology for students participating in remote learning.
- Consider the need for Best Interest Determinations or review of other education-related decisions made during the 2020-21 school year or earlier this school year. Keep any proposed changes child-centered and best-

interest focused.

- Collaborate with school districts to ensure transportation is coordinated.
- Consider establishing a regular means of communication among local school and child welfare staff to review student needs, academic progress, entry into foster care, and changes in foster care placement.

Trauma-Informed Workgroup

On July 30, 2019, Governor Wolf declared that Pennsylvania would become a trauma informed state. The process will be introduced over the next ten years and will occur in a phased approach. The four phases include: trauma aware, trauma sensitive, trauma informed, and healing centered.

Pennsylvania's process for becoming a trauma-informed state was created over a 4-month period and included work by a vast group of individuals with various areas of knowledge and expertise relating to a trauma-informed approach. The result of their work is a plan to guide the Commonwealth and licensed residential stakeholders to an understanding of what it means to be a "trauma informed and healing centered state."

Scientific studies have confirmed untreated trauma has negative and costly effects on a person's physical and mental health. It impacts their ability to learn and experience healthy relationships as well as their ability to reach their full potential. A Statewide Trauma Informed Leadership Team has been created to establish short and long-term goals to achieve the identified objective of becoming a state that not only rises to the current scientific standards but exceeds those standards and sets the bar for the rest of the nation. This team is tasked with assigning accountability and advancing recommendations to achieve the desired outcome.

The plan focuses on six key areas:

1. Ensuring that the culture in the state of Pennsylvania is trauma informed through universal training
2. Ensuring all state agencies' policies and practices are trauma informed and more focused on prevention and healing.

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3. Mandating that all licensed and funded entities become trauma informed.
4. Building and supporting grass roots / community-based efforts to become trauma informed in every part of the Commonwealth.
5. Recognizing and healing from the traumas of major crisis like COVID-19.
6. Preventing and healing racial, communal, and historical traumas, whether they be individual or systemic.

The first phase of this process includes to ensuring all Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) staff and licensed residential stakeholders become “trauma aware” by the conclusion of 2021. All licensed county and foster/adoption stakeholders will become “trauma aware” by the conclusion of 2022. OCYF staff and all licensed residential stakeholders will begin working together over the next year to identify providers who are currently providing “trauma aware” training and information to their staff, as well as what training, tools and resources are available to assist all OCYF staff and licensed stakeholders to become “trauma aware”. OCYF requested all licensed residential stakeholders take a brief survey to determine each agency and facilities current understanding of trauma informed care.

The most cost effective/free means of ensuring that all agencies and facilities become trauma aware are currently being explored.

OCYF staff has contacted licensed residential providers to obtain detailed information regarding any trauma related training that is currently being provided to agency staff. OCYF will also be reviewing the current trauma training practices to determine if an agency’s training and protocols meet the accepted trauma aware definition. For those licensed residential stakeholders who do not currently meet this criterion.

If you should have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to reach out to our designated resource account:

RA-PWOCYFTrauma@pa.gov

Thank you in advance for your commitment as we begin this process together. More information will be forthcoming.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Specialized Settings Least Restrictive Placement Statement: Specialized Settings were identified through the Family First Prevention Services Act as enhanced congregate care settings to meet the need of the identified populations of children at risk, or victims, of sex trafficking; pregnant and parenting youth; and youth transitioning to adulthood. While Pennsylvania has developed standards and certification processes for becoming

a specialized setting, that does not guarantee youth who may fit the any of the designated population will automatically be placed in those settings. The placement decision for a child who has been determined to need out-of-home care continues to be made at the county level (county agency and Juvenile Court). Family First does not impact the current practice that the placement setting identified for a child should be in the least restrictive setting that can meet the child’s safety needs and their identified treatment needs.

For an updated list of the providers who are pursuing a Specialized Setting Certification, please subscribe to receive PA Family First updates [here](#).

Strengthening Equity Workgroup

Nationally, the overrepresentation of black children in the child welfare system has been well documented across numerous research studies. Understanding the impact of racial disparity in the child welfare system requires recognition of the points at which bias can enter the system and how inequities at each point can impact the trajectory of children and families as they move through the system. Racial disparity can often be found at the very point where families often first come into contact with the child welfare system.

As part of the Department of Human Services’ racial equity initiative, the Office of Children, Youth and Families convened the Strengthening Equity Workgroup (SEW). SEW is represented by a diverse group of staff from across all bureaus within the program office. The purpose of the workgroup is to:

- Identify areas of child welfare service where changes in policy and/or practice can reduce racial disparities. This will be achieved by an intentional review of child welfare data and practices.
- Create meaningful change within the culture of OCYF by incorporating a racial equity lens in all OCYF initiatives and processes.
- Establish next phases for racial equity work.

Some of the key areas of focus proposed by the group include increasing culturally relevant prevention efforts, building partnerships and opportunities within the community, and increasing cultural competency for responding to crises. The workgroup will devote significant time to review of existing and new data to further conduct analysis of apparent inequities and further identify root causes.

This work will take place over a two-year period and will be accomplished as a phased approach. Future updates regarding this initiative will be provided as they are available.

Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Initiatives

The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law Permanency and Education Barriers Project is actively seeking new project or technical assistance counties. Please reach out if you would like to discuss the ways in which we may be of assistance.

- For more information on Permanency Barriers please see [here](#).
- For more information on Education Barriers please see [here](#).

County agencies interested in the Permanency Barriers Project or general technical assistance should contact Heidi Redlich Epstein at Heidi.epstein@americanbar.org.

County agencies interested in the Education Barriers to Permanency Project should contact Kathleen McNaught at Kathleen.mcnaught@americanbar.org.

Plans of Safe Care Grants

Thirty-five county child welfare agencies are participating in the first round of Plans of Safe Support grants. The grants are funded by federal CAPTA funds targeted specifically to support Plans of Safe Care. County child welfare agencies can use the funds to:

- Provide training and/or technical assistance to health care providers who are required to notify CCYAs of substance affected infants
- Create and disseminate information on Plans of Safe Care to families, private child welfare agencies, and community providers
- Develop and implement Plans of Safe Care data collection policies and practices
- Fill gaps in health and substance use disorder treatment to meet the needs of the infant and affected family or caregiver

Question can be directed to Michelle Walsh at michelewal@pa.gov.

Accurint

Accurint is an online search tool available to every county throughout the state. It is able to assist with family finding efforts, contact information, criminal checks and identifying individuals for any type of family engagement meeting. Please be aware that only county employees may be an Accurint Administrator for your county's account. If you or your staff would like training in the Accurint software, please contact Accurint Education Consultant Bill News at william.news@lexisnexisrisk.com or 215-285-7108. Additionally, you can look up trainings at National Training Calendar Courses. Click [here](#) for our

training calendar

If you have any questions about Accurint, please contact W. Donald Dickinson at wildickins@pa.gov or 717-787-2726.

Chafee Education and Training Grant Programs

The Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG) application and instructions for the 2021 – 2022 academic year can be found [here](#).

All current ETG award recipients will be automatically enrolled for the next academic year and do not need to complete another ETG application. The ETG award amount cannot exceed the students cost of attendance.

Please contact the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency at 1-800-831-0797 with questions about current Chafee applications or a youth's status. If youth have questions regarding the ETG program, contact Teresa Musser at temusser@pa.gov or at 717-214-7385.

Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program

The Fostering Independence through Education Program, known as FosterED, began with the fall semester of 2020. FosterED program requires Pennsylvania postsecondary institutions to award a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees for Pennsylvania resident youth who meet Chafee ETG eligibility requirements and have applied for all available federal and state grants. Tuition and mandatory fee waivers apply to both public (state) colleges and universities, community colleges, private post-secondary institutions, and other eligible schools. Youth are eligible to receive the waivers for five years, which need not be consecutive, or until age 26.

In addition to the waivers, each post-secondary institution must appoint a Point of Contact (POC) to assist youth with eligibility, technical assistance, and other resources that may be available to them on and off campus. County and private provider IL Caseworkers/Coordinators may be contacted by the POC to verify a youth's eligibility. This is a critical step in assisting youth with verifying their eligibility when entering post-secondary education and financial aid packages being awarded.

Each post-secondary education institution is required to have their identified POC listed on their website. A list of PCOs can be found on the Center for Schools and Communities [website](#).

Additional information about the tuition waiver can be found at PHEAA.org/FosterEd.

Questions related to the FosterED program can be directed to Teresa Musser at temusser@pa.gov.

National Youth in Transition Database

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) collects information in the following areas: Baseline Population (every youth in foster care who reaches age 17), Served Population (*any youth or young adult receiving independent living services regardless of age*) and Follow-up Population (youth surveys at age 19 and 21 depending on Cohort period). Pennsylvania is currently in Cohort 4 for Follow-up Surveys for 19-year-old youth as of October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 (2022A.) Counties have until April 15, 2022 to submit their follow-up surveys as well as served population data. Counties can log onto www.getnytdpa.org to enter their served and survey data. NYTD questions can be directed to Teresa Musser, Office of Children, Youth and Families, at temusser@pa.gov or at 717-214-7385.

If you have any problems with password reset, or you don't remember what your username is (or have any other technical assistance questions related to NYTD), please contact the NYTD Help Desk at 1-800-436-4105 or getnytd@pcgus.com.

Pennsylvania KinConnector Program

The PA KinConnector Program offers kinship families and professionals who work with kinship families support, guidance, and resources. Kinship families you work with can be referred to the Kinconnector website at, www.kinconnector.org or their helpline at 866-546-2111 for additional support and assistance.

The web site includes a comprehensive, guided search feature of resources in the following topic areas: childcare, clothing, financial assistance, food, legal, medical, school, and support groups. Also available on the website is training opportunities for both professionals and kinship families, resources that agencies can print out and make available to kinship families, a kinship blog section, a podcast series called "Kindred Voices," and a newly established virtual Support Group called "Kindred Spirits."

OCYF encourages all county and provider agencies to outreach to the KinConnector program to learn more about the services they offer, to provide new resource information to be included on the website, and to form partnerships that could help inform how this program can grow. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Carrie Keiser at OCYF at ckeiser@pa.gov or 717-705-4401.

Credit Reports

Did you know that every Credit Bureau has a specific contact person and process to ensure foster care youth credit history checks are completed appropriately? If you are unsure of this

information, have questions regarding credit report history of foster care youth or are having issues obtaining a credit history from one of the Credit Bureau's, please contact W. Donald Dickinson at wildickins@pa.gov or 717-787-2726 for assistance.

Mandated Reporter Training

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) is continuing to offer virtual Mandated Reporter Training at no cost to mandated reporters in Pennsylvania. This includes a new training entitled "Reporting Requirements for Children Served in Residential Care Facilities"

This three-hour virtual training is approved by the Departments of Human Services, Education, and State and meets all requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse (to include Act 126 for school employees). It is also approved for continuing education credits under Act 31 (Department of State for health-related licenses) and Act 48 (Department of Education for teachers) at no cost. PFSA will submit your training verification to the Department of State or Education as appropriate on your behalf (details provided during training). Additional information and training dates can be found at [Mandated Reporter Training | Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance \(pafsa.org\)](http://MandatedReporterTraining|PennsylvaniaFamilySupportAlliance(pafsa.org)).

For questions or to schedule a session specifically for your organization, please email PFSA at training@pa-fsa.org.

If you are in the medical profession and wish to schedule training with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for the Educating Physicians in their Communities-Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (EPIC-SCAN), contact AAP at scan@paaap.org or at 866-823-7226.

Media

SWAN's #MeetTheKids media campaign will air on network and cable television in all six media markets in Pennsylvania during the months of May, June, November and December 2021. Radio advertisements will also air during these months. In addition to tv and radio, the media campaign includes online media ads on Google, Hulu, Facebook, Instagram and Cumulus that will run from April 26 – December 31, 2021.

While this media campaign airs, agencies should be prepared to promptly respond to phone calls from prospective foster and adoptive families.

Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association (PSRFA)

PSRFA began as a small group in 1974. Since then, they have grown to support children and families involved with foster care, adoption, and kinship

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care along with local foster parent associations and agencies who care for the children they serve throughout the state. PSRFA are supporters for legislation and advocacy for family resource care and provides training and education for those seeking guidance. They are a fantastic resource for children and families in these scenarios.

You can learn more about the PSRFA at psrfa.org. If you have any further questions you can contact PSRFA Office at 1-800-951-5151 or email dkinard@psrfa.org or klramper@psrfa.org.

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Waiting Child Segments

SWAN's media contractor funds three waiting child segments across the state designed to find adoptive families for older youth in need of families. *Waiting Child* is aired on KDKA-TV, channel 2, a Pittsburgh CBS affiliate; *Val's Kids* is aired on abc27 WHTM in the Harrisburg area; and *A Little Love* is aired on WBRE-TV, channel 28, a Wilkes-Barre NBC affiliate. Waiting child segments have proven to be successful over the years in helping find permanent homes for the children of PA. Contracts will be in place from April 26 – December 31, 2021.

If you have a child you would like featured on KDKA's Waiting Child, please contact Ja-Neen Jones at Three Rivers Adoption Council at jjones@3riversadopt.org or Nikita Lewis at nlewis@diakon-swan.org.

If you have a waiting child you would like featured on WHTM's Val's Kids, please contact Alfredo Gonzalez at algonzalez@diakon-swan.org.

If you have a waiting child you would like featured on WBRE's A Little Love, please contact Crissy Crawford at ccrawford@diakon-swan.org.

SWAN/IL Google Groups

There are over 700 members of the SWAN/IL ListServ through Google Groups. This is a great way to share confidential information across the network to seek colleague's advice and announce

upcoming events. Anyone wishing to join the group must be an employee of a county children and youth agency, SWAN affiliate agency or IL provider. If interested, please contact Bobbi Whary by email at bwhary@diakon-swan.org or 717-558-1223.

Interstate Compact Unit

The PA Interstate Unit will continue teleworking and will not have the ability to process USPS, FedEx, or UPS "paper mail". When providing any case documents to the Interstate Unit, please use the unit's Resource Accounts, fax, or the Interstate/County DocuShare collection. Case documents include request packets, completed ICPC home studies, 100Bs, supervisory reports, ICAMA documents, etc.

RA-PA-ICPC@pa.gov for ICPC cases

RA-PA-ICAMA@pa.gov for ICAMA cases

Fax: 717-425-5562

As always in a runaway situation, continue to email both Amanda Behe at abehe@pa.gov and Natalie Primak at nprimak@pa.gov directly.

ChildLine – 1-800-932-0313

ChildLine is the child abuse reporting hotline for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Trained specialists are available 24/7 to receive referrals of suspected child abuse and general child well-being concerns. Mandated reporters are individuals who are legally required to report suspected child abuse if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect. Each report is handled by a trained specialist who determines the most appropriate course of action forwarding the report to:

- County children and youth agencies or the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) Regional Offices for investigation or assessment
- Law enforcement officials for investigation
- Department of Human Services program office for review and possible licensing action

When making a report of suspected child abuse or general child well-being concerns, it is important to provide as much information as possible. Please see above for a general idea of what information you will be asked when making a report. As a foster, adoptive parent, or a provider there is specific information that will be requested of you to ensure proper assignment of the report to an investigating agency:

- Include the name of who or what entity has/had custody of the child at the time the report

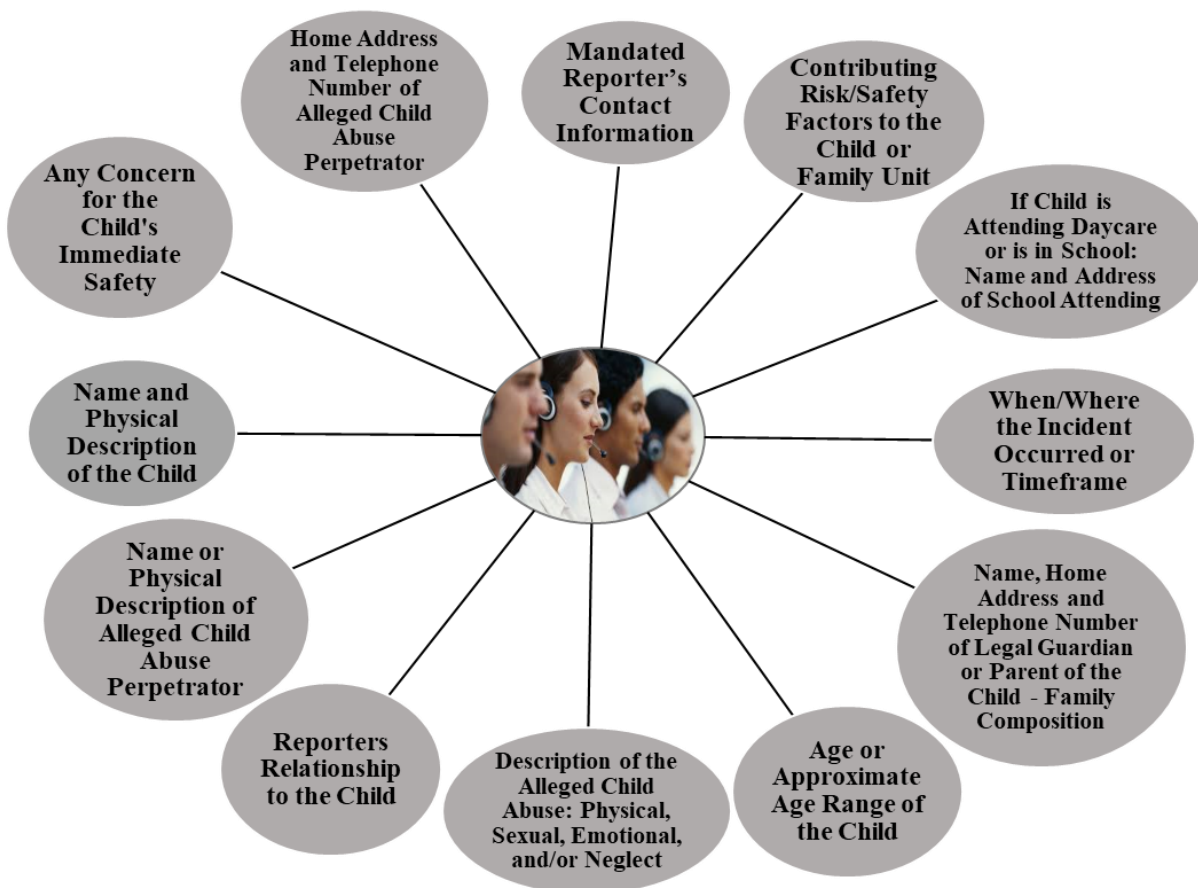
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and/or at the time of incident

- Include the address of who or what entity has/had custody of the child at the time of the report and/or the time of incident

Please remember, if you do not have all the information listed above, it should not prevent you from making a report of concerns for a child in need. ChildLine staff take all information and are trained to lead you through the process.

ChildLine staff thank you for all your dedication and amazing work you do for children and families of the Commonwealth!



Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)

P.O. Box 2675
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From the SWAN Prime Contract
Diakon-SWAN, LLC/Voce

Search, Search, and Search!

Coming this fall, the SWAN prime contractor will be releasing the 8th edition of the *2021 SWAN LSI Diligent Search (DS) Packet*.

A diligent search is a comprehensive process conducted to locate parents, relatives or other potential permanency resources or connections for a child receiving services from or in the custody of a child welfare agency. The *DS Packet* was created to provide tools and tips to searchers to aid in this process and to ensure agencies comply with current laws related to diligent search and family finding.

With each new edition, the SWAN LSI DS Committee reviews the order of information included in the packet. This extensive review process provides the searcher with the most effective resources available, arranged in an order that streamlines the search process to comply with individualized timelines. A checklist is included to guide the search process and later support documentation requirements for court.

SWAN strives to help Pennsylvania comply with national guidelines for search efforts. Stay tuned for the *SWAN Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Search Guide* to be released via the [SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#).

Visit the SWAN LSI Diligent Search page on [diakon-swan.org](#) or access the [SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#) to download and print the new edition this fall. Questions about diligent search or ICWA searches can be sent to the SWAN LSI Warmline (Isiwarmline@diakon-swan.org).

SWAN Portal 3.0

Progress on the SWAN Portal version 3.0 continues! Early this summer, several affiliate and county portal users had the opportunity to test a small piece of the upgraded system. Much work is still underway as we currently work to build the child dashboard and corresponding functionality. In the coming months, users will have a second opportunity to test the new features of the SWAN Portal. Stay tuned as we will reach out to agencies with more information when the system is available to test.

SWAN Post-permanency Benchmarks Updated

The SWAN Post-permanency Units of Service now have updated benchmarks. These benchmarks now have buckets for tracking activities, which brings them in line with the other SWAN Units of Service. The prime contract began rolling out new forms starting at trainings that took place in August,

September and October. Links to the forms will be found on the SWAN Portal and the [SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#). If you have any questions regarding the benchmarks, please contact your SWAN regional technical assistant.

SWAN Legal Services Initiative (SWAN LSI) Activities Increase to Pre-Pandemic Levels

SWAN LSI continues to address barriers within the legal process and focus on ways to expedite permanency for children in Pennsylvania. SWAN LSI paralegals impact the cases of children at all stages of their permanency journey. They work steadfastly with county children and youth agencies to provide diligent search services throughout a child's case. When reunification is not an option, SWAN LSI paralegals assist with both terminations of parental rights (TPRs) and adoption finalizations. While each child's goals and journey to permanency is different, diligent search and completion of legal documents are crucial to achieving permanency.

SWAN LSI has seen activity levels return to pre-pandemic levels, following a pandemic-related initial reduction in activity levels. During the 4th quarter of 2020-2021 (April – June 2021), SWAN LSI paralegals conducted 5,144 diligent search activities on behalf of 3,290 children. Additionally, SWAN LSI paralegals prepared 8,881 legal documents for juvenile court proceedings including but not limited to dependency, permanency review, modification of placement, and termination of court supervision.

In the same time period, SWAN LSI paralegals assisted with the TPR paperwork for 913 children and youth. This included documents for both voluntary and involuntary TPR petitions and related documents. Additionally, SWAN LSI paralegals provided support to the finalization process for 210 children and youth in counties across Pennsylvania.

The SWAN Legal Service Initiative greatly appreciates the opportunity to work in partnership with county agencies to expedite permanency for Pennsylvania's children, and we look forward to continuing these efforts.

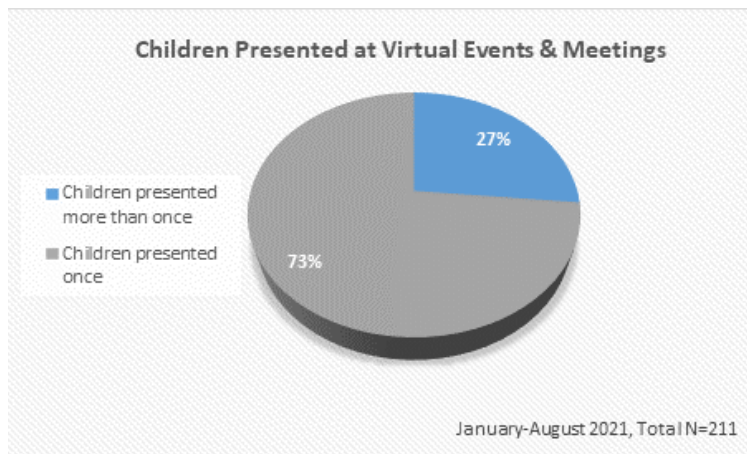
Pivoting to Virtual Matching Events (Part 3)

Virtual matching events have proven a viable recruitment tool for children and families. In fiscal year 2020-2021, 15 virtual events occurred across the Commonwealth where 155 families and 20 youth attended. At these events, workers presented approximately 150 children and 70 families for the purposes of matching for permanency.

In addition to virtual matching events, the network has been hosting other virtual meetings such as regional coalitions and recruiters' forums to help

promote permanency for waiting children and families. From January through August of 2021, workers presented 211 children at different virtual events and meetings!

We encourage the network to continue collaborating with other agencies while planning matching events and to continue hosting virtual meetings for recruitment opportunities. Keep up the great work everyone!



Feature PAE-Registered Children on the SWAN Facebook Page

The [SWAN Facebook page](#) is a great recruitment tool for children in need of permanency. The page, which is managed by the Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF), features pictures and narratives of Pennsylvania children in need of permanency.

To be featured on the page, children must be "active" with PAE, have a current narrative and a high quality, identifying photo, and parental rights terminated.

If a child for whom you are recruiting meets these criteria, please contact the assigned PAE coordinator. PAE will then share this information with OCYF who will post the youth to the Facebook page. Generally, one child is posted each week. The PAE coordinator will notify you via email if the child is posted on the SWAN Facebook page. (In the CSR benchmark, this recruitment strategy is listed as "SWAN Facebook Spotlight.") Recruiters and families are encouraged to view, like, and share posts from the SWAN Facebook page.

Profiling SWAN Permanency Award Honorees

The SWAN Writers' Group has been reaching out to the 2021 SWAN Permanency Award honorees to feature their stories on [diakon-swan.org](#). We hope to feature as many stories as we can to highlight

the work and lives of the wonderful families and professionals who have made a difference across Pennsylvania. You can keep up with these stories by checking the "News" tab on [diakon-swan.org](#).

SWAN Connect

SWAN Connect is a free service where approved families who would like to learn more about a waiting child first contact the SWAN Helpline to potentially receive more detailed information about a child who is posted to [adoptpakids.org](#). SWAN Connect protocols are followed as closely as possible for out-of-state families inquiring about Pennsylvania children. PAE and the SWAN Helpline work together with county children and youth agencies and affiliate agencies to bridge the gap between waiting children and waiting approved adoptive families.

The following is the SWAN Connect process:

1. Only approved, active* adoptive families call the SWAN Helpline to ask about any child listed on [adoptpakids.org](#) or [adoptuskids.org](#).
2. The approved adoptive family is given additional information about the child that is not on the website.
3. PAE coordinators work directly with the child's caseworker to get additional details about the child that are not available on their CY130 form.
4. Helpline reviews the additional information about the child with the approved adoptive family.
5. If a family remains interested in a particular child after being given the additional information, a SWAN Connect inquiry email will notify the child's worker of the family's interest.

**Active family status refers to families who are not on hold and who are available for matching on their CY131 form.*

SWAN Helpline: Family Support Throughout the Permanency Process

SWAN provides direct information and referral services to families through the SWAN Helpline. From getting started, to matching with children, to post-permanency supports, the SWAN Helpline assists families interested in fostering or adopting through every stage of the process.

The SWAN Helpline assists families that are beginning to explore fostering and adoption by clarifying the process, providing information and resources, and making referrals to foster care and adoption agencies. Once a family is approved for adoption, the SWAN Helpline facilitates information

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about waiting children through a free, collaborative process called SWAN Connect. SWAN Connect bridges the gaps between approved adoptive families and professionals working towards permanency for Pennsylvania's children. Once a family adopts a child or takes PLC (Permanent Legal Custody) or formal kinship, the family can initiate SWAN Post-permanency services via the SWAN Helpline.

Families can call the toll-free number (1-800-585-SWAN) anytime Monday to Friday (8:30am to 4:40pm), and a technical specialist will help them through their question or concerns.

Revised Child Preparation Templates Released

The prime contract is pleased to announce the approval and release of revised *Child Preparation templates*, *Child Profile Addendum Protocol* and *Family Profile Addendum Protocol*.

The completed *Child Preparation templates* reflect the input from the network, such as combining the Initial Contact Form and the Child Preparation Plan to make one document and merging the Final Summary Report with the Meeting Activity Summary Report. Additionally, there are now Child Preparation Plan and Report Guidelines.

The *Child Profile Addendum Protocol* and *Family Profile Addendum Protocol* have been revised to reflect the guidelines within the SWAN Benchmarks for these units of service. Please take time to review the revised documents and be on the lookout for upcoming training dates focused on these two protocols.

All three of these documents are now available in the [SWAN Permanency Toolkit](#). They are linked in the Benchmarks.

SWAN Prime Contract

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www.adoptpakids.org



**From the PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)
Independent Living (IL) Project**
University of Pittsburgh

IL Networking Sessions

IL networking sessions are offered across the state in all regions to support both new and seasoned IL staff in working with older youth. The meetings are driven by staff learning needs and include opportunities to share information, bring in relevant presenters and brainstorm with other staff how to address issues you are experiencing or may need additional support in. If you are interested in connecting with your regional IL networking group, please contact Meghan O'Hare meo43@pitt.edu.

Older Youth Training and Resources

There are several sources of information related to older youth maintained by the Child Welfare Resource Center. These include:

- PA Youth Advisory Board [website](#) which includes information for youth and staff
- PA Child Welfare Resource Center [website](#), which includes [webinars](#) specific to older youth
- PA Youth Advisory Board [Facebook page](#)

SAT Waivers

Fee waivers for both the SAT Reasoning test and the SAT Subject test are available for *current high school students* who cannot afford to pay the test fees. Please be sure to indicate on the SAT Waiver Request Form which test your youth wishes to take. SAT Waivers are available for students who are *currently* in high school. If a youth already graduated or did not graduate, but received their GED, the College Board will not accept the fee waiver. There are also a limited number of college application fee waivers. Eligible students can receive a total of four SAT fee waivers during their academic career – two for the SAT Reasoning Test and two for the SAT Subject Tests.

Fee waivers for the SAT Reasoning Test are available for *juniors and seniors only*. Fee waivers for the SAT Subject Test are available for *freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior years*. A fee waiver can cover as many as three Subject tests on one test day. Students who are not yet in ninth grade may not use the subject test fee waivers. If you need to obtain either waiver, please contact Frank Revesz frevesz@pitt.edu at the Child Welfare Resource Center. To learn more about SAT test-day requirements and general SAT questions, please visit <http://www.sat.org/test-day>.

PA Youth Advisory Board

Over the last year, the Youth Advisory Board identified a need for resources to be available to youth whose first language is not English. The Know Your Rights Manual is in the final stages of being translated into Spanish and will be available soon. Currently, The Top 10 Tips and the Youth Questionnaire (products developed by YAB), are available in Spanish on the YAB website.

The Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board is proud to announce that the “Learning About Foster Care” coloring book is in its final stages of formatting and set to print very soon. This particular coloring book is designed for young children in care ages 5-7. It outlines the Youth Bill of Rights in an easy to understand and interactive way. Make sure you stay tuned in, so you know when you’ll have access to this valuable resource.

PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)

403 E. Winding Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-795-9048
www.payab.pitt.edu

Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) Program

Designed to recruit and prepare students for a career in public child welfare, the CWEB program administered by the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work’s Child Welfare Education and Research Programs is open to undergraduates at 15 schools of social work throughout Pennsylvania. Undergraduate students who are official social work majors in any of the 15 approved schools are eligible to apply for the CWEB program. Qualified students can receive substantial financial support during their senior year in return for a commitment to work in one of Pennsylvania’s county public child welfare agencies following graduation. Students must satisfactorily complete child welfare course work and an internship at a public child welfare agency. During the internship, students complete a substantial portion of the foundational training required for all public child welfare caseworkers and gain exposure to a variety of social service systems. Upon graduation, students receive assistance with their employment search.

Currently, there are 40 CWEB students completing internships in 15 Pennsylvania Counties. Over 1,250 students have graduated from CWEB during the program’s first 20 years. CWEB graduates have completed internships and obtained employment in 93% of Pennsylvania’s counties. County child welfare agencies benefit from the CWEB program as it addresses critical child welfare workforce needs by providing skilled, entry-level social workers who come to the field with a combination of academic knowledge and exposure to child welfare practice.

More information about the CWEB program can be found [here](#). Contact Laura Borish at lbb14@pitt.edu or 412-334-9122 for questions related to the CWEB program.