

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Training and Technical Assistance Network

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Children's Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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The National Resource Center listed below is co-sponsored by the Children's Bureau and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare 10

www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov

Works to develop knowledge and provide technical assistance to Federal, State, and local agencies and Tribes to improve outcomes for families with substance use disorders in the child welfare and family court systems.

The following two National Resource Centers were established to support statutorily mandated programs and provide services primarily to grantees.

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aia.berkeley.edu

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National Resource Center for Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs..... 12

www.friendsnrc.org

Offers knowledge and expertise in the implementation of family support strategies in a variety of settings and for many purposes. Provides CFSR assistance, including building networks, collecting data, and promoting stakeholder involvement.

Introduction

This booklet summarizes information on National Resource Centers (NRCs) funded by the Children's Bureau, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Each NRC provides onsite training and technical assistance to States, Tribes, and public child welfare agencies in the preparation and implementation of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. This booklet is designed to communicate to States the focus of each NRC and the training and technical assistance each provides.

State and Tribal requests for training and technical assistance are made to Regional ACF offices. For a listing of Regional ACF offices and the States they serve, visit the ACF Web site at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/oro/contacts/regions.htm.

A PDF version of this booklet is available on the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information Web site at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/reslist/cbttan/index.cfm>.

National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice

WHO WE ARE

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice works with State and Tribal child welfare staff to promote family-centered practices that support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children while meeting the needs of their families. The Center helps States implement strategies to expand knowledge, increase competencies, and change attitudes of staff at all levels, with the goal of infusing family-centered principles and practices in their work with children and families who enter the child welfare system.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The Center offers training and technical assistance to States throughout all stages of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), including preparation of the Statewide Assessment and the Onsite Review, and development and implementation of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Sample areas of technical assistance include:

“Kicking Off” the CFSR

The Center helps States prepare for the CFSR process.

Analyzing Family-Centered Practice Opportunities

Staff can review the Statewide Assessment, final report, and PIP to identify recurring family-centered practice themes and propose strategies to address issues of nonconformity.

Developing Community Stakeholder Workgroups

The Center can help States develop community stakeholder workgroups that can be used to prepare for the CFSR and the Onsite Review, and to develop and monitor the PIP.

Improving the Case Planning/Case Management Process

Staff provide technical assistance to State child welfare agencies to assess, improve, and complement their current casework practices. Specific technical assistance topics include:

- ✓ Making frontline practice family-centered at all stages (intake; screening; risk, safety, and family assessment; service planning and implementation; reunification; closure; post-adoption services and supports).
- ✓ Analyzing workloads.
- ✓ Involving all family members, especially fathers.

- ✓ Assessing the representation of minority children in the system.
- ✓ Decreasing repeat maltreatment.

Integrating the CFSR with Regulations and Standards

The Center can help with cross-referencing the many legal mandates, regulations, and standards impacting State systems.

Expanding the Array of Services

Center staff help States assess current services and develop a plan to expand and improve the quality of services.

Evaluating Family Strengthening Policies and Practices of Private Provider Agencies

Staff can assist State-contracted agencies in conducting a self-assessment of family-strengthening policies and practices at all levels of the organization, and in developing a PIP.

Building Collaborations with Other Service Providers

The Center provides training and technical assistance to help States create productive partnerships with different agencies serving children and families in the child welfare system.

Developing Family Group Conferencing

Staff can help develop family group conference models that respond to particular States' needs.

Moving Toward Differential Response

The Center assists States in moving toward the practice of differential responses to families according to risk and need.

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Contact: Elena Cohen, Director

National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement

WHO WE ARE

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement strengthens and supports State and Tribal agencies committed to the welfare of children, youth, and families through training, technical assistance, and evaluation. The aim is to improve management and operations, bolster organizational capacity, promote service integration, and develop supervisory and management systems, resulting in improved outcomes for children and families.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The Center offers technical assistance, training, and publications to assist States with the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), in the areas of:

Strategic Planning

The Center can help States with all aspects of strategic planning, including:

- ✓ Assessing community needs and resources.
- ✓ Developing, implementing, and monitoring comprehensive strategic plans.
- ✓ CAPTA planning and oversight.
- ✓ Integrating strategic plans.
- ✓ Developing annual progress and services reports.
- ✓ Developing Statewide Assessments and Program Improvement Plans (PIPs) for the CFSR.

Evaluating Outcomes

Center staff can assist States with developing targeted performance outcomes and integrating the use of outcome data and data-driven decision-making at all agency levels.

Facilitating Collaboration

The Center helps States develop collaborative strategies and involve stakeholder agencies in the CFSR process, particularly in the areas of domestic violence and substance abuse services, court and legal systems, and community programs. Staff can also help engage stakeholders in the CFSR process and improve coordination with State and Tribal child welfare agencies and other Federal agencies.

Implementing Quality Assurance

The Center has experience developing quality assurance systems to monitor performance for both child welfare agencies and courts. Staff can help train administrators on how to develop and implement such systems and how to integrate CFSR requirements into quality assurance systems.

Structuring Public-Private Partnerships

The Center helps States develop performance-based contracting systems that maximize the impact of funding. Training for administrators includes how to plan, design, and manage performance-based contracts and how to develop rate systems.

Teleconferences and Publications

The Center offers a number of teleconference sessions and publications that can help States with organizational improvement and the CFSR process, including:

Teleconference Sessions

- ✓ Program Improvement Planning: An Overview.
- ✓ The Role of Citizen Review Panels.
- ✓ A Framework for Quality Assurance.
- ✓ Substance Abuse and Child Welfare.
- ✓ Involving Your Court and Legal System in the Review Process.
- ✓ Creating Innovative Partnerships to Drive Resource Development.

Print and Web Publications

- ✓ Implementing Concurrent Planning: A Handbook for Child Welfare Administrators.
- ✓ A Framework for Quality Assurance in Child Welfare.
- ✓ Financing Strategies to Support Comprehensive Community-Based Services for Children and Families.

Newsletters

- ✓ New Domestic Violence Guidelines for Public Child Welfare Agencies.
- ✓ Using Information Management to Support the Goals of Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being.
- ✓ Supervisors as Managers: Understanding and Using Outcome Data.
- ✓ Managing Care—New Child and Family Services Reviews.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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E-Mail: clearing@usm.maine.edu
Web site: www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids
Contact: Kris Sahonchik, Director

National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues

WHO WE ARE

The National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues (RCLJI) provides expertise to State and Tribal agencies and courts on legal and judicial aspects of child welfare. The Resource Center is dedicated to achieving safety, permanence and well-being for abused and neglected children through improved laws and judicial decision-making. Areas of focus include: permanency decision-making, adherence to ASFA and other federal laws, the court's role in the CFSR and child welfare reform, high quality legal representation for all parties, judicial and attorney workloads, the impact of ASFA on youth in the juvenile justice system, education needs of children in foster care, legal ethics, and the interplay of domestic violence and child welfare

HOW WE CAN HELP

RCLJI offers States the following assistance with their Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR):

Collecting and Analyzing Data

RCLJI can help coordinate focus groups as a method of collecting data from judges, lawyers, and other stakeholders for the CFSR. Staff can also help analyze data the State is collecting to determine how effectively the courts are achieving safety, permanence, and well-being for children.

Legal and Judicial Issue Analysis

RCLJI staff can help by reviewing CFSR Statewide Assessments, final reports, and Program Improvement Plans (PIPs); identifying legal barriers to best practice; and recommending strategies to overcome barriers. RCLJI can also meet with the agency and/or court to help pinpoint underlying factors of legal system issues.

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

The courts need to feel they are part of the child welfare system, and the agency needs to be able to approach and work with the courts. RCLJI can assist in making these connections and fostering a team attitude. Staff can help States identify and engage all the most appropriate legal system participants—including representatives of the Court Improvement Project—and help ensure they will stay involved throughout the process, from Statewide Assessment through implementation of the PIP.

Action Planning

In coordination with the National Resource Center on Organizational Improvement, RCLJI staff can meet with the agency and/or court to help develop specific, realistic strategies to address issues identified in the final report,

such as case planning and quality assurance. This can happen before or after the creation of the PIP.

PIP Implementation

The Resource Center offers training and technical assistance tailored to your needs as determined by the PIP. Examples include:

- ✓ Improving legal representation of the agency and other parties.
- ✓ Improving the timeliness of judicial decision-making.
- ✓ Developing judicial performance measurement and quality assurance.
- ✓ ASFA nuts and bolts implementation for judges
- ✓ Analysis of State statutes and court rules
- ✓ Analysis of judicial and attorney workloads with strategies for improvement.

Other Training and Technical Assistance

The Center has new workshops that may be helpful to States and Tribes in the CFSR process, including:

- ✓ *Best Practices to Implement ASFA: Creative Strategies for Permanence.*
- ✓ *Making it Permanent: Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plans for Children in Foster Care.*
- ✓ *Meeting Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care.*

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Fax: (202) 662-1755
E-Mail: mark.hardin@staff.abanet.org
Web site: www.abanet.org/child/rcjji
Contact: Mark Hardin, Director
Mimi Laver for TA requests
(202) 662-1736
laverm@staff.abanet.org

National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment

WHO WE ARE

The National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment provides expert consultation, technical assistance, training, and knowledge assimilation and development activities in the area of child protective services (CPS). The Center helps States, Tribes, and local CPS agencies build their capacity to respond effectively to maltreated children and their families.

The Center's objectives are to identify, develop, and promote the application of effective practice strategies and models; to identify and facilitate essential connections that promote a coordinated response to child maltreatment; and to bolster the capabilities of managers, supervisors, and caseworkers.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The Center can provide States participating in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process with technical assistance, consultation, and training in the areas of CPS, permanency attainment, and well-being for children and their families. By using a collaborative, solution-oriented approach, the Center helps States link policies and practices to outcome achievement. The Center's particular emphasis is on the following safety outcomes:

- ✓ Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.
- ✓ Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

The Center can be particularly helpful to States at various points throughout the CFSR process, including self-assessment, development of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP), PIP implementation, and during activities associated with post-PIP monitoring and quality assurance. Assistance may include:

Analyzing Data

The Center can help States analyze outcome data and systemic factors related to child protection.

Evaluating Programs

The Center helps States design and support case readings, organizational culture inventories, and stakeholder relationship assessments. Center staff can also help States evaluate current CPS training programs, including their linkages to preferred outcomes, agency partners, and other programs working with maltreated children and their families.

Finally, the Center can help States conduct focused studies on those areas where compliance is an identified issue to determine causes and contributing factors. Staff can assist States with examining the relationship of

safety and recidivism measures to statutes, policies, procedures, management, supervision, and case practice.

Strengthening Programs to Improve Outcomes

The Center staff has the expertise and experience to help States achieve safety outcomes by strengthening their strategies, approaches, and responses to the following data and performance indicators:

- ✓ Timeliness of initiating investigations on reports of child maltreatment.
- ✓ Recurrence of maltreatment.
- ✓ Incidence of child abuse and neglect in foster care.
- ✓ Services to families to protect children in their homes and to prevent removal.
- ✓ Risk of harm to children.

The Center can help States identify and implement program improvement strategies at intake, investigation, assessment, case disposition, and case planning. Staff can also assist with designing safety, risk, and family assessments and family reunification protocols for improved decision-making and outcome achievement.

Training and Technical Assistance

The Center provides consultation and technical assistance focused on those particular systemic factors that influence outcome achievement. The Center collaborates with other technical assistance providers to promote an integrated, coordinated, and efficient consultation and technical assistance network.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Contact: Barry Salovitz, Director
Reed Holder, TA Coordinator

National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning

WHO WE ARE

The National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning focuses on increasing the capacity and resources of State, Tribal, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies to achieve permanency for youth and children in out-of-home care. In particular, the Center helps States and Tribes respond to policy and systemic changes in child welfare brought about by implementation of the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Safe and Stable Families Act, the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act, the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. These changes encompass such issues as:

- ✓ Concurrent permanency planning.
- ✓ Recruitment and retention of resource families.
- ✓ Post-permanency services.
- ✓ Respite care.
- ✓ Maintaining family connections.
- ✓ Sibling issues.
- ✓ Appropriate child assessments.
- ✓ Engaging fathers.
- ✓ Diligent search for paternal resources.
- ✓ Placement stability.
- ✓ Family group conferencing.
- ✓ Kinship care as a permanency option.
- ✓ Youth permanency.
- ✓ Health and mental health care issues for children in foster care.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The Center is specifically focused on assisting States in response to the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process by providing technical assistance, training, and information services in the area of permanency. Staff can help by:

Addressing the Continuum of Excellence in Child Welfare Practice

The Center works to help States and jurisdictions look critically at their systems and make systemic changes that will achieve better outcomes for children, youth, and families. To do this, the Center supports States in a mix of family centered and strengths/needs based approaches, community-based service delivery, cultural competency and respect for all families, open and inclusive practice, nonadversarial approaches to problem-solving and decision-making, and a major focus on concurrent rather than sequential consideration of all permanency options. The Center has posted a concurrent planning curriculum on its Web site in English and Spanish.

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

The Center has experience bringing administrators, supervisors, front-line workers, and community stakeholders together with integrity and authority, guiding them through the process of conducting a needs and resources assessment, developing and implementing a plan, and evaluating its outcomes. In addition, Center staff have experience working with the court system to ensure that court reports and documents reflect true concurrent planning.

Building Capacity

When working with a State, the Center seeks to develop a full partnership between the Center, the State's training system, and the State's other collaborators, including other National Resource Centers. Center staff work toward strengthening the State's current training system. Most Center training sessions are "train the trainer" sessions to teach those in the State to teach their own colleagues, using Center resources, curricula, and tools.

Evaluating Outcomes

The Center can help States build a feedback loop mechanism into reform design to refine their efforts, deal with unintended consequences, and promote continuous quality improvement at every point in the process. Specifically, Center staff can help States evaluate their concurrent planning policies for their Program Improvement Plans (PIPs). Staff can help States develop ways to continuously monitor and make outcomes measurable, and implement the PIP (from rewriting legislation to retraining staff).

Providing Intensive Follow-up

Even intensive training may not result in systemic reform without regular follow-up—finding out what's working and addressing any challenges. A written report to the State, Tribe, or territory, as well as frequent telephone contact, is standard procedure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Web site: www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp
Contact: Gerald P. Mallon, Executive Director

National Resource Center for Information Technology in Child Welfare

WHO WE ARE

The National Resource Center for Information Technology in Child Welfare helps State, local, and Tribal child welfare agencies and family and juvenile courts use automated information systems to improve outcomes in the child welfare system. The Center provides technical assistance in the collection of data (as required by Federal law) for the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), provides assistance regarding other Federal and State-level reports, and disseminates information on best practices related to Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems. The Center also helps its clients use data to improve services to children, youth, and families; evaluate results; and make informed decisions about policies, programs, and practices.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The Center addresses a broad range of program and technical issues, including Tribal and court child welfare issues, in assisting States with their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. Assistance may include:

Preparing Data

Center staff can help prepare the State Data Profile or, if applicable, help identify alternative data sources.

Understanding and Using State Data Profiles

The Center has prepared a *Toolkit for Understanding the State Data Profiles*. The toolkit is available free of charge as a CD-ROM, or it can be downloaded from www.nrcitcw.org.

Center staff also are available to review the draft and completed State Data Profiles to ensure that the profiles provide the most meaningful contribution possible to the State in the CFSR.

Addressing the Seven Outcome Measures

Center staff can help with addressing outcome measures in the Statewide Assessment in terms of the State's results, specific national standards, and data that can be used to evaluate the State's performance. This typically involves discussion of available data sources, data quality, and involvement of stakeholders in providing and interpreting data.

Evaluating Systemic Factors

The Center can address available data and how it can be used to evaluate the State's performance in the case review system and other systemic factors in the CFSR. Center staff have particular expertise in the first systemic factor—Statewide Information System Capacity.

Preparing for the Onsite Review

Center staff can help States address issues in data, research, sampling, or information systems regarding location and sample selection for the Onsite Review.

Measuring Progress

Center staff can help plan enhancements to statewide information systems to document changes in specific outcome measures outlined in Program Improvement Plans.

Training

The Center provides training on data use and data management at all levels.

Data Mapping

The Center can provide assistance with data mapping, focused on AFCARS and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, to ensure accurate and consistent reporting definitions.

Coordinating Peer Consultation

The Center can coordinate consultation among States with similar issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Contact: Don Perry, Director
(480) 664-9209
Tom Hay, Project Manager
(202) 662-4285

National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption

WHO WE ARE

The National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption works with States, Tribes, and agencies to increase States' capacity in special needs adoption. We work to improve the effectiveness and quality of adoption and post-adoption services provided to children and their families.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The Center is available to partner with States, Tribes, and other National Resource Centers to work with staff and stakeholders in all phases of their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. We help to identify strengths, needs, and actions that can be taken to improve outcomes for children. Assistance includes:

Analyzing Adoption and Permanency Options

The Center will review CFSR Statewide Assessments, Final Reports, and Program Improvement Plans (PIPs). The Center will also provide feedback on how it might provide technical assistance, training, tools, and materials to help States and Tribes plan and implement changes in practice, programs, policies, and systems to ensure timely adoption or other permanent family connections for children and youth.

Exploring Systemic Factors

The Center will assist States and Tribes in exploring how all systemic factors effect timely permanency, especially adoption.

Increasing Cultural Competence

Children of color are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system and among those waiting to be adopted. Center staff can help States reach out to communities of color to increase adoptions of children from those communities. Using a community-based approach, the Center will help States design programs to build relationships in communities to better address the needs of children and families of color.

The Center also has experience helping States work to fully implement the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act and Interethnic Placement Act and achieve adoptions in the context of Tribal traditions and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

The Center can help States and Tribes work more effectively with other teams and systems of service (child protective services, intake, foster care, mental health, schools, etc.) to achieve timely adoptions.

Training and Technical Assistance

The Center can provide training and technical assistance at any point in the CFSR process to enhance practice, knowledge, skills, and abilities and improve adoption program planning. Some areas of technical assistance include:

- ✓ Program planning to achieve timely adoption outcomes.
- ✓ Utilization of information systems for adoption program planning.
- ✓ Developing and sustaining adoption support and preservation services including adoption assistance programs.
- ✓ Collaborative planning among child welfare teams to achieve timely adoptions.
- ✓ Working with other systems of service to facilitate adoption and adoption support and preservation.
- ✓ Preparing, assessing, and retaining foster, kin, and adoptive families.
- ✓ Preparing and assessing children and youth for adoption, including those with developmental disabilities.
- ✓ Making adoption an option for older children and youth.
- ✓ Finding and engaging fathers and their families in adoption planning.

Curricula are available on assessment and preparation of children and families for adoption, cultural competency in child welfare, and adoption support and preservation services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Southfield, MI 48075
Phone: (248) 443-0306
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E-Mail: nrc@nrcadoption.org
Web site: www.nrcadoption.org
Contact: Natalie Lyons, Director

National Resource Center for Youth Development

WHO WE ARE

The National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD) increases the capacity and resources of States and Tribes to help youth in care establish permanent connections and achieve successful transitions to adulthood. The Center can help States incorporate youth into all areas of programs and services, implement services that address legislative requirements, and prepare for Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and Program Improvement Plan (PIP) development and implementation. The Center bases its technical assistance and training around four core principles: youth development, collaboration, cultural competence, and permanent connections.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Center staff can provide States with the following assistance in their CFSRs:

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

NRCYD has worked successfully with both States and Tribes to bring stakeholders together in an environment that promotes constructive dialogue. NRCYD can:

- ✓ Facilitate diverse groups for strategic planning, collaboration, and consensus building.
- ✓ Work with States to draw youth into all three stages of the CFSR in order to benefit from their unique contributions and perspectives.
- ✓ Work with States to engage Tribes as stakeholders.
- ✓ Facilitate planning sessions during development, implementation, and evaluation of the PIP.
- ✓ Evaluate Statewide Assessments, final CFSR reports, and PIPs with a dual focus on improving services for youth and highlighting opportunities to engage youth in planning and implementation.
- ✓ Work with States and Tribes to recognize barriers and identify solutions for successful inclusion of youth and families in case planning and services.

Technical Assistance and Training

The Center facilitates systemic change by providing technical assistance (TA) prior to and concurrent with training activities. TA sessions include the administrative staff ultimately responsible for managing the necessary change.

Technical assistance activities may include:

- ✓ Work groups and committees
- ✓ Strategic planning sessions (initial and ongoing)
- ✓ Action planning sessions

The NRCYD offers a variety of trainings that focus on both organizational and skill development. The Center

can modify training to meet an organization's needs in any of the following areas:

- ✓ Positive Youth Development
- ✓ Youth/Adult Partnership Building
- ✓ Permanency Planning
- ✓ Cultural Diversity
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Strength-Based Assessment and Case Planning
- ✓ Ethnographic Interviewing
- ✓ Conflict Resolution
- ✓ Family Group Decision Making
- ✓ Youth Leadership Development
- ✓ Life Skills Assessment and Transition Planning
- ✓ Life Skills Instruction Preparation
- ✓ Permanency Planning for Adolescents
- ✓ Permanency and Concurrent Planning
- ✓ Working with Native American Youth
- ✓ Preparing Youth for Transition
- ✓ Foster and Adoptive Parent Training
- ✓ Managing Aggressive Behavior
- ✓ Residential Child Care Programming
- ✓ Working with Runaway and Homeless Youth

Information Services

NRCYD regularly gathers, analyzes, and disseminates information on services and practices relevant to youth. NRCYD communicates with State Independent Living Coordinators and other professionals to stay current with trends and policies. Resources include:

- ✓ A Web site providing the most current information on Federal, State, and Tribal policies and practices affecting youth and their families.
- ✓ Web-based, State-specific fact sheets highlighting CFSR, PIP, and Chafee activities.
- ✓ Newsletters and publications containing best practices and current trends in youth work, published with collaboration from nationally recognized leaders in the field of child welfare.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Contact: Peter R. Correia III, Director

The Collaboration to AdoptUSKids

WHO WE ARE

The Children's Bureau's **AdoptUSKids** initiative is designed to find and support foster and adoptive families for waiting children by providing new and enhanced recruitment tools and training and technical assistance (T/TA) to States and Tribes.

HOW WE CAN HELP

AdoptUSKids provides T/TA to States and Tribes in connection with the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) on issues that pertain to the development and implementation of quality recruitment and retention services for foster and adoptive families.

AdoptUSKids works in collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families Federal Regional Offices and the Children's Bureau to provide the following assistance:

Supporting the CFSR Process

- ✓ Providing individualized assessments of recruitment and retention needs.
- ✓ Exploring and disseminating information about established, effective recruitment activities and initiatives.
- ✓ Offering access to a database of national experts for consultation and training on recruitment and retention issues.
- ✓ Working strategically with child welfare agencies and Tribes to tailor T/TA services in the area of recruitment and retention.
- ✓ Producing definitive booklets for caseworkers and prospective families on best practices in achieving interjurisdictional placements.

Providing Training to Support Agencies

Current areas of specific training expertise include:

- ✓ Recruiting families (general, targeted and child specific).
- ✓ Placing children across interjurisdictional boundaries.
- ✓ Using the national Web listing for waiting children.
- ✓ Writing child profiles.
- ✓ Developing and sustaining community-based partnerships.
- ✓ Benchmarking to develop and implement effective, outcome-based recruitment plans.

Maintaining a Web Site and Photolisting

The partnership also maintains the **AdoptUSKids** Web site (www.adoptuskids.org). The Web site is the first Federal online photolisting.

Additional Components of AdoptUSKids

- ✓ Supporting critical research on barriers to adoption.
- ✓ Identifying family factors that support long-term success in special needs adoption.
- ✓ Establishing joint trainings and meetings with adoption and foster care managers.
- ✓ Developing and supporting a network of adoptive parent organizations.
- ✓ Implementing a national campaign to recruit new adoptive and foster families for waiting children.
- ✓ Implementing Recruitment Response Teams to assist States in responding to national, State, and local recruitment campaigns.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Address: 8015 Corporate Drive
Suite C
Baltimore, MD 21236
Phone: (888) 200-4005 or (410) 933-5700
Fax: (410) 933-5716
E-Mail: info@adoptuskids.org
Web site: www.adoptuskids.org
Contact: Barbara Holtan, Project Director
Melody Roe, T/TA Coordinator

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

WHO WE ARE

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is a service of the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect.

HOW WE CAN HELP

NCSACW works to develop knowledge and provide technical assistance (TA) to Federal, State and local agencies and Tribes to improve outcomes for families with substance use disorders in the child welfare and family court systems.

Technical Assistance

NCSACW helps develop cross-system partnerships and practice changes to address the issues of substance use disorders among families in the child welfare system.

Areas of TA include:

- ✓ Connecting individuals with materials and other resources, including publications, journal articles, research, and statistics.
- ✓ Presenting at conferences that include representatives of the three fields involved in the project.
- ✓ Facilitating clinical and policy workgroups of substance abuse and child welfare staff and judicial officers.
- ✓ Assisting in the development of interagency protocols and strategic plans.
- ✓ Assisting States in preparing for their Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) and developing their Program Improvement Plans (PIPs).
- ✓ Answering questions and making referrals to other experts in the field.
- ✓ In-depth TA is provided to a limited number of sites selected through a solicitation process.

Information Gathering and Dissemination

NCSACW staff maintain an extensive library of resources on the intersection of alcohol and other drug, child welfare/Tribal child welfare, and family court systems.

Materials Development

NCSACW staff develop and disseminate issue briefs, fact sheets, newsletters, and monographs. Examples of materials include:

- ✓ Compendium of training materials and curricula.
- ✓ Compilation of State and local policy instruments.
- ✓ The basics of alcohol and drug services for child welfare practice.
- ✓ Confidentiality and communication protocol guidelines.
- ✓ Guidance on screening, assessment, and engagement and retention strategies for working with families based on the severity of the substance use disorder.

Web-Based Tutorials

NCSACW will develop four online tutorials. Audiences will include:

- ✓ Child welfare workers
- ✓ Substance abuse counselors
- ✓ Court and judicial officers
- ✓ State legislators

Conferences and Meetings

NCSACW will conduct two to three special topic meetings per year and a national conference every other year. The first National Conference on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare will be held in Baltimore on July 14 and 15, 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Address: 4940 Irvine Boulevard
Suite 202
Irvine, CA 92620
Phone: (714) 505-3525
Fax: (714) 505-3626
E-Mail: ncsacw@samhsa.gov
Web site: www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov
Contact: Nancy Young, Director

National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center

WHO WE ARE

The National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center's mission is to enhance the quality of social and health services delivered to families and their children who are abandoned or at risk of abandonment due to the presence of drugs or HIV in the family.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The Resource Center provides training and information to professionals on a wide range of issues, particularly as they relate to the safety, well-being, and permanence of children.

Training

The Center sponsors an annual telephone seminar series on child welfare issues. These are structured, interactive phone conferences with guest presenters. Recent seminars include:

- ✓ Working with Women Survivors of Trauma
- ✓ Issues for Relative Care Providers
- ✓ Mental Health Needs of HIV-Infected Children and Adolescents
- ✓ Treatment and Program Development for Women with Multiple Disorders

Conferences

The Resource Center hosts annual national conferences. Recent topics include:

- ✓ Spirituality: A Powerful Force in Women's Recovery (2003)
- ✓ Raising Kin: The Psychosocial Well-being of Substance-affected Children in Relative Care (2004)

Online Database of Trainers

The Center provides an online database of trainers who specialize in topics such as:

- ✓ Child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Substance abuse and treatment
- ✓ Women and addiction
- ✓ HIV-affected families and children

Detailed information is available for each trainer (e.g., bios, vitae, contact information, and areas of expertise).

Online Database of Conferences

The Center provides an online database of national child welfare conferences.

Materials Development

The Resource Center disseminates a biannual theme-based newsletter, fact sheets, videos, and directories.

Examples include:

Newsletter – *The Source*:

- ✓ Case Management for Substance Abusing Parents and Their Children
- ✓ Building Upon the Unique Strengths of Peer Workers

Fact Sheets:

- ✓ Women and Children with HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Recreational Programs for HIV-affected Children and Families
- ✓ Boarder Babies, Abandoned Infants, and Discarded Infants

Research and Resource Development

The Center examines emerging issues and explores practice and policy implications by conducting research and consulting with technical expert groups. Results are released in the form of monographs. Topics include:

- ✓ From the Child's Perspective: A Qualitative Analysis of Kinship Care
- ✓ Establishing Permanent Futures for Children: Recommendations for Improving Future Care and Custody Planning
- ✓ AIA Best Practices: Lessons Learned from a Decade of Service to Children and Families Affected by HIV and Substance Abuse
- ✓ Expediting Permanency for Abandoned Infants
- ✓ Partners' Influence on Women's Addiction and Recovery

Individualized Information Searches

The Center provides links to literature, statistics, and relevant referrals on a broad variety of topics related to its mission.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Address: University of California, Berkeley
Family Welfare Research Group
1950 Addison Street
Suite 104 # 7402
Berkeley, CA 94720-7402

Phone: (510) 643-8390

Fax: (510) 643-7019

E-Mail: aia@uclink.berkeley.edu

Web site: <http://aia.berkeley.edu>

Contact: Jeanne Pietrzak, Director
May Espeña, Training Coordinator

National Resource Center for Community–Based Family Resource and Support Programs (FRIENDS)

WHO WE ARE

The National Resource Center for Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs (FRIENDS) is a service of the Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. FRIENDS provides technical assistance to Federal grantee agencies implementing the Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, under the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003.

The purpose of FRIENDS' work is to build the capacity of States and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect and strengthen families.

HOW WE CAN HELP

FRIENDS' current areas of expertise that may be of use to States in the course of their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process include:

- ✓ Enhancing a State's array of services by promoting interagency collaboration and supporting the establishment of family support programs and networks.
- ✓ Promoting program best practices including inclusion of fathers, strengthening families and family relationships, working with diverse populations, promoting parent involvement and leadership, respite care, and other community-based and strengths-based practices.
- ✓ Promoting a continuum of participatory evaluation strategies including self-assessment, peer review, and outcome accountability.
- ✓ Addressing issues related to prevention systems.
- ✓ Assisting with message development.

Onsite and Telephone Technical Assistance

As they strive to improve child welfare systems, States are using family support strategies to improve family functioning and keep families from entering the child welfare system in the first place. FRIENDS offers knowledge and expertise in the implementation of family support strategies in a variety of settings and for many purposes. FRIENDS staff can provide State lead agencies with assistance in the following areas as they implement their Program Improvement Plans:

- ✓ Child and family well-being and family support.
- ✓ Enhancing family capacity.
- ✓ Creating models of shared leadership.
- ✓ Vision, mission, and strategic planning of long-term systemic reform with particular emphasis on prevention strategies.
- ✓ Organizational culture change.
- ✓ Overview of the CFSR process.

- ✓ Community assessment.
- ✓ Consensus building.
- ✓ Engaging families in case planning.
- ✓ Family self-advocacy skills.
- ✓ Asset-based approaches.
- ✓ Maximizing funding.
- ✓ Building respectful relationships with colleagues and families.

Promoting Stakeholder Involvement and Investment in the Public Child Welfare System

Community and consumer consultation is necessary to assess the needs, capacities, gaps, and service development approaches needed within diverse communities. FRIENDS has developed successful strategies and tools to work with parents and can assist States in identifying successful practices for community consultation. From the CFSR Statewide Assessment, to the Onsite Review and the ensuing Program Improvement Plan, FRIENDS can assist States in utilizing their CBFERS statewide child abuse prevention networks, comprised of service providers, parents, advocacy groups, and consumers of services, to carry out ongoing consultation with stakeholders of the child welfare system at all stages of the CFSR process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Web site: www.friendsnrc.org

Contact: Sonia Velazquez, Project Director
(312) 338-0900 Extension 119



Children's Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services