

County PIP Reduction Strategies and Action Steps document

County: **Bucks**

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Strategy i: Provide outcome/evidence based treatment services to youth and families

Action Steps and timeline:

Collaborate via Integrated Children Services Planning process to identify needs, develop programming and resources that address behavioral health treatment needs of youth; IN Process

Strategy ii: Increase family involvement in truancy prevention and interventions

Action Steps and timeline:

Address truancy through a coordinated county wide Truancy Court that includes all District Magistrates, the 13 school districts , and C&Y; IN Process

Strategy iii: Increase staff skills and knowledge in family oriented drug and alcohol interventions

Action Steps and timeline:

Monthly trainings with skill based curriculum; In process

Strategy iv: Utilize Common Pleas Drug Court for youth and families

Action Steps and timeline:

Collaborate with courts, Drug and Alcohol Commission and treatment provider to establish a drug court within the county; IN process

Strategy v: Utilize the Integrated Children's Services Planning team to develop programs and recruit providers that will address parental addiction from a multi disciplinary approach

Action Steps and timeline:

Pursue research and RFP's for resource development;
Medium Term: start date 4/09 through 4/10

Strategy vi: Increase number of children in first time placement discharged from care to permanency within 12 months

Action Steps and timeline:

Implement Pennsylvania Permanency Initiative in Bucks County; Calendar year 2009
Utilize Children's Roundtable for on-going development of innovative approaches to permanency;
IN Process

Introduce Court Improvement practices for permanency to court
IN process

Submit formal application for Pa Perm Initiative funds to state
Spring 2009

Utilize internal Concurrent Planning Review process for all children in placement
In Place

Strategy vii: Increase number of families who participate in Family Group Decision Making Conferences

Action Steps and timeline:

Provide additional resources for facilitated FGDM conferences; In process

Strategy viii: Increase number of kinship placements:

Action Steps and timeline:

Implement Family Finding practices and use of Accurint software; Calendar year 2009

Strategy ix: Utilize Concurrent Planning for all children who are subjects of a dependency petition

Action Steps and timeline:

Advocate for development of concurrent planning conferences at time of shelter care order and before
adjudicatory hearing; Calendar year 2009

Strategy x: Reduce length of time between petitions for TPR's and Adoption Finalizations

Action Steps and timeline:

Utilize Para legal to file petitions, handle SWAN submissions, coordinate adoptive family recruitment activities and schedule hearings

Calendar year 2009

Strategy xi: Increase and renew caseworker knowledge and usage of community resources to assist families in accessing housing, treatment, employment, education, health care, etc services

Action Steps and timeline:

Participate in community resource coalitions and collaborations

In process

Ensure that new workers attend annual best practices conference and participate in on-going provision of conference within the County of Bucks

In process

Utilize Family to Family Service Team approach to geographical subdivisions within county; Late 2009

Strategy xii: Reduce time between shelter care and adjudication hearings due to continuances

Action Steps and timeline:

Develop forum, an "Advocates Roundtable" to discuss on-going issues with legal representatives of parents and children, judges, and C&Y; Late Spring 2009

Strategy xiii: Assure that youth are prepared with a life connection, income, and residence as a minimum standard before they leave placement.

Action Steps and Timeline:

Continue Transitional Living Services, Aftercare Services and opportunity for youth to contract for Board Extensions; In Process

Continue mentoring program for youth ages 16 and older in placement, and coordinate post-secondary education mentors with youth who have interest in pursuing post high school education or job skills program; In Process

Strategy xiv: Bucks Co. JPO will continue to adhere to its philosophy of using the least restrictive alternative with the juveniles who come into the juvenile justice system. We will continue to strive to keep out of home placements at a level that is as close to 10% of the total number of juveniles under active supervision as is reasonably possible.

Action Steps and Timeline:

In 2009 JPO staff will be trained in the use of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) assessment tool, which will then be implemented to help direct service needs and supervision levels; Long term - Ongoing

Strategy xv: Implementation of YLS/CMI.

Action Steps and Timeline:

2009 and ongoing.

