

County PIP Reduction Strategies and Action Steps document

County: Lancaster

County Point of contact: Crystal A. Gingrich (717) 299-7939

Email address: cgingrich@co.lancaster.pa.us

Add more or delete strategies as necessary

Strategy I: Increase youth and family involvement in individual and systems planning

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

- Implement Family Group Decision making (10-15 cases) (CYA & JPP)
- The County already uses ACCURINT and will explore expanding family finding initiatives
- Explore the “family to family” and youth mentoring programs.
- Partner with Lancaster Family Center and implement a family visitation and parenting position (enhance family & child engagement during visits and impact more timely reunification)

Mid 2009

- CYA will review the utilization of current Agency and purchased in-home services and develop a strategic plan to enhance level of service to prevent placements.
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Late 2009

- In partnership with the MCO, County MH/MR & community providers explore the development and utilization of Youth and Family high Fidelity wraparound.
- Increase utilization of kinship care and SPLC for youth in care.

2010

- Expand Family Group decision making to 18-22 cases.
- Expand Family finding initiative

Strategy II: Implement a common screening tool.

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

- Implement the utilization of the MAYSI—II screening tool (JPP)
- Implementation of Graduated Sanctions tool and Youth Level of Service (Risk Assessment toll) –JPP
- Implement State required safety assessment tool and process

Mid 2009

- Enhance collaboration, utilizing the forum of the CYA school committee team and the truancy task force, between CYA, JPP, MH/MR, OMHSAS, and schools regarding students emotional, behavioral and academic supports and record transfers.

Strategy III: Transition from traditional child welfare services to implementation of evidence based programs and prevention services.

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

- Begin utilizing Family Group Decision Making.(CYA & JPP)
- Enhance utilization of Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) (CYA & JPP). JPP has been utilizing MST for the two years. CYA began using MST in June 2008. CYA will identify appropriate cases and utilize MST to prevent placement and enhance reunification. CYA & JPP Directors will attend monthly meetings with MST provider to review service needs, referrals and outcomes.
- Continue and enhance the partnership with the Lancaster Family Center (PAT program, family outreach)to support and expand preventative and supportive services for children and families. CYA representative will attend Family Center Advisory Board meetings to collaborate and direct program development.
- Continue to utilize and support the Family Center Time Limited Family Reunification program and explore enhancements to the program that will continue to support timely reunification for families and children.
- Continue participation in the Lancaster County Truancy Task Force (CYA & JPP, Lancaster County school districts)
- Partner with Youth Advocacy Program to implement the Truancy Intervention Program (CYA & JPP) .
- Collaborate with other community partners such as COBYS to effectively address truancy issues through community interventions.

2010

- Explore the development and initiate the use of FFT.

Strategy IV: Enhance the partnership and utilization of SWAN services

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

- Increase use of CSR to help older youth find permanent connections
- Continue to utilize the child prep unit of service to help youth learn about permanency options and identify the appropriate goal for each youth
- Continue the use of the child prep unit of service to provide group settings for children and youth to process grief and loss issues to ensure more stability in placements
- Continue involvement in the Adoption Coalition of Lancaster County to promote adoption awareness to attract more permanent families
- Continue involvement in matching events sponsored by SWAN, the adoption coalitions around the state, and other adoption/county agencies enhance the use of the Accurint search engine
- Utilize the paralegals to ensure the timely filing of TPR petitions and termination of parental rights
- Continue involvement in panel discussions at SWAN meetings with other county agencies and affiliates to identify methods to expedite adoptions
- Meet on a regular basis with SWAN personnel to ensure services are being utilized at an optimal level for children and youth of all ages
- Continue the use of obtaining child profiles to identify biological family or members of the community who could be a potentially permanent connection or resource for children and youth in agency custody
- Continue obtaining child profiles for the timely matching of waiting children with prospective adoptive families
- Continue to utilize the Agency's Permanency Planning Committee to ensure that children are placed into permanent homes in a timely manner, the proper goal is identified and movement toward establishing that goal is completed in a timely manner; as well as referring children for the appropriate SWAN services to expedite permanency
- Continue involvement in the Older Child Matching Initiative

2010

- Expand the use of Accurint and Family Finding
- Utilize kinship care and SPLC to provide timely permanency.
- Explore the possible of implementation of Family prep to provide training to resource/kinship/prospective adoptive families regarding concurrent planning

Strategy V: Increase quality and quantity of contacts between children and families.

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

- Maintain partnership with Bethanna visitation program to provide interactive family visits.
- Partnership with Lancaster Family Center Family to implement a family visitation specialist position to enhance family child visitation.
- Expand the use of ACCURINT and family finding
- All CYA staff attended the “Strengths Based, Solution Focused” training in December 2008 to prepare staff for the philosophy and practice change of family engagement. Continue to provide skill training pertaining to family engagement and the positive impact of family connections.

Mid 2009

- Explore “family to family”

Early 2010

- Plan for the implementation of Family Finding.

Strategy VI: Court Improvement Project

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

- As of 1/1/09 the Agency restructured the internal Placement Review Committee(PRC) to enhance continuity of decisions and practice initiative direction. This committee consists of all four department directors. The committee meets weekly to review all emergency placements, requests for placements, kinship care approval, case planning, release of custody etc.
- Continue and enhance the Local Roundtable to discuss and implement initiatives to enhance prevention, reunification and timeliness of permanency.
- Continue to Participate in the regional roundtable meetings
- Utilize CPCMS
- Continue the use of the “Connections” program (the 3-5-7 model).
- Continue to utilize kinship care and SPLC.
- County Dependency Judge and CYA Administrator will continue to serve on the Steering committee of the Lancaster County CASA program. The CASA program helps to secure funding in 2009 and start to assign CASA volunteers.

Mid 2009

- Explore the utilization of 3 month court reviews for targeted populations and develop plan to implement in 2010
- Enhance the utilization of the use of ACCURINT and explore the utilization of Family finding.
- Implement Family Group Decision Making Conferencing

Strategy VII: Implement Concurrent Planning efforts at family and system level

2009

- Evaluate current structure of decision making after investigation. Make recommendations to enhance structured decision making within departments (Intake, In-home & Placement).
- As of 1/1/09 the Agency restructured the internal Placement Review Committee (PRC) to enhance continuity of decisions and practice initiative direction. This committee consists of all four department directors. The committee meets weekly to review all emergency placements (with one week of placement), requests for placements, kinship care approval, case planning, child permanency plan approval (within 30 days of placement)release of custody etc.
- Continue to utilize the internal Agency Placement Planning Committee(PPC) to review the status of all children in care at 6 months and actively engage in concurrent planning.
- Continue to use (JPP) the Commitment Review Committee to review and recommend

2010

- Implement a standard structured decision making procedure for all CYA departments.