

**2013 Annual Report for Five-Year Prevention and Permanency
Objective 1.3 Post Adoption Services Counselors**

Reporting Period: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Summary of Plan Activities

Please provide a summary of activities for your five-year prevention and permanency plan objective. For each activity, please identify how they support/promote the Protective Factors.

- Annual training for post adoption services counselors, including in-service and pre-service curricula that are adoption competent, provides staff with the necessary knowledge to support adoptive parents with information about parenting and child/youth development and nurturing and attachment.
- Monthly conference calls and two statewide meetings with post adoption staff provide an opportunity for staff to discuss difficult cases, share ideas about new resources and discuss how to engage stakeholders and resources in a community to assist adoptive families. These activities can lead to new community resources and therefore provide needed supports and social connections for adoptive families.
- A list of contact information about each post adoption services program is maintained and updated twice year on the www.adoptflorida.org website.

Progress

Please describe the progress towards achieving your objective outlined in the five-year plan. (If your objective focuses on the State Fiscal Year, please report accordingly. If not, report information based on the 2013 calendar year.)

Every Community Based Care has identified at least one staff person to respond to post adoption services requests.

Please identify the percentage of achievement of your objective in the five-year prevention and permanency plan you think your team has achieved, and describe why.

90% completion. The last step is to document the standardized list of unpaid services in FSFN. One of the enhancements scheduled for FSFN in 2014 will allow unpaid services, such as the standardized post adoption services list, to be documented in the database and therefore available for post adoption staff. The standardized list, with definitions, has been completed and approved by the post adoption services staff.

Do you think your team is on target to accomplishing your objective by June 2015? Why or why not?

We are on target to achieve the objective of having a sufficient number of post adoption services to support and respond to inquiries from adoptive parents.

Highlights and Accomplishments

The greatest achievement regarding this objective is the fact that every Community Based Care Agency has at least one post adoption services counselor assigned the responsibility of responding to inquiries and providing support to adoptive families. Ten full or part time positions were added during 2013. Although four circuits do not have a designated full time position for post adoption services, two of the circuits are

small and do not warrant a designated full time position and the other two circuits hired additional positions to assist the primary post adoption staff person with the responsibilities.

Secondly, during 2013, the National Resource Center for Adoption conducted a train the trainer session in Miami with their Adoption Competency curricula. The National Resource Center for Adoption gave the Department approval to utilize the Adoption Competency curricula as the foundation for the new pre-service curricula for all new adoption staff, including post adoption services staff.

Third and just as important is the fact that during 2012, the statewide SACWIS database, FSN, implemented an automated email message to the post adoption staff whenever there was an abuse or neglect investigation involving an adoptive family. This provided timely and critical information to post adoption staff and, in turn, staff were provided an opportunity to assist an investigator in the assessment of the adoptive family for safety and well-being and ensure that adoption competent services were initiated.

Next Steps

During 2014, a standardized list of post adoption services that do not require a payment but represent the casework activities provided by post adoption services staff will be documented in the statewide SACWIS database, FSN. The standardized list of unpaid services will be available for post adoption services staff to document the post adoption services workload.

Please identify what your objective's proposed next steps are for the next five-year plan, to be launched in July 2015.

Continue with all of the activities that have been initiated as a result of this objective during the five-year plan.