



## NIPFC Permanency Blast

July 29th, 2015

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Greetings,

This month we feature our third installment on how NIPFC's Permanency approach promotes attainment of the legal mandates of the Fostering Connections Act (along with other permanency focused legislation at the state and federal level), while detailing how the family's presence and voice can be encouraged and maximized to promote safe and timely permanence. This installment describes effective engagement practice that utilizes narrative approaches in order to respectfully include often unrecognized and underutilized voices in the planning and decision making process. This blast also provides updated information about The Kempe Center's 2015 International Conference on [Innovations and Family Engagement Conference](#), October 27-30th 2015, Minneapolis, MN. Additionally, we include the Funding Youth Permanency Guide (along with a slimmed down 2 page version) from Gail Johnson-Vaughan of Families Now. The guide presents a fiscal methodology for public child welfare to meet the objective of achieving permanent families for all youth before they age out of foster care. Finally, we have attached our "Save the Date" announcement for Interdisciplinary Education on Permanency and the Courts training on September 29th and 30th, 2015 in Redding California. Happy reading!

### **Effective Engagement Using Narrative-based Approaches**

This is the third installment in the 3-part series of blasts highlighting the importance of compliance with the notice to relative's provision within the Fostering Connections Act. Since the release of the first two installments in 2014, The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Supportive Families Act (PL 113-183) was passed to continue the legislative and policy momentum to establish safe and sustaining permanency for foster youth (see our [December 18th, 2014 blast](#) for information about this PL 113-183).

Installment 1 of this series posted December 17, 2013, "[Quality Relative Internet Searches](#)," focused on the components of a quality internet search to identify and notify relatives. Installment 2 posted on February 14, 2015, "[Defining Due Diligence: Identifying](#)

[Relatives for Foster Youth,"](#) delved into the overall meaning and intent of due diligence to identify relatives for youth who are in or at risk of entry into foster care.

Family Finding and accompanying permanency strategies are all about networks of natural supports for youth in the foster care system. Tactics to discover and initially engage these supports are clearly delineated in the practice model. Building upon the identification, notification and initial outreach process, the question remains: How can we effectively embrace and involve those that we are required to notify and offer/suggest their involvement? This piece explores effective engagement practice that utilizes narrative approaches in order to respectfully include the contributions of an often unrecognized group of connections.

A core construct of NIPFC's teaching and coaching of engagement work is constructed from practices that emphasize authentic and respectful curiosity. This wondering position is the cornerstone of work designed to discover and engage meaningful connections within the lives of youth in foster care. One aspect of practice within the Narrative Therapy literature offers a way to 'discover' lost relationships and re-engage in ways that are important to the youth and/or family. This practice was derived from the work of Barbara Myerhoff (1982) who was a cultural anthropologist who studied an elderly Jewish community in Venice, California. She discovered that one of the ways people in this community experienced themselves as alive... [Click here to continue reading>>>](#)

### **2015 International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement**

Continuing the Learning on Differential Response, Family Group Decision Making and Other Reforms - Minneapolis, October 27-30, 2015

This inaugural conference combines two annual conferences previously organized by the Kempe Center: one on Differential Response and the other on Family Group Decision Making and other Family Engagement Strategies. This conference offers a wide range of sessions to build knowledge and skills of human service professionals working to improve the lives of children and families. Whether you are connected to child welfare, juvenile justice or other systems, or working in a community-based agency, you will find something for you at this one of a kind event. Check out the [Registration Brochure](#) for the full listing. We are also offering full-day Skills Institutes this year for a training-like opportunity. Be sure to [register](#) early to take advantage of our discounted rate!

### **Funding Youth Permanency Guide**

This guide, authored by Gail Johnson-Vaughan of FamiliesNOW, has been prepared to assist public child welfare agencies with the fiscal analysis useful to replicating successful specialized youth permanency practice (see Appendix I).

The guide presents a fiscal methodology for public child welfare to meet the objective of achieving permanent families for all youth before they age out of foster care. While the guide is geared towards the fiscal and administrative structures present in California, many of the principles apply to public child welfare sites across the country. Gail regularly consults with public child welfare agencies across the country to promote this fiscally sustainable approach to funding quality youth permanency work. To access the full guide please [click here](#). You can also

read a short summary be [clicking here](#). To learn more about Gail's efforts, please visit [FamiliesNOW](#) and/or email Gail [gail@familiesnow.org](mailto:gail@familiesnow.org).

## **Announcing**

### *Interdisciplinary Education on Permanency and the Courts*

NIPFC is pleased to announce that the first of 4 regional trainings on [Interdisciplinary Education on Permanency and the Courts](#) will take place in Redding, CA on September 29-30 at the Red Lion Hotel. This training, produced via collaboration between The Judicial Council of California and NIPFC, was developed for judges, parent and child attorneys, social workers, county counsel, probation officers, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), parents, juvenile dependency mediators and other advocates and stakeholders. Professional CEUs will be available. More details and registration info will follow in an official announcement shortly. This training will be repeated in November, 2015 in Fresno, and will be followed in the Spring of 2016 in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire.

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