

National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness

Seneca Family of Agencies: A Non-Profit Agency for Children & Families
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PERMANENCY BLAST

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July 11, 2012

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Dear Permanency Warriors,

We are excited to announce the publication of the article "Maintaining Family Relationship for Children in the Child Welfare System" through the American Bar Association. We also want to alert you to a webinar tomorrow July 12 on Connecting Children to Kin, and forecast other items what will be released in the near future.

Newly Published Article!

We proudly share that Rose Marie Wentz and NIPFC trainer Kelly Lynn Beck have authored the article "Maintaining Family Relationships for Children in the Child Welfare System" through the American Bar Association (ABA). The article and full resource list are posted on the ABA's Child Law Practice (CLP Online) website, www.childlawpractice.org (subscription required). CLP Online provides legal professionals with current information to enhance their knowledge and skill to improve advocacy for children and families involved in the legal system.

We have attached the article and a shorter resource list to this blast. This article offers guidance to help support youth who are removed from their homes and placed in the child welfare system. It highlights how an effective family-finding and engagement model can be used to maintain a child's natural support system or build an alternative support network. It explains how, even in the face of fiscal, institutional, and personal challenges, meeting the Fostering Connections' mandate to find and engage relatives is possible and necessary to shape positive outcomes for youth. The article identifies actual challenges and roadblocks identified by professionals in the field and provides suggestions, strategies and opportunities in the face of those obstacles.

[Maintaining Family Relationships--CLP Online 7-2012](#)

Webinar on Family Finding, Thursday July 12!

Many of you have asked questions of late about what new Family Finding research or projects are occurring nationally, and what are we learning from those efforts. A Webinar-"Connections Children to Kin: An Exploration of Family Finding" through FosteringConnections.org has been designed to communicate the progress and lessons learned in 3 family finding sites nationally. This Webinar is scheduled for this **Thursday, July 12 from 11-12:30 pdt**. Please use this link to register for the site--there are only a limited number of "seats" available, so don't wait! <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/422128969>

Coming Soon!

Finally we want to alert you to two new items that will be available shortly. Kelly Beck and Rose Wentz have authored a second article which is expected to appear in the Clearinghouse Review, Journal of Poverty Law and Policy, Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law, July-August, 2012 edition. The article is entitled "Unlocking Reasonable Efforts: Kinship is Key." The article addresses the global confusion surrounding reasonable efforts, including its definition. The authors argue that by utilizing a focused Family Finding and Engagement model, every stakeholder involved in child welfare or juvenile justice system can participate, monitor and support efforts to identify, locate and engage family, for every youth who is at risk of removal or who has been removed from their homes. By involving healthy and safe family members, it is possible that the youth will not come into care, may return home sooner or may have more permanency options available, while at the same time maintaining important familial connections and a sense of belonging.

Sincerely,
Bob Friend

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