

# National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness

## Permanency Blast

March 2014

### Dear Permanency Warriors,

In this month's permanency blast, we share a new Child Trends research brief on Family Finding as well as a recent article on improving foster care by the Chronicle of Social Change, which cites the work of Kevin Campbell & NIPFC. Following that, we provide details and registration information for two exciting national conferences coming up this year. We will be presenting at both conferences and hope many of you are able to join us!

### New Child Trends Research Brief - Voices from the Field

Child Trends has just recently released a new Family Finding research brief entitled, "Voices from the Field: Stakeholder Perspectives on Family Finding." Bob Friend and Kevin Campbell, along with a variety of other professionals in the field, including judges, guardians ad litem and family finding specialists, were interviewed to determine the importance of finding and engaging lifelong supports for children and youth, as well as common barriers to forming and building permanent connections.

To read the research brief, [click here>>](#)

You can also find a number of other Child Trends Family Finding Research Briefs on our website at [familyfinding.org/resourcesandpublications](http://familyfinding.org/resourcesandpublications).

### A New Article by The Chronicle of Social Change: Seven Ways to Change Foster Care for the Better

The Chronicle of Social Change recently published a new article by Georgette Todd on the Seven Ways to Changes to Foster Care for the Better. These ideas may provide you with some new ideas on how to improve your agency's or organization's practice. To read the full article, [click here>>](#)

### Register Now for the 17th National Conference on Family Group Decision Making Conference and Other Family Engagement Approaches

The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Colorado is pleased to announce the 17th National Conference on Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) and Other Family Engagement Approaches, June 10-13, 2014, in Vail, Colorado at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort.

This conference, Reaching New Heights with Families, will focus on ascending to genuine partnership with families. Nationally and internationally, work in FGDM and family

engagement has continued to grow and evolve. New trails have been blazed in research and practice, at times there's been a need for swift action and flexibility to navigate switchbacks, and collaborations have been formed to traverse rough waters. This conference will explore what genuine partnership with families looks like in action, and things to consider to determine if we are on the right path to reach new heights.

This is your opportunity to focus on skill-development with FGDM and other family engagement experts in a training environment. Register by May 19, 2014 to receive the early bird rate and be sure to read about the pre-conference skills institutes for this year.

At this conference we will be presenting with staff from both the Family Connections Grant site in San Francisco and in Olmstead, Minnesota on exploring implementation similarities and differences in these two sites which are integrating Family Finding with differing family involvement strategies. We hope you will join us in Vail!

For more conference information and for directions to register, you can access the conference brochure by [clicking here>>](#)

## **Register Now for the 19th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect**

The Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) is pleased to announce the 19th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, which will be held April 30 - May 2 in New Orleans. The conference theme this year is Making Meaningful Connections.

This conference is the only federally-sponsored national conference devoted to the issues of child maltreatment and serves as the nation's leading training and technical assistance event for practitioners, policy makers, advocates, and researchers. More than 3,000 in-person and virtual participants join together for a two-and-a-half day series of knowledge and skill-building sessions, building powerful collaborative networks and contributing to lessons learned that profoundly shape public policy, research, and practice in child maltreatment and child welfare.

At this conference, we will be presenting with some San Francisco County staff on our joint Lifelong Connections Initiative within the county. We hope you will be able to join us in New Orleans! For more information or to register, [click here>>](#)

We thank you for your commitment to achieving permanency for every youth in foster care!

Best regards,

Kevin Campbell	Bob Friend	Pat O'Brien
Kelly Beck	Mike Mertz	Clif Venable
Beverly Kyer	Nathan Aleman	Gail Johnson Vaughan
Amanda Miller		

*To join the mailing list for Kevin Campbell's sister Family Finding Newsletter, [click here>>](#)*

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