



National Institute for Permanent
Family Connectedness



National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness Permanency Blast December 2014

Greetings,

Acknowledging that our blasts have been dormant for many months due to high demand for our services and a great deal of travel, we jump out of the box this month with 5 items! They are: a brief summary of work NIPFC has performed during the year, a short analysis developed by Kelly Beck which highlights some of the foster care changes mandated by the recently signed Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act; a summary of the statewide Family Finding Convening in Ohio sponsored by the Waiting Child Fund; a survey produced by the Williams Institute in Los Angeles; and a job announcement for a Family Finder for the RISE program in Los Angeles.

What have we been up to in 2014?

NIPFC has been integrally involved in Family Finding/Permanency projects in Los Angeles (RISE), Wisconsin, Mississippi, San Antonio Texas (via Casey Family Programs), Olmsted County Minnesota and in support of a partnership between Seneca Family of Agencies and San Francisco Human Services Administration. Additionally, Kevin Campbell and Bob Friend, along with Georgina Rodriguez, co-keynoted and led workshops for the Family Finding convening in Cleveland, OH, sponsored by The Waiting Child Fund. NIPFC presented with Seneca and San Francisco partners at the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in New Orleans in May, and again with Seneca, San Francisco and Olmsted County at the Family Group Decision Making Conference in June of this year. We look forward to another robust year in 2015!

New Federal Legislation Boosts Permanency Efforts Foster Youth

“Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act,” H.R. 4980, was signed into law by President Obama on September 29, 2014 [Public Law 113-183]. Subtitle B of this major legislation is entitled, “Improving Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and Supporting Permanency” and includes additional

requirements in permanency planning processes for foster youth. This legislation is a crucial next step after the passage of Fostering Connections[1] (FC) by providing youth who are languishing in care with an absolute voice in court and with their case workers during the development of their case plans. It also broadens the individuals who are considered relatives under FC which continues to strengthen the possibility of youth maintaining connections with their siblings.

Specifically, this bill requires state agencies to “involve” foster youth who are 14 and older, in the development of their case plan[2]; requires the Court, during the permanency planning hearings, to ask youth who have a plan of Another Planning Permanency Living Arrangement (APPLA) about the appropriateness of their permanency plan[3] and eliminates the use of APPLA for youth under the age of 16.[4] It also extends the family connection grants through fiscal year 2016[5] and broadens the notification requirement under FC to include “all parents of a sibling of the child, where such parent has legal custody of such sibling,” sibling is defined as “the individual is considered by State law to be a sibling of the child” and “the individual would have been considered a sibling of the child under State law but for a termination or other disruption of parental rights, such as the death of a parent.[6]” This legislation further requires states to track disrupted or failed adoptions. [for a full text of this legislation and its additional provisions visit: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr4980/text> Nicole Dobbins from Voice for Adoptions provides another [analysis of the bill](#).

[1] Fostering Connections to Success Act, 2008

[2] Section 2, Title 1, Subtitle B, Section 113

[3] Section 112(b)(1)

[4] P.L. 113-183, Section 112(a)

[5] Title II, Subtitle B, Section 221

[6] Title II, Subtitle A, Section 209

Ohio Family Finding Convening

On October 30th The Waiting Child Fund hosted a Family Finding Convening for the state of Ohio, which included 16 counties and 25 statewide agencies. The convening aimed to provide education and professional development in family-centered engagement practices to over 130 professionals. Speakers, facilitators, and attendees traveled from 10 outside states, including Washington, California, Hawaii, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Florida, Washington DC, New York, and Oregon. The day was made possible by the support of a number of Key Partners and Funding Partners.

Convening programming focused on 5 primary opportunities and impact areas: Front Door Innovation, System Collaboration, Integration of 3-5-7 Model and Family Finding, Staff Recruitment & Retention and Training/Coaching. A great deal of excitement and energy was generated about these topics and a clear

interest to continue the conversations beyond the Convening. Participants felt educated, inspired, and ready to integrate this learning into their daily work. Participants also greatly valued hearing the real-life experiences of individual Family Finding journeys of Georgina Rodriguez & Antwone Fisher (via Skype).

To learn more about the effort of The Waiting Child Fund, please [click here](#). For those looking for more information please refer to the [resource library on the Convening website](#). PowerPoint Presentations from the speakers & facilitators and we will add those to the site very soon.

Los Angeles Foster Youth Survey

Williams Institute & Holarchy Consulting conducted a survey in concert with [RISE](#) and the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services to gather population data on LGBTQ youth in the foster care system. 786 youth (out of a pool of 3000 contacts) in care between the ages of 12-21 responded to this one time survey. The findings included that there are between 1.5-2 times as many LGBTQ youth (19.5% of the foster care population ages 12-21) living in foster care as there are LGBTQ youth estimated to be living outside of foster care. LGBTQ youth were found to have a higher average number of foster care placements and are more likely to be living in a group home. These youth reported that they were not treated as well as other youth in the child welfare system and were more likely to have been hospitalized for emotional reasons and to have been homeless at some point. [This study](#) is intended to better equip social workers to provide resources to this highly vulnerable youth population.

Family Connections Specialist sought by RISE in Los Angeles

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is currently looking for a Family Finder to support the RISE project in its effort to create safety, enduring connectedness and legal permanency for LGBTQ children and youth in foster care in Los Angeles County. This is an opportunity to work with an exciting and innovative team that focuses on creating affirming environments and enduring relationships for children and youth while supporting the need for LGBTQ youth to hold privilege of their identity and expression. To learn more about this opportunity [click here](#).

Warm Regards for the Holiday Season,

NIPFC Team

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

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