

Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee

2016 Annual Report

April 6, 2016

Committee Co-Chairs

Rep. Marilyn Avila
Sen. Tamara Barringer

Public Members

Kimberly Hale
Hon. Joy A. Jones
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Al J. Mooney, III
Kristin C. O'Connor
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To: The Chairs of the Representatives Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, Chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division

Dear Chairmen:

In 2013, the General Assembly created the Permanency Innovation Initiative Fund (Fund) to support a demonstration project by the Children's Home Society designed to improve permanency outcomes for children living in foster care and reduce the costs of maintaining children in foster care. The Fund provides monies for three strategies that can be used to meet the goals of the demonstration project: Family Finding, Child Specific Adoption Recruitment Services, and Permanency Training Services. The General Assembly has appropriated monies for the Fund for three years starting with the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Appendix A provides a table of the budget and expenditures by the Children's Home Society for each of the three fiscal years.

Historically, children nine years old and up in foster care are more likely to remain in foster care than to be adopted. Because age is a critical characteristic in attaining the goal of adoption from foster care, the strategies supported by the Fund are focused on children from nine to 17 years old in order to reduce the number of children aging out of foster care.

Pursuant to Part 2 of Article 1A of Chapter 131D of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee (Committee) was created to monitor the success of the demonstration project's three strategies. The Committee has received periodic status updates on the progress of the Children's Home Society in meeting the performance measures assigned to each of the three strategies supported by the Fund. Appendix B provides tables with the target value and the actual value reached by each performance measure for the period from July 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015.

The Committee is still collecting data and feels that further study is warranted in order to gauge the success of the strategies being implemented by the Children's Home Society to achieve the permanency and cost-savings goals of the demonstration project.

The Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee respectfully submits the following report pursuant to G.S. 131D-10.9A(d).



Senator Tamara Barringer
Co-Chair



Representative Marilyn Avila
Co-Chair

APPENDIX A. Budget and Expenditures

Permanency Innovations Initiative Contract Budget and Expenditures			
Contract Year	Budget	Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
Year 1, January 2014-June 2014	\$966,200	\$810,534	\$155,666
Year 2, July 2014 through June 2015	\$2,750,000	\$2,358,952	\$391,048
Year 3, July 2015 through June 2016*	\$2,750,000	\$1,069,647	\$1,680,353

* Information shown is July through November

APPENDIX B. Performance Measure Target Values and Actual Values Achieved

Family Finding

Family Finding is a program that uses intensive biological family engagement services to discover and engage biological relatives of children living in public foster care to provide permanent emotional and relational support, including adoption, legal guardianship, or legal custody.

July 1, 2015 – November 30, 2015

Performance Measures	Contract Measures	
	Target Value	YTD Actual
Family Finding Scorecard - State Wide		
Total number served contract period	200	195
70% of cases admitted by January 31, 2017 receiving Tier 3 Family Finding services will have a Decision Making" meeting	70%	68%
75% of cases that completed a "Decision Making" meeting will have 5+ relatives or fictive-kin commit to engagement as documented in closure summary reports	75%	71%
55% of cases that completed a Decision Making" meeting will have 1+ relatives or fictive-kin commit to permanency as documented in closure summary reports	55%	64%
40% of cases open by October 31, 2016 will be placed with a family by June 30, 2017.	40%	22%
35% of closed cases will achieve permanence with a family by June 30, 2017.	35%	17%
75% of children and case workers will report satisfaction with the services	75%	100%

Child Specific Adoption Recruitment Services

Child Specific Adoption Recruitment Services is a program that follows the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Model as developed by The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and works with children in public foster care to develop and execute adoption recruitment plans tailored to the needs of the individual child.

July 1, 2015 – November 30, 2015

Performance Measures	Contract Measures	
	Target Value	YTD Actual
Family Finding Scorecard - State Wide		
Total number served contract period	78	87
52% of cases that are opened by July 1, 2016 will have been matched with a family by June 30, 2017	52%	52%
40% of cases that are opened by January 1, 2016 will have been placed with a family by June 30, 2017	40%	28%
38% of cases that are opened by July 1, 2015 and have been adopted by June 30, 2017	38%	37%
75% of children and case workers will report satisfaction with the services	75%	100%

Permanency Training Services

Permanency Training Services are services delivered by the Children's Home Society of North Carolina to assess the readiness of county departments of social services to implement the permanency strategies in the Family Finding program model and the Child Specific Adoption Recruitment Services program model and provide training services to professionals and family members and caregivers to support the delivery of the services.

July 1, 2015 – November 30, 2015

Performance Measure	Contract Measures	
	Target Value	YTD Actuals
Permanency Training - Statewide		
65 Training Proposals will be accepted for Permanency Training Services	65	33
Permanency Training services will deliver a total of 250 hours of training and coaching or consultation to child welfare agencies and partners	250	117
Permanency Training services will deliver 200 hours of family assessment and education and support to families and caregivers receiving Family Finding and Child Specific Recruitment Services	200	106
85% of training participants will indicate they learned knowledge or skills they can apply to their work with youth or families on the posttest survey given at the completion of the training	85%	97%
75% of training participants will indicate 3 months after the training that they were able to incorporate knowledge from the training into their work	75%	90%
75% of family participants evidencing improved knowledge of caregiving skills and child/adolescent development following family education sessions as evidenced by assessments given every 4 months and/or at the conclusion of family support work with the trainer	75%	100%