

# Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee

## 2017 Annual Report

January 10, 2017

To: The Chairs of the House 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:

The Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII) began implementation on January 1, 2014 and has demonstrated its importance and impact. The need for targeted permanency services for older youth in foster care has continued to increase, yet the Permanency Innovation Initiative is currently serving less than 25% of eligible children in need.

More than 70% of county Department of Social Services agencies have voluntarily utilized PII services and many are requesting additional capacity to serve more children.

The program evaluation of Family Finding and Child Specific Adoption Recruitment services has demonstrated positive impact. Family Finding is having a positive impact on legal and relational permanency for the children being served, but not a significant increase compared to children who are not receiving the service. Additional time for continuation of services at existing levels, coupled with further evaluation, is needed before further expansion occurs.

Child Specific Adoption Recruitment is having a positive and significant impact on legal permanency outcomes compared to children who are not receiving the services. Based on the impact of this program, significant expansion is warranted to better meet the needs of eligible children.

Committee Co-Chairs  
Rep. Marilyn Avila  
Sen. Tamara Barringer

Public Members  
Kimberly Hale  
Hon. Joy A. Jones  
Vickie H. Koch  
Jennifer S.  
Kristiansen  
Rhett N. Mabry  
Brian Maness  
Kristin C. O'Connor  
Andrea R. Smith  
Mark Testa  
Susan R. Whitehead

Appendix A provides the budget and expenditures of the Children's Home Society contract for the past three fiscal years.

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, 2016 through November 30, 2016.

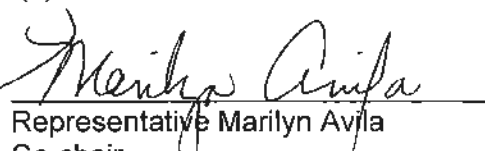
Appendix C are letters of support from local county departments of social services.

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

- The recurring appropriation from the General Fund to NC-DHHS-DSS should be increased by \$750,000 in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This funding should be supplemented, not supplanted, by all available federal matching funds.
- The Office of State Budget Management be directed to assist NC-DHHS-DSS and Children's Home Society to develop a contract that will fully expend all appropriated funds from the General Fund and supplement, not supplant those funds with additional federal matching funds.
- Children's Home Society continue efforts to secure private, non-governmental, investments from other partners to further expand services.

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**

<b>Permanency Innovation Initiative Contract Budget and Expenditures</b>			
<b>Contract Year</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Unexpended Balance</b>
<b>Year 1, January 2014-June 2014</b>	\$966,200	\$810,534	\$155,666
<b>Year 2, July 2014 through June 2015</b>	\$2,750,000	\$2,358,952	\$391,048
<b>Year 3, July 2015 through June 2016</b>	\$2,750,000	\$2,623,372	\$126,628

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, 2016 – November 30, 2016**

Performance Measures	Contract Measures	
	Target Value	YTD Actual
Family Finding Scorecard-statewide		
Total number served contract period	220	168
70% of cases admitted by January 31, 2017 receiving Tier 3 Family Finding services will have a "Decision Making" meeting	70%	71%
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%	63%
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%	72%
40% of cases open by October 31, 2016 will be placed with a family by June 30, 2017	40%	33%
35% of closed cases will achieve permanence with a family by June 30, 2017	35%	22%
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, 2016 – November 30, 2016**

Performance Measures	Contract Measures	
	Target Value	YTD Actual
Family Finding Scorecard - State Wide		
Total number served contract period	110	104
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%	50%
38% of cases that are opened by July 1, 2015 and have been adopted by June 30, 2017	38%	46%
75% of children and case workers will report satisfaction with the services	75%	96%

## 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, 2016 – November 30, 2016

Performance Measures	Contract Measures	
	Target Value	YTD Actuals
<u>Permanency Training - Statewide</u>		
65 Training Proposals will be accepted for Permanency Training Services	75	28
Permanency Training Services will deliver a total of 225 hours of training and coaching or consultation to child welfare agencies and partners	225	83
Permanency Training Services will deliver 225 hours of family assessment and education and support to families and caregivers receiving Family Finding and Child Specific Recruitment Services	225	93.25
85% of training participants will indicate they learned knowledge or skills they can apply to their work with youth or families on the post-test survey given at the completion of the training	85%	99%
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%	85%
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%

Peggy Eagan, ACSW  
Director



Charles Bradley  
YFS Director

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
**Department of Social Services**  
**Youth and Family Services Division**

January 8, 2017

RE: Permanency Innovation Initiative

I am writing in support of Mecklenburg County Youth and Family Services (YFS) and Children's Home Society's (CHS) collaboration regarding services to improve permanency outcomes for children living in foster care, to improve engagement with biological families, and to reduce costs associated with maintaining children in foster care.

Through the Permanency Innovation Initiative, CHS has provided:

- **Child-Specific Adoption Recruitment Services-** CHS joined YFS in several events to recruit adoptive parents for children ages 9-17. As a result of this partnership, from February 1, 2016 – January 5, 2017, six (6) children were adopted.
- **Family Finding Services-** This program has been very successful in discovering and engaging relatives for children in care. The Family Finding staff accompany Permanency Planning Social Workers on home visits, attend court hearings, Child and Family Team meetings as well as educational meetings. This service has resulted in success stories such as:
  - CHS was able to locate the biological grandmother for a child that had been adopted and returned to foster care. The maternal grandmother and other relatives were able to provide information to CHS, YFS and to the youth about his biological mother. Initially, the maternal grandmother was a natural support for the youth. Eventually, the child's grandmother became a placement resource for him when he aged out of foster care.
  - CHS was able to locate paternal relatives for a young child in foster care. The mother had identified her family members who were unable to meet the child's needs. The father would not readily provide any information about his family. CHS Family Finding was able to locate many paternal relatives who contacted YFS. The relatives did not know that the father had another child. The family desired to be in the child's life. The child began to visit with the paternal aunt and uncle. The child met other family members and was able to see his father. The family members were not able to adopt but were willing to maintain connections with the child. CHS continued to engage the paternal grandmother who resided out of Mecklenburg County and she is now willing to be considered as a kinship placement for the child.

**PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

301 Billingsley Road • Charlotte, North Carolina 28211 • (704) 353-1500 • (704) 336-3361 Fax  
[www.MecklenburgCountyNC.gov/Departments/DSS/Home.htm](http://www.MecklenburgCountyNC.gov/Departments/DSS/Home.htm)

- Permanency Training Services: CHS provided Understanding the Effects of Trauma as well as ongoing training regarding the Family Finding services.

Youth and Family Services is proud to work with Children's Home Society as we both strive to serve this vulnerable population. The focus of the Permanency Innovative Initiative aligns with the strategic plan as well targeted outcome measures for Youth and Family Services. As Deputy Director of Youth and Family Services, I confirm that Youth and Family Services is committed to continued collaboration with Children's Home Society to ensure timely permanence for children in foster care.

Sincerely,



Denise Steele-Campbell  
Deputy Director- Post Custody Services  
Mecklenburg County Youth and Family Services  
[Denise.steelecampbell@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Denise.steelecampbell@mecklenburgcountync.gov)





## COUNTY OF CALDWELL

Department of Social Services  
2345 Morganton Boulevard, SW, Suite A  
Post Office Box 200  
Lenoir, North Carolina 28645  
Phone: (828) 426-8200  
Fax: (828) 426-8399  
[www.caldwellcountync.org/dept/dss](http://www.caldwellcountync.org/dept/dss)

BOARD MEMBERS  
Sarah Sponenberg, Chair  
Patricia Stone, Vice-Chair  
Trilla Annas  
Blaine Setzer-Maxwell  
Iris Whit

DIRECTOR  
Will Wakefield

January 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Permanency Innovation Initiative through Children's Home Society of NC. Our agency has utilized this service on a number of occasions to find relative/supportive relationships for youth in foster care. The program has been successful in locating at times over 50 individuals for our foster children but unfortunately the relatives have not stepped up to do what they needed to do to cultivate a productive relationship for the youth. It is however a valuable service and components of the program are extremely beneficial to assist youth to process their past through the video interview. Children's Home Society SW's are a valuable part of the child's treatment team and the service has been very successful in locating paternal relatives who may not have been considered at the onset of children entering foster care. Our agency hopes to continue to access this valuable service for youth in foster care and supports this initiative to reconnect foster children to appropriate relatives and/or supportive individuals from their past.

Sincerely,

Melinda Price, SWS

Adoption Team

Caldwell County Department of Social Services

(828)426-8292



Family Builders of Catawba Valley  
P.O. Box 669  
Newton, NC 28658-0669  
Phone: 828-465-8901  
FAX: 828-466-1058  
TDD: 828-695-5707  
[www.catawbacountync.gov/dss](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss)

Family Services Center  
Located at 3050 11th Ave. Dr., S.E., Hickory, NC

January 9, 2017

Alexandra Kelly, Area Director  
Business Development and Advocacy  
Children's Home Society of NC  
PO Box 2648  
Asheville, NC 28802

Dear Ms. Kelly,

I am writing to share our gratitude and support for the Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII) through Children's Home Society. We have been participating in the Child Specific Recruiters Program through the PII for the last two and half years. We have had approximately 15 youth served from our foster care population. Ten of the youth were over the age of 12 when they started participating. Eight of the youth came to the program from therapeutic foster care. Over 65% (10 of 15) of the youth have been placed in adoptive homes.

The PII program does make a difference in what resources we have available. It is making an impact on youth's lives. There are some youth that would have had permanency significantly delayed or maybe not at all. Some comments from our social workers regarding the program: When they hold their recruitment events there is always at least one family that is interested in every child. It's not like other events where people attend and only gravitate towards the younger children. The CHS Recruiters are strong advocates for older youth and large sibling groups; and, they are able to think outside the box when it comes to helping children with special needs. When the children they help with are in crisis they do not step back and fade away, they add extra support and are willing to do one on one work with them. They get things done-locating families, taking photos, being an advocate, attending meetings and seeing the positives and potential in all children.

Again, we want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this program and hope that it will continue for many years.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Shumate, MSW  
Social Work Supervisor III



*A Division of Catawba County Social Services*

*To strengthen, with dignity and respect, the quality of life for all citizens through supportive services and advocacy*



# GASTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

330 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way • Gastonia, North Carolina 28052  
Phone 704-862-7530 • [www.gastonhhs.org](http://www.gastonhhs.org)

January 6, 2017

Permanency Innovation Initiative Legislative Oversight Committee  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Sir or Madam:

Children's Home Society (CHS) has been an invaluable resource to the Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). Children's Home Society offers child specific recruitment for children over the age of 9, who are clear for adoption and not in an identified adoptive placement. They work diligently to research the child's history and needs in order to assist Gaston County DHHS with making the most appropriate match for each child. In collaboration with our agency, CHS identifies families with current pre-placement assessments who may be interested in becoming a special child's forever family. Children's Home Society assists us with "matching" events and other services designed to build relationships with children which allow them to truly advocate for our hardest to place children. Even in cases where our youth are not ready and willing to accept adoption, they work tirelessly to meet their needs. We look forward to continued partnership with CHS, an agency who demonstrates commitment to our common goal of creating stable and secure forever homes for our community's most vulnerable children. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 704-862-7893.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris C. Dobbins".

Christopher C. Dobbins, MPH  
Director



## Buncombe County Health and Human Services

Aging and Veteran's Services | Social Work Services | Public Assistance & Work Support Strategies | Public Health

**Amanda Stone, MSW**  
Health and Human Services Director

Date: January 3, 2017

To Whom it May Concern

Buncombe County DHHS supports the Children's Home Society of North Carolina in their application to the State of North Carolina and the continuation of the Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII) that has been funded by the State as part of the Family Finding Model. Specifically, the Permanency Innovation Initiative has permitted Children's Home Society to stay involved with a particular child until permanence could be achieved for that child.

Buncombe County DHHS recognizes that there are many children in Western North Carolina who languish in foster care, or age out entirely, and that they would be better served by being placed with a permanent, safe, and loving family. Our experiences with Children's Home Society have shown that their Family Finding activities fill a critical gap in connecting these children with families, which is not filled by any other organization in the area.

If Buncombe County DHHS can provide any additional information to support the work of Children's Home Society, please contact me at 828-250-5626 or via email at [angie.garner@buncombecounty.org](mailto:angie.garner@buncombecounty.org).

Sincerely,

Angela L Garner  
Buncombe County Foster Care Program Manager

[buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org)

HHS ADMINISTRATION  
p. 828.250.5700  
f. 828.250.6235  
PO Box 740B  
Asheville, NC 28802

PUBLIC HEALTH  
p. 828.250.5000  
f. 828.250.6235  
PO Box 7407  
Asheville, NC 28802

AGING & VETERAN'S SERVICES  
p. 828.250.5726  
PO Box 740B  
Asheville, NC 28802

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES  
p. 828.250.5500  
f. 828.250.6235  
PO Box 740B  
Asheville, NC 28802

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
p. 828.250.5500  
f. 828.250.6235  
PO Box 740B  
Asheville, NC 28802



**Harnett**  
**COUNTY**

NORTH CAROLINA

**Social Services Department**

[www.harnett.org](http://www.harnett.org)

**Paul Polinski, Director**

Harnett County Government Complex

P.O. Box 2169

311 Cornelius Harnett Boulevard

Lillington, NC 27546

ph: 910-893-7500

fax: 910-893-8604

January 5, 2017

Dennis M. Daugherty, MSW  
Area Director  
Business Development & Advocacy Team  
Children's Home Society of North Carolina  
2200 E. Seventh St.  
Charlotte, NC 28204

Dear Mr. Daugherty:

The Family Finding Program and the training services offered through Children's Home Society of North Carolina have been an asset to the foster care program of Harnett County Department of Social Services. We have utilized these programs several years with children in foster care and foster/adoptive families.

The Family Finding Services has been utilized with approximately 8 children and lead to placements with relatives out of state and formation of family bonds even if placement is not possible. It is imperative that children know family and this program has been essential in helping us find family ties.

The training services have been utilized with adoptive families for one year and for foster/adoptive families for several months. This training has assisted families in staying together and helping the parents understand the impact of trauma on children. Understanding the root of behaviors helps the behaviors become more manageable.

Should you need additional information please contact the Placement Program Manager, Virginia Smith at 910-814-6683 or by email at [vsmith@harnett.org](mailto:vsmith@harnett.org).

Sincerely:

Paul Polinski

Director

Harnett County Department of Social Services

*Mission Statement*

*To provide services to individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency, safety, and improve their quality of life.*

strong roots • new growth

**UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 489  
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28111

1212 W. Roosevelt Boulevard  
Monroe, NC 28110  
Telephone (704) 296-4300  
Fax (704) 296-4807



Michelle Lancaster  
Interim Executive Director

Rae Ann Alepa, M.S.  
Division Director

December 30, 2016

Children's Home Society of North Carolina  
2200 E. Seventh St.  
Charlotte, NC 28204  
Attn: Dennis Daugherty

Dear Mr. Daugherty,

On behalf of the Union County Division of Social Services, I would like to offer this letter of support for the Children's Home Society's programs, specifically the Family Finders program, child specific recruitment program, and training services. Children's Home Society has been an integral part of our community for many years. The support that they have provided to children and families is immeasurable. Through these programs, foster children have been given an opportunity at rekindling relationships with their biological families and often times this has led to permanence.

Union County has seen success in regard to the Family Finders and child specific recruitment programs specifically. We have made several referrals to these programs and have achieved much success with locating loving permanent homes for our agency's foster children. Recently, we achieved permanence for a child that had been in the foster care system for over three years. Family Finders was able to locate a paternal cousin that was willing and able to allow the child to come and stay with their family. The family member was granted guardianship via the court system and the child is thriving in this home.

Without the services of Children's Home Society, our community would be at a loss. Our agency is completely in favor of all of the services that this agency provides. Please continue to support them in regard to funding and expansion of services.

Sincerely,

Rae Alepa  
Division Director  
Union County Division of Social Services