

Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee

2018 Annual Report

February 6, 2018

Committee Co-Chairs

Rep. Jonathan Jordan
Sen. Tamara Barringer

Public Members

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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:

In 2013, the General Assembly created the Permanency Innovation Initiative Fund (Fund) to support a project conducted 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 five 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 five 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 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 2016 through September 2017.

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 Committee makes the following recommendations:

- The current appropriation from the General Fund to NC-DHHS-DSS should be recurring in the 2018-2019 fiscal year and forward. 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 Jonathan Jordan
Co-Chair

APPENDIX A. Budget and Expenditures

Permanency Innovation Initiative Contract Budget and Expenditures

| Contract Year | Budget | Expenditures | Unexpended Balance |
|--|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Year 1, January 2013-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 | 2,632,372 | \$126,628 |
| Year 4, July 2016-June 2017 | \$2,750,000 | \$2,627,864 | \$122,136 |

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.

FY 2016-2017

| Performance Measures | Contract Performance Measures | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | Target Value | YTD Actual Value |
| Family Finding Scorecard - State Wide | | |
| Total number served contract period | 220 | 219 |
| 70% of cases admitted by January 31, 2017 receiving Tier 3 Family Finding services will have a Decision Making meeting | 70% | 74% |
| 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% | 61% |
| 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% | 70% |
| 40% of cases open by October 31, 2016 will be placed with a family by June 30, 2017. | 40% | 31% |
| 35% of closed cases will achieve permanence with a family by June 30 2017. | 35% | 23% |
| 75% of children and case workers will report satisfaction with the services | 75% | 100% |

July 1, 2017-November 30, 2017

| Performance Measures | Contract Performance Measures | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | Target Value | YTD Actual Value |
| Intensive Permanency Service Measures | | |
| Total number served in contract period | 330 | 314 |
| 50% of cases that are opened by July 1, 2017 will have been matched with a family by June 30, 2018 | 50% | 56% |
| 40% of cases that are opened by January 1, 2017 will have been placed with a family by June 30, 2018 | 40% | 38% |
| 35% of closed cases will be achieve permanency by June 30, 2018 | 35% | 34% |
| 75% of children and case workers will report satisfaction with the services | 75% | 98% |

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.

FY 2016-2017

| Performance Measures | Contract Performance Measures | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | Target Value | YTD Actual Value |
| Child Specific Recruitment Scorecard - State Wide | | |
| Total number served contract period | 110 | 121 |
| 52% of cases that are opened by July 1, 2016 will have been matched with a family by June 30, 2017 | 52% | 60% |
| 40% of cases that are opened by January 1, 2016 will have been placed with a family by June 30, 2017 | 40% | 64% |
| 38% of closed cases will be adopted by June 30, 2017 | 38% | 48% |
| 75% of children and case workers will report satisfaction with the services | 75% | 96% |

July 1, 2017-November 30, 2017

| Performance Measures | Contract Performance Measures | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | Target Value | YTD Actual Value |
| Intensive Permanency Service Measures | | |
| Total number served in contract period | 330 | 314 |
| 50% of cases that are opened by July 1, 2017 will have been matched with a family by June 30, 2018 | 50% | 56% |
| 40% of cases that are opened by January 1, 2017 will have been placed with a family by June 30, 2018 | 40% | 38% |
| 35% of closed cases will be achieve permanency by June 30, 2018 | 35% | 34% |
| 75% of children and case workers will report satisfaction with the services | 75% | 98% |

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.

FY 2016-2017

| Performance Measures | Contract Performance Measures | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | Target Value | YTD Actual Value |
| Training Scorecard – Statewide | | |
| Permanency Training will deliver a total of 225 hours of training and coaching or consultation to child welfare agencies and partners | 225 | 239.5 |
| Permanency Training will deliver 225 hours of family assessment and education and support to caregivers receiving Family Finding and Child Specific Recruitment | 225 | 233.5 |
| 85% of participants will indicate they learned knowledge or skills they can apply to their work with youth or families on the survey at the completion of training | 85% | 99% |
| 75% of participants will indicate 3 months after the training that they were able to incorporate knowledge from the training into their work | 75% | 87% |
| 75% of participants evidencing improved knowledge of caregiving skills and child development following family education sessions as evidenced by assessments given every 4 months and/or at the conclusion of the work with the trainer | 75% | 100% |

July 1, 2017-November 30, 2017

| Performance Measures | Contract Performance Measures | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | Target Value | YTD Actual Value |
| Training Scorecard – Statewide | | |
| Permanency Training will deliver a total of 225 hours of training and coaching or consultation to child welfare agencies and partners | 225 | 35.25 |
| Permanency Training will deliver 225 hours of family assessment and education and support to caregivers receiving Family Finding and Child Specific Recruitment | 225 | 84.25 |
| 85% of participants will indicate they learned knowledge or skills they can apply to their work with youth or families on the survey at the completion of training | 85% | 98% |

| | | |
|---|-----|------|
| 75% of 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 participants evidencing improved knowledge of caregiving skills and child development following family education sessions as evidenced by assessments given every 4 months and/or at the conclusion of the work with the trainer | 75% | 100% |