



Administration for Children and Families

SACWIS Managers Conference Call for **AdoptUsKids - Project Connect**

Thursday, April 23rd 2009



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Project Connect...

How did this come about?



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AdoptUsKids Website

- Technically complex, feature rich tool
- Recruit & connecting foster and adoptive families with waiting children throughout US
- Successful use relies on active management of the child case within the tool
- Audience:
 - Foster/Adoption professionals
 - Registered families with a homestudy
 - General public



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Permanency Focus

- Program infrastructure
- Leadership
- Data-Linked periodic and systematic review of cases with a permanency lens
- Ensure that all children needing permanent placement are reviewed
- Ask the right questions



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AdoptUsKids Website (cont.)

- Current statistics*:
 - 4300 waiting photolisted children
 - 4200 active registered families
 - 3000 professional users from 976 organizations
- Numbers are rounded off and vary over time



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Project Connect

Developing a Mechanism to Streamline Photolisting of Children on AdoptUsKids

- All children needing an alternative permanent placement are photolisted
- Focus is on children who can't easily be placed locally
- Not automatic – includes a review of child's case for permanency status prior to putting on site



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Why?

- Children who need this resource are not being photolisted in adequate numbers
- States already have most of the data required for AdoptUsKids within their SACWIS system
- The pool of potential adoptive parents for children in care is a vastly underutilized resource



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How?

- Web service allowing for automatic or semi-automatic transfer of data from SACWIS to AdoptUsKids



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Benefits to the State

- Increased worker efficiency
 - Less time in administrative work
 - More time for direct client contact
- Better service to children
 - An increased pool of prospective families
 - An increased likelihood of placement success
- Reduced administrative costs to the State by moving children from foster care to adoption
- Better CFSR outcomes



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Benefits to the Child

- Increase the pool of potential permanency placement options which will:
 - Increase the child's opportunity to get into a highly compatible home
 - Decrease the amount of time from removal to permanence



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Benefits to the Worker

- Reduce the time that it takes to register each individual child on AdoptUsKids
- Increase the amount of time the worker will have to focus on direct client contact
- Decrease in worker caseloads over time
- Increased support/direction for permanency planning/decisions



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Questions???

Contact: Dale Langer, Project Connect
consultant

Email: wiaaref@hotmail.com



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State Readiness Factors

- Learn to use AdoptUsKids
 - AdoptUsKids case mgmt is critical to success
- Define the process of deciding which children will be photolisted on AdoptUsKids
- Establish review process with permanency lens
- Ensure photos are taken – put in SACWIS?
- Typical IT interface project



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Project Connect web service

- SOAP (1.1 or 1.2) compliant
- The dataset is "AdoptUsKids centric"
- Supports a sub-set of the functions available on the website
 - Centered on Child Case Registration
 - Potential to expand
- Specification:
<http://www.adoptuskids.org:8020/ChildWebServiceSpecification.doc>
- WSDL:
<http://www.adoptuskids.org:8020/ChildService.asmx?wsdl>



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Summary

AdoptUsKids has had great success helping States and other jurisdictions find permanent placements for difficult to place children. The most recent AFCARS data reveals that many of the children who could benefit from national recruitment are not currently photolisted on the AdoptUsKids website.

Tennessee has already begun incorporating Project Connect; they will present today as well.

