

a monthly newsletter from  
the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center



# COUNTY CONNECTION



## Paperwork Reduction:

October 2013

### *A Critical Thinking Guide for Implementation of Regulations and Bulletins*

Submitted by: Deb Mock on behalf of the Paperwork Reduction Committee

The Paperwork Reduction Committee was organized by the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators Association (PCYA) to explore ways to reduce paperwork requirements. Members of the committee included county agency Administrators, Supervisors, Caseworkers and staff from the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) Regional and Central offices. The committee identified that some of the overload of paperwork is a result of agency requirements added in the process of implementing new practices and policies. The committee created a *Critical Thinking Guide for*

*the Implementation of Regulations and Bulletins* in an effort to provide a tool to help agencies develop practices that will result in successful implementation while reducing unnecessary duplication of paperwork. The *Guide* can be accessed on the Child Welfare Resource Center website at this link:

[Critical Thinking Guide](#)

Some suggestions included in the *Guide* include:

- ◆ Utilize an implementation team
- ◆ Spend time to gather relevant information
- ◆ Assessment – what you already do, what you need to add or do differently
- ◆ Develop recommendations and plans based on your assessment

Ensure that your implementation plan includes:

- ◆ Piloting the new practice and forms before rollout to entire staff
- ◆ Planning for communication, technology, quality assurance checks and edit/enhancements

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In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

- Abraham Lincoln





*The vision of the Resource Center is every child, youth, and family experiences a life rich with positive opportunities, nurturing relationships, and supportive communities.*

## The McKinney-Vento Act and Homelessness in PA

From the FCU Newsletter and written by Denise Hoffman

The McKinney Homeless Assistance Act was signed into federal law by President Ronald Reagan on July 22, 1987 to address the problems of the homeless. The act has been amended several times over the years. In 1994 it was amended to include the education portion to eliminate enrollment barriers and provide school access and support for academic success for students experiencing homelessness. In 2001 it was amended again to include the No Child Left Behind Act and is now known as The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001. Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to free and appropriate public education.

In 2011-2012, PA reported

18,231 students experiencing homelessness. They were defined as follows: 60% doubled-up (living with another family), 32% were in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement; 6% were in hotels or motels; 1% was unsheltered; and 1% was unknown.

Many school-aged children in PA and across the United States experience homelessness. It doesn't mean that those children shouldn't have the same education opportunities as those who don't. Without the McKinney-Vento Act and other programs like it, we would have more poverty and more homelessness.

Let's put a stop to poverty and homelessness and make a difference for our children. Check in your local area to see where you can volunteer and help make a difference.

**Our children are our futures!**



Six Ethics of Life  
Before you Pray - Believe  
Before you Speak - Listen  
Before you Spend - Earn  
Before you Write - Think  
Before you Quit - Try &  
Before you Die - Live !!!!!



## Tips for Back To School for Resource and Adoptive Parents

From the FCU Newsletter and written by Denise Hoffman

1. Health: Make appointments for the child's physical, dental, and/or eye check-ups. You may need these to enroll the child in school.
2. Paperwork: You will find that there are several forms to fill out for school. Go prepared and make sure that you have everything you need. Keep a folder with all the child's documents.
3. Practice Address and Phone Numbers: Children need to know this for safety and for school. Make sure they know your full name, how to spell it correctly, and where you work. Have an index card in the child's backpack with the information.
4. Practice the Route to School or to the Bus Stop: Show the child the route they are to take and make sure it is a safe route. Make sure they know their bus number if taking a bus.
5. Be Involved with the Child's Education: Volunteer to be a room parent or to go on field trips. Know your child's teachers.



## Resource Parents Mentoring a Birth Parent

From the FCU Newsletter and written by Denise Hoffman

Whether you're a resource parent, a kinship provider or a birth parent, your objective is to make sure that your child is happy, healthy and safe. Together you can do this!

Birth parents need to be involved in their child's life and one way of doing this is to attend a school conference. While some birth parents may not know how to participate in a parent teacher meeting, resource parents can help by mentoring the birth parent through this.

Here are some tips: (1) Schedule the conference that is convenient for the birth parent to attend. (2) Let the teacher know the birth parent will be attending. (3) Introduce the birth parent to the teacher. (4) Allow the birth parent to offer advice and talk about any concerns or ask questions. (5) Remain calm, and remember that you are role modeling. (6) This is usually the birth parent's only contact with the school. You can follow up with the teacher later if you still have questions or concerns.

Remember, this is about the child.

*([www.adoption.about.com/fostering/parentteacher](http://www.adoption.about.com/fostering/parentteacher))*

## Regional Team Contact Information

Our local number is 717-795-9048

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