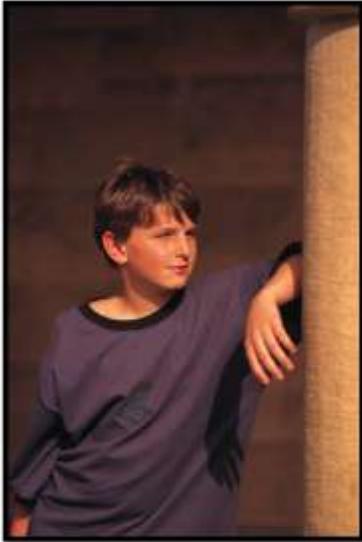


Roundtables



“Permanency.....I am not sure I know what it means. I don’t think I’ve ever had it before. Yea, I think I would like that.....” Those are the words spoken by an adolescent youth in foster care.

As I think back on my years of practice, I think about the many conversations that I had with children. Some were young and some were not so young. Some of the conversations were in their homes, some were in foster homes, some were in McDonald’s while we were eating an ice cream, some were in the car as we drove to and from a visit, and some were following a crisis moment in their lives. But regardless of the location or the timing, I look back and reflect on the importance of each of these conversations and the significance that each had on that child’s journey towards permanency.

I am reminded that every moment and every conversation that we have either with our children in care, their families or our community partners, we have to be focused on permanency. It has to be the focal point of our case plans and our plans of intervention. It has to be the focus of our conversations from the day we are granted temporary custody of a child until the day that child achieves permanency. That is our goal at DCBS. To truly be permanency oriented throughout our practice and to make every effort to promote permanency for every child in Kentucky’s out-of-home-care system.

Thanks to each of our DCBS staff and to our many community providers across this state that work tirelessly daily to support families and achieve permanency for our children. You really do make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you,

Teresa C. James, Deputy Commissioner
Kentucky Department for Community Based Services



Success Story

Regardless of how old you are, you can always find permanency...

Stephanie is a 17-year-old youth who unfortunately has had to grow up quick while in the foster care system. Stephanie is very mature for her age and is equally independent and self-determined. Stephanie strives for success thus leading a road of continuous achievements.

She, her sister, and cousin came into care on Oct. 21, 2006, as a result of neglect by their aunt/caretaker. Stephanie has remained in care since that time even though her aunt had successfully completed her case plan. The aunt primarily completed her case plan for the return of her own child, however was indecisive about allowing Stephanie and her sister to return home. Stephanie and her sister equally felt the same and refused to return to their aunt's home.

Her sister's biological father was located and after a slow transition and approval of a home evaluation through ICPC, Stephanie's sister was placed with her father in Iowa. Stephanie continues to have contact with her sister through e-mail, letters and telephone contact, however face to face contact has been limited due to their current living arrangements and distance. Stephanie's mother is deceased, and her father has not had contact with her except for the past two years that she has been in care.

Stephanie's father resides in South Carolina, and a home evaluation was requested through ICPC. Because Stephanie's father shared incomplete information, the home evaluation was denied. A case plan was negotiated with Stephanie's father; however minimal progress was made in efforts to reunify the two.

Although Stephanie and her father were allowed to have contact with one another daily, their telephone contact was limited because of their strained relationship.

Stephanie's father had visited her periodically while she was in care, but the visits stopped. He has not offered to provide any support -- monetary or emotional. Stephanie's father had not maintained regular contact with the current caseworker or made any effort to attend any court hearings that have been held.

In hopes to prevent further delay, a courtesy request was made to South Carolina Child Services for Stephanie's father to consider and complete a rejection of services form, voluntary TPR, DPP-191 and 192 as well as an acknowledgement of paternity. This was completed and to everyone's surprise, her father only signed a disclaimer of paternity, denying that he was her father. Stephanie's goal was changed to adoption during an APR hearing in November 2008.

Stephanie has had three placements through her 3 1/2 years in care and has finally found the perfect placement she refers to as home. She is currently placed in a foster/adopt home, where she has resided since March 2009. Stephanie has developed a strong and healthy relationship with foster family, as they have her, and has expressed on several occasions that she wants to be adopted by them despite her being 17 years old. Stephanie has accepted the foster home as her family and feels as if she can always return to their home with open arms, long after she has exited care. The foster home has been very supportive of Stephanie and have been by her side throughout the

array of emotions and upsets she has experienced and still to this day, they continue to accept her as their own.

Although there have been many obstacles to overcome, the foster home, as well as, Stephanie have anxiously and patiently awaited a TPR which was granted on April 1, 2009.

Stephanie feels that TPR has been somewhat of a closure for her past and has opened new doors for her future.

Stephanie is currently in the 11th grade. She is active in extracurricular activities and is currently playing softball for her school. She attends church regularly with her foster parents and serves as a role model for many youth of all ages and her peers.

Stephanie is a person with perseverance and much achievement given the obstacles she has faced as a child. Stephanie is currently living a healthy and stable life with two individuals she refers to as mom and dad. It is at this point, the family is patiently awaiting a court date for finalization of the adoption process.



Progress Report

Kentucky Roundtables – August & September 2010

Phase I – August 2010

- Permanency Achieved for 39 children out of 34 of cases
- 110 New connections have been established
- 136 New services have begun

Phase II

- Permanency Achieved for 10 children out of nine of cases
- 28 New connections have been established
- 97 New services have begun

Phase I – September 2010

- Permanency Achieved for 38 children out of 33 of cases
- 112 New connections have been established
- 143 New services have begun

Phase II

- Permanency Achieved for 11 children out of 10 of cases
- 28 New connections have been established
- 105 New services have begun

New Resources

The following tips can be helpful when case planning and working with fathers.

- “Help residential and nonresidential fathers understand the changing roles that accompany major milestones such as pregnancy, birth and child rearing.”
- “Transitions resulting from divorce may require more intensive services, monitoring, supervision, and supports that help father build continuity in relationships with children.”
- “Case planning can be designed to help increase father’s ability to provide familiar, stable, and even daily routines that will help create important resources in a child’s life.”
- “Use events in the child’s life to engage fathers in their children’s lives”

The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu>

Staff Spotlight

Cumberland Service Region

The Cumberland Region has been hard at work, and it shows. As of August 2010, they have had four children achieve permanency and eight children who have “Good” or “Very Good” status and should be achieving permanency soon. The children in the Cumberland Region are making great strides thanks to the diligence of their staff.

Thank you for all the excellent work you are doing in the Cumberland Region!

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct 5-8	Eastern Mountain Roundtables
Oct 5-8	Two Lakes Roundtables
Oct 12-15	Cumberland Roundtables
Oct 12-15	Northern Bluegrass Roundtables
Oct 19	Southern Bluegrass CEU Event
Oct 20	Northeastern CEU Event
Oct 21	Eastern Mountain CEU Event
Oct 26-29	Southern Bluegrass Roundtables
Nov 16-19	Jefferson Roundtables
Nov 16-19	Northeastern Roundtables

