

crb network news

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bi-monthly newsletter of the citizen review board



Attitudes toward adoption shifting?

Photo:
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Survey by Dave Thomas Foundation reveals national perceptions, good and bad, of foster care adoption

Opinions in the United States of adoption from the foster care system have improved from 2007 to 2012 to be as good – or better – than international or private domestic adoptions, according to a recent study.

Indeed, the percentage of Americans who've adopted youth from foster care has increased during that window, while the other two adoption scenarios have fallen by 9 percent

Still, consideration of adoption of any form fell during those five years from 28 percent to 24 percent.

Those are some of the findings revealed in the 2013 National Foster Care Adoption Attitudes Survey, commissioned by the [Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption \(DTFA\)](#). The goal of the Ohio-based nonprofit was to offer a glimpse

into why Americans do or do not adopt from the foster care system, as well as illustrating perceived barriers and general views the public has about adoption.

"Understanding Americans' perceptions about adoption is important to finding a safe and permanent family for every child," said Rita Soronen, president and CEO of DTFA in a press release. "While there are slight positive movements in these results, it demonstrates that our mission is more important than ever."

The survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive, a market research firm, in July 2012. More than 1,400 adults ages 18 years and older took part in the research. DTFA commissioned previous efforts in 2002 and 2007.

The study discussed three types of

See "Survey," page 3

in this issue:

P. 2 Explaining APPLA

P. 4 Voluntary case guide

P. 5 Camp to Belong recap

P. 6 Resources for incarcerated parents

welcome! new volunteers!

CLACKAMAS: Anne Jackson

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APPLA – Another Ponderous Perplexing Lengthy Acronym?

Yes, it is. But that's not really the intended meaning. APPLA stands for **Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement**. As most know, this is supposed to represent some form of permanency for foster children.

In the best scenario, it means that a child will have a stable foster care placement to grow up in that feels like home and family. It could be a relative placement, or ongoing contact with parents and siblings or placement with siblings. DHS provides support to address health, behavioral or emotional

issues and also with school. The Independent Living Program helps prepare for life after foster care, while the Comprehensive Transition Plan details goals, steps and supports. There are subsidies, waivers and vouchers for financial support to attend school or vocational training.

It all sounds good, right?

Unfortunately, it also means a child will be raised by the state, with possibly numerous foster placements, caseworkers and other professionals going in and out of their lives. Frequent school changes and lack of connections with family and friends are not uncommon. The "norm" for this child is years of court reviews, CRB reviews, caseworker contacts, having an attorney and a "case plan" – and the prospect that on any given day your foster parent might contact DHS and say "Move this child."

These things can be a constant reminder that they are 'foster children' and have experienced trauma, neglect, loss and separation. They feel stigmatized and just want to be "normal." They long for a sense of belonging, one of the most basic and powerful human needs. Often they are living with other children who have been adopted or never involved with the child welfare system. Children on APPLA plans are more likely to remain in foster care for a longer period of time and have more placement changes. Both of these factors are correlated with negative outcomes for children in foster care into their adult lives. Despite good intentions or even necessity, these are some of the reasons APPLA is on the bottom rung of the permanency hierarchy and is to be implemented



**Steven
Lindeman**
CRB Field Manager

only when there are compelling reasons why none of the other permanency options are in the best interest of the child.

Reducing APPLAs in Oregon was a focus of the JCIP Model Courts Child Abuse and Neglect Summit for 2013. At the event, Maurita Johnson, DHS Child Welfare Program Assistant Director, discussed DHS efforts to address permanency for children with plans of APPLA.

There are four types of permanent plans in Oregon that are defined by the state as required by federal law: reunification, adoption, guardianship and APPLA. There are only two types of PPLAs and these are: Permanent Foster Care and Permanent Connections and Support. You may be aware of other types of PPLAs labeled "other" or "independence and emancipation" but these are not valid under Oregon Administrative Rule and DHS policy.

One of the efforts in Oregon to address the issue of APPLAs is the Permanency Round Tables, which utilized a highly specialized review of APPLA cases in several counties and targeted specific groups of children.

According to the 2010 Oregon Permanency Round Tables, an average of 20 percent of Oregon's foster children had a primary plan of APPLA. Records showed that 75.1 percent of those children had been in care for three or more years, and 68 percent had been in foster care five years or longer. As of February 2011, 1,762 children had a permanency plan of APPLA. Only 22.9 percent of these children were in a Permanent Foster Care placement, 10.2 percent were in a relative placement, and 25 percent were receiving services from Developmental Disabilities.

According to information provided at last year's Model Court Summit, there were 1,708 children with APPLA plans as of August 2013. More work is clearly needed and DHS is planning on implementing further Permanency Round Tables.

How do we know when APPLA is the right plan?

* As reflected in state and federal law, the higher level permanency plans of return to parent, adoption and guardianship should be ruled out prior to approving a plan of APPLA and there should be compelling reasons for doing this. The analysis should occur each time the

case is reviewed by the CRB. Too often in CRB reviews, the finding regarding appropriateness of the permanent plan of APPLA is completed with little discussion or questions of the parties.

*Teenagers 14 and older may not wish to have a plan of adoption or guardianship.

APPLA: plan should be intended, designed and deliberate

Continued from Page 2:

*If a child is not “IV-E” eligible they would not be able to have a subsidized guardianship which means no monthly payment to the provider.

*Some children have significant mental health or developmental disabilities and require extensive support, especially those in residential treatment or other therapeutic placements.

*Regarding ICWA cases, some tribes may not support a plan of adoption or guardianship.

*The right plan right now doesn’t mean the right plan forever. Just because a case has been APPLA is not a justification for it to remain one. Children, parents, foster parents, relatives and circumstances change.

Issues surrounding APPLA:

* Unfortunate trade off: more money or more permanency. Foster care payments are substantially higher than adoption or guardianship assistance. This may be a reason that permanent foster care providers or current caretakers do not wish to pursue higher levels of permanency

* Foster parents feel that they need the support of DHS to

continue to provide services for the child. The truth is that most services will continue in a plan of adoption or guardianship as the child will continue to receive the Oregon Health Plan.

* There are some educational benefits for children who are in foster care at older ages such as the Chaffee Housing Program (age 18) or Independent Living Subsidy Program and Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver (age 16).

Some key efforts include ongoing relative search, re-evaluation of parents and plan of reunification and ongoing discussion with current provider regarding higher permanency options. If the plan is APPLA, then make sure it is intended, designed, and deliberate as indicated in the DHS definition. Make sure all efforts for connections and support occur and all transitional services are in place and adequate, particularly the T2 Comprehensive Transition Plan.

For more information:

[Oregon Permanency Roundtables and APPLA Analysis](#)

[Oregon Administrative Rule regarding APPLA](#)

Adoption survey: opinions of foster care adoptions improving

Continued from Page 1:

adoption: private infant adoption, foster care adoption and adoption of children from one country by citizens of another.

A child’s connection to the foster care system does color beliefs; Americans view children who are adopted from foster care as “significantly more likely to experience problems than adopted children in general,” the survey said.

Bonding and behavioral issues, and bureaucracy and expense related to foster care adoption are other myths that persist: 43 percent of respondents believed the process was “overwhelming and expensive,” according to the survey.

But there were positives in the study, too. The belief that children adopted from the foster care system were more likely to have problems with behavior and self-control decreased from 59 percent in 2007 to 46 percent in 2013.

The survey also found that respondents who are seriously considering foster care adoption are doing so at higher levels – 69 percent – compared to those contemplating private infant or international adoption, 64 percent and 53 percent, respectively.

“For the first time since 2002, Americans’ opinion of foster care

adoption is higher than international or private adoption,” the survey said.

There’s a link between high opinions of the foster care system and consideration of adoption from foster care, as well as the opposite scenario – those not considering foster care adoption have a negative opinion of the system, the study said. This has changed since 2007, when “the two groups had nearly identical positive-negative opinions of the foster care system.”

“This research indicates that sharing real-life stories of successful adoptions from foster care ... are important to moving children from foster care to forever homes,” the survey said.

The foundation’s report also noted some socio-economic characteristics of people most likely to consider adoption. Those individuals tend to be: unmarried; ages 18 to 34; minorities; and have incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Story by Craig Coleman

Sources:

[2013 National Foster Care Adoption Attitudes Survey](#),

[Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption](#)

Tech guide clears up confusion on reviews of voluntary cases

Approximately 3 percent of the reviews conducted by Citizen Review Boards (CRB) throughout the state involve cases where the child has been placed in foster care under a voluntary agreement between a parent or legal guardian and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Due to the nature of these cases, and the fact that they are relatively infrequent, there is a lot of confusion about them among DHS caseworkers and CRB volunteers and staff.

In early 2013, a workgroup of CRB staff was convened to develop a tool that would alleviate some of this confusion.

A technical assistance guide of myths and facts about voluntary cases was developed. Some examples of those myths include:

Myth #1: The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) never applies in voluntary cases.

Myth #2: DHS does not need to conduct a relative search in voluntary cases.

Myth #3: DHS has to develop a concurrent plan in all voluntary cases.

Before the guide was finalized, it was submitted to a number of entities for review and comment, including: the CRB Advisory Committee; DHS central office; local courts, DHS branches, and attorney's offices. You can view the guide by heading to the "resources" section of the [CRB website](#) or by clicking [HERE](#).

For more information, contact Christina Jagernauth, CRB Assistant Director, at christina.jagernauth@ojd.state.or.us.

Save the Date!

Every Day Counts... Annual Training Conference

May 2-3, 2014

Topics Include:

Decision Making in Cases of Child Sex Abuse 🌸 Sexual
Victimization of Children: Understanding the Impact on Victims 🌸
View From the Other Side: All I Ever Wanted Was to Be Heard 🌸
Incarcerated Parents 🌸 Health and Medical Care Issues for Foster
Children 🌸 Working With Interpreters 🌸 Diligent Efforts to Search
For and Engage Relatives 🌸 And Much Much More...



*Eugene Hilton and Conference Center,
Eugene, Oregon - More information coming soon*



Thank you for
giving me the
opportunity to
see my
sisters and
brothers
again
Jessie

Last year marked another successful one for **Camp to Belong Northwest – Oregon**. The nonprofit organization, which reunites siblings living in separate foster care homes in a traditional summer camp setting, hosted 78 brothers and sisters at picturesque Silver Creek Camp in Silverton in June. (Nine children were able to attend the 2013 camp thanks to \$4,600 fundraised by the Citizen Review Board.) CTB's story was also profiled Dec. 18 on the CBS TV special "Home for the Holidays!"

As it's done since 2001, CTB Northwest 2013 gave children the opportunity to create lasting and cherished memories. Here's hoping 2014 yields more of the same!

Hi I'm writing your thank you card as I sit on my cot in my cabin, I just wanna say thank you so much for helping this camp its my first year here and I love it the people are wonderful! As my time here winds down I hope this place stays wonderful so, if and when I come back it'll be Awesome the pillows and swimming pool are great by the way
Love always,
Alana



Parents in custody have resources to better themselves

By Sam Tazumal, CRB Field Manager

CRB reviews often involve parents who are incarcerated. Sometimes caseworkers appear knowledgeable about services available to parents in prison. In other instances, they don't appear to know what, if any, services are available to incarcerated parents.

For this article, I did research and contacted prison staff to gather information about two important areas: services and visitation.

How many reviews have you had where a caseworker says a parent is participating in service A but does not have access to service B? Or a worker say that a parent incarcerated at a different facility may have access to service B but not service A? Both scenarios are potentially true. Some services are available only at certain prisons. For example, Two Rivers Correctional Institution offers AA/NA meetings and parenting classes. It does not have domestic violence treatment, but does offer parents homework sheets focusing on domestic violence issues, which they can discuss with their prison counselor. The facility also offers the Pathfinders program, which focuses on cognitive skills with the goal of changing negative behaviors.

Snake River Correctional Institution offers substance abuse treatment and mental health services. Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution offers anger management through their religious services department. Shutter Creek Correctional Institution provides domestic violence programs, parenting classes and anger management, but does not offer substance abuse assessment and treatment. Interestingly, all mental health counseling at Shutter Creek is done through video conference with counselors located at other facilities. Shutter Creek does have correctional counselors that do some limited one-on-one counseling.

In general, the Department of Corrections (DOC) offers multiple vocational training opportunities, including food services, plumbing, electrical work, painting, and some construction skills. Prisons access local resources. For example, Eastern Oregon contracts with Blue Mountain Community College to provide GED and ESL coursework and other education services at the prison.

Since not all services are available in all the prisons, it's important to ask the appropriate questions. For example, caseworkers have a responsibility to contact prison staff or coun-

selors to ascertain what services are available in that prison to the parent. If not in the report, ask workers the dates they contacted the prison and/or parent (this gives you a mental timeline) to discuss or pursue services as you evaluate reasonable or active efforts. If the parent is participating by phone, ask the parent what specific services he or she is accessing and how long s/he has been in that program. Also, determine whether those services meet DHS expectations. I've been in reviews where the caseworker has not yet requested or obtained a release of information, so ask whether one is in place.

Another issue of great importance to incarcerated parents is visitation and DOC has specific visitation [rules](#). Sometimes we hear parents state DHS has not made efforts to set up visitation with their children. In my research, I learned parents or visitors must fill out an application to be put on the parents' approved list of visitors.

I've been in reviews where a caseworker will report that DOC views the child as a victim. In such cases, the parent needs to file an appeal per DOC rules. I had a worker share at a review that she was submitting a letter in support of the parent being able to visit the child. I was able to confirm with prison staff that, indeed, this is the process.

Parents can also have phone contact with their children, whether by calling collect or directly by using funds they have in their phone trust account. A service called [Tel-mate](#), which is a prison-specific service, allows inmates to have multiple options to contact loved ones, including video visits and email. An account needs to be created and there are certain technical requirements for the visitor's (foster parent, usually) computer, such as laptop or PC and not a tablet or smart phone, high speed Internet connection and webcam and microphone. The cost of this service is paid by the inmate or family/friends.

Other video options, such as Skype, are not allowed by DOC.

Caseworkers can visit incarcerated parents under what DOC labels a "professional visit." All a caseworker must do—to arrange for an in-person visit or phone call—is contact the respective prison's inmate legal services personnel. CRB field staff do this when an incarcerated parent requests to participate by phone in CRB reviews. In my experience, it's been easy to arrange for such contact.

Thank You!

The following individuals recently ended their service as volunteers for the Citizen Review Board. We thank them for their professionalism, hard work and sincere dedication in making a difference in the lives of children!

BAKER COUNTY

Elizabeth Huntsman — 3/2008 to 12/2013

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Anne Jackson — 11/2013/ to 12/2013
Cecilia Lyon — 12/2011 to 12/2013
Sharon Paulsen — 2/1999 to 12/2013

GRANT COUNTY

Virginia Miller — 5/2001 to 10/2013

JACKSON COUNTY

Corinne Mraz — 8/2004 to 10/2013

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Crystal Allemand — 6/2010 to 12/2013

KLAMATH COUNTY

Julie Black — 6/2006 to 12/2013
Tracey Marquit-Lehman — 3/1998 to 12/2013
Kenneth Muller — 1/2006 to 12/2013

LANE COUNTY

Kristina Blake — 6/2008 to 11/2013
Sandra Bristow — 5/2002 to 12/2013
Julie Byrd — 8/2013 to 12/2013
Ellen Hyman — 1/1997 to 12/2013
Eric Meyers — 2/2008 to 12/2013
Avonelle Klussendorf — 1/2013 to 10/2013
Sandra Rodgers — 1/2010 to 11/2013

LINN COUNTY

Loria Arnold — 1/2012 to 12/2013
James Cardwell — 11/2011 to 12/2013

MALHEUR COUNTY

Bobbie Ruddell — 10/2011 to 12/2013

MARION COUNTY

Ann Andrews — 3/2008 to 11/2013
Carla Bird — 7/2013 to 12/2013
Julie Birch — 6/2011 to 11/2013
Tanaya Brooks — 5/2012 to 12/2013
Lisa Carr — 5/2012 to 12/2013
Natalia Chinah — 7/2012 to 12/2013
Nancy Curtis — 7/2013 to 11/2013
Terri Hoag — 3/2008 to 12/2013
Sharon Jenkins-Payne — 12/2008 to 12/2013
John Koreski — 2/2012 to 12/2013
Judith Moore — 3/2010 to 12/2013
Diann Pugh — 2/1999 to 12/2013
Julie Roshak — 7/2012 to 12/2013
George Slawson — 6/2010 to 10/2013
Mari Worley — 4/2013 to 12/2013

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Darla Collar — 11/2011 to 11/2013
Catherine Leary — 6/1990 to 11/2013
Kate Neely — 5/2002 to 12/2013

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

George Lewis — 1/2010 to 12/2013

UNION COUNTY

Denise Jolley — 6/2006 to 12/2013

WASCO COUNTY

Sandra Fritz — 3/1992 to 11/2013

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Caroline Jacobs — 10/2003 to 12/2013

Parent resources: important to ask appropriate questions

Continued from page 5: I've had attorneys make the same point when requesting the caseworker maintain regular contact with a parent. As part of a professional visit, caseworkers may also transport the child for a visit with the incarcerated parent.

As with services, it's important to ask appropriate questions: Has the worker contacted both prison staff and the parent to pursue visitation? If the child is considered the victim—and DHS is supportive of contact—has the parent filed an appeal? Has the caseworker submitted a letter of support? Is the worker aware of Telmate services for

video visits? Has DHS discussed with the foster parents the possibility of using Telmate and would DHS provide funds for this service? Has DHS looked into other relatives who might provide the transportation to the prison?

Obviously, these questions may not be appropriate in certain cases, but it's important to ask them in cases where it is appropriate. Prior to reviews, your field staff can help you strategize and develop additional questions.

There will be a workshop about this important topic at the 2014 CRB conference in May.

CRB BULLETIN BOARD

Transracial Adoptions in the News:

Trans-racial Family Gets Double-Takes 'Everywhere We Go' (Includes audio)

National Public Radio - Jan. 12, 2014

Rachel Garlinghouse and her husband, Steve are both white, and they've adopted three kids - two girls and a boy - who are African-American. "We get double-takes everywhere we go," Garlinghouse tells NPR's Rachel Martin. "You have to look at discrimination in a whole new way" as a trans-racial family. Read more [HERE](#).

Growing Up 'White,' Transracial Adoptee Learned To Be Black (Includes audio)

National Public Radio - Jan. 26, 2014

"One of the things I think was hardest for me is I didn't have any independent relationships with black people, especially adult black people, till I was an adult," he says. "I was 25 before I saw a black doctor." Read more [HERE](#).

More info:

[When White Parents Adopt Black Children](#)

[Child Welfare Gateway Resources](#)

New PSAs raise awareness of the 31,000 older youth awaiting adoption in the U.S. foster care system

PRNewswire - Jan. 23, 2014

In addition to the PSAs, a Facebook Chat took place on the AdoptUSKids' Facebook page to connect prospective parents with campaign representatives, parents and their adopted older youth. The online chat also debunked many of the top myths about foster care adoption. Read more [HERE](#).

Expanded Medicaid Coverage for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

By Eliza M. Hirst

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act offers new health protections for youth in foster care. Expanded Medicaid coverage for youth leaving care is a critical benefit that advocates should leverage for older clients. Read more [HERE](#).

In Adoption, Does Race Matter?

New York Times - Feb.03, 2014

Does transracial adoption harm children or communities? Is it ideal for children to be raised by parents who look like them? Five different views on the subject organized by Kevin Noble Maillard, a law professor at Syracuse University. Read more [HERE](#).

Citizen Review Board

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