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In partnership with
Family Design Resources

TO: Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Affiliate Agencies and
          County Children and Youth Agencies
DATE: August 29, 2016
FROM: SWAN Prime Contract
RE: Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange Child and Family Matching

The Adoption Act 23 Pa. C.S. Domestic Relations Chapters 21-29, requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to maintain the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE). PAE is a major component of SWAN as it serves the counties, SWAN affiliate agencies, the general public and interfaces with other state and national adoption exchanges.

PAE manages three registries:
- Waiting Child Registry
- Resource Family Registry (RFR)
- Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry, PAIR.

The registries are maintained and supported through the SWAN prime contract. Agencies register children with PAE under specific requirements. Mandatory registration applies to children for whom parental rights are terminated for 90 days and for whom no report of intent to adopt has been filed in the court of common pleas. Additionally, one of the requirements of Act 160 of 2004 was to establish the Resource Family Registry (RFR). RFR is a database where all foster, formal kinship and adoptive families who wish to provide permanency to a child from the child welfare system.

One of the services provided by PAE includes referring potential matches to the involved agencies to maximize opportunities to achieve permanency for children in foster care. With feedback from agencies, families and direction received from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, the SWAN prime contract has refined the PAE matching algorithm to produce the best possible matches for active PAE-registered children and families.

Family-to-child matches are based on the family's preferences for demographics and characteristics. The demographics of the child's age, gender and race and number of siblings must be in the acceptable family preferences to be matched with the family. No longer will PAE match outside these guidelines. Therefore, it is important that agencies, upon receiving a viable match, connect swiftly to ensure a match opportunity is not missed.

Effective August 29, 2016, PAE will reinstitute family generated matches upon initial PAE registration as an active adoptive resource and when upon receipt of subsequent updates to the family's preferences for child demographics and characteristics listed on the Resource Family Applicant Registration/Update Form (CY131). Additionally, PAE will continue to generate child matches upon initial PAE registration for children with an active status as well as generate matches for children when updates to the child demographics and characteristics are received to the Child Registration/Update Form (CY130).

It is critical that agencies provide PAE accurate information on the status of waiting families and children. PAE generates matches on a daily basis. If a family has been matched already or is no longer interested in being matched, please contact Ms. Dawn Sariano, data manager – child and family, at dsariano@diakon-swan.org or 717-231-5358 to remove the family from the matching pool. After contacting Ms. Sariano, agencies must update the family's disposition to closed through the SWAN Portal.

Agencies need to be aware that letters from PAE will be mailed to the caseworkers for both the family and child(ren) and to the identified family. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact your SWAN Regional Technical Assistant.

For a more detailed explanation of the PAE matching algorithm, please refer to the attached document entitled, Network Notification – Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange - Understanding the Matching Algorithm.

pennsylvania
STATEWIDE ADOPTION AND
PERMANENCY NETWORK

Prime Contractor for the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network