

**Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network *and***

**Independent Living Services**

**2016 Winter Statewide Meeting**

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| **Office of Children Youth and Families** **Updates** |

**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month:**

Activities are being planned throughout the month of April 2016 in partnership with Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA). Similar to years past, PSFA will host a Legislative Breakfast at the Harrisburg Hilton at 8 a.m. on Tuesday April 12.

Throughout April, blue ribbons will be distributed via PFSA affiliates and organizations requesting ribbons. All county CYS offices will receive ribbons. Blue ribbon pins can also be ordered by contacting PFSA.

For the most up to date information about these events, contact PFSA at

1-800-448-4906 or visit their website

at [www.pa-fsa.org](http://www.pa-fsa.org).

**Chafee Education and Training Grant Program:**

The Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG) application for the 2015-2016 school year and directions on how to apply are available online at: <https://www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/other-educational-aid/chafee-program.shtml>. The 2015-2016 maximum ETG award is tentatively set at $4,750 per student, not to exceed their cost of attendance. Applications for the 2016-2017 school year will be available after April 1, 2016.

All current ETG award recipients will be automatically enrolled for the next

academic year and do not need to complete the ETG application.

For questions about current Chafee applications or a youth’s status, please contact PHEAA at 1-800-831-0797.  If you have questions regarding the ETG program, contact Joe Warrick at jwarrick@pa.gov or at (717) 214-6765.

**National Youth In Transition Database:**

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) implementation is ongoing with the Baseline Population (every youth in foster care who reaches age 17), the Served Population (any youth receiving an IL service regardless of age.), and the Follow-up 19 Population collection period (started October 1, 2015). NYTD questions can be directed to Joe Warrick at jwarrick@pa.gov or (717) 214-6765.

 **24th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference:**

We are looking forward to seeing you on June 15-17, 2016 at Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Monroe County, PA.

Award nomination forms (due February 19, 2016) and scholarship applications (due March 15, 2016) can be found at <http://www.diakon-swan.org>.

Be sure to let your families know about this exciting location that includes an amazing indoor waterpark!

**SWAN Google Groups:**The SWAN ListServ through Google Groups is comprised of county children and youth agency workers and SWAN affiliate agency workers. The goal of the group is to facilitate special needs adoptions throughout PA.  All information posted on this site is confidential.  Anyone wishing to join this group must be an employee of a county children and youth agency or SWAN affiliate agency. If interested, please contact Joe Warrick by email at jwarrick@pa.gov or at (717) 214-6765. **SWAN-IL Network Newsletter:**Tell the Network about all of the wonderful things you, your agency, your community, a youth or a colleague are doing to promote improved outcomes for PA’s foster youth. If you have something exciting, interesting or informative to share with your colleagues, please forward your articles, success stories, matching events or ideas to Karen Lollo at klollo@diakon-swan.org or at (717) 558-1242. Pictures are always a great addition to any article. You can find the latest and past editions of this newsletter at [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org) under the Network Newsletter link.

**Photographers Available!**Having beautiful portraits that capture the spirit and individuality of Pennsylvania’s waiting children in a single portrait is often the key to matching. To serve more waiting children, SWAN is using the talents of volunteer photographers from across the state to obtain artistic portraits of all youth registered with the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange (PAE).

SWAN has identified professional photographers located throughout Pennsylvania. These photographers will donate their time and talent to create portraits that spotlight each child in a personal way. Participating photographers will submit new portraits electronically to PAE staff for inclusion on PAE’s website, [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org)

Caseworkers need to follow the Heart Gallery Caseworker Photography Process which outlines the steps caseworkers must follow to participate. A copy of the process can be obtained by contacting Karen Lollo at 800-227-0225 ext. 1242 or klollo@diakon-swan.org. The document also explains where you can obtain the list of participating photographers.

Please use the volunteer photographers in your area and work together to capture Pennsylvania’s waiting children in a beautiful portrait.

**Upcoming Matching Events:**

OCYF, in partnership with National Adoption Center, is excited to announce two Older Youth Matching Events. These events are a fun, interactive day where prospective adoptive families and older youth in need of a permanent home can get acquainted with one another.

Save the dates of Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the Philadelphia Zoo and Saturday, June 11, 2016 at Camp Agawam in western Pennsylvania.  More information can be obtained by contacting Julie Marks at pateen@adopt.org or (267) 443-1875.

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