

Permanency Values

Presenters:

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Mission Statement

To provide and improve — and ultimately to prevent
the need for — foster care



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Children in foster care

Nearly 424,000 American children are living in foster care at any one time.

Why children are placed in foster care

- Most children are removed from homes because of child abuse or severe neglect
- Some are placed because of emotional or behavioral problems

Challenges facing children in foster care

- Bounced from home to home, school to school
 - No permanent family connections or support systems
 - Lack of community ties or support
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What is Permanency?

“I knew even before I was adopted that [my foster parents] were my parents because of our bond.... That is what permanency is for me, the feeling I get knowing that no matter what I do, I will always be able to get a hug.”

– Aaron

Former Youth in Care

From: “Time for Reform: Aging Out and On their Own,” KidsAreWaiting.org

What is Permanency?

- Parenting
- Life-Long Intent
- Belonging
- Status (legal and social)
- Unconditional Commitment (by the adult)

Outcomes for Youth in Care

	Former Foster Youth	General Population
Currently Employed	48%	76%
Median Earnings	\$8,000	\$18,300
Have a Bank Account	<50%	85%
Have Health Insurance	57%	78%
Been Pregnant (women)	>75%	40%
Impregnated a Partner (men)	61%	28%
High School Diploma or GED		3X more likely
Have been Homeless or Couch-Surfed	37%	1%

If we understand the importance of permanence – why can't we achieve it for all of our children and youth?

"FAMILIES ARE NOW HERE"

Overview of PRT Process

- Be able to describe the purpose, roles, and phases of a Permanency Roundtable
- Be able to describe some of the outcomes that have been achieved through Permanency Roundtables

What is a Permanency Roundtable?

A professional case consultation that is:

- Structured
- In-depth
- Non-blaming
- Relentless



Roundtable Goals

- Expedite **legal permanency** for the child
- Stimulate thinking and **learning** about ways to accelerate permanency
- Identify and address **systemic barriers** to timely permanency



A Multi-Level Strategy

Micro Level	PROFESSIONAL CASE CONSULTATION
“Real-Time” Learning Lab	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Macro Level	SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT

Roundtable Values

URGENCY

- **Relentless insistence on permanency — no excuses**

TEAMING

- **Team supports the worker to expedite permanency**
- **Solution-focused and NON-BLAMING**
- **Concrete assistance with implementing action plan**

OUTCOMES

- **Learning and accountability leads to positive outcomes**

OPTIMISM

- **Developing creative strategies leads to increased hope and energy**

Roundtable Team Members

- **Facilitator**
- **Permanency Consultants**
 - Internal and external
- **Transcriber**
- **Caseworkers**
- **Supervisors**
- **Others**



Roundtable Phases

I. Welcome and Overview

II. Present the Case

III. Clarify and Explore

IV. Brainstorm

V. Create Permanency Action Plan

VI. Debrief Roundtable

Roundtable Follow-up

- All team members identified in the action plan work together to complete action plan items
- Supervisors check back regularly on action item follow-up
- Leadership addresses any systemic or policy barriers to action item completion

Resources and References

Web Sites

- Foster Club: <http://www.fosterclub.com>
- Digital Stories:
http://www.senecacenter.org/perm_digitalstories

Training Curricula

- Sue Hoag Badeau, “Permanency Values Training: Who wouldn’t Want a Family” (2009)
- Gerald P Mallon, “Unpacking the “No” of Permanency for Older Adolescents” (2011)

Resources and References

Books, Articles, and Reports

- Lewis, R. G., & Heffernan, M. S. (2000). *Adolescents & Families for Life: A Toolkit for Supervisors*
- Mallon, G. P. (2005). *Toolbox No. 3: Facilitating Permanency for Youth*
- Malm, K., Zielewski, E., & Chen, H. (2008). *More About Dads: Exploring Associations between Nonresident Father Involvement and Child Welfare Case Outcomes*
- Raichel, J. (2009). Engaging and Involving Fathers in a Child's Life and in the Child Welfare Case