

As many of you will recall, last time we met we asked for specific barriers to implementing FTS practice. We asked you to write the barriers on note cards and we collected them at the end of the discussion. The note cards were handed into our supervisors and then passed on to Northwestern University who entered all the barriers into a spreadsheet and identified sub-headings. The data was passed along to Associate Deputy Dr. Larry Small who worked to identify individuals or organizations throughout the Department and Private Sector who could help address the barriers.

In mid-August Dr. Small began personally reaching out to each individual or organization (for example DCFS Legal for court issues, Division of Operations and SACWIS design team for paperwork redundancy, Statewide Provider Database for resources, Division of Monitoring for background check delays, etc.) sharing the barriers and asking them to develop a response process that will allow LC Facilitators to provide updates to staff about what is being done to address the barriers.

To date, we have received formal responses from:

- 1) Division of Monitoring regarding background check delays.

LC Feedback Summarized/ Division of Monitoring Response:

- Background checks need to be timelier for licensing and adoptions. / The Division of Monitoring implemented a background checks workgroup that has been meeting once a month for approximately 3 months. Membership consists of DCFS and POS staff from Operations, Adoption, Licensing, Legal/Policy, OITS/SACWIS, APT, foster care and spec foster care, and the Office of Financial Participation. The workgroup is charged with improving background check response time and agency coordination. Three additional employees have been hired downstate to assist with the background clearance process, and deputies from various divisions, including OES and Legal, have worked with DHS to improve FBI responsiveness. Policy and practice changes have also been made to expedite adoptions. Licensed foster care providers are no longer required to have cants/leads updates within 6 months of the adoption. The background checks workgroup is open to increasing membership to LC participants passionate about ways to improve the process so if you are interested please feel free to reach out to Associate Deputy Dr. Larry Small [larry.small@illinois.gov](mailto:larry.small@illinois.gov).
- Mandatory physicals for relative foster parents getting licensed. / Finger prints are mandatory for relative foster parents. Licensure is not mandatory for relatives and physicals are only required for those who get licensed. However, the Department has been strongly encouraging relatives to pursue licensure.

- 2) Office of Information and Technological Services (OITS) and Division of Operations responded to LC participants feedback surrounding the CANS.

LC Feedback Summarized/ Division of Operations and OITS Response:

- Intact CANS is not on the computer and must be completed in word, and faxed to Northwestern--it's time consuming. It's not useful to the families I serve or to me. / With the SACWIS 5.0 implementation targeted for fall 2011 this will be resolved. All Intact CANS will be entered in the CWS CANS and feed into the SACWIS system.

**CANS Administration**

- CANS should automatically populate all parent information for numerous kids - score one parent on each case. / CANS (2-3) will populate the service plan and the strengths identified in the CANS will also inform the plan. The Department is examining ways to reduce the number of CANS Caregiver items that must be answered in relation to every child involved in the case. When these enhancements will be released we do not know. As more information becomes available we will share them through the LC's.