

Partners in Child Protection Reform September 2009 Resource Digest

In the past few weeks, we have come across several exciting resources and publications that pertain to Partners' work and may be of interest to you or your organization. Below are brief summaries of the reports and links to follow. If you have any materials you would like to share with Partners, please don't hesitate to forward it to me to be included in upcoming digests.

Municipal Action Guide to Help Cities Support Foster Youth Transitions

NLC and its YEF Institute have published a new Municipal Action Guide on "Supporting Foster Youth Transitions to Adulthood." Published with support from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the guide highlights strategies for helping young people successfully transition from the foster care system and improving access to housing, education, employment, health, and other services.

[Download the Municipal Action Guide >>](#)



Examining Judges' Perspectives on Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption of Foster Children

A new Child Trends research brief explores the issues that judges consider when making decisions about termination of parental rights and adoption of foster children. The brief, [The Timing of Termination of Parental Rights: A Balancing Act for Children's Best Interests](#), is based on interviews with 20 judges from 18 states.

This research brief also presents the study's implications for juvenile and family court policy and practices: the advantages of judges and caseworkers exploring children's views about TPR and adoption; ways for foster children to maintain birth family connections to support their well-being while in foster care and after adoption; the importance of judges having familiarity with adoption recruitment efforts to inform their decisions; and the importance of seeking consultation and guidance for judges on the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Urban Institute Publication on Strengthening Systems Protecting Foster Youth

Foster Youth Fall Through the Cracks between the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

Foster care, mental health services or juvenile justice -- the point of entry into the public service system matters a lot, determining to a large degree the kind of services provided a teen in trouble. The lack of collaboration and coordination among systems can undermine efforts to protect children's safety and access to education and health care services. A new book from the Urban Institute details ways to strengthen the fragile web connecting the many systems involved in protecting foster youth.

Issue Brief Discusses Home Visitation Programs as Key Investment in Building Effective Systems of Care

Over the past 20 years, home visitation has emerged as the flagship program through which many states and communities are reaching out to new parents. This Chapin Hall issue brief explores the opportunity to extend high-quality programs to more children and families presented by pending federal legislation and the mandate to invest in continuous program development through better evaluation methods. The brief highlights the need for a system of early intervention services, of which home visitation is a critical component.

Read the report, [Embedding Home Visitation Services within a System of Early Childhood Services](#), by Deborah Daro.

Children's Bureau Promising Approaches

The Children's Bureau actively identifies promising approaches in child welfare during the child and family services reviews. The promising approach descriptions are provided as a resource to States regarding areas of common concern identified during the child and family services reviews and Program Improvement Plan process. The Children's Bureau does not make any representations pertaining to the effectiveness of the approaches and has not verified that they have been properly evaluated.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/promise/index.htm>

Progress Reports on SB 758, Continuing the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Reform

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has posted two progress reports related to Senate Bill 758, the continuation of the agency's reform, focused primarily on the Child Protective Services (CPS) program. SB 758 addresses ways to improve the quality of the foster care system, help keep families together, and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care.

- [Senate Bill 758 Implementation Progress Report](#) (Adobe Acrobat format)
- [Senate Bill 758 Foster Care Capacity-Building Progress Report](#) (Adobe Acrobat format)