

July 2009 State Liaison Officer Update e-Newsletter

Welcome to the July 2009 SLO Update e-Newsletter. In this month's e-Newsletter:

- *Presidential Nomination for Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families-*
President Obama has announced his intent to nominate Bryan H. Samuels to be Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), part of the Administration for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). ACYF is comprised of the Children's Bureau and the Family and Youth Services Bureau. According to the press release from HHS, Mr. Samuels has devoted his career to working on behalf of children, youth and families, most recently as Chief of Staff for the Chicago Public School system, the third largest school system in the nation. From 2003 to 2007, he served as Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. As a youth, Mr. Samuels lived in a residential school for disadvantaged children for over eleven years. We will keep you updated on the status of Mr. Samuels' nomination.
- *New Second Round Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Reports-*
Second round CFSR reports are now available for review for the following states: Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming. To view the reports go to:
http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/cwmd/docs/cb_web/SearchForm
- *Safe Sleeping Resources-*
According to The National Center on Child Fatality Review, Los Angeles County has joined with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) to develop an initiative to encourage safe sleeping practices. In February 2009, the National Centers for Disease Control reported a four-fold increase in the rate of infant death during the past twenty years due to a rise in the number of babies who share a bed with their parents. Unsafe bedding, pillows and blankets were also cited as risk factors. Concerned about 2006 and 2007 statistics from the Los Angeles County Coroner, which indicated that 86 infants died from suffocation while sharing a bed with a sibling, parent or other adult, Los Angeles County launched the "Safe Sleeping Campaign to Save Infants' Lives." On June 19, 2009, a motion was introduced to declare "Safe Sleeping Day 2009" in the city of Los Angeles. For a copy of the resources used in the campaign and a copy of the Los Angeles Resolution for Safe Sleeping, go to: <http://ican-ncfr.org/hmSafeSleeping.asp>
- *July Child Safety Article-*
Action for Child Protection's July Child Safety Article is entitled "Going Home: Conditions for Return." The article discusses the need for clearly defined and documented conditions for parents to be reunified with their children. The article includes examples of language for court ordered safety plans that provide clear conditions for return tied to the management of safety threats in the child's home. To view the complete article click on:
http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/July_Going_Home_Conditions_for_Return.pdf
- *Child Safety Guide for the Court System-*
The National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS) and the National Resource Center for Legal and Judicial Issues (NRCLJI) recently released *Child Safety: A Guide for Judges and Attorneys* (2009). The co-authors, Therese Roe Lund (NRCCPS) and Jennifer Renne (NRCLJI) developed this resource for State CPS agencies to share with their court system partners. The Guide, referenced in the above article, includes information about child safety and safety intervention as well as important information about establishing conditions for reunification. To download a copy of the Guide, go to: http://nrccps.org/resources/featured_resources.php
- *SLO July 17th Webinar-*
The SLO Workload Compendium Webinar will be held on July 17, 2009 at 1:00 PM EDT. Please join the Webinar which will feature Pamela Day, Co-Director of the Child Welfare Information Gateway, providing the latest information about the work being done in states to achieve manageable caseloads for child welfare caseworkers. If you haven't already registered for the Workload Compendium Webinar, just click on the following link and you can register right away: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/976502146>