

Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Relevant Numbers:

- 210 calls to the toll free line through over the life of the grant
- 55 calls received this federal fiscal year to date
- 3,438 units of materials distributed from October 2010-April 2011.
- 165 Recruitment activities conducted since program inception
- 12% of callers are in progress (waiting to attend an orientation session, to start training or waiting for their homestudy to be completed)
- Referrals include: NECCO-1; Sunrise-2; DCBS-5; Bellewood-1; Omnivisions-1; Mountain Comp-1.

Implementation Team

- Jennie Willson, Interim Director
- Jennifer Hall, Co-Mgr.
- Caroline Crump, Co-Mgr.
- Jessica Morris, Coordinator
- Phil Kilby, Coordinator
- Crystal Collins-Camargo, Evaluator
- Dana Sullivan, Evaluator
- Ramie Martin-Gilijatovic, Research Mgr.

Introduction

In our continued efforts to be responsive to the needs of our partners in the four intervention regions, the Project MATCH implementation team is providing this second issue of the executive summary. The Executive summary summarizes the key points or activities that have occurred in the past six months.

The summary is divided into five sections, each detailing accomplishments to date with the indi-

vidual interventions. A final section will include relevant data from the project evaluators.

Please be sure to share with us any additional information you would like to see included in future executive summaries.

April 2011



Intervention #1: Targeted and Child Specific Recruitment

While eight Diligent Recruitment Specialist positions are funded in this grant, at this time only seven are currently filled. These Specialists vary in their comfort level in conducting recruitment activities all the way from novice to seasoned and experienced. Project coordinators from MSU and UK continue to conduct orientation sessions for newly hired Specialists. In addition, during May and June, project coordinators will be conducting one on one professional development sessions with each Specialist.

From the reporting period of October 1, 2010—March 31, 2011 68 recruitment activities have been conducted by these recruiters (165 activities since the program began). Venues for recruitment activities conducted during this reporting period include, but are not limited to:

- Farmers market
- Payroll staffers
- Fitness centers
- Beauty salons

• Tax service office
Specialists have presented information to approximately 13,000 people. It is important to keep in mind, however, that some of their activities had the potential of reaching larger audiences. For example, a television station may have a viewership of 10,000+, covering many counties.

The intervention regions cover 57 of Kentucky's 120 counties. Specialists have conducted recruitment activities in 34 of those 57 counties.

A targeted mailing was sent out in January and February to

homes identified by the marketing company, Nielsen. Over 40,000 flyers were sent to Kentucky households. To date we have received calls from 16 prospective foster/adoptive families. Many of these have also expressed interest in mentoring a teen in out of home care.

Three days of intensive file mining were conducted by the intervention team in January in the Two Rivers region. An additional family finding training was conducted in Lexington on February 25th. The following chart details Family finding results thus far:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Identified Connections</u>	<u>New & Committed Connections</u>
Eastern Mtn.	18	88 17 kids	42 17 kids
Southern Bluegrass	17	47 15 kids	22 15 kids
The Lakes	6	85 5 kids	2 2 kids
Two Rivers	14	13 4 kids	-
Total	55	233 41 kids	66 34 kids

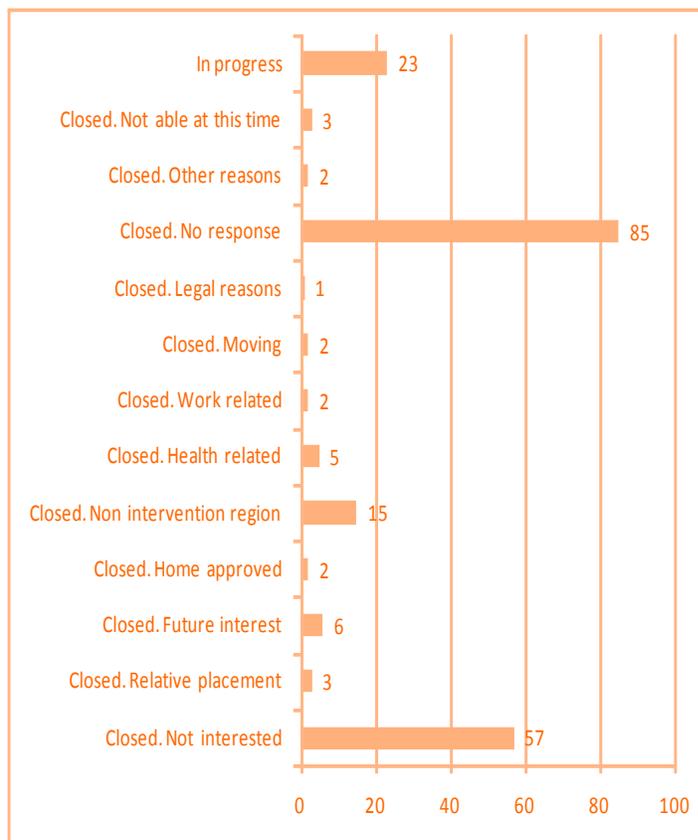
As of this writing, 12% of initial intakes are in various stages of the information gathering, orientation, training and approval process.

Intervention #2: Customer Service

At the end of the federal reporting period of March 31, 2011 206 intakes had been received. Those intakes are broken down in the chart to the right.

It is important to remember that when the DR Specialists initially started their recruitment efforts, they provided participant lists of everyone in attendance. As our knowledge has increased in terms of market segmentation, we have been able to refine our recruitment efforts and minimize unnecessary contacts with folks who are not interested or not ready to move forward.

The known agency breakdown is as follows: Necco-1; Sunrise 2 ; DCBS 8; Bellewood 2; Omnivisions 1; Mountain Comp 1; Benchmark 1.



Intervention #3-Utilization of Respite Between Completion of Pre-Service Training, Approval and Placement

Since the publication of the last executive summary, six matches have been made. The regional distribution is as follows:

<i>The Lakes</i>	<i>0 matches</i>
<i>Two Rivers</i>	<i>2 matches</i>
<i>Eastern Mtn.</i>	<i>2 matches</i>

Southern BG 2 Matches

Specifically, these matches were made by *Helen Young* in Two Rivers, *Lydia Akin* with SAFY and ? in Eastern Mountain.

Project MATCH staff continue to be available to assist the regions in the implementation

of this intervention. We have been advised by the resource parent mentor program, based out of the University of Kentucky, that we may utilize trained mentors to assist with this program. If you do use mentors, please make sure they are aware that this is not part of their mentor responsibilities.

Intervention #5-Collaboratively Review Permanency Data With the Courts

In February, Mike Grimes presented permanency data to the joint DCBS/Administrative Office of the courts (AOC) “*Making Our Data Work Together*” workgroup. This data was developed and revised through presentations at various model court sites in our intervention regions. The data

has been automated for each court circuit in Kentucky. DCBS will be meeting with AOC representatives to develop a plan to disseminate this data to judges on a statewide basis.

If you would like to receive a copy of the data for your inter-

vention region, please contact your Project MATCH implementation team.

Intervention #4: Mix and MATCH Sessions

A total of 14 M&M sessions have been held during this time frame with 141 participants. The topics discussed during this reporting period were retention and placement stability. The action planning phase of the sessions continue to result in unique activities and tasks, a few of which are detailed below:

Retention Action Plans

- Go the extra distance by reaching out to new homes and visiting more frequently
- Use IPRs (Interested Party Review by the AOC staff) as a place to encourage respite and share appreciation of foster parents
- Implement ACT (Alternative Caregiver Training formerly known as Respite program) with new homes and

existing vacant homes to encourage families to take kids outside of their acceptance scale

- Create a realistic description of foster parenting to be used during recruitment/training
- To not think of foster parenting as a “job” but realize that this is their family and encourage team (within agency) to think that way
- Review foster parent suggestions when creating/developing new training for foster parents
- Continue to call families with narrow acceptance scales and give them opportunities to say “no” to placement requests

Placement Stability Action Plans

- Conduct preservation meetings prior to placement disruptions
- Re-institute crisis team meetings with child’s worker, private child care provider worker, therapists, etc. to help prevent placement disruptions
- Discuss with on-call staff ways to maintain placements in crisis situations
- Placement Stability presentation will be used to train agency staff
- Remind workers to have conversations about permanency early and often
- Look into developing digital records (photos) of foster parents to share with kids prior to placement

During this six month reporting period, 141 staff and parents have participated in Mix and MATCH sessions.

Project MATCH: Evaluation Summary

During this period, the evaluation team continued collection of quarterly data, and prepared for re-administration of two surveys in the next period. Specifically, the following activities were conducted:

- Review and analysis of secondary data regarding aggregate indicators on recruitment, selection, approval, and placement on a regional basis to generate reports for staff to review in the Mix and Match meetings as a basis for generating practice change plans, and for use in the overall project evaluation.
- Review and analysis of output and process data related to recruitment and customer service interventions, and Mix and

Match action plans.

- Analysis of Family Finding Training evaluations.
- Revision of annual survey of Mix N Match participants (data to be collected April – July).
- Revision of statewide survey of public and private agency staff and resource parents originally administered in planning year for mid-intervention data collection (data to be collected April-July).
- Participation and observation of meetings and intervention team communication regarding project implementation.