

ILLINOIS FAMILIES Now and Forever™

Families by Foster Care, Adoption and Guardianship

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services®



From the DCFS Director

Bryan Samuels

After leading DCFS for six months, I hope that families are feeling the effects of positive change. As part of that change, in July, DCFS introduced the new management team joining those who continued in their previous roles and described the redesigned organizational structure. Please know that this was not a case of change for the sake of change. Each decision was made to address critical problems that I felt held this agency back. Going forward, I will emphasize:

1. Better communication
2. Smart decision-making
3. More collaboration

In short, the left hand will know what the right hand is doing so we can make good decisions.

In the pages that follow, you will learn more about the diverse group of individuals who have come together to help you help children. I expect there will be a few bumps as we go ahead, but I also expect a new level of responsiveness to issues that arise. I appreciate your involvement and welcome your input. Thank you for doing your part as we all at DCFS strive to do ours.

DCFS scholars head to college

After stretching for success during four years of high school, 48 students who are or had been in the care of DCFS are now attending college as winners of the DCFS Scholarship. The scholarship program, which is conducted by the Office of Education and Transition Services, takes into account the students' grades, test scores and personal recommendations. A panel of academic and child welfare experts then reviews each application to determine the winners. Each recipient heads off to school with up to four years of waivers of tuition and academic fees at participating state universities, a monthly maintenance stipend of \$444.85 and a medical card.



Connie Payton congratulates TyJuan Cratic at this year's Scholarship Luncheon

The excitement started building in the summer with a luncheon to celebrate their accomplishment in high style. Thanks to the generosity of the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation, the youth enjoyed great food as well as encouraging remarks from Mrs. Payton to prepare them for the journey ahead.

The recipients of the 2003 DCFS Scholarship Awards are:

Rodnisha Anderson
Nicholas Becker
Bridgette Brdecka
Valerie Brewer
Crystal Clemons
Latasha Coleman
Tara Craig
TyJuan Cratic
Deana Cruthis
Carletha Currie
Dana Dawson
Daniel Frazier
Christine Gill
Amanda Harris
Tina Helmick
Shelly Hopper

Rasheed Howard
Shana Hunt
Jeff Hurt
Melissa Jacob
Fatima Johnson
Taneva Jones
Amanda Judkins
Jennifer Manna
Zachary Knight
Kyle Koester
Kristah Krueger
Octavia Lee
Vinh Luu
Beatriz Mattingly
Keonna McAfee
Tamara McCarty

Fallon Nicholas
LaJanice Page
Douglas Parter
Jennifer Peryam
Heather Powell
Corneal Rainge
Kiara Ramos
Magdalena Roberts
Zachary Schobert
Kalei Stanley
Ryan Tamburini
Melissa Vaughn
Thema Vietti
Lashawn Wallace
Herald Watson
Shalonda Williamson

New management team to emphasize coordinated decisions

With the arrival of Director Samuels, there have also been changes in the management team. Some familiar faces from the former administration are gone. Some stayed and are joined by new colleagues. In addition to the personnel changes, the way these executives will work with each other has also changed and will have an impact on the children and their caregivers. The overall approach is to increase communication and coordination within the various parts of the organization so that better decisions can be made.

The management team consists of 10 deputy directors who report to a newly appointed chief of staff. Additionally, the functions of Affirmative Action, External Affairs, General Counsel, Human Resources, Inspector General, Legislative Affairs and the Management Team Coordinator feed into Director Samuels. In the deputy directors' level several shifts were made to provide better oversight and coordination of the day-to-day business. The functional areas that the deputies will be responsible for are listed on the adjoining organizational chart.

According to the Director, the new structure is intended to represent the management structure, not a reorganization of the individual offices and clusters of work that is currently being done. "We are not changing the units themselves or



Director Samuels chats with Latoya Feliciano and Dominique James while members of the management team met families during the 2003 Illinois State Fair. DCFS again arranged for discounted fair admission, rides and food for foster, adoptive and guardianship families.

the way in which staff are currently organized. What we are changing is the way in which the work is overseen, the way in which decisions are made, and the way in which activities are coordinated," said Director Samuels.

As the Agency shifts directions the new management structure will be critical so that information not only flows down, but information can flow back up from the field and from professional staff throughout the Agency. "We have 3,600 employees and a ton of contractors out there. I can't run this agency by myself. I am going to rely on all of these folks to be a part of the decision-making process...This is an inclusive model, not an exclusive one," said Samuels. Details on the management team can be found on the DCFS website at www.state.il.us/dcf or by calling the DCFS Office of Communications at 217-785-1700 or 312-814-6847.

Management Spotlight:

Velma Williams

Deputy Director, Clinical Practice & Professional Development



For over 20 years, Velma Williams has worked in human services. Previously, she was the DCFS

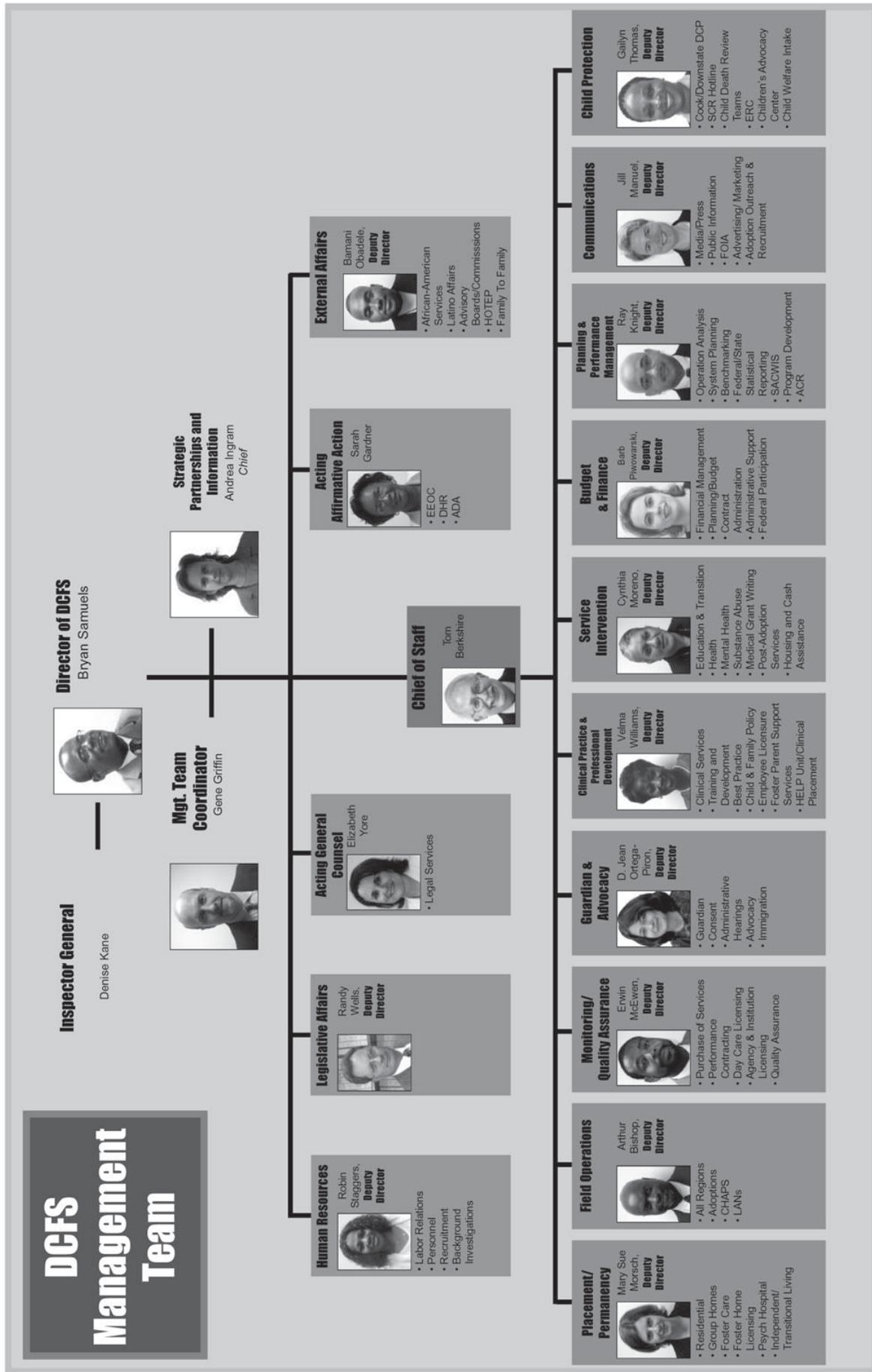
Deputy Director for Clinical Services. Now in addition to overseeing the clinical function, her umbrella has grown to include Foster Parent Support Services, Office of Child and Family Policy, Best Practice, Training and Development, Employee Licensure and the HELP Unit/Clinical Placement. What may seem like a lot of separate functions actually blends together well. The "mega-division" will essentially have a three-pronged mission:

1. determine the way DCFS should intervene for children and families
2. establish supporting policy and procedures
3. train staff and provide resources to keep things on track

Some of Williams' initiatives that affect foster parents include the rollout of Integrated Assessment, which will identify physical, emotional and education needs and make service recommendations. New policies will be made available for comment from families. Additionally, with the Foster Parent Support role, Williams will work with the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council and the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council.



Clip and add to Section 1 of your Foster Parent Handbook



Early Childhood Services helps families of young children

The Early Childhood Services Coordinators are available to help caregivers of children between birth to five years old identify developmental needs and services. The coordinator for each region (Southern region's appointment is still pending) is available to assist families providing foster care. The primary role of the coordinator is to screen children for lapses in expected developmental and social or emotional concerns and then connect the child to early intervention and enrichment services as needed, according to Andria Goss, Early Childhood Services Director.



Andria Goss

The coordinators also receive notice of any new case that opens involving a child five years old or under. They will then track the case to insure the screening takes place and follow up on any recommended services. In addition, the coordinators, who work closely with community organizations, funnel information back to DCFS about any service gaps or barriers they observe in the field. Because foster parents and other caregivers have consistent contact with the children, the coordinators will work directly with families to make sure the child's needs are met. Caregivers can call the early childhood services coordinator who serves their region, or contact their supervisor, Andria Goss, at 312-814-5988.

Central Region

Angela Marvel
217-557-5917

Cook County

Lynnare Claudio (ages 0 to 3)
312-814-2402

Robin York (ages 3 to 5)
312-814-2840

Northern Region

La'Tasha Barrow
630-801-3445

Promoting healthy social/emotional development

Caregivers can have an enormous impact on the social and emotional development of young children. In addition to reinforcing positive development, caregivers, who often spend the most time with the child, can be the first to spot behaviors that could cause concern.

Ways to promote emotional development:

- Establish routines around meals, bathing and bedtime. This helps younger children organize or regulate their environment. It helps build trust and lets a child know he is loved.
- Be responsive to a young child's cues. Answer to babbling and respond to cooing and laughter.
- Meet a baby's needs consistently to build trust. Responding to a cry will not "spoil" a baby.

Cues to be concerned about:

- Doesn't seem to enjoy affection
- Won't make eye contact
- Unable to calm himself or self-soothe
- Does not enjoy play or initiate play with others
- Won't seek help when needed
- Does not respond to schedules and routines

Families with questions about a child's development should contact the early childhood development coordinator for their region.



Car safety products can protect children of all ages

Car seat safety can start with something as easy as remembering to seat children in the back of the car. It is estimated that children are 26 percent less likely to be fatally injured if seated in the rear seat. With that base covered, caregivers need to choose the correct type of restraint for the child, based on size and age, and install it correctly. The following guidelines from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can help sort out the options and make the most of the products designed to keep kids traveling safely. For more information, go to the NHTSA website at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Proper Child Safety Seat Use				
Buckle Everyone. Children Age 12 and Under Ride in Back				
	AGE/SIZE	TYPE OF SEAT	SEAT POSITION	ALWAYS MAKE SURE:
INFANTS	Birth to 1 year and at least 20-22 lbs.	Infant-only or rear-facing convertible seat.	Rear-facing only	Children to one year and at least 20 lbs are in rear-facing seats. Harness straps at or below shoulder level.
TODDLERS	Over 1 year Over 20 lbs. Up to 40 lbs.	Convertible/ Forward facing seat	Forward-facing	Harness straps should be at or below shoulders. Most seats require top slot for forward-facing.
YOUNG CHILDREN	Ages 4-8, unless 4'9" Over 40 lbs.	Belt-positioning booster seat	Forward-facing	Belt positioning booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belt. Make sure the lap belt fits low and tight across the lap/upper thigh area and the shoulder belt fits snug crossing the chest and shoulder to avoid injuries.

New car enhancements make child seats safer and easier to use

The LATCH system (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) is a new standard attachment system that makes car seats easier to attach to the vehicle. It works independently of the vehicle belt system. The LATCH system connects tether straps on the safety seat to two lower anchors and one upper anchor that are built into the vehicle's seat. Cars manufactured after September 2000 are equipped with the top tether anchorage and most forward-facing child safety seats have top tether straps that attach to the car tether anchors. As of September 2002, most new cars, minivans and light trucks will have lower anchors located where the seat cushion and seat back meet. All safety seats after September 2002 will have two lower attachments to connect to the car anchors, making for easier installation.

Booster seats help young children ride safely and will be law in January

After children have outgrown their child safety seat, a booster seat can add protection by positioning the car's seatbelt correctly for a young child. Without a belt-positioning booster seat, the lap belt can ride up over the child's stomach and cause serious internal injuries in a crash. The shoulder belt can cross the face, allowing the child to slide out from underneath it, causing serious injury to the head, face and neck.

Adults should never put a safety belt under the child's arm or behind his back. Instead, all children who have outgrown child safety seats should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, or until they are 4'9" tall. Effective January 1, 2004, the law will require booster seats for children under 8 years old.

DCFS is on the path to track down missing youth



While the number fluctuates from day to day, as of September 29, 380 wards statewide were reported missing from DCFS authorized placements. With nearly 20,000 children in care, this translates to approximately two percent. However, even one child unaccounted for is one too many. This issue came to heightened awareness after the DCFS Task Force Report was issued in February. When Director Samuels (previously chair person for the Task Force) took over at DCFS, he made this a top priority.



Starting with a baseline of 409 missing children in May, 311 have been located and returned to care as of the end of September. The improvement came from the diligent efforts to find these wards and the organized vigor in which the Department pursued all leads. The Department demanded accountability on all existing rules and procedures such as filing missing persons reports with police and filing reports with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

This effort was orchestrated by the Illinois Missing Children's Task Force that the Director established in May. The Task Force oversees efforts to find all missing children within 60 days and reviews all issues related to youth absent from placement. This includes determining what steps are necessary to keep them from running again. The Task Force will issue recommendations to the Department to guide its ongoing efforts to find missing youth and to deter youth from running away.

At the Task Force's recommendation, the Department has created a Missing Child Database that is linked to DCFS client data, automatically flagging any child listed as missing each day. Further, it gathers all information related to that child, including a download of computerized records from the Department of Public Health, which gives all the child's medical information. Photographs will soon be added to the database. A DCFS unit solely devoted to tracking and locating missing wards is expected to be operational in the next few months.

Additionally, since the end of June, DCFS operates a hotline for information on missing youth. The toll-free phone number is available 24 hours a day every day of the week. The help line will also provide information about missing children to law enforcement officials. The phone number is 866-503-0184.

DCFS lifts 65 and over policy



The Department announced that it would repeal a policy to restrict placements of children with older caregivers. Policy Guide 2003.03, Placement Restrictions for Older Caregivers, was put in place in February, limiting placements with foster parents aged 65 and older. That policy was rescinded on July 18, effective immediately. Placements are again being made based on the individual needs of the child and the ability of the foster parent to meet those needs, not on the age of the caregiver.

A waiver is no longer required by the DCFS Director to place children in the homes of primary foster parents aged 65 and older.

"Foster parents are one of the Department's most valuable resources. If they are ready, willing and able to care for children, then they should be allowed to do so if the placement's a good match," said DCFS Director Bryan Samuels.

One of the challenges facing DCFS today is recruiting and retaining viable foster parents who can handle the kinds of children currently populating substitute care. As of September 29, 2003, there were 19,866 children in various forms of care, including 10,300 in foster care and 7,244 in relative care. These youths are more troubled than the ones that have gone through the system historically, and DCFS states it needs caring foster parents of all ages to open up their homes to children.

One Church/One Child seeks “saints” to care for children



One Church One Child is a model program for recruiting foster and adoptive families for African-American children among churches and other faith-based organizations. At the annual meeting this summer, the group had many milestones to report and changes to announce. In the last fiscal year (ending June 30) One Church One Child recruiters had helped 154 families complete applications to become licensed. So far, 38 families were able to complete the process and become licensed for foster care or adoption.

Recent retirements contributed to a shortage of licensing staff at DCFS, so the organization had to be creative. One Church One Child initiated several partnerships with community child welfare agencies such as ChildServ, Jewish Children’s Bureau, Latino Consortium and Unity Parenting to keep the process moving to bring in more families.

These new partnerships are welcomed by the new personnel leading One Church One Child. Minister Rita Coleman takes the reins as the new state coordinator, replacing Addie Hudson who now serves as a DCFS associate deputy director for External Affairs. Additionally, the board named Rev. Steve Bland president to replace long-time board member Bishop Harold Dawson, Sr. Several other board appointments also were made at the annual meeting.

In conjunction with celebrating the inroads made to join children to families, three of the 23 recruiters for the state tied for top honors from their peers: Geraldine Wilson and Nadine Koonce from Cook County and Lillie Hamberlin from Rockford. These three recruiters demonstrated the dedication and determination needed to successfully recruit within the faith-based community.

When It Works!

Quick response to photo leads to adoptive home for pre-teen



When Jeanette Dixon took her March newsletter from the mailbox, she saw a picture of an 11-year old boy wearing glasses. The Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI) description said he liked computers and helping to cook dinner. Jeanette called her agency that same day.

Margaret Burke of LifeLink took hold of the inquiry and contacted DCFS adoption worker Marikay Hampton. Because of the quick response from the workers, the process was rolling, and within weeks they started pre-placement visits that went very well. In about two months, this youngster came to the Dixon home, and now the family is looking forward to his adoption.

Dixon, an African-American Spanish teacher, was thrilled to have a Hispanic child with her—especially one who didn’t speak Spanish. In addition to teaching him the language, she loves to prepare Spanish-style meals together.

Hampton says that, in this case, the AICI photos in the newsletter helped where other recruitment efforts had not been able to secure a family for this child.

Adoptive placements may not always work this fast. However, when a child is thriving in a new home without an unduly long wait, there is cause to celebrate. This victory comes on the heels of AICI reaching an important milestone. In June, 5,000 children featured in its Adoption Listing Service had been placed in adoptive homes.

The system may not always run smoothly, so let’s hear more good news about “When it Works!” Contact Vanessa James, Editor at 312-814-6824 or vjames@idcfs.state.il.us.

Post Adoption/ Guardianship Helpful Hints:

Subsidies After 18

Families can adopt or take guardianship of children with a subsidy that lasts until the child is 18. In some circumstances, the subsidy can be extended to 19 or 21. However it is important to pay attention to the details and the deadlines.

Cook County Post Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy Administrator Legertha Barner offers this advice to families with children approaching 18: Before the child's 18th birthday, contact the subsidy worker to review the subsidy agreement. Six months prior to the child's 18th birthday, foster parents will receive a letter from the subsidy unit. It is extremely important that parents respond to this letter quickly.

The subsidy can continue to the child's 19th birthday, if he or she has not yet graduated from high school. In some extreme cases, the subsidy can go to age 21 when the child has a physical, emotional or mental disability that was documented prior to the adoption or transfer of guardianship. Most importantly, the condition must be reconfirmed before the child's 18th birthday.

The Post Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy Unit can respond to all types of questions families may have about subsidies. The toll-free phone number is 866-538-8892. See the accompanying article on this page for specific contact information by region.

Answers to Subsidy Questions

The primary sources for answers to questions about a subsidy is the subsidy worker at DCFS. If you do not know who your DCFS subsidy worker is, call the Post Adoption Information and Referral Service at 800-572-2390 (Toll-free inside Illinois) or 312-346-1516 (outside Illinois).

Or contact your closest DCFS office and/or Post Adoption and Guardianship worker listed below. If you have difficulty reaching an individual named below, ask to speak with the person who handles subsidies in that office.

Cook County

Legertha Barner 866-538-8892

Northern Region

Don Vasich, supervisor 630-844-8400

Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall and Will

Susan Jacewicz 815-730-4000

DeKalb, DuPage, Lake, McHenry and Ogle

Renee Small 815-987-7128

Boone, Carroll, JoDaviess, Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago

Jennifer Saluckyj 815-987-5235

Central Region

Champaign

Virginia Johnson 217-278-5500

Springfield/Peoria

Julie Miles 309-671-7900

Southern Region

East St. Louis

Pauline Pollion 618-583-2187

Marion

Lori Timmons 618-242-6556

If you have been receiving subsidy checks regularly, and suddenly don't receive your monthly subsidy check, call the DCFS Payment Unit at 800-525-0499.



Resources are available to families after adoption and guardianship

Information and referral to services

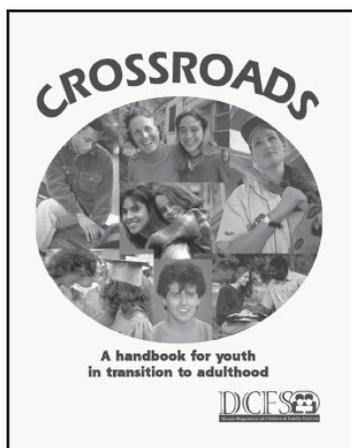
The Post Adoption and Guardianship Information and Referral Service is administered by the Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI). Resource Workers can answer phone calls for information, make referrals to services and advocate for adoptive and guardianship families. Families can call the Post Adoption and Guardianship Information and Referral Service at 800-572-2390 in Illinois. The hours are: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The AICI maintains a listing of many resources on its website, www.adoptinfo-il.org. Families can search for many post adoption or guardianship resources by their county or DCFS region.

Preservation services

When child- or family-related issues threaten the adoption or guardianship, preservation services can help. They offer crisis intervention, therapy, advocacy and other specialized services delivered through a statewide network of agencies. Families can call the Post Adoption and Guardianship Information and Referral Service at 800-572-2390 in Illinois to locate the nearest preservation service provider.

Mediation and appeals

Your subsidy will be reviewed periodically. If your situation or the needs of the child have changed prior to that time, contact your subsidy worker for a subsidy review. If you believe, however, that your rights under an adoption assistance or subsidized guardianship agreement have been violated in some way, an Administrative Appeal may be available to you. For information about the DCFS Administrative Hearings system, call 217-782-6655.



Education resources

Youth formerly under DCFS care that are adopted or living with guardians are eligible to apply for the DCFS scholarship program. Parents can also receive school-related services from DCFS Education Advocates. To help youth explore education opportunities and resources as they transition to adulthood, DCFS created the booklet Crossroads. It is mailed after the youth's 16th birthday to families receiving subsidy payments.

On-line education makes training easy

Licensed families who adopt through DCFS can take free on-line courses available from Adoption Learning Partners. The Internet-based courses allow families to learn at their convenience and at their own pace. Some courses may also fulfill the DCFS training hours requirement.

- **Conspicuous Families: Race, Culture and Adoption** focuses on transracial adoption and the stereotypes, perceptions and cultural issues that may arise.
- **Understanding the Adoption Tax Credit** makes the complicated tax legislation easy to understand.
- **Talking With Your Child About Adoption** offers insightful methods for discussing tough topics.

These courses are available on the organization's website at www.adoptionlearningpartners.org. DCFS-licensed families may enroll on the website and complete the desired course(s). After submitting an on-line course evaluation, there will be a link for DCFS families providing instructions on how to receive a free certificate of completion. Adoption Learning Partners also wants to know what adoptive families would like to learn as future on-line courses are considered. Adoptive families can use the feedback option on the website or contact Vicki DuFour (info@adoptionlearningpartners.org or 800-566-3995).

From the Files

Finger print reminder

Every child in foster care must have fingerprints, as well as a current photograph, as part of their case file. Sylvan/Identix, DCFS vendor for fingerprints/photographs, has 31 locations around the state with hours that vary. Appointments for fingerprinting can be made by calling (toll-free) 800-377-2080. Caregivers should bring the child's medical card to the appointment. This contract is only for identifying children in DCFS care, it is not for licensing or background checks. Questions can be directed to the child's caseworker or Judith Dunning, Statewide Coordinator for Missing, Abducted and Runaway Children at 217-785-2570.

Illinois Celebrates Adoption

On November 21, DCFS and several child welfare agencies will celebrate National Adoption Month. Highlights of the event will include several families finalizing their adoptions in court at the Daley Center in Chicago with an adoption party. There will be food and other fun for the families, along with a press conference. DCFS has also prepared materials that can be used to focus local attention on adoption issues. Look on the website (www.state.il.us/dcfs) for adoption information and materials to share with the media. Contact the Office of Communications at 312-814-6847 with questions.

Tell it like it is - families speak out

Families, Now and Forever wants to hear the “real deal” on caring for children from those who know best — you!

Here is what you had to say to the question: ***If you could tell school educators one thing about foster care or adoption that would help them better understand your children, what would it be?***

“Don't be prejudiced against foster kids. They are not their parents. They are going through hard times and need a little bit more understanding. Teachers could also give a personal phone number to the parent so that if they do have difficulties we can work it out together. Parents can offer teachers some books to read.”

Jean Deets

“We have an adopted daughter who is 13. I think one of the main things that hurt her educationally is when they study genetics. They still are requiring the children to do a family line of where they got their blue eyes and their hair. Today with all the technology available, I am sure there are computer programs where children could learn this without having to try to remember issues that are so hurtful to them.”

Maryann Miller

“I would tell educators that even though a child tests well they still have special needs because of the things they have been through before they came into a permanent house for adoption. It seems the greatest thing that teachers forget is that children have sometimes been mentally abused before they came to their facility.”

Avis Coleman

The new question is: ***What have you done as a caregiver (or what should be done) to encourage visits among siblings while in care and/or after adoption?***

You can contact me with your response by e-mail at vjames@idcfs.state.il.us or by phone at 312-814-6824. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Vanessa James, Editor



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

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Address Changes: Families must notify their licensing representative, who will notify DCFS. Agencies should change addresses of office locations or request staff copies through the Editor.

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A family for me

Allan [C7271] This outgoing young man will be happy to cook you a meal! Allan, who's also known as Josh, loves to cook. He enjoys other "hands-on" activities such as arts and crafts and drawing. Allan, 9, likes to sing and dance, too. His worker and teacher said Allan is creative, sweet, and energetic, and is able to form close bonds with others.

Brianna [C7067] This energetic young lady loves creative activities! Brianna, 11, especially likes art projects and music. She also enjoys playing with dolls, puzzles, and Legos, and she's a big fan of Disney characters. Outdoors, she likes playing football and baseball. Brianna's best subject in school is reading, and she hopes to become a kindergarten teacher when she's an adult.

Her foster parents said that Brianna has a good sense of humor. At school, she volunteers to help other students. Brianna's worker said she is outgoing and good company and is nurturing to younger children and animals.

Marquise [C4372] This talented young man may have a symphony orchestra position in his future. Marquise, 13, enjoys playing the harp and gets better at it all the time. He's a sports buff, too, playing basketball, wrestling, and swimming. He is also the captain of his sixth grade spelling team. His teacher said that Marquise expresses himself well in writing and cooperates with the other children in his class.

Christopher and Maisha [C7002-03] These active kids are eager to join a loving family. Christopher, 13, is a talented artist and loves to draw. He also enjoys trading cards and playing video games. Maisha, 11, loves to talk about almost anything. She also likes skating, playing with her toys, and watching movies with her brother.

Their foster parent said that Christopher has a great sense of humor and a nice personality and Maisha is creative and helpful. Their worker said Maisha is a good talker and Christopher is caring and communicative.

David [C6400] This charming 10-year-old is very sure about what he likes! David's preferred activities include going to the park (especially for the swings!), playing with other children, and working on art projects. He enjoys food. His foster parent and teacher said that David "enjoys the little things around him" and likes to interact with others.

Thomas [C7050] This young man is talented and creative. Thomas, 11, especially loves to draw and make up stories to go along with the pictures. He enjoys playing board games and video games, and he would love to learn to bowl. He's fond of chili and hot dogs and is a fan of soul music. His foster parent said that Thomas is "a good kid" who has a sense of humor and is always willing to help out. His teacher said he comes to class prepared.

If you are interested in adopting one of these children or learning about other children waiting to be adopted, please call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 1-800-572-2390 (within Illinois) or 1-312-346-1516 (outside Illinois), or see the AICI web site – www.adoptinfo-il.org.

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DO YOU KNOW A FAMILY FOR ME?



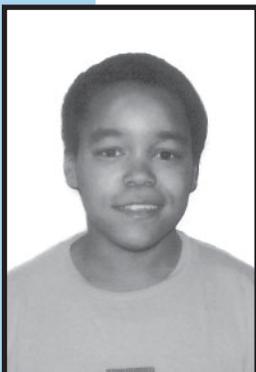
Allan (7271)



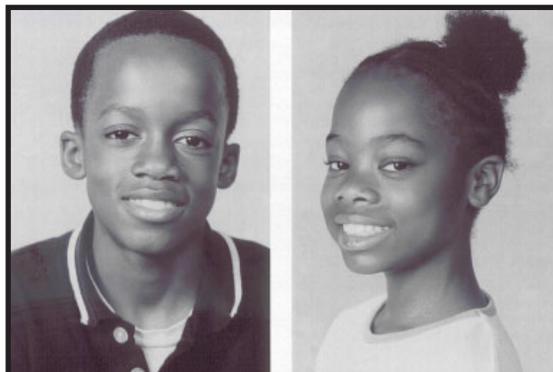
Brianna (7067)



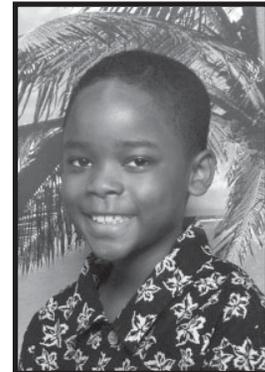
David (6400)



Marquise (4372)



Christopher & Maisha (7002-03)



Thomas (7050)

November is National Adoption Month.



Illinois Celebrates
ADOPTION

*DCFS Celebrates with
all adoptive families!*

Inside this issue:

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Call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois 800-572-2390.