

Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data National Continuous Quality Improvement Seminars

Reunification

Two-Part Web Seminar

November 19, 2009, 1:00 to 2:30 EST

December 3, 2009, 1:00 to 2:30 EST

What is the purpose of the CQI seminar on reunification?

Reunification is an important goal for children and families, a point that is reflected in the fact that more children go home when they leave foster care than for any other reason. Nevertheless, the likelihood of reunification (and how long it takes) differs from state to state, from county to county within a given state, and from one population of children to another within a given county. Improving services to children and families so that children who can home do go home depends to a significant degree on knowing more about this variation and targeting services accordingly. The purpose of CQI seminar is to help states and localities gain a deeper understanding of reunification and the steps they can take to develop better programs.

Who should participate in this two-part CQI seminar on reunification?

Teams of 2-3 administrators from state or county public child welfare agencies are invited to participate. Teams could include a senior finance person, the child welfare director, the senior policy person in charge of permanency, and a senior quality assurance person. Space is limited, and priority will be given to states and counties that are members of the Data Center.

What will I learn during the seminar?

The seminar is designed to help child welfare administrators better understand reunification as a child welfare outcome. Among the questions, we'll look at:

- How does the timing of reunification vary around the country?
- Which populations of children are more likely to be reunified?
- In what ways, if any, do placement rates influence reunification?

At the end of the seminar, participants can expect to have new ways to understand reunification and how they might target services to increase rates of reunification.

Members of the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data will be shown how to use their longitudinal data file to understand reunification rates in their state. In addition, participants will hear from state colleagues (New York State and Connecticut) about efforts in their state to both disseminate and use information to develop improvement strategies.

What will be expected of me?

Prior to the first session, participants will be given some background reading. Between the first and second session, participants will be given an exercise to complete (as a group, if appropriate). The exercise will be designed to take about 1 hour. To assist with the completion

of the exercise, State Date Center staff will be available for office hours on **November 30 from 1-2 PM EST** to answer questions you may have.

How can I sign up for the seminar?

Contact Christina Crayton to sign up your team at CCrayton@aphsa.org or (202) 682-0100 x257.