Boys Town Foster Family Services
Agency Supported Foster Care

Recruitment Plan 2009—Quarter 2

1. Recruitment-Diversity

- Currently in the process of recruiting a diverse group of potential foster families in both Douglas and Sarpy counties (Eastern Service Area).
  - -focus made on Bellevue, South Omaha and Papillion/Ralston areas.
  - -Focus on Spanish speaking families (currently have 2 in Pride)
  - -Have 3 families in Elkhorn in process
  - -Have 1 family in Valley
  - -Have 1 in Bellevue
- Of homes beginning foster care training/licensing:
  - -63% are Caucasian
  - -30% are African American
  - -7 % are Hispanic
- Boys Town remains committed to finding potential foster homes in every school district in the Eastern Service Area.
- Boys Town remains committed to recruiting a range of families who offer the full continuum of services from short term and emergency care to committing to adoption.

2. Recruitment-

- Boys Town continuum of care promotes a range of placement possibilities and services for children and families to encourage reunification.
- Screening includes discussion of characteristics of the youth in foster care, including DD, chemical use, and behavioral concerns, academic and sexual behaviors as well as safety concerns.

3. Matching-process

- Initial screen discusses family preferences.
- Pride class and PS-MAPP review preferences of foster families and ways to integrate children into foster family, also impact of children on foster family.
- Foster Family Consultant reviews preferences during home study as well as reviewing children and their needs during ongoing weekly consultations.
- Foster Family Consultant has weekly phone communication regarding children and their preferences, to ensure concurrent planning and good match for long term planning and possible permanency within the foster home.
- Foster Care staff utilize the support of the Boys Town admissions team to determine child needs and appropriate level.
- Currently have 6 of 39 homes interested in FOS-ADOPT for children meeting these matching criteria.
- Boys Town has 4 homes interested in providing guardianship for children meeting this matching criteria
- Boys Town has homes with experience dealing with learning disabilities, IEP's and behavioral concerns in the academic setting.
- Boys Town Foster Family Services staff meeting review placements/referrals weekly to discuss children and matching with possible foster families.

4. Family identification/connection:

- Boys Town works with the service coordinator of lead agencies to locate and promote reunification of children with biological families.
- Boys Town foster families promote visitation with biological families, or legal guardians depending on court order.

- Actively work with families and agencies to promote therapeutic visits and reunification. Includes transition plans for reunification.
- Include biological families in treatment team meetings to review progress and placement planning.

5. Education/Training

- All families required to participate in Pride through 2009 and PS-MAPP beginning in 2010.
- Boys Town offers CPR/First Aid training to all families
- Boys Town offer NCI (Non-Crisis Intervention) training to all families.
- All foster families have opportunity to access Boys Town University to complete trainings online through website.
- Families are trained in use of the Boys Town model when working with children and foster families.
- Foster Family Consultants provide ongoing training in the home with foster families.
- Boys Town offers quarterly foster family network meetings.

6. Progress

- Boys Town currently has 39 licensed foster families providing care for 50+ children, average age of 9 years old.
- Boys Town is currently in the process of transferring 11 foster family homes previously licensed with the state.
- Boys Town is currently in the process of transferring 6 foster family homes from other agencies in the community.
- Boys Town has 4 families completing Pride training in December 2009.
- Boys Town has 14 families scheduled for PS-MAPP training in January 2010.
- Boys Town has 9 families in the process of licensing and nearing completion.
- Boys Town has 34 initial contacts with families interested in foster care. 7 initial screens scheduled 11/30/09-12/4/09.
- Provide ongoing support 24/7 to all families through individual foster family consultants.
- Radio spots on 88.1 by Manager of Foster Care program.
- Banner's located at 132nd and Pacific and 132nd and Dodge promoting foster care.
- Advertisements in Family Spectrum magazine promoting foster care.
- In process of designing individualized church information centers (Jan 2010).
- In process of recruiting foster families through Boys Town as trial program. Expect 15 families within all departments (including hospital) except youth care. Recruitment to happen through use of Boys Town employee website, email notifications and Boys Town Overlook Messenger.
- Foster care brochures located in Boys Town medical clinics.
- Actively working on new and improved web site describing foster care programs in Service area.