

Weekly Report – April 13

Voice for Adoption (VFA) provides weekly e-mail updates to its members on adoption and child welfare news, resources, and legislation, as well as updates on VFA's activities. Below is the update for the week of April 9 - 13, 2007.

News from Voice for Adoption

- VFA is interested in hearing from members about policy topics that they would like to have covered during future public policy conference calls. In addition to continuing to provide updates on policy issues and legislation during the monthly calls, we are looking at ways to provide information about special policy topics that are of interest to our members. If you have suggestions for topics that you would like to have covered, please send them to Alicia Groh at voiceforadoption@gmail.com.

New Reports

- The Urban Institute has released a new report entitled, “Adoption and Foster Care by Lesbian and Gay Parents in the United States.” Discussion and debate about adoption and foster care by gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) parents occurs frequently among policymakers, social service agencies, and social workers. Three states currently restrict GLB people from adopting and more are considering similar policies. This report provides new information on GLB adoption and foster care from several government data sources. It offers a demographic portrait of the estimated 65,500 adopted children and 14,100 foster children living with gay and lesbian parents. It also assesses the costs to child welfare systems of proposed bans on allowing GLB people to foster. The report can be downloaded at: www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411437_Adoption_Foster_Care.pdf

Other News and Resources

- On April 8, Wade Horn left his position as the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ACF includes the Children’s Bureau, which administers federal child welfare programs.
- The Urban Institute has a podcast available on Adoption and Foster Care by Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Parents. Panelists discussed a new study from the Williams Institute and the Urban Institute that explores the characteristics of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals who are adoptive or foster parents and those who would like to adopt children. The podcast is available online at: www.urban.org/podcasts/index.cfm
- Casey Family Programs’ Request for Proposals—Casey is soliciting proposals for a three-year study of evidence-based mental health treatment for youth of color in foster care. Proposals are due by April 23. More information is available online at: www.casey.org/Resources/Projects/MentalHealthTreatment/default.htm
- The Child Welfare League of America is seeking proposals for its National Adoption and Foster Care Training Conference, “Shared Beliefs, Shared Values: Achieving Excellence in Adoption and Foster Care.” The conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, December 10-12, 2007. Proposals must be received no later than May 4, 2007. The call for proposals is online at: www.cwla.org/conferences/2007adoptionrfp.htm

- Press release: Federal Court Permits Gay Couple To Sue Internet Adoption Business Under California Discrimination Law—Federal district court judge Phyllis J. Hamilton has ruled that Michael and Rich Butler, a San Jose gay couple, can move to trial in their discrimination suit against an internet business known as Adoption.com and Adoption Profiles LLC. The full press release is online at: nclrights.org/releases/pr-fedct_adpt_ca_dscrmnatn_041007.htm
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation Announces 2007-08 Fellowship Class—The Annie E. Casey Foundation, a national foundation working to improve outcomes for vulnerable kids, is pleased to announce its 2007-08 Children and Family Fellowship Class. The 16 men and women selected for the program are accomplished child welfare administrators, nonprofit leaders, and community development professionals from across the country, committed to helping low-income families succeed as parents, community members, and productive participants in the workforce and economy. The full press release about the fellowship class can be downloaded at: www.aecf.org/Newsroom/~media/PDFFiles/Newsroom/cffellowship08%20pdf/cffellowship08Final%20pdf.ashx
- April 9th media advisory—The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute called for an urgent meeting with Walt Disney Pictures to discuss the potentially negative impact on children and families of its new movie, “Meet the Robinsons,” which is generating strong criticism in the adoption community because of its insensitive portrayal of adoption and, in particular, of an orphaned child. The full media advisory is available online at: www.adoptioninstitute.org/media/20070409_press_disney.php