

Weekly Update—April 20, 2007

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 16-20, 2007.

News from Voice for Adoption

- Voice for Adoption has signed on as a supporting organization for Generations United's "All Children Deserve a Permanent Family" campaign promoting federal support for subsidized guardianship.

New Reports

- The Children's Defense Fund and Children's Rights have released a series of reports examining ways to promote child welfare workforce improvements through federal policy changes. This series of reports is the result of discussions among key child welfare organizations designed to examine the workforce challenges that impede efforts to meet critical child welfare outcomes, and to develop a set of federal policy recommendations to support workforce improvements. The reports are available online at:
www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageServer?pagename=research_CWMH_Workforce_Improvements
- **School Engagement and Youth Who Run Away from Care: The Need for Cross-System Collaboration**—To better understand the complex factors that influence school engagement for youth in care, Chapin Hall researchers interviewed Illinois youth who ran away from their foster placements and adults who care for or work with these youth. Findings reveal missed opportunities in helping to support the educational aspirations of a vulnerable group of youth--missed opportunities for foster parents and professionals, for the child welfare and education systems, and most important, for the youth themselves. The report is available online at:
www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1454&L2=61&L3=130

Other News and Resources

- The Child Welfare League of America has released recommendations for improving the educational outcomes for youth in foster care, focusing on proposed amendments to the McKinney-Vento Act/Education Reauthorization in the No Child Left Behind Act. The recommendations are available online at:
www.cwla.org/advocacy/fostercareeducation.htm
- The National Conference of State Legislatures has an article in its April 2007 magazine that discusses how state legislators are examining the issue of race in child welfare. The full article, "The Color of Care," is only available to magazine subscribers, but an excerpt of the article is available online at:
www.ncsl.org/magazine/weekly/SLWeeklyApr_Color.htm

- The *Los Angeles Times* ran an editorial on April 13 examining the Census Bureau's plan to remove the category for counting foster children in households in the 2010 Census. The editorial is available online at: www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-ed-census13apr13,1,138312.story?coll=la-news-a_section
- May is National Foster Care Month. Detailed information, including a calendar of events taking place around the country, is available online at: www.fostercaremonth.org