



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
INTERIM DIRECTOR

February 26, 2015

The Honorable Peter MacGregor, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Earl Poleski, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator MacGregor and Representative Poleski:

This report is provided pursuant to the Department of Human Services' (DHS') Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Act, PA 252 of 2014, Article X, Section 559 (2). This section requires that Adoptive Family Support Network submit a report on the adoptive parent mentor program described in section 559(1) including, but not limited to, the number of cases served and the number of cases in which the program prevented an out-of-home placement. Section 559 (1) states the following:

“From the funds appropriated in part 1 for adoption support services including the funds designated as 1-time basis only, the department shall allocate \$700,000.00 to the adoptive family support network to operate and expand its adoptive parent mentor program to provide a listening ear, knowledgeable guidance, and community connections to adoptive parents and children who were adopted in this state or another state.”

The attached report was provided to DHS by the Adoptive Family Support Network.

If you have any questions, please contact Brooke VanProoyen, Program Manager, Adoptive Family Support Network, (616) 458-7945.

Sincerely,

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

Attachment: Adoptive Family Support Network Statewide Parent to Parent Program Report
cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
State Budget Director



Statewide Parent to Parent Program Report

APS15-41002

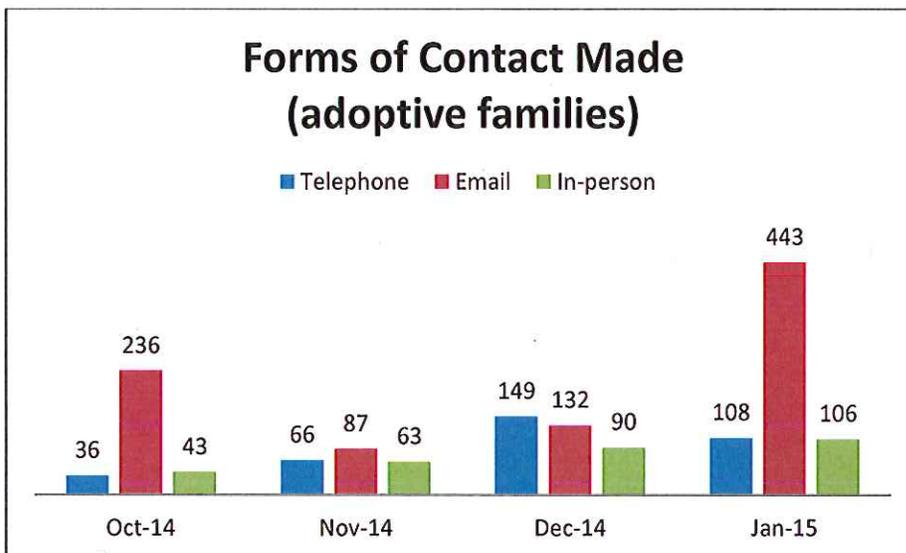
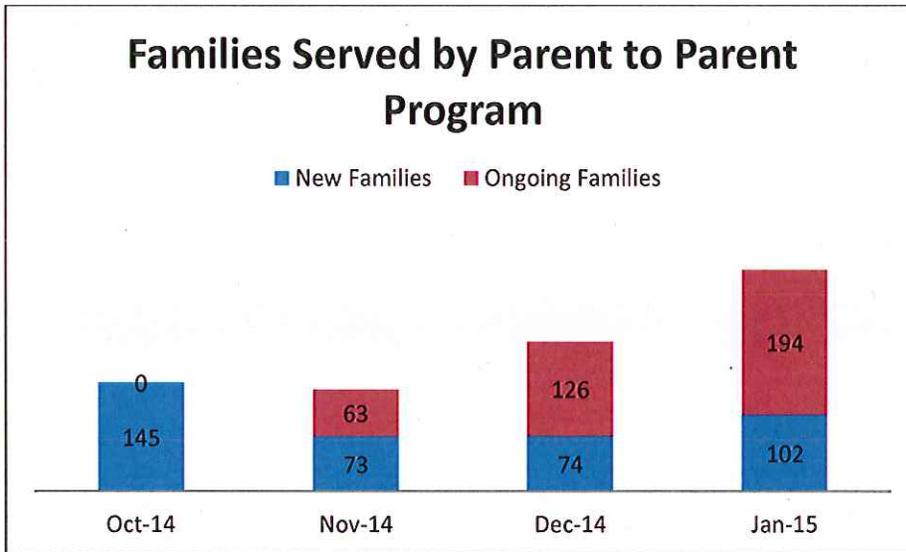
October 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015

Executive Summary:

- In the first four months of the contract cycle, AFSN's Statewide Parent to Parent Program has served **394** unduplicated adoptive families in the state of Michigan.
- **1292** total contacts were made with adoptive families in the first four months, averaging **1.9** hours per family.
- **62 %** of the families seeking services from AFSN are families who have adopted at least one child from the child welfare system, but significant numbers of families who have adopted internationally, privately, and through kinship adoptions outside of the child welfare system are also seeking support services. These families are often isolated and lack access to needed services and support groups due to program eligibility requirements.
- The **two** most common reasons given by families for connecting with AFSN's Parent to Parent Program are; interest in support groups/connection to other adoptive families, and families seeking resources to assist them with their child's challenging behaviors (including referrals for adoption competent therapists, school advocacy and respite).
- AFSN's **ten** Adoptive Parent Consultants are facilitating **17** different in-person monthly adoptive parent support groups serving families in **14** different counties. A procedure to respond to requests for financial and technical support to parent leaders of support groups across the state has been developed and will enable AFSN to expand its reach further.
- **Three of seven** training modules for AFSN's parent leadership training have been developed in collaboration with Michigan State University's School of Social Work. The Parent to Parent Program will hold a statewide parent leadership conference June 2 – June 4 to certify **50** parent leaders across the state of Michigan in this curriculum.
- In the first quarter, **91%** of families surveyed had all of their adopted children under the age of eighteen remaining in the home after receiving services from AFSN. ***100%** of children during this period have remained in the home for the families whose contact with the P2P program was after the October 1st start of contract. The **9%** of families

currently being served who reported having a child out of the home, had the out of home placement prior to the start of this contract on October 1, 2014.

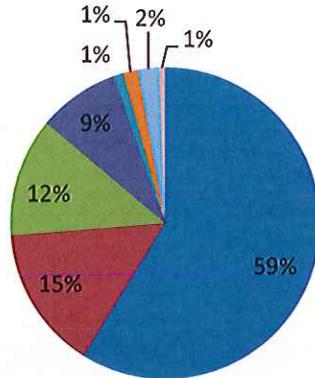
- **91%** of first quarter survey respondents were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the support they received from AFSN’s Parent to Parent Program.
- **94%** of first quarter survey respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statement; “I feel more able to access needed support and resources for my family since connecting with AFSN.



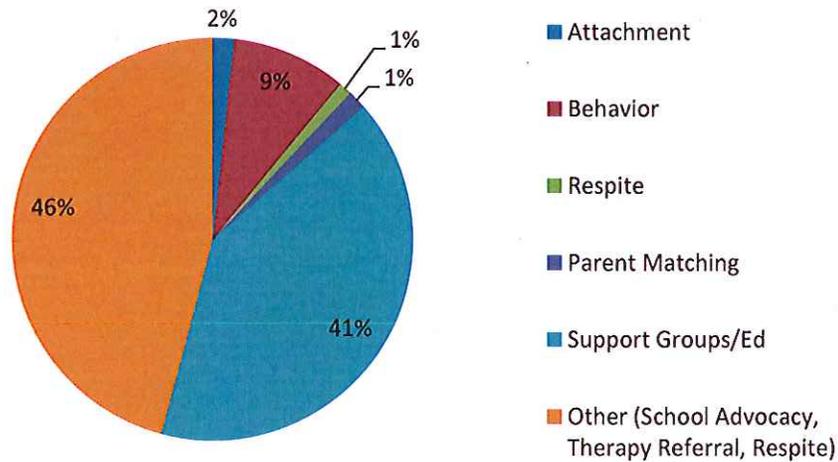
Type of Adoptive Families Served

(may include more than one type of adoption)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Foster Care to Adoption | ■ International | ■ Private Domestic |
| ■ Kinship | ■ Recruited Waiting Child | ■ Other |
| ■ Foster pre-adopt/In process | ■ Guardianship | |



Issues/Assistance Requested by Parent



Program Outreach and Events:

During this reporting period, Parent to Parent Program staff have attended and/or made presentations about AFSN's services to **36** different community groups, agencies and schools in **20** counties.

Additionally, Parent to Parent Program Staff have organized and hosted **23** family fun events in **7** counties to provide opportunities for families in surrounding areas to connect to one another.

Finally, Parent to Parent Staff facilitated **22** in-person support groups and educational forums serving families from **23** counties.

Website Usage:

AFSN launched its new website in December 2014 and immediately increased traffic, especially AFSN's calendar of events and information regarding the Statewide Parent to Parent Program. www.afsn.org had 1072 visits during the first quarter, 77% of which were new to the site. 28% of the website traffic came through referrals from other websites, including state and national adoption support agencies, Michigan's Post Adoption Resource Centers and family resource guides. 31% came from a search of keywords regarding adoptive support in Michigan, 23% came from social media referrals and 18% came from directly typing in www.afsn.org. Website traffic came from 10 countries, 32 states and 112 cities in Michigan, showing the wide reach of AFSN's networks and demand for post adoption information.

Social Media Presence:

AFSN has a strong facebook presence, with 1,388 "likes" at the end of the first quarter. The facebook page features trainings, events, program announcements and educational resources. Posts with the most "reach" included articles entitled "Why Consequences and Rewards Don't Work for Hurting Kids", "What is neurofeedback? Therapists are using it to treat problems involving the brain", announcements about the merger between AFSN and DA Blodgett-St. Johns, an AFSN family's adoption of twins and the rollout of the Statewide Parent to Parent Program. These posts each "reached" between 800 and 2,500 users. "Friends" of the AFSN facebook page come from 50 cities in Michigan. While 28% of these "friends" are from Grand Rapids where AFSN is located, the reach of the page is steadily growing each month throughout Michigan.

AFSN operates and moderates 10 online support communities for adoptive families with 707 total support group members. These groups include online support for transracial adoptive families 193, LGBTQ adoptive families 13, adoptive families who completed the Advanced Parenting for Challenging Children educational series 85, Singles in Support 18, Raising Healthy Families 23, Muskegon Adoptive families 17, P2P Statewide Adoptive Families 313, and Special Needs Adoptive Families 35.

AFSN also has staff serving as contributors/administrators to other groups not initially started by AFSN. Those groups include; West Michigan Families Who Adopt- 310, Michigan Area Adoption Support Group- 345, Michigan Foster Care/Adoption- 1,066, and Adoption & Foster Care Support Using YLEO (young living essential oils)- 562.