



## **Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Project**

### **Helping children and families in PA**

- Current contract
  - Permanency Barriers Project
  - Attorney and County Training
  - Partner with various entities in state
  - Have done this in NY, WY, KY, OK

### **Build on Expertise**

- Some counties not ready for the project
  - Too many existing initiatives
  - Don't see the need for the entire project
- Something different can be offered
  - New counties that don't want the full project may have specific permanency related issues we can help resolve
  - Former project counties may need fine tuning to help them reach the next level of practice
- Intensive intervention
- Training and technical assistance
- Help develop procedures and policies
- Build on counties' strengths

### **Focus on Needs of the Counties**

- Can offer short or long term interventions
- County based project, help counties identify their needs
- State could identify counties or regions that need assistance

### **Advantages of the ABA**

- National expertise and PA expertise
- Experts on permanency planning
- Deliverables and Results
- Known commodity in PA with proven results



## National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues

A SERVICE OF THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU



The National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues is dedicated to achieving safety, permanence and well-being for abused and neglected children through improving law, legal practice, and judicial decision-making. The Resource Center provides consultation, training, and technical assistance on all legal and judicial aspects of the child welfare system.

The Resource Center also works to broaden the knowledge of agencies, courts, bar organizations, and other professionals on issues involving legal aspects of child welfare through authoring and disseminating relevant publications and developing training and other materials to improve laws, regulations, court rules, and practice. The National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues, funded by the Children's Bureau, is a part of the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law.

### **Training and Technical Assistance Areas**

- Promoting collaboration between agencies and courts
- Use of information technology in the court and data sharing with the agency
- Performance Measurements
- Improving legal representation, specific to parent, child and agency representation
- Involving attorneys in case planning
- Safety Decision-Making
  - Safety Guide for judges will be released by the end of 2008
  - Focus on helping judges and lawyers access accurate safety information
- Judicial Standards of Excellence
- Concurrent Planning
- Youth involvement in the whole case
  - Work with RC on Youth Development
  - Empowering youth to have a voice in court and through the entire case
  - Improving children's attorneys representation
  - Giving youth a voice in policy development
  - Transitioning youth to independence