We Must Improve our Processes related to Adoption Subsidies being eligible for Title IV-E

Kathleen Waters, Tallahassee, Florida
Why is it so important for a subsidy to be paid with Title IV-E funds?

- Families and children have no obstacles with Medicaid if they have to move to another state.
- Increasing our percentage of MAS paid with IV-E improves our discussions with the feds regarding our ongoing waiver project.
- Reduces our annual MAS budget request to Legislature.
- Reduce annual renewals for TANF subsidies.
It will require a “Team Effort”

- CPIs
- Case Management
- Adoption Staff
- Rev Max
- Children’s Legal Services
- Judges
We know the documentation needed for a child to be Title IV-E eligible **BUT**

We need processes to make sure tasks are completed timely and that there is documentation in FSFN. For example:

- Who is responsible for completing an SSI application, when appropriate?
- Who is responsible for making sure the “contrary language” is in the court order and that we have a signed copy?
- Who is responsible for making sure we have citizenship documentation?
- Who is responsible for documentation of background check results?
Adoption Staff need to “Lead” the team effort.

- Meet with other members of the team to inform them
- Determine the needed processes and who will be responsible for what
- Documentation must be in FSFN
- Gathering of information
Adoption staff and Rev Max must be best of friends!

- What is working well?
- What processes need improvement?
- Communication, communication, communication
IV-E MAS Audits are **NOT** just a workload for Rev Max—it’s a workload for the whole Team.

Currently:
- State Office of the Auditor General began annual IV-E MAS audit for feds several weeks ago.
- An arm of the Legislature, OPPAGA, began a “research study” regarding our adoption subsidy budget request. Will interview many CBCs.
- State Office of the Auditor General began a IV-E Audit for the feds last week regarding FSFN documentation of subsidy payments, will end November 11th
We can begin our conversations this afternoon.

- Does everyone know all the necessary documentation and timeframes?
- Does everyone know all of the needed processes?
- Does everyone know who is responsible for which task?
- Is there duplication?
- Is training or technical assistance needed?
FSFN Design Sessions are being planned and will be occurring in several months.

• Therefore, now is the time to have all needed processes in place and determine who is responsible.

• The “right staff” need to participate in the FSFN design sessions.
Questions???