



Professional Newsletter



Trust us – these friendly reminders can save you time and aggravation

Forgive us, George Harrison as well as you dear readers, but it's been a long cold lonely winter, and we thought we'd bring on the sun to defrost and refresh your minds.

You could call this Professional Newsletter the "worker reminder edition." And it's courtesy of your warm and friendly MARE professionals! (insert sunny face here – just kidding!)

First up is MARE Data Analyst Jeremiah Balazovich, a strong proponent of avoiding brain freeze in frigid weather. He offers suggestions to help smooth the registration process for workers photolisting youth on Mare.org.

"If you're having trouble updating a child's profile and you're getting a message stating that there are required fields that need to be completed, make sure to check the ethnicity drop-down menus and the Child Behaviors tab. At least one item in the Child Behaviors tab must be selected in each of the four categories, and you do have the option of selecting not applicable or N/A for each category."

Although Jeremiah is a tough act to follow, if anybody can do it well, it's our own ray of sunshine Martha Kaczala, aka MARE adoption worker liaison, who also provides advice

Ethnicity*

Non-Hispanic or Latino

Child Behaviors

Country Of Origin

-- Select a value --

Winter 2022

In this issue:

Page 1 - MARE staff offer tips for adoption workers



Page 2 - Make sure your families use this valuable MARE service



Page 3 - A handy guide for changing the status of a case



Page 4 - Considerations for return to in-person Meet & Greets

Let adoptive parents know that they can learn about foster care adoption at www.mare.org.

about completing photolisting registrations.

"When submitting a photolisting registration, workers must complete ALL profile fields and upload everything. The photolisting is not considered compliant with policy until ALL required items are entered and

uploaded.

"That includes the youth's photo, consent (for youth 9 and older), narrative info, child specific recruitment plan and all the information needed in the functioning section of the child's profile."

With that, we hope the groundhog saw or didn't see its shadow – we get confused about the details – so winter's a bit shorter, and minds and bodies thaw a bit sooner. But if you still feel as though you've been left out in the cold, give us a call at 800-589-6273 or email mare@judsoncenter.org.



Top row, Kim Ross, Jessica Franks, Judy McNaughton, Kelli Ostrosky

Bottom row, Kim Wolowski (navigator supervisor), Amber Tiemeyer, Aimee Loudon, Kimberly Grover

Families on your caseload should take advantage of MARE's Adoption Navigator Program

MARE's Adoption Navigator Program just celebrated its 10-year anniversary, and it's been a remarkable decade.

"We've heard through our surveys that families have been very happy with the services they receive from the navigators," says Kimberly Wolowski, who's served as the program's supervisor since 2016. "It's a needed program, and families seem to appreciate the navigators helping them with the adoption process."

To mark the anniversary and to inform adoptive families about the program, we asked Wolowski to describe who adoption navigators are, what they do and how families can take advantage of the program's services.

Who are the adoption navigators?

The team consists of seven adoption navigators who are all adoptive parents themselves. Because navigators have adopted, families relate to them and rely on

them to assist in finding services and resources during the adoption process. As their job title suggests, navigators guide families through the adoption process, which often begins with finding an agency.

What else do navigators do to help families?

Families who sign up for the program are assigned a navigator. After helping locate an agency, navigators make sure families go through orientation and sign up



for the training that they'll need during the adoption process. Families quickly learn that they can reach out to their navigator with any questions they have. That often includes the home study, which navigators have been through; they can answer any questions about it and help alleviate any concerns along the way.

that they display on MARE's Family Directory, which is a password-protected page on our website. The directory lets workers search for families who could be a match for the youth on their caseload. Using the information on the directory, navigators check regularly to see if their families are potential matches for the youth on Mare.org.

adoption. That could mean books, webinars or even navigator-sponsored training for adoptive families. They can assist families with inquiries about youth, and they can help them get ready for Meet & Greets, which are scheduled events that give them an opportunity to meet and interact with adoptive youth. Our navigator team is always responsive. Navigators give families an additional person to turn to for information throughout the adoption process.

What other things should families know?

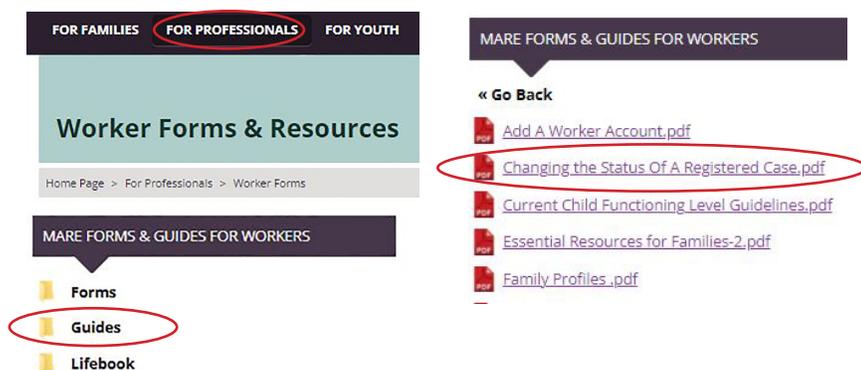
Navigators can help adoption-approved families develop their family profile including a photo and narrative

Any other ways navigators help?

Yes. Navigators are very resourceful at finding families the services and information they need while on their way to

Contact Kimberly Wolowski at 734-528-2077 or Kimberly_wolowski@judsoncenter.org

Did you know? One of the web pages on Mare.org offers guidance for workers who want to change the status of a case. Go to the For Professionals tab and click on Worker Forms. Then click on Guides, then click on Changing The Status Of A Registered Case. Finally, follow the instructions on the PDF, and as always if you encounter any problems or have questions, contact martha_kaczala@judsoncenter.org, 734-528-2007 or mark_fisk@judsoncenter.org, 734-646-7015.



Changing the Status Of A Registered Case

This tutorial will explain how to edit the details of a case that is already registered; specifically how to change their hold or p

1. Visit your dashboard, located under the "For Professionals" tab.





A few considerations for post-pandemic, in-person MARE Meet & Greets

We can't wait to put the pandemic far in the rearview mirror so we can host more in-person MARE Meet & Greets in the near future.

The photos shown here are from MARE's first in-person Meet & Greet since the pandemic began. It was held last August, and it was well-received by workers, families and youth.

As you can see in the Calendar section on this page, we have a few in-person events on the horizon. Because we have more of these events coming up, we thought it would be a good time to remind workers of some important things to consider for in-person Meet & Greets:



- At the time of the event, we recommend that workers and youth follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pandemic guidelines for social gatherings, which may include masking and social distancing.
- It may be beneficial as the adoption worker to attend at least one Meet & Greet with your youth.
- Many of the families who are present have questions regarding the youth at the event and would like to speak with the youth's actual worker.
- If you see that your youth is struggling to interact, we encourage you to step in and help them to engage with a family. We also encourage that residential staff take this same approach with the youth they bring.

If you want to learn more about Meet & Greets or sign up a youth on your caseload for an event, contact Jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org, 734-528-2070.



Calendar

February 17
Virtual MARE Meet & Greet
10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

March 19
In-Person MARE Meet & Greet Brighton
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

April 30
In-Person MARE Meet & Greet Bloomfield
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 21
In-Person MARE Meet & Greet Stevensville
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 18
In-Person MARE Meet & Greet Holland
Time TBA

For more information, contact jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org or call 734-528-2070.

Take note: Watch for notices of upcoming Meet & Greets on www.mare.org and on Facebook and Twitter.

