**PROJECT PARTNERS**
QIC-AG partnered with Catawba County Social Services.

**CONTINUUM PHASE**
Indicated

**INTERVENTION**
Reach for Success is a proactive outreach program which aims to increase post-adoption engagement with Success Coach Services, which are designed to improve wellbeing and prevent adopted youth from re-experiencing foster care. The intervention was comprised of a survey to assess risk, followed by proactive outreach to families.

**STUDY DESIGN**
Experimental

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**Evaluation Results from Catawba County, NC**

**RESEARCH QUESTION**
Will the target population who receive Reach for Success experience a reduction in post permanency discontinuity, improved wellbeing, and improved behavioral health as compared to children who do not receive the additional Reach for Success outreach?

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Snapshot of Survey Respondents’ Target Child:**
- 75% white
- 58% female
- 69% parents were married

Average age at permanence: 6.18 years old
Average time in foster care: 1.97 years

**OUTREACH**
240 families were sent surveys
128 took the survey
94 designated for outreach
37 high score
57 low score
39 successfully contacted
3 participated in Success Coach services
2 high score
1 low score

Score groups are based on survey responses about service needs and parental assessments of their child’s behavioral issues. The survey results supported the classification of families into high and low-score groups with high-score families having higher scores on the Behavioral Problem Index (BPI), and could be a useful way to identify families in need.

**Findings**

**128 FAMILIES RESPONDED**

**OVERALL, FAMILIES ARE THRIVING!**

- 94% of caregivers said they never thought about ending adoption or guardianship
- 71% said that adoption/guardianship had an extremely positive impact on their family
- 35% identified services their family needed (mental health, specialized medical or dental care, educational supports, and child developmental services)
- only 10% reported youth experienced negative school and legal outcomes.

**RECOMMENDATION**
A small, but significant proportion of families reported unmet needs. Perhaps with additional time, families may contact the Success Coach program for services. CCSS should continue to track families over the next few years to see if families identified for additional outreach end up requesting services. In addition, it may be beneficial if CCSS would follow up with families 1-2 years after finalization to determine if they have any unmet needs and introduce them to services.

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This research summary was designed by staff at the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing at The University of Texas at Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, in conjunction with the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University.

**Evaluation questions?** Please contact Nancy Rolock at nancy.rolock@case.edu or Rowena Fong at rfong@austin.utexas.edu.

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