

July 6, 2015

Dear Building Bridges Colleagues:

I am pleased to share two new Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) documents:

- ***A Building Bridges Initiative Guide- Finding and Engaging Families of Youth Receiving Residential Interventions: Key Issues, Tips, and Strategies for Residential Leaders***
- ***Finding and Engaging Families for Youth Receiving Residential Interventions: Interviews and Examples.***

These documents are attached and can be downloaded at:

www.buildingbridges4youth.org/products/tools.

The guide and examples can be used by residential and child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health leaders interested in fostering permanency and positive long-term outcomes for youth. Each product describes practical strategies for successful family finding and family engagement for youth receiving residential interventions, and for youth in the child welfare system.

A very special thank you to Magellan Health Services, Inc. for their continued support of BBI, and for their sponsorship of these documents. I am also grateful to the residential leaders, clinicians, consultants, family members, and youth who were interviewed about their experiences with family finding and family engagement. Their input and expertise was particularly valuable, and they were generous with their time, stories, and feedback.

I would also like to thank lead author, Dr. Lauren Polvere, for writing the documents, and a special thanks the BBI Steering Committee and BBI Family and Youth Partnerships Workgroup for providing excellent feedback that strengthened the final products.



Building Bridges
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Advancing Partnerships. Improving Lives.

We hope you find these documents to be useful as you continue your efforts to improve the lives of children, youth, and families. If you have any input on this document or would like to become involved with BBI, please contact the BBI National Director, Beth Caldwell, at bethcaldwell@roadrunner.com.

Please note that several of the program leaders interviewed for these products will be presenting at the **BBI Summer Training Event August 5 – 7, 2015 in Andover, MA**. If you are interested in learning from these innovative leaders, please register for this event (<https://www.ffcmh.org/bbi/training/register>). More information about the training can be found on the BBI website (www.buildingbridges4youth.org).

Thank you for all that you do to improve the lives of youth and families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Blau, Ph.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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