ABA Permanency Barriers Project

The ABA Permanency Barriers Project works with you to reduce the time children spend in foster care before achieving permanency.

**Principles**

1. Permanency begins on Day 1.
2. Small steps add up to change.
3. Full stakeholder engagement is key to realize and maintain system reform.

**Project Approach**

1. **Focus on System Change**

   ABA staff help local stakeholders develop individualized county action plans. The action plans are based on a thorough assessment of needs, which includes:
   - Case file review
   - Data analysis
   - Court observation
   - Focus groups with stakeholders

2. **County-Driven, County-Owned**

   Each jurisdiction encounters unique challenges. We form a county Advisory Board and issue-based subcommittees made up of lead decisionmakers, including:
   - Child welfare agency administrators and staff
   - Juvenile and family court judges
   - Agency, parent, and children’s attorneys
   - Behavioral health providers
   - School administrators
   - Others, as identified by county

3. **ABA as Neutral Facilitator and Strategic Partner**

   ABA staff are on site monthly working to develop and implement reforms.
   - Our attorneys bring extensive firsthand knowledge and national perspective to guide your county.
   - We ensure all stakeholders join the effort as equal partners.
   - We focus on system barriers and engagement between the legal and nonlegal communities at both the county and state level.
   - We provide individualized attention, which can include refining court and agency procedures, providing legal analysis, and conducting trainings.

4. **Improved Outcomes**

   At the end of this two-year project, you will see:
   - More efficient and effective pathways to permanency for every case;
   - A reduction of time in foster care for children in your county; and
   - Improved communication, network building, and stakeholder collaboration.

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**Measurable Results**

At the end of the two-year project each county receives a final project report that summarizes results and provides recommendations to sustain system change. To date, the project has:
- Served 55 different counties in four states,
- Reduced the time children spend in foster care in all four states by an average of nine months,
- Realized a positive impact on more than 3,000 children,
- Saved counties and states over $30 million in foster care costs.

**Targeted Technical Assistance**

As an alternative to the two-year model, we provide targeted technical assistance on permanency matters through on-site trainings, developing local protocols, facilitating meetings, and other solutions to address local challenges. ABA technical assistance can range from a one-day training to a multi-month engagement.

**Get Started Today**

The ABA Permanency Barriers Project can work with your county to promote permanency for children in foster care.

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