

ABA PERMANENCY PROJECT

The ABA's Permanency Project has a proven recipe for success. The Project helps each site go through 5 major tasks:

Identifying and analyzing delays

Through case reviews and interviews with stakeholders, the Project identifies and examines each step in the life of a case and analyzes possible causes for delay.

Interactively developing recommendations and implementing reforms

Once problems are identified, a local multidisciplinary advisory board meets regularly to examine the delays and propose potential reforms. Project staff design action plans and help the county start making recommended changes. Everyone in the system must work together to get changes and reforms accepted in the field.

Establishing written protocols, procedures and providing multidisciplinary training

These typically include topics such as:

- Identifying, locating and providing outreach to missing parents and relatives
- Addressing increases in adolescent population
- Preparing written procedures
- Front-loading services
- Implementing concurrent planning
- Decreasing delays in court procedures

Monitoring reforms and changes

Change is difficult for large systems. Making sure that proposed reforms are actually implemented is crucial. Project staff works with counties to ensure progress and address any resistance.

Sharing Project results

The Project helps develop an informal county network to share common challenges, solutions, and other actions throughout the state. Sharing results by telling advocates, affiliated professionals and the larger community what the Project is doing is another key component of success.