

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Pursuit of Happiness—A Children’s Services Transformation
System Training**

SUFFOLK, Va. (May 1, 2009) The Suffolk Best Practice Court Team, in association with the Suffolk Department of Social Services, will sponsor a day-long retreat on Saturday, May 16th beginning at 8:30 am to address the role of the Court in supporting and resolving the Foster Care imperatives of independence, self sufficiency, reunification, and ongoing relationships. The intended audience will be comprised of Attorneys, Juvenile Court Judges, Foster Parents, Prospective Foster Parents, Foster Youth and Community Partners.

The event dubbed “The Pursuit of Happiness—A Children’s Services Transformation System Training.” will be an informative, enlightening, and a pertinent experience for participants. The event speakers include Paul McWhinney, Director of Family Services, Virginia Department of Social Services and Ray Ratke, Special Advisor on Children’s Services with the Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. Both speakers have been instrumental in defining Virginia’s Children Best Practice model throughout the state and are well known for undertaking the challenges of service provision and collaboration.

For more information regarding this training opportunity or the Suffolk Foster Care Program please contact Joice Whitehorn at the Suffolk Department of Social Services at 514-7334.

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