

We had one family return home from China with their new son in June. Another family received travel approval in July and will travel in August to bring home their new daughter. Three families received their PAs and LOAs in June, all for girls and we had one family commit and receive pre-approval for their son in July. There has been no change in referrals through the traditional program, where the last group to receive referrals had dossiers logged in up to 1/29/07.

July did bring many changes to the process and the guidelines for the China program. Notices were sent out to our active families regarding both and the complete announcements from CCCWA were posted on the password protected area of Barker's website.

**Below is a summary of the changes made to the guidelines of who could adopt:**

- The age difference between the youngest parent (or single parent) and child should be no more than 50 years.
- For couples, if one parent has 0 or 1 divorces, the length of marriage should not be less than 2 years. If one parent has 2 divorces, their current marriage should not be less than 5 years.
- Certain cancers (skin, thyroid, breast, testicular) are allowed if the parent is 3 years out, for other types the time is 5 years.
- The number of minors in the home should not exceed 5 for a couple or 2 for a single.
- The age of the youngest child in the home should be 3 years old or older.
- Two or more unrelated children can no longer be adopted at the same time.
- There should be a 1 year interval between adoptions.
- Either or both parents can have a well-controlled mental health condition. A psychological assessment report shall be required:
  - if the applicant has received or is receiving psychological counseling, training or therapy;
  - The applicant had excessive drinking problems as a youth, was mentally or physical abused, suffered great emotional loss or trauma;
  - The application has mania, depression, bipolar affective disorder, anxiety, phobia, autism with minor symptoms and under good control.

**And here is a summary of the changes to the matching process:**

CCCWA sent a notice to all adoption agencies notifying us that all activities of the One-on-One programs, Journey of Hope Programs and Summer/Winter Hosting Programs will be terminated. As you know Barker participates in the One-on-One Program, which we call our Partnership Program. The announcement went on to say that files that are submitted to CCCWA prior to December 31, 2017, may still be assigned to the partnership agency. We are hopeful that our partnership orphanages will still be able to submit a few files before this deadline.

As far as matching goes, under the new policy all agencies will be matching their families with children through the shared list. As the partnership programs end, there should be many more children posted through the shared list than there has been in recent years. We are already seeing a slight increase in the number of files appearing on the shared list, which might indicate that as other agencies' partnership contracts are ending, the files are falling onto the shared list. Barker's partnership contracts were not due to end until 2018, so we could still get files that are submitted by our partnership orphanages prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> per this notice.

**What does this change in the matching practice mean to you, the family?** Your child could be from any orphanage in the country and not just one of our partnership orphanages. Even though we won't be able to meet the children like we used to do with our partner orphanages, we feel confident about our ability to obtain additional information on children as needed. When matched with a child off the shared list, families do have to review the file, make a decision and submit paperwork to commit within a 3-day period. This means that it is important to have determined what international adoption physician you plan on using once matched. We also anticipate this change could benefit families waiting in Barker's program given the increased number of children available on the shared list and our short list of waiting families. At present time, we have matched all families who have submitted a dossier to China. If you are currently working on your dossier, we look forward to receiving it in the near future. For families who have already been matched, this change has no impact on your case.