



Mobile devices are not just for techies anymore. Increasingly, child welfare systems and agencies across the country are realizing the productivity gains and substantial savings—especially on printing costs and the improved service delivery that can be achieved with mobile computing technology.

Like many of its counterparts, ChildNet, an agency in Broward County, Florida, is making a move to mobile case management as a way to reduce printing costs and improve data collection. The longstanding practice of lugging around loads of large bulky binders to court and home visits will be replaced with the portability of mobile technology when ChildNet begins



Child Advocate Shirley Salomon using her mobile phone to access information for one of her cases.

supplying its workers in the field with Google's Android-driven smart phones and tablets. **Mobile case management** has huge potential for enhancing accountability, transparency, and the efficiency of workers in the field.

Using this technology, ChildNet's caseworkers can perform all their duties in the field rather than making frequent trips back and forth to the office. Through the power and portability of the mobile devices, caseworkers will have immediate access to case files and the ability to

update their cases and submit the information remotely. To officially implement the mobile case management system, existing case files will be digitized to make them accessible on the Android devices and indexed to comply with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) privacy standards.

The Children's Advocacy Centers in Georgia (CACGA) are putting new technology in place to expand the medical capacity and expertise employed in the **assessment of alleged child abuse cases** statewide. The centers are in the process of deploying Telehealth's long-distance medical assessment technology, which gives local providers immediate access to a multidisciplinary team of experts in all aspects of child protection services who will remotely participate in the assessment of child abuse cases.

Using Telehealth technology in suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, local providers will be better equipped to make the best medical evaluations and more timely child safety decisions. The technology also reduces travel time, costs, and the trauma to injured children who would have to travel long distances for further medical evaluation and treatment.

Already, 13 of the 39 CACGAs are making use of the new equipment. A grant from the Georgia Governor's Office for Children and Families will fund the purchase of the equipment for the other 26 centers. In January, CACGA featured the Telehealth technology at a summit of CACGA medical providers at the Medical Center of Central Georgia. CACGA's centers serve more than 10,000 children a year in 146 counties. ■

SpeakingOut

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"As silly as it may sound, Extreme Recruitment was inspired by the television show *Extreme Home Makeover*, an exciting race against time to build a house in just a week by coordinating hundreds of professionals and volunteers.... I was watching the last few minutes of the show on a Sunday night in March 2008 when I thought, if they can build a home in a week, why can't we apply the same principles to finding permanent homes for hard-to-place children in foster care?"

— **Melanie Scheetz**, Executive Director of the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition in St. Louis, Missouri, who pioneered the *Extreme Recruitment* quest to find forever families for foster youth. *Extreme Recruitment* partners with social workers and private investigators in a race to match youth with a safe, lifelong family connection. In just 12 months, they have matched 42 out of 60 youth—three times the number of matches in a third of the time as usual. Scheetz hopes to eventually replicate *Extreme Recruitment* nationwide. To read a TIME article about the initiative, visit [HTTP://BIT.LY/FO5N3L](http://bit.ly/fo5N3L). ■