

Northampton, Lehigh counties' child welfare systems operating well, report says

By Express-Times staff

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An annual review of Pennsylvania's child welfare system has found that both **Lehigh and Northampton counties have been safely reducing the number of children in foster care.**

The data, said **Northampton County Children, Youth and Families Division** Director Kevin Dolan, is a valuable tool because it helps administrators determine what they're doing well and what needs work.

"It helps administratively to realize that we are on target with the programs we've been implementing the last three to five years in Northampton County," he said.

Both counties, according to **Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children**, do a good job reuniting children with their birth families. They are more prone, however, to bouncing children around than the state or big cities.

Dolan said the county works hard to reunite and keep families together, spending \$10 million annually toward that end.

The report found that Northampton County could work more at using children's relatives for foster care and that the county's adoption rate is low.



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Kevin Dolan

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