

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



September 3, 1985

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NO. 1-68-85

TO: ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL SDSS ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES

Attention Adoption Supervisors

SUBJECT: IM-DEPTH STUDY OF ARRC

The current statewide exchange effort, Adoption Resource and Referral Center (ARRC), operated by the Adoptions Branch, was initiated in early 1970. Services have been modified and expanded in its fifteen year history in an effort to realize the goal of maximized placement opportunity for all children in California who need adoptive homes. ARRC services include registration and referral, known as matching, and photo-listing of children who need permanent homes and families which seek to adopt.

In response to concerns expressed by users of the system, and an awareness of internal operating problems, the Department of Social Services Adoptions Branch has conducted an in-depth study of the services, operations, and level of use of ARRC.

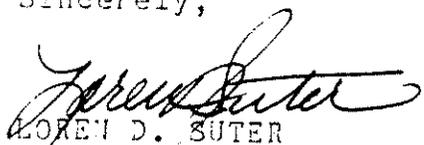
The results of the study indicate that currently, only 27 of the 49 public and private adoption agencies in California use ARRC to register families and children, and that the number of placements attributed to ARRC referrals has been dropping steadily over the last three years. In 1983, 14 placements were attributed to ARRC, in 1984 there were 7, and to date in 1985, only 2 placements have been credited to ARRC referrals.

The growing use of foster-adopt placements and recent legislative enactments which give preference to foster families in the selection of adoptive homes have reduced the size of the population of children requiring ARRC services. The total number of children registered is still only one half of the number who could be registered. While family registration has remained constant, the number of families requesting photo-listing is very low.

Underutilization of services and reduction in the size of the population benefiting from services, coupled with increased costs, have lead the Adoptions Branch to propose that statewide adoption services should be limited to the photo-listing of children, with participation by agencies on a voluntary basis. By continuing to encourage and support the existing informal adoption exchanges, the Department recognizes that the exchanges' proven effectiveness in matching children and families is of paramount value in the placement of children in adoptive homes.

Understanding that this proposal might affect your adoption program, we would like to provide you with the opportunity to comment. If you have any concerns you would like to express, or any questions on the background or implications of this proposal, please write or call Ms. Lee Stelmack, Adoptions Branch at (916) 323-0592 by September 16, 1985. Your contribution to the final decision will be welcome.

Sincerely,



LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA