
Larry Cooper, Chief of Prevention and Intervention Services
Children’s Home Network

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Presentation Objectives

A. What we know about Family First Prevention Services Act and Kinship Care
B. Building a community Kinship Navigation model to support relative placement
C. Implementation of Kinship Navigator
D. Practice implication
E. Future directions
A. What we know about Family First Prevention Services Act

- On Feb. 9, President Donald Trump signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (H.R. 1892)

- Full bill H.R. 1892 available at congress.gov

- Huge Step forward for relative caregivers!
Themes of the Family First Act

- **PREVENTION** is important – Previously majority of federal child welfare $ available only after child in foster care - For $7 (child welfare) there was $1 (prevention)

- Children do best in **FAMILIES**

- **REDUCE OVER-RELIANCE ON GROUP CARE** - should be short term, quality, treatment-oriented

- Investments in **EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS** - Federal funds for proven approaches
Family First Act – Kinship Navigator Programs

- As of October 1, 2018, states can receive federal reimbursement for up to 50% of their expenditures to provide kinship navigator programs that meet evidence-based requirements of promising, supported or well-supported practices.

- Children not required to meet Title IV-E income eligibility requirements.
Why do we want to talk about it?

- **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**- Federally reimbursable Kinship Navigation services if implementing an evidenced based approach.

- Approximately **7.6 million children** live with a relative who is the head of the household in the U.S.
- **2.6 million** children are being raised by a relative and do not have a bio-parent in the household nationwide
- **Over 130,000** children in out-of-home care live with relatives
- For every child in foster care living with a relative there are 20 being raised by a relative caregiver outside of the foster care system nationwide
- **2,572,146 million** are Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Kinship care is the fastest growing type of out-of-home placement
FORMAL CARE:

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) 2015 (National Numbers)
Number of children in foster care: 427,910 (sept 30, 2015)
- Relative Foster Home: 127,821 (30% of total)
Children entering care (N=269,509)
Reason for entering:
- Drug Abuse Parent: 85,937 (32% of N)

AFCARS 2016 (National Numbers)
Number of children in foster care: 437,465 (sept 30, 2016)
- Relative Foster Home: 139,017 (32% of total)
Children entering care (N=273,539)
Reason for entering:
- Drug Abuse Parent: 92,107 (34% of N)
A. What we know about Kinship care

Kinship care is the full time care, nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, Godparents, Stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child.

This definition is designed to be inclusive and respectful of cultural values and ties of affection. It allows a child to grow into adulthood in a family environment.

Child Welfare League of America
Why is Kinship Care Preferable?

- Children live with people they know and trust
- Kinship care supports family preservation
- Children keep their family identity
- Lessens the feeling of separation and loss
- Kinship is strength based, not limitation based
- Kinship care supports community and culture

Child Welfare League of America
Why Kinship Care is Needed

- Children may be unable to live with their parents because of:
  - Parental substance abuse
  - Death of a child's parent
  - Incarceration
  - Domestic violence
  - Mental health issues
  - Parental abandonment
  - Child neglect or abuse
  - Teenager not ready to be a parent
Numbers - Locally

- 480,609 Florida Grandparents living with their own Grandchildren.

- 154,196 Grandparents responsible for their own Grandchildren without a parent in the household

Formal Foster Care System (as of 10/31/18)
- 10,328 Children in out-of-home care (OHC) with relatives
- 3,231 Children in OHC with non-relatives
- 7,417 Children in Licensed Foster Care
- 2,075 Children in Residential Group Care

- Florida ranks 3rd in the number of Grandparents and other relatives raising children in the United States

- DCF has a 65% target for OHC population in relative/non-relative care
# Different Types of Kinship Arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal</td>
<td>Arrangements made by family all by themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary</td>
<td>Some involvement with “the system” but family steps up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal</td>
<td>Placement made through the Court</td>
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Primary Needs Identified by Caregivers

Based on the USF Kinship Needs Survey:

- Child Care
- Financial Support
- Medical Care
- Educational Assistance for Children
- Counseling for Children
- Support Group(s) for Caregivers
- Legal Assistance
- Information about Program and Services
Public Assistance for Relative Caregivers

Nationally

- **Only 12%** of kinship families receive TANF (child-only) cash assistance, even though nearly 100% of children are eligible,

- **Only 42%** of kin households receive SNAP (food stamps) assistance,

- **Only 42%** of children receive Medicaid for the children in kin care

- **Only 17%** of working kin caregivers receive Child Care assistance

- **Only 15%** of low income kin caregivers receive public housing assistance
## Public Benefits in Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TANF</th>
<th>CHILD ONLY</th>
<th>2 children</th>
<th>3 children</th>
<th>Minimum Foster Care Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>$ 180</td>
<td>$ 241</td>
<td>$ 303</td>
<td>$ 417</td>
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- **Relative Caregiver (RCG) and Non-Relative Subsidy Funds for dependency cases once adjudicated**: $242-$298 per child
- **Proposed Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)**: Effective July 2019
  - Proposed Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP): $333 (licensed as Level 1 Foster Home)
B. Key Elements of Community System

- Services need to be flexible based on needs of family
- Eligibility needs to be easy to understand – there is something for everyone
- Key Services include:
  - System Navigation (SNAP, TANF, WIC, SS, Child Support)
  - Case Management
  - Support Groups
  - Legal Assistance (Dependency, Family Court)
  - Self-Care Support
  - Social/Networking opportunities
Centralized Intake
1-888-920-8761

Kinship Navigators

Family Finding

Developmental Specialist

Legal Assistance

Family Support Coordinators

Health and Wellness

Support Groups

Established in 2000
CHN Kinship Navigation Program

Currently serving:
- Hillsborough
- Pinellas
- Pasco
- Osceola
- Orange
- Seminole

DCF will be contracting with CHN to expand as part of the new Federal Omnibus Funding for 2018-2019

- Manatee
- Sarasota
- Desoto
- Miami-Dade
Wide Variety of Easy-to-Access Services

- Psychosocial/Historical Assessment
- Case Management
- Family Support Plan
- Navigation
- Advocacy
- Community Outreach and Public Education
- Offer Educational Workshops
- Support Groups for Youth and Adults
- Link to Adult and Youth Counseling
- Substance Abuse Workshops & Linkage to Services
- Link to Legal Services
- Family Team Conferencing
- Link to Tutoring
- Link to Mentoring
- Health Assessment
- Link to Respite Services
- Link to Coordinated Child Care
- Follow-up Support
C. Peer-to-Peer Kin Navigators

Peer-to-Peer Kin Navigators who have varying levels of education and experience in helping others, which has highlighted the importance of using peers because they have close ties to the communities they serve.

Tena Randecker (Great Aunt-Kin caregiver)
- 2017 CHN Employee of the Year
- Participated in Washington DC in Congressional Foster Youth Caucus Panel and Roundtable Discussion on Kinship Navigator Programs in May 2018
- Kin Navigator since 2012

Paula Davis (Grandmother-Kin caregiver)
- Kin Navigator since 2015
- Participating in LEAD grant to promote Self Care Goals for caregivers
- Featured on ABC Action News on July 25, 2018
  https://youtu.be/cRTVb3a7CgE
D. Practice Implications

Kinship Navigator Results

Kinship Navigator-Children’s Home Network (CHN) has conducted one of the largest and only randomized control trials for a kinship navigator program in the country,

Compared with peer-to-peer support, formal care, and usual foster care supports, the CHN’s Kinship Navigator-program showed significantly higher self-report scores in arenas related to caring for their placed child such as:

- Increased access to public benefits
- Increased placement stability at 12, 24 and 36 months
- At the 12-month follow-up period, kinship caregivers enrolled in Kinship Navigator-scored higher with significant increases in Family Functioning, Social Supports, Concrete Supports, Child Development, and Nurturing & Attachment
- Kinship Caregivers enrolled in Kinship Navigation services had higher scores in protective factors at the 12-month follow-up period
- Peer-to-Peer Only group were Grandparents raising Grandchildren who had varying levels of education and experience in helping others, which has highlighted the importance of using peers because they have close ties to the communities they serve
E. Future Directions

Federal Law-Family First Prevention Services Act

- The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) within Division E, Title VII of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, amended title IV-E of the Social Security Act to allow title IV-E agencies the option to receive title IV-E funding for Kinship Navigator programs that meet certain criteria, including operating in accordance with promising, supported or well-supported practices.

Florida Law- HB 1079 (passed in 2018)

- DCF to establish and operate a **Guardianship Assistance Program by July 2019** to provide guardianship assistance payments to certain guardians beginning on a specified date; providing definitions; providing eligibility requirements; authorizing guardians to receive such payments for certain siblings; requiring the department to annually re-determine eligibility;
Resources

• Children’s Home Network Kinship Services: 888-920-8761

• Contact your local Foster Care/ Child Welfare organization to learn about Relative Caregiver/Non-Relative supports

• Contact your local Foster Parent Association

• Generations United (National Center on Grandfamilies) at www.gu.org

• Florida Law Help website http://floridalawhelp.org/

• Child Welfare Information Gateway
  https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/locating/relationships/

• Brookdale Foundation- National Relatives as Parents Program
  http://www.brookdalefoundation.net/index.html

For more information, call 888-920-8761
Articles


[https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27grant_state+%3D+%27%27FL%27%27%27&upm=64](https://library.childwelfare.gov/cbgrants/ws/library/docs/cb_grants/Record?rpp=25&upp=0&w=NATIVE%28%27grant_state+%3D+%27%27FL%27%27%27&upm=64)

National Conference of State Legislatures- Article on Family First Prevention Services Act
For Further Information

Larry Cooper, MSW, LCSW
Chief of Prevention and Intervention Services
lcooper@childrenshomenetwork.org
813-901-3423