
Irene Rickus, President/CEO
Larry Cooper, Chief of Prevention and Intervention Services
Dr. Kerry Littlewood, Lead Evaluator

2018 Child Protection Summit

September 6, 2018
Presentation Objectives

A. What we know about Family Finding and Kinship Care
B. Integrating a family engagement approach into the Child Welfare System of Care
C. Building a community Kinship Care program model to support relative placement
D. Implementation of Kinship Navigator
E. Practice implication
F. Future directions
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
How do we Increase Kinship Placements

• An intentional Family Finding approach to identifying as many relatives as possible

• Creating a planned, thoughtful approach to the engagement of relatives and the placement of children

• Having a formal Kinship support system in place that is engaged prior to the placement of children

• Never placing children without formal Kinship Navigation services
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
• **127,000** 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
• **2,572,146 million** are Grandparents raising grandchildren
• Kinship care is the fastest growing type of out-of-home placement
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
Reasons Mothers and Fathers Cannot Provide Care to Children

- **Drugs and Alcohol**: Mother - 35%, Father - 10%
- **CPS Placed by CW**: Mother - 30%, Father - 5%
- **No CPS Informal**: Mother - 25%, Father - 15%
- **Incarcerated**: Mother - 20%, Father - 10%
- **Deported**: Mother - 15%, Father - 5%
- **Health Problems**: Mother - 10%, Father - 5%
- **Mental Health Problems**: Mother - 5%, Father - 5%
- **Financial Problems**: Mother - 10%, Father - 5%
- **Housing Problems**: Mother - 5%, Father - 5%
- **Deceased**: Mother - 5%, Father - 5%
- **Unknown**: Mother - 20%, Father - 15%
- **Domestic Violence**: Mother - 15%, Father - 25%

**Reasons parents can't provide care**
Different Types of Kinship Arrangements

- **Informal**
  - Arrangements made by family all by themselves

- **Voluntary**
  - Some involvement with “the system” but family steps up

- **Formal**
  - Placement made through the Court
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.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey
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
TANF

12% Less than 12 percent of kinship families receive TANF support, even though nearly 100 percent of the children in these families are eligible.

SNAP

42% Less than half of low-income kinship care households receive assistance from SNAP, despite the fact that most report food insecurity.

MEDICAID

42% Less than half of eligible children in kinship care receive Medicaid coverage.

CHILD CARE

17% Only 17 percent of low-income working kinship caregivers receive child care assistance.

HOUSING

15% Only 15 percent of low-income kinship caregivers receive housing assistance.

Percentage of Benefit Received

**Benefit Type**

- Foster Care Payment
- TANF Child Only
- Social Security Insurance
- Social Security Disability
- Veterans
- SNAP
- WIC
- Free/Reduced Lunch
- Housing
- Child Care Voucher
- Head Start

**PERCENTAGE Receiving Benefits**

- Full KIN Tech
- Kin Peer-to-Peer Only
- Usual Care Child Welfare
- Standard Care Kinship
## 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

- **Proposed Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)**
  - Effective July 2019
  - $242-$298 per child

- $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
Key Elements of Family Finding

**Family Finding Steps**: There are five steps in the CHN Family Finding model:

- **Discovery**: The Family Finding Specialist identifies as many family members as possible for each child through interviews, case record mining, use of social media and electronic search strategies.

- **Engagement**: The Family Finding Specialist contacts and engages family members and fictive kin (non-related adults who have a close emotional relationship with the youth) and asks them to help identify additional family members to assist with planning and decision making for the youth’s future.

- **Planning**: Family members attend a family team conference to share knowledge about the youth, learn why their support is needed, and consider becoming part of the youth’s support system.

- **Decision making**: Family members address issues related to permanency, safety, and well-being. They work as a team to create a primary plan, secondary and backup plans for the child and create an action plan.

- **Linkage to Kinship Services and other identified supports**: The Family Finding Specialist refers the family who is offering placement to Kinship Navigation services following the family team conference and prior to the placement of the child. Other services that were identified during the family team conference will be conveyed to kinship services for follow up.
Key Project Components

The KIN-Navigator program integrated the kinship support model with three unique innovations:

1) One-e-App

2) Peer-to-Peer Navigation

3) Interdisciplinary Team

For more information, call 888-920-8761
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Data Collection Instruments (number of items)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseline</strong></td>
<td>Pinellas and Hillsborough</td>
<td>Intake Coordinator</td>
<td>Demographic Form, Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17), Protective Factors Survey (20), Family Needs Scale (41), Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>Navigator and Family Support Coordinator</td>
<td>MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (16) Academic, MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (9) Physical health and development, MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (40) Social Functioning, Family Support Scale (18), General Health Questionnaire (12)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3-6 Month Follow-up</strong></td>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>Navigator and Family Support Coordinator</td>
<td>Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17), Family Needs Scale (41), Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12), Family Support Scale (18), General Health Questionnaire (12)</td>
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<td><strong>Twelve Month Follow Up</strong></td>
<td>Pinellas and Hillsborough</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17), Protective Factors Survey (20), Family Needs Scale (41), Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12), MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (16) Academic, MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (9) Physical health and development, MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (40) Social Functioning, Family Support Scale (18), General Health Questionnaire (12)</td>
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Wide Variety of Easy-to-access Services

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

Tena Randecker
- 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
- 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

Kin Navigator Results

Florida has conducted one of the only randomized control trials for a kinship navigator program, Kinship Navigator—Children’s Home Network,

Compared with peer-to-peer support, formal care, and usual foster care supports, the Kinship Navigator—Children’s Home Network program pilot showed significantly higher self-report scores in arenas related to caring for their placed child

- At the 12-month follow-up period, kinship caregivers enrolled in Kinship Navigator-scored higher in Family Functioning, Social Supports, Concrete Supports, Child Development, and Nurturing & Attachment

- Kinship Caregivers enrolled in traditional Child Welfare services had lower 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
TANF Application and Enrollment Rates During Program

- Usual Care: TANF Application Rate (10%), TANF ENROLLMENT (10%)
- Standard Care: TANF Application Rate (50%), TANF ENROLLMENT (40%)
- Nav ONLY: TANF Application Rate (70%), TANF ENROLLMENT (50%)
- KIN Tech Full: TANF Application Rate (20%), TANF ENROLLMENT (10%)

Legend:
- TANF Application Rate
- TANF ENROLLMENT
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.

• The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act
  BREAKING NEWS...The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act, has now passed the Senate and the House! The Senate must vote on it again before going to the President’s desk. It will create a Federal Task Force to support Grandfamilies. Stay tuned for more updates.

• HB 1079 DCF to establish and operate a Guardianship Assistance Program 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
- **Child Welfare Information Gateway**
  [https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/locating/relationships/](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/locating/relationships/)
- **Brookdale Foundation** - National Relatives as Parents Program
  [http://www.brookdalefoundation.net/index.html](http://www.brookdalefoundation.net/index.html)

For more information, call 888-920-8761

CHI CW/TANF Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically - Advanced Model (KIN- Tech): Final Evaluation Report. Final Evaluation Report Period: 9-30-2012 to 6-30-2016. [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%27%29&m=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%27%29&m=64)
For Further Information

Irene Rickus, MS, LMHC, President/CEO
irickus@childrenshomenetwork.org
813-864-1501

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

Kerry Littlewood, Ph.D, MSW
aajresearch@gmail.com
(727) 771-3766

For more information, call 888-920-8761

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