



“Kinship Navigator Programs: Preparing to Meet Your Match”

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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](https://www.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



Prevention Services Clearinghouse

- Developed in accordance with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) as codified in Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, rates programs and services as *well-supported, supported, promising, or does not currently meet criteria*.

Handbook link

- https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/themes/ffc_theme/pdf/psc_handbook_v1_final_508_compliant.pdf

The Prevention Services Clearinghouse

Uses a systematic review process that is implemented by trained reviewers using consistent, transparent standards and procedures. Clearinghouse staff use this systematic review process to

- (1) identify programs and services for review,
- (2) select and prioritize programs and services for review,
- (3) conduct a literature search to locate research studies on the effectiveness of the prioritized programs and services,
- (4) screen studies for eligibility and prioritize them for review,
- (5) conduct an evidence review to rate the strength of evidence of the studies using the design and execution standards,
- (6) rate programs and services as well-
supported, supported, promising, or does not currently meet criteria.

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 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

STATISTICS

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)

B. Key Elements of Kin Navigator

Must be based on a kinship navigator model that meets evidence-based requirements of well-supported, supported, or promising practices, and that model must be included in a new federal Clearinghouse.

(Two kinship navigator models are currently being considered for inclusion in the Clearinghouse: The Children's Home Society of New Jersey and Children's Home, Inc. in Florida. We will learn if they have been accepted in spring 2019.)

Must be coordinated with other State or local agencies that promote service coordination or provide information and referral services, including the entities that provide 2-1-1 or 3-1-1 information systems where available, to avoid duplication or fragmentation of services to kinship care families.

Must be planned and operated in consultation with kinship caregivers and organizations representing them, youth raised by kinship caregivers, relevant government agencies, and relevant community-based or faith-based organizations.

B. Key Elements of Kin Navigator

Must establish information and referral systems that link (via toll-free access) kinship caregivers, kinship support group facilitators, and kinship service providers:

- to each other;

- eligibility and enrollment information for Federal, State, and local benefits;

- relevant training to assist kinship caregivers in caregiving and in obtaining benefits and services; and
- relevant legal assistance and help in obtaining legal services.

Must provide outreach to kinship care families, including by establishing, distributing, and updating a kinship care website, or other relevant guides or outreach materials.

B. Key Elements of Kin Navigator

Must promote partnerships between public and private agencies, including schools, community based or faith-based organizations, and relevant government agencies, to increase their knowledge of the needs of kinship care families to promote better services for those families.

Under federal law, these programs may also establish and support a kinship care ombudsman with authority to intervene and help kinship caregivers access services; and support any other activities designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining benefits and services to improve their caregiving.

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

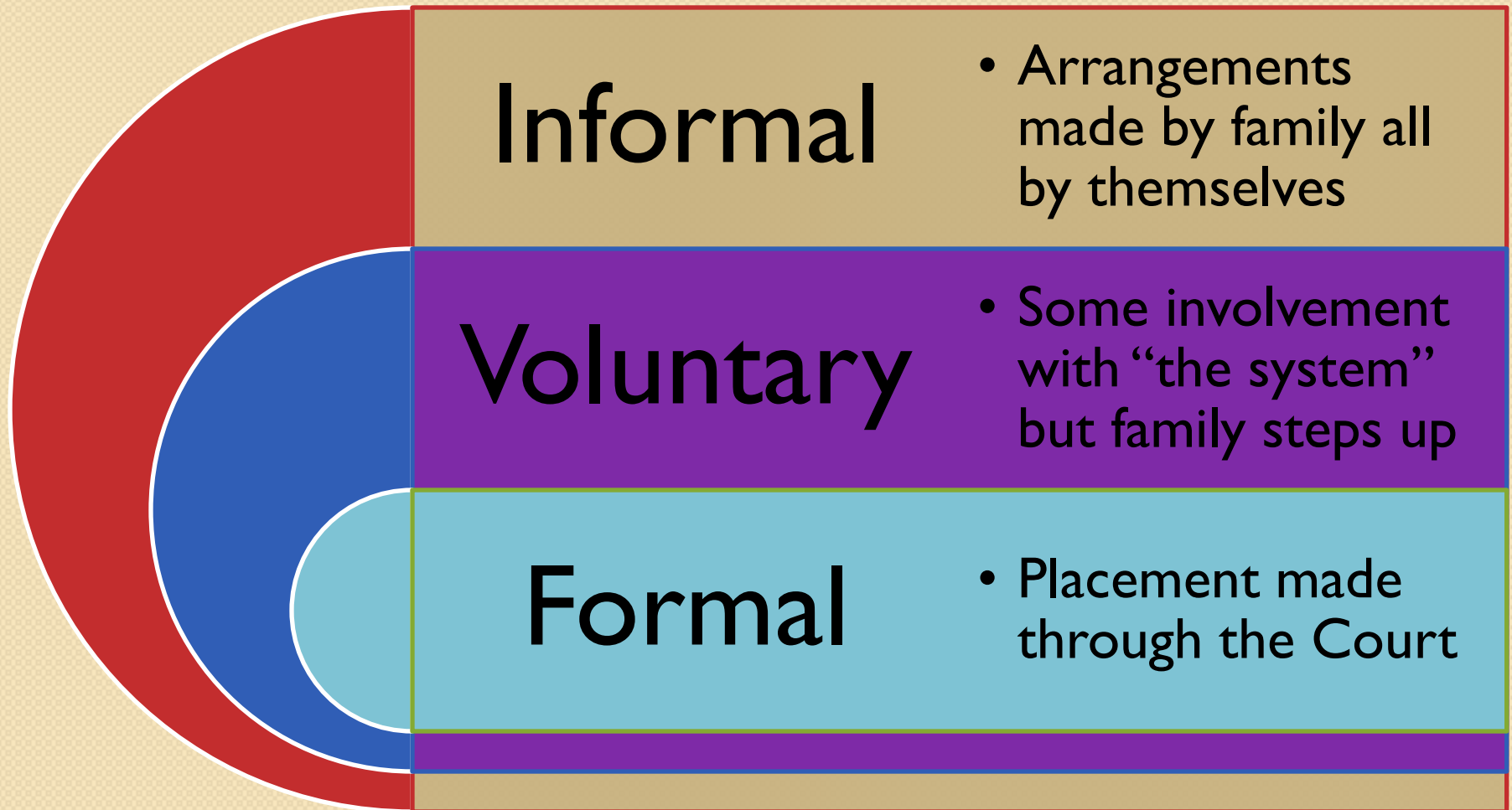
Numbers - Locally

- **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



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

TANF	CHILD ONLY	2 children	3 children	Minimum Foster Care Payment
Florida	\$ 180	\$ 241	\$ 303	\$ 417

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	\$333 (licensed as Level 1 Foster Home)

CHN Kinship Navigation Program

Currently serving:

- Hillsborough
- Pinellas
- Pasco
- Osceola
- Orange
- Seminole

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

- Hillsborough
- Manatee
- Sarasota
- Desoto
- Miami-Dade

Key Navigator Components

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

- 1) One-e-App (Public Benefit Enrollment)
- 2) Peer-to-Peer Navigation
- 3) Interdisciplinary Team

For more information, call 888-920-8761

One – e - app

Kin caregivers gain hands-on assistance by Kin Navigators to apply for public assistance via:

- DCF ACCESS online portal
- Applying for cash assistance, food stamps, Medicaid
- Kin Navigator links with local DCF ACCESS Community Liaison to troubleshoot

DCF ACCESS Customer Call Center and
<https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/>

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.

- **Offer shared experiences as a caregiver**
- **Provide fellowship and one on one emotional support**
- **Enrollment in Public Benefits**
- **System and Community Navigation**

Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT)

Kin Navigators and Kin Caregivers gain access to subject matter specialists that may include:

- Substance Abuse
- Behavioral Support/Mental Health
- Legal
- School
- Child Welfare
- ACCESS (public benefits)

D. Practice Implications

Kin Navigator Results

Kinship Navigator-Children's Home Network (CHN) has conducted one of the largest and only randomized control trials (RCT) 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

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
- Prevention Services Clearinghouse website
<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>
- 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

Littlewood, K. (2015). Kinship Services Network Program: Five year evaluation of family support and case management for informal kinship families. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 52, 184-191. Retrieved at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2014.10.008>

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%29&m=64

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

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/family-first-prevention-services-act-ffpsa.aspx>

For Further Information

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