Kinship & Foster Care

Family First
Data Exploration
January 24, 2020
• Welcome & Introductions
• Reflections and Progress
• Family First Kinship Data Exploration
  • In the Community
  • During Careline Engagement & Voluntary Services
• Break
• Family First Kinship Data Exploration
  • In Foster Care
  • After Achieving Permanency
• Closing
### Kinship Services - Current State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the Community (Non-DCF)</th>
<th>In Formal Foster Care (DCF)</th>
<th>After Achieving Permanency (After)</th>
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</table>
| - Local Human Services Department
- 211 Referral & Information
- Department of Aging
- Probate Court
- Support Groups
- Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
- Department of Social Services (TANF-Medicaid)
- Family Initiated Arrangements |
| - Caregiver Support Team (CST)
  - Attachment, Regulation & Competency (ARC Grow)
- DCF Service Array
- CPS/ Foster Care/Therapeutic Foster Care/ Family Community Ties
- Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families (CAFAF)
- State Department of Education
- Quality Parent Initiative (QPI) on the horizon |
| - Subsidy (PTOG-STOG-Adoption)
- Adoption Assistance Program (APP)
- All Services Listed in “Non-DCF” |

**During Careline Engagement & Voluntary Services**

- Careline Engagement
- Voluntary Services
Data Exploration

1. What do we know about relatives/kin families who may be in need?

2. What do we know about current system functioning?

3. What does the data suggest in terms of exploring barriers, challenges and successes?

4. What data do we not have to understand family-based care and who do we need to talk to better understand?
## Stage of System Involvement

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<tr>
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<th>DCF</th>
<th>After</th>
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<td><strong>In the Community</strong></td>
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- **Barriers to living with relatives/kin**: ✔️
- **Mitigating barriers/supporting relatives/kin**: ✔️
- **Engaging relatives/kin**: ✔️
- **Preparation of family-based caregivers**
- **Kinship Navigator components**: ✔️
211 Call & Referral Data 2017-2019

**Call Data**
1. Financial Assistance
2. Legal Services
3. Support Groups

**Referral to programs**
1. Probate Court- Administrator
2. DCF- Subsided Guardianship Program
3. Connecticut Legal Services *(increase in referrals in 2019)*
4. Probate Court referrals to
   - New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury & Hartford- Probate Courts

**Website Related Searches**
1. Kinship Caregiver
2. Foster Care & Adoption Support Group
3. Grandparent Raising Children
4. Financial Assistance (housing, TANF, Sec 8 etc.)

**E-library- Kinship Caregivers/Grandparents Raising Grandchildren/Custodial Relatives**
- On average 4,000 pageviews per month
Probate Court

• 6 Courts and 8 Towns
• All Petitions are Accepted [Judge Denies Petitions]
• Manage approximately 3,500 petitions annually
• DCF Involved Petitions - approximately 20% of the cases

Family Specialist-18 Masters Level
• 1000 children served in 2019
• 25 to 30 Families Served per Family Specialist
• Facilitate Family Conferences within 2 weeks
  • Present are Petitioner, Bio Parent, Child’s Attorney, Support & Providers
  • Discuss purpose of petition, obtain feedback and plan
  • Plan includes identifying needs, services to address the need; referral and support
  • Follow Up Family Conference held approximately 4 to 6 weeks
Thoughts....

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Family Arrangements 2018-2019

878* Family Arrangements sanctioned

- 11% are Active
- Court Involvement
  - 54% None
  - 37% Petitions Filed (OTC & or Neglect)
  - 5% Probate Involvement
  - 3% Other
- Safety Factors
  - 32% Substance Use
  - 17% No Safety Factor
  - 7% Immediate Unmet Need

*These numbers are not scientifically verified and are subject to change.
Caregiver Support Team

- Population Served
  - 88% on average are Kinship Caregivers
  - 11% on average are Core Caregivers
  - 4% on average are Interstate

- Referrals Initiated
  - 20% increase since 2017
  - 56% on average Complete Services
  - 18% on average Receive Evaluation only
  - 13% on average Discontinue Services (various reason)
  - 4% on average are Reunified
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Break (15 minutes)

Family First – Kinship & Foster Care Workgroup
3,013 Families were Licensed from 2017 through 2019 (approx. 1,000 per year)
  • 68% Received a Kinship Caregiver License

3,020 Caregiver Licenses were closed from 2017-2019 (approx. 1,000 per year)
  • 70% of the Closing were Kinship Caregivers
  • 58% of the Closing Reason- Achieved Permanency
DCF Foster Care - Children Entering Care 2017-2019

Entering Care
- 40% on average live with a Relative

siblings
- 2017 - 184 Sibling Groups of 2 to 6 siblings
- 2018 - 231 Sibling Groups of 2 to 7 siblings
- 2019 - 190 Sibling Groups of 2 to 6 siblings

Kinship Caregiver’s Town, the top 5
- Hartford
- Bridgeport
- Waterbury
- New Haven
- New Britain

Towns Match the Hometown of the Children entering care
DCF- Permanency Data for Entry Cohort 2016-2019P

- **1,411 Children who entered care 2016 thru July 2019.**
- **Achieved Permanency from November 2018 to October 2019**

**Kinship Caregivers**
- 19% Reunified
- 17% Guardianship
- 10% Adopted

**Core Caregivers**
- 24% Reunified
- 7% Guardianship
- 16% Adopted

**Congregate Care Setting**
- 3% Reunified
- 1% Guardianship
- 2% Adopted

![Chart showing children achieving permanency from November 2018 to October 2019]
DCF Re-entry April 2018-March 2019

Re-entry within 12 months
(CFSR Round 3 Measure)
most recent one-year trend in state: 1.7%

In Formal Foster Care

Outcome 3: Decrease Re-Entry into Care
Re-entry into care is measured by the total number of children who achieve timely permanency within 12 months and re-enter care within the subsequent 12 months.

- Blue: African American Children
- Green: Latinx
- Red: White
- Turquoise: Multi Race

if portion of trendline is red, data quality is a concern for that period
DCF Placement Stability April 2018-March 2019

CFSR Data Indicator
- Connecticut is statistically performing above the national standard

PIP Data
- 88% Overall Stability (9 months of data)
- 100% living with a relative
DCF Ombudsman 2019

Callers
- 24% are Kinship Caregivers
- 55% are Maternal Relatives
  - 33% are Maternal Grandmothers

Concerns
- To be a Resource without being the Primary Caregiver
- Request Specific Information that is Confidential
- Inconsistency in Practice
- Familial Conflict
- Lack of Information Regarding Available Resources (Family Arrangement, Probate Court)
Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families

• Inquiries to Become a Licensed Caregiver
  • 975 in 2018
  • 1007 in 2019

• Peer to Peer Mentoring
  • 46 Peer Mentors
  • 13% or 6 were Licensed Relative Caregivers
  • 890 Families were assigned a Peer Mentor

• Support Groups
  • 39 are Offered and Posted Statewide
    • Core, Adoptive, Kinship & Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*

• Post Licensing Training
  • 300 Courses Offered
  • 2125 Individuals Registered
    • 684 Incompletes
  • 1441 Individuals Certified
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UCONN- Adoption Assistance Program

- 10% on average Guardian Utilizes AAP

- Parent/Legal Guardian Request *(data reflects families with open direct service case)*
  - Funding Assistance
  - General Information
  - Resource Identification

- Trends
  - Low Percentage of Legal Guardians who Access Services
  - Strategies to Increase Guardian's Comfort Level to Ask for Assistance
DCF Subsidy

Children with Active Subsidized Guardianship

• 2,802 Active
  • 87% or 2447 Live in Connecticut
    • Top 5 Towns
      • Waterbury 8%
      • Hartford 7%
      • Bridgeport 7%
      • New Haven 5%
      • East Hartford 4%

• 13% or 355 Living Outside of Connecticut in 32 States
  • Top 5 States
    • Florida- 22%
    • Georgia- 8%
    • New York- 8%
    • North Carolina- 7%
    • Massachusetts- 6%

After Achieving Permanency
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Next Steps

Family First
Next Meeting: 2/14/2020
Location: Beacon
Focus: Policy Exploration
Thank You

Family First