# Kinship Services - Current State

## Non-DCF
- 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

## DCF
- 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*

## After
- Subsidy (PTOG-STOG-Adoption)
- Adoption Assistance Program (APP)
- All Services Listed in “Non-DCF”
National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

• Based on National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA)
• Insures the applicant’s capacity to care
• Provide parameters to insure appropriateness & safety of the physical home
• Organized into 8 Categories
  1. Foster Home Eligibility
  2. Home Health & Safety
  3. Home Capacity
  4. Sleeping Arrangements
  5. Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety
  6. Transportation
  7. Training
  8. Foster Parent Assurances
I. Foster Home Eligibility - NARA

- **Threshold Requirements**
  - Minimum Age of 18
  - Financial Stability
  - Literacy

- **Physical & Mental Health**
  - Physically, Emotionally & Mentally Capable
    - Physical exam within the prior 12 months
    - Health history & up to date immunization

- **Home Study**
  - In-person & On-site Interviews
  - References

- **Background Checks**
  - National Fingerprint Based Checks
  - Child Protective Service (CPS) & Central Registry Adult Household Members
  - Deny Application/License
    - Felons
    - Substantiation of Abuse or Neglect
    - Spousal Abuse
    - Crimes Against Children, Sexual Assault, or Homicide
    - Physical Assault, Battery, or Drug Related Offence Within the Last 5 years.

I. Foster Home Eligibility - CT

- **Threshold Requirements**
  - Minimum Age of 21
  - Literacy is Not Required
  - CT Residency Required (exception-active military)

- **Physical & Mental Health**
  - Aligned

- **Home Study**
  - Aligned

- **Background Checks**
  - Household Members Minimum Age 16
  - Deny Application / License for Felons
  - Drug Related Offense Within the Last 5 years
National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

II. Home Health & Safety- NARA

- Living Space
- Condition of Home

III. Home Capacity- NARA

- Must Not Exceed 8, of Which No More Than 6 May Be Children In Care (May determine lower capacities based on assessment & study)
  - No more than
    - 3 children total under age 2
    - 4 children total under age 5
    - 4 children total between the ages of 5-13
    - 4 children total over the age of 13

II. Home Health & Safety- CT

- Aligned

III. Home Capacity- CT

- No More Than 5 Children in the Home
  - No more than
    - 3 foster or prospective adoptive
    - 2 children under age 2
    - 3 children under age 6 (exception- siblings)
### National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV. Sleeping Arrangements - NARA</th>
<th>IV. Sleeping Arrangements - CT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sleep in Safe &amp; Comfortable Space</td>
<td>Aligned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate Furnishings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Similar to Other Household Members</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V. Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety - NARA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoke Detectors</td>
<td>Smoke Detector Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Monoxide Detectors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Extinguishers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free of Obvious Fire Hazards</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Evacuation Plan &amp; Emergency Contact Numbers Posted/Visible</td>
<td>Must Have an Evacuation Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6
# National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

## VI. Transportation - NARA
- Reliable, Legal & Safe
  - Legal means valid driving license, insurance & registration
- Reliable Public Transportation or Privately Owned Vehicle

## VI. Transportation - CT
- Aligned

## VII. Training - NARA
- Pre-licensing Training Required
- Participate in Ongoing Training
- Child Specific Training
- CPR & First Aid

## VII. Training - CT
- Pre-licensing Training Required
- Post Licensing Required for Core Caregivers
- Child Specific Training for Medically Complex Children
- First Aid Not Required
## National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

### VIII. Foster Parent Assurances- NARA

- No Use of Corporal or Degrading Punishment
- No Use Illegal Substances, Alcohol, Legal Prescription/nonprescription Medication
- No Smoking in the Home or Car
- Understands & Applies the Reasonable & Prudent Parent Standards

### VIII. Foster Parent Assurances- CT

- Aligned
- No Use Illegal Substances, Alcohol, Legal Prescription/nonprescription Medication Not specified
- Smoking in the Home or Car Not specified *(Bill drafted in 2015 that did not pass)*
Kinship Navigator

• Connecticut General Statue 17a-98a

• Elements of the Program
  ▪ Provides information about available services
  ▪ Assists to identify & access services that meet the child & caregivers needs
  ▪ Promotes effective public & private collaboration *that*
    → Includes caregivers, youth, relevant government agencies, community & faith based organization as consultants & participants
    → Coordinates the provision of services, information & referral

• Establishes a toll free information & referral system linking
  → Caregivers, support group facilitators & service providers to each other
  → Eligibility & enrollment information for benefits available thru federal, state & local entities
  → Relevant training to assist in caregiving & to help obtain benefits & services
  → Relevant legal assistance & to help obtain legal services
Kinship Navigator

_Elements Continued_

- Provides outreach
- Maintains & updates website, guides & materials
- Manages the distribution of guides & materials
- Creates awareness of the needs with the goal to enhance service provision
  → General public, schools, local government & agencies, community & faith based organizations.
- Creates awareness of the need for licensed caregivers
- Establishes a Kinship Care Ombudsman
  → Has authority to intervene & help Kin access services
- May support other activities
  → designed to assist kin caregivers obtain benefits & services to increase skill acquisition and enhance caregiving
Links

Adoption Assistance program
∞ https://health.uconn.edu/adoption-assistance/

Grand Facts- Connecticut Facts

NARA Model Licensing Standards
∞ https://nara.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/SharedResources/Model%20Licensing%20Standards%202018%20update.pdf

211 Kinship-Grandparents
∞ https://uwc.211ct.org/kinship-caregiversgrandparents-raising-grandchildrencustodial-relatives/

211 Kin Resource List
Break (15 minutes)

Kinship Cafe

Family First – Kinship & Foster Care Workgroup
Call to Action

- Subcommittee Mandates & Design
- Review Materials
- Identify Gaps & Barriers to Services
- Identify Additional Services Not Listed

Propose
- Policy/best practice
- Regulations
- Training needs
- Other

Meeting Scheduled-Beacon at 9:00 am

<table>
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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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Thank You

Family First