Kinship & Foster Care

Family First
Policy Exploration
February 14, 2020
Agenda

• Welcome & Introductions
• Review Identified Barriers from Data Exploration
• Policy Exploration Break-Out Sessions
• Break
• Policy Exploration Break-Out Sessions
• Group Report Outs
• Closing
Kinship Services- Current State

**In the Community (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

**In Formal Foster Care (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 Achieving Permanency (After)**
- Subsidy (PTOG-STOG-Adoption)
- Adoption Assistance Program (APP)
- All Services Listed in “Non-DCF”
Workgroup Goals & Key Deliverables

For children living with relatives or kin
(Informal family arrangements or formal and legal arrangements)
Recommend policy changes that will address and mitigate the identified barriers to better support relatives and kin
In the Community Data Exploration Results
2-11- Identified and assess barriers

- Primary search - Financial and Legal Assistance
- Under-utilized Crisis Services (i.e., Mobile Crisis)
- Myth busting (i.e., Call Response Time)
- Limited to non-profit agency information
- All providers do not update information on website
- “Guardianship” not online (i.e., search engine limitations)
Probate Court- Identify and assess barriers

- Limited Funding for Caregivers
- Family Specialist/Regional Children Courts not Statewide
- 20% of cases are DCF-involved
- Filing Fees (waivers)
- TOG not permanent or financially supported
During Careline Engagement & Voluntary Services
Data Exploration Results
### Family Arrangements - Identify and assess barriers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-DCF involved</th>
<th>DCF involved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• No Safety Assessment of Caregiver</td>
<td>• DCF required to sanction family (i.e. background checks, CPS history)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No legal authority outside of probate court</td>
<td>• Safety factor may exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No Time-limit</td>
<td>• DCF does not have custody or guardianship/Caregiver not licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limited financial assistance</td>
<td>• Time-limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No assessment of service needs</td>
<td>• No financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No tracking of homeless children</td>
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In Formal Foster Care
Data Exploration Results
Caregiver Support Team- Identify and assess barriers

- Not available for Non-DCF involved Families or Family Arrangements
- Missing data on does service help in achieving permanency
- Kin Families needs identified:
  - Help with added and new expenses
  - Someone to walk them through the process
  - Case managers
  - Experienced peers to support
  - Training delivered gradually
  - Experienced clinicians with multi-generational trauma
  - Better bridge to post DCF services
- What happens when Birth Parents need to regain custody?
  - Expansion of CST
  - to allow after care check after 6 months
  - check-in post permanency
CAFAF- Identify and assess barriers

• No financial support or very limited
• Establish alumni families
• Contact after closing by including them on email list
• Training offered (new topics, how many online)
After Achieving Permanency
Data Exploration Results
Adoption Assistance Program- Identify and assess barriers

- Guardians not calling
- Creating safe environment to reach out for assistance
- Types of Financial Support sought?
- Create Awareness of financial assistance such as security deposits excludes rents & child care
- Post adoptive youth homelessness after aging out of adoption
- Developing plans for long-term needs
- Have data but needs to be analyzed
DCF Subsidy- Identify and assess barriers

- Successor guardianship - subsidies can transfer only for guardianship, not adoption
- College stipend for subsidy follows child regardless of home, currently only for adoption
Policy Exploration Break-Out Sessions

Groups:  
- In the Community
- During Careline Engagement & Voluntary Services
- In Foster Care
- After Achieving Permanency

Question: Based upon what we know about the identified policy limitations, what are some strategies and/or opportunities for improvement?
Next Steps

Family First
Next Meeting: 2/28/2020
Location: Beacon
Focus: Services Exploration
Thank You

Family First