



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Vannessa L. Dorantes
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

To: All Staff
From: Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes LMSW
Re: National Adoption Month
Date: November 4, 2019

November is celebrated across the country as National Adoption Month. This year, we want to specifically promote *relative* adoption and the significant impact extended family members play in the life of a child.

The Department has worked hard to continue our kinship placements and supports. We can say with pride that today there are just about as many children living in a relative or kinship homes as in traditional foster placements. We have done this for the most basic reason — if we have to remove children, they do best when living with people they know and love.

Children deserve the continuity kinship provides. They also need timely permanency as they grow into adulthood.

Later this week, on November 7, Governor Ned Lamont and Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz will lead a press conference featuring relatives who have or will soon adopt. Some will have the opportunity to share the rewards and benefits for both the families and the children who move to permanency.

Then on November 22, we will partner with Juvenile Courts across the state for Adoption Day and again feature relatives adopting their children in open court proceedings. We have invited our legislators and the media to share in this special day with us. We believe approximately 80 children will be adopted on that one single day alone!

Families should be celebrated every day as literally each day around the state, a child moves permanently to their “forever home.”

We can be proud of our accomplishments.

In State Fiscal Year 2019, we moved 855 children into permanency through 532 adoptions and 323 subsidized guardianships. We estimate that about 30 percent of the adoptions were to relatives. In total, our Subsidy Units assist approximately 7,800 families who have adopted and another 3,100 families through subsidized guardianship.

This is great work that you and our partners are doing day in and day out.

We must continue the intensity of our work. Our children cannot wait and the next child in need has already come to our attention.

We continue to find additional ways to build on permanency and kinship work to support more relative adoptions. Our purposeful efforts contribute to raising resilient children who thrive into productive and healthy adults.

Thank you for your hard work supporting permanency in its various forms, and I appreciate your continuing commitment as we build upon our kinship work to promote relative adoption.