Child Welfare Peer Kinship Network

Webinar on Resource Sharing
July 24, 2014

Robert Geen, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Judith Castonguay, Connecticut Department of Children and Families
Michael Wilson, Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Rebecca Robuck and Ana Beltran, ChildFocus
Today’s Agenda

- Welcome from Rob Geen, Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Judith Castonguay, Connecticut Department of Children and Families
- Michael Wilson, Tennessee Department of Children and Families
- Q & A and Sharing
Thank you

This Child Welfare Peer Kinship Network and this webinar are made possible by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

We thank them for their support.
Welcome to New Peer Network

First of 3 webinars this year. Based on survey responses, next one likely to focus on model family foster care licensing standards. Fall TBD date.

Use listserv to ask questions of each other: peerkinshipnetwork@childfocuspartners.com

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Connecticut’s Kinship Pilot - History

- January 2011 - Connecticut began this kinship work with Peer to Peer with the State of Tennessee and Allegheny County, PA
- 2011-12 - Kinship Work Group
- April 2012 - Regional Kinship Training
- 2012 & 2013 - Training from Dr. Joseph Crumbley
- September 2013 - Process work began
- February 2014 - Pilot began
- September 2014 – Going statewide
Considered Removal Meetings

- Meeting is held after safety factor identified and removal potentially imminent

- A kinship specialist from the Foster and Adoptive Services Unit attends all meetings and is involved from the beginning

- CPS, biological parents, any relatives/kin they wish to invite, and any other pertinent DCF staff also attend

- Work together to ensure that all efforts are made to identify relatives/kin that are available for placement
Firewall process

- All placements must get a “firewall pass” from the foster care unit before any child can be placed with a non-relative in “core foster care”

- Make diligent efforts to find relatives/kin from beginning using Lexus-Nexus
Emergency Home Assessment (EHA)

- Goal is to place the child immediately with a relative after removal
- Background Checks
- EHA completed by a kinship specialist
Caregiver Support Team

- Team goes into the home within 4 days of referral for 6 months/2 hours twice a week, with a step up or down as needed

- Models Dr. Joseph Crumbley's work – the Team:
  - explores the dynamics of the family system and impact of placement
  - supports a changing relationship with the child, family and extended family
  - helps family understand the impact of intergenerational trauma, including grief and loss
Caregiver Support Team cont.

- implements developmentally appropriate structure and routine
- identifies caregiver's and child's strengths and promotes positive attachment
- supports parenting skills
- identifies and connects family to community services
Michael Wilson
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Upper Cumberland Tennessee Kinship Protocol

- Relative/kinship placements are sought for all children who must be removed from their parents’ homes.

- Relatives must receive full disclosure of legal options and available services before placement.

- For relatives who seek custodial foster care placements, an “Expedited Placement Assessment.”

- After the assessment is approved, the child is placed.

- If the relative will not meet assessment requirements or does not want to be considered for placement, the search resumes for other relatives.

- If relatives are fully exhausted, the “Kinship Exception” form must be completed and approved before a non-relative/kin placement can be pursued.
Full Disclosure of Relative’s Legal Options

- Written information explaining options and services provided to relatives prior to placement
- Decisions made with family based on needs of child and family, considering safety, permanence, and well-being

Options/Services:
- Family Arranged Care
- Power of Attorney
- Legal Custody
- Kinship Foster Care
- Adoption
- Permanent Guardianship
- Subsidized Permanent Guardianship
Expedited Custodial Placements

Purpose:

“To minimize the trauma... DCS will seek to place a child with persons whom the child and/or child’s family has had a significant relationship...”
Expedited Custodial Placements: Assessment

- Face to face interview with relative
- An expedited criminal history check
- DCS records check, including CPS check
- Internet records clearance for all adult household members, including National Sexual Offender Registry and TN Department of Health Abuse Registry Clearance
- References
- Home visit
- Emergency response plan
- All adult household members must agree to the following after an expedited placement:
  - Fingerprinting
  - Medical exams
Kinship Exception Request Form

PART 1—FAMILY INFORMATION

Date: ___ Family Case Name: ___ Case #: ___

Child’s Name | Date of Birth | Race | Sex | Special Needs
---|---|---|---|---

PART 2—PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING KINSHIP EXCEPTION REQUEST

Requesting Case Manager: ___ [CPS] [FSW] Region: ___ County: ___

Reviewing Team Leader/Team Coordinator: ___ Date: ___ Reviewed: ___

KER APPROVED | KER DENIED

Date consult form entered into TFACTS: ___

Signature of KER Approver: ___ Date: ___

Other Information/Regional Protocol Requirements: ___

Relationship to child | Name | Phone | Barrier | Perm. | Temp.
---|---|---|---|---|---
Mother | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Father | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paramour | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Stepmother | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Steppfather | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Adult sibling | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Maternal grandmother | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Maternal grandfather | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material aunt | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material uncle | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material great-grandmother | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material great-grandfather | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material niece | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material nephew | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material great-niece | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Material great-nephew | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal grandmother | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal grandfather | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal aunt | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal uncle | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal great-grandmother | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal great-grandfather | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal great-niece | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Paternal great-nephew | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Family friend | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Choose an item | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Choose an item | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Choose an item | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Choose an item | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___
Questions for Judith and Michael
Sharing of Other Resources
Questions about the Network

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