Child Welfare Peer Kinship Network

Webinar -- Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act
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Stefanie Sprow, Children’s Defense Fund
Ana Beltran, Generations United and ChildFocus
Rebecca Robuck, ChildFocus
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www.aecf.org
Welcome to Peer Kinship Network

- Post emails to peerkinshipnetwork@childfocuspartners.com to ask questions of each other

- Visit www.grandfamilies.org/RESOURCES/ChildWelfarePeerKinshipNetwork.aspx for:
  - Recordings and power points of three previous webinars
  - Resource materials
  - The recording and slides from this webinar, which will be available within the next few days
Objectives of the Act

On September 29th 2014, President Obama signed the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (H.R. 4980) into law. (Public Law 113-183)

The bill has three titles:

- Title I focuses on helping states identify, track and develop services for children who are believed to be in danger of being trafficked.
- Title II includes a series of child welfare provisions related to improving the Adoption Incentives program and extending the Family Connections Grants.
- Title III improves the process of getting international child support by allowing tribal governments and authorized foreign agencies to access the Federal Parent Locator Service.
Protecting Children and Youth at Risk of Sex Trafficking

- Identifying, documenting, and determining services for children and youth at risk of sex trafficking

- Reporting instances of sex trafficking within 24 hours to law enforcement

- Including sex trafficking data in AFCARS

- Locating and responding to children who run away from foster care

- Increasing information on children in foster care to prevent sex trafficking

*These provisions only apply to the children who that state has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision, including those who were not removed from the home, children from foster care who have run away and those receiving services under Chaffee.*
Supporting Families: Family Connection Grants funding extended

- Funding for Family Connections Grants (which include kinship navigators, family finding, and family group decision making programs) is extended through fiscal year 2014 at the current authorization of $15 million.

- This section removes the provision in current law that requires at least $5 million of the Family Connection Grants funding be used to support kinship navigator programs.
Supporting Families: Reinvestment of savings for post-permanency supports

- A 2008 law started to “de-link” the AFDC income requirement for federal adoption assistance.

- States must calculate and report the savings gained from de-linking Title IV-E adoption assistance and show how they were applied to other child welfare services.

- They must spend a certain percentage of these savings on post-adoption/guardianship services.

- States must use the savings in addition to, rather than instead of, other Title IV-E/B funds.
Supporting Families: Reinvestment of savings for post-permanency supports (continued)

**ADD NICOLE'S DEFINITION**
Supporting Families:
Successor guardians can continue to receive GAP

- Payments under the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) for children eligible under Title IV-E may be transferred to the care of another named “successor” guardian in cases where the child’s guardian dies or is otherwise unable to care for them.

- These children no longer have to return to foster care for 6 months in order to re-qualify for GAP.

- Administration for Children and Families released Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-14-06 with instructions on state plan amendments for this provision.
Supporting Families:
Successor guardians can continue to receive GAP

- ANA – CAN WE ADD YOUR MAP OF CURRENT IV-E GAP STATES?
31 States with GAP

- Orange: GAP and prior subsidized guardianship program
- Purple: GAP and no prior program

*The District of Columbia and four Indian tribes also have GAP*
Empowering Youth & Caregivers: Reasonable and prudent parent standard

- States must implement a “reasonable and prudent parent standard” to allow foster parents (including licensed kinship caregivers) more autonomy to make decisions in matters affecting the health, safety, and best interest of the child, as well as extracurricular and social activities.

- States will have to revise their licensing rules and policies to ensure appropriate caregiver liability.

- States have one year to implement this provision, and are allowed more time if legislation is required.
Empowering Youth & Caregivers: Key documents for youth aging out

- Youth who have been in care at least six months must be provided a legal copy of their personal documents, including their birth certificate, social security card, driver’s license or identification and medical records.

- States have a year to implement this provision, and are allowed more time if legislation is required.

- California has strong state legislation on documentation provided to youth aging out of care (CA Welf. & Inst. Code 391)

- Going beyond the law and providing proof of time in care.
Prioritizing Relative Care: Notification and placement with siblings

- Clarifies that agencies must notify parents of a child’s siblings when the child is removed from a parent’s care. This includes children who would have been considered siblings if not for the termination or other disruption of parental rights.

- States have one year to implement this provision, and are allowed more time if legislation is required.

- Administration for Children and Families released Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-14-06 with instructions on state plan amendments for this provision.
Promoting Permanency: Incentives for permanent guardianship

- The Adoption Incentive Program is renamed the Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments Program, and is reauthorized through fiscal year 2016.

- Incentive payments to states will now be based on guardianships in addition to adoptions.

- The incentive categories and payment amounts have also been changed to include:
  - $5,000 for foster child adoption
  - $7,500 for pre-adolescent child adoption and guardianship
  - $10,000 for older child adoption and guardianship
  - $4,000 for foster child guardianship

- These provisions take effect as if the legislation was passed October 1, 2013.
Promoting Permanency: Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)

- AAPLA will no longer apply as a permanency goal for children under age 16, and further case planning and review requirements will go into effect for youth with an APPLA permanency goal (implementation is delayed three years for children in the foster care systems of Indian tribes).

- The state must show its extensive but unsuccessful efforts to find permanent placements during permanency hearings, which should include attempts to find biological family members.

- The state agency must ask the child at each hearing about his or her preferred permanency goal and conduct a judicial determination showing why APPLA is still the best option.

- States have one year to implement, and are allowed more time if legislation is needed.
Promoting Permanency: Data on Adoption and Guardianship Disruption and Dissolution

The US Department of Health and Human Services will release regulations for states on the collection and analysis of information on children who re-enter foster care after being placed in adoption or guardianship.
ACF Program Instructions

- On November 21, 2014, the Administration for Children and Families released Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-14-06 that provides information and instructions for amending the relative identification and notification to include siblings and incorporating successor guardian.

- Information on effective dates and applying for a delayed effective date if state legislation is required (within 30 days of PI)

- Information on submitting agency plan amendments (within 60 days of PI)
Questions & Answers
Stefanie Sprow, ssprow@childrensdefense.org
Questions about the Network

Ana Beltran
anab@spyros.com

Rebecca Robuck
rebecca@childfocuspartners.com