Child Welfare Peer Kinship Network

Webinar: Engaging Kin Lessons from WA State

August 10, 2015
About the Peer Kinship Network

The Child Welfare Peer Kinship Network is a national network of public and private agency stakeholders with primary responsibility for kinship policy and practice.

It is made possible through generous support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
Today’s Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of the WA Kinship Care Oversight Committee
- WA State Regional Coordinators
- Kinship Caregivers
- Questions and Discussions
Today’s Speakers

Hilarie Hauptman, WA State Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

Meri Waterhouse, WA State Children’s Administration

Jennifer Louch, Catholic Community Services of King County

Lynn Urvina, Family Education and Support Services

Mary Pleger, Catholic Family & Child Service

Mechelle Eliot, Kinship Caregiver

Andrea Plagens, Kinship Caregiver
Kinship Caregivers in Washington State

Child Welfare National Peer Network

Child Focus, Inc.
Webinar, August 10, 2015
Many people think this could not happen to them because it’s a race issue or a poverty issue or a result of poor parenting... It is time that the world is made aware of some facts – we do not do this for our health. We ... spend thousands of dollars in legal battles, and change our lifestyles for the simple reason that we love these children. Even fearing what might happen, the stress of caring for my grandchildren is much better than the stress of not knowing where or how they are.

~ Susan Sparks, Caregiver
Kinship Caregivers Involved Since 1990s

Washington State Kinship Care

- **House Bill 1121 (Permanent legal custody)** allows relatives to go into court, get custody, and not terminate parental rights.

- **Legislature appropriates $1,000,000 m TANF funding (biennium)** creating the Relative Support Services Fund for unlicensed kinship care families involved in the child welfare system and $50,000 to study the issue of kinship care in Washington State and make recommendations.

- **House Bill 1233** requires development of a stronger relative search process for families in the child welfare system, the creation of a statewide Kinship Oversight Committee to oversee kinship care activities, and development of two Kinship Navigator pilot projects to help kinship families navigate the service system by providing information and referral, advocacy, and support.

- **Annual Parenting The Second Time Around** (developed by Cornell Cooperative Extension) facilitator training begins.

- **Substitute House Bill 1280** continues the Kinship Oversight Committee, a coalition of 40 public and private organizations, advocates, and caregivers to address issues facing kinship care families and oversee legislative initiatives.

- **Substitute House Bill 1281**, Washington’s Kinship Medical Care, allows kinship caregivers to give informed consent to medical care for children in their care without parental signature.

- **Legislature appropriates $100,000 per year to ADSA** for two regional kinship navigator projects.

- **Regional Kinship Care Coalitions** begin forming in several counties to better collaborate services between providers and caregivers.

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- **Senate Bill 5210** directs Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to place children with relatives, unless issues of safety precludes placement.

- **Legislative report and results of state-wide survey published by WA State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP).**

- **House Bill 1397** authorizes Kinship Care Work Group to develop and prioritize recommendations from WSIPP study and develop a report on how to improve service system.

- **Legislature appropriates annual budget of $500,000 for creation of Kinship Caregivers Support Program (RCSAP)** for ADSA or relatives not involved with the child welfare system to provide financial assistance for items like clothing, food, school activities, and transportation.

- **The two pilot Kinship Navigator Projects**, sponsored by Casey Family Programs for 18 months, undergo an extensive project evaluation. A replication and evaluation manual is developed by Tri-West Group.

- **Voices of Children**—Annual Kinship Care Children’s Contest is designed for children ages 5-19 to express in drawing or words how living with a relative(s) has made a positive difference in their life.

- **The Kinship Care Solutions Project** begins as a model kinship legal program through the Seattle/King County Bar Association screening cases for referrals to volunteer attorneys to represent the kinship caregivers in non-parental custody cases.

(Over)
WA State’s Early Kinship Care History

1990s - State’s Kinship Care movement began as grassroots movement - grandparents spoke with legislature about need for more support.

2000 - State Senator so moved listening to relatives at support group, requested action.

2002 - Two kinship care legislative reports plus statewide kinship care survey completed.

2003 - Washington State Kinship Oversight Committee authorized through unanimous legislative vote in SHB 1233.
More than 2400 kinship caregivers provided invaluable feedback on a 4 page statewide survey.

Kinship Care in Washington State

*Prevalence, Policy, and Needs*

Jim Mayfield
Annie Pennucci
Courtney Lyon

June 2002
What Kinship Caregivers Struggle With Most

1. Financial Needs
2. Legal Challenges
3. Navigating public service system
4. Needing more social services
5. Information about resources/caregiving
12 kinship caregivers, plus 22 advocates and department staff developed 23 recommendations to improve services and policies related to: financial, legal, social services and systems change.
Legislation for Improving Services for Kinship Caregivers

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1233

58th Legislature
2003 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 26, 2003
Yea 97  Nays 0

Passed by the Senate April 25, 2003
Yea 48  Nays 0

CERTIFICATE
I, Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1233 as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.
Kinship Care Oversight Committee

**SHB 1233** required the development of a stronger relative search process for families involved with the child welfare system, **the formation of a statewide kinship oversight committee to oversee kinship care activities**, and the creation of two Kinship Navigator pilot projects through a public and private collaboration.
Examples of Success: Right to Consent Laws

• In Washington State, relatives can sign an affidavit to consent to medical, dental or mental health services for the child in their care.

• Resources
  o www.Washingtonlawhelp.org has background information on law
  o DSHS Brochure w/affidavit available
Kinship Caregiver’s Declarati

1. I consent to health care for the child: ________________________________
   (print name of the child)

2. The child's date of birth is: __________

3. My name is: ____________________________
   (print your name)

4. My home address is: ____________________________

5. I am 18 years of age or older and I am a relative responsible for the health care of the minor, including medical, dental and mental health care.

6. My date of birth is: __________

7. I am the ________________________________ of the minor.
   (print your relationship to the child, e.g. grandfather, aunt/uncle)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the above is true and correct.

Date: ______________ City and State: ________________________________

Signature of Caregiver: ______________
Resources for Kinship Caregiver

- Kinship Caregivers Support Program - $1 million emergent need funding
- Kinship Navigators - 8 FTE cover 30 of 39 counties
- Kinship Support Groups - 27 available
- Legal Resources/Services - Guide, DVDs, state website
- Free Printed Materials
- DSHS kinship website www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare
Role of the Kinship Caregiver Oversight Committee (KCOC)

• KCOC was developed by state legislation to guide, monitor, and report on kinship care recommendations and activities
  • “Kinship care” definition was established to identify relative family members who are/can be kinship caregivers
• Monitor initial implementation of recommendations contained in the 2002 Kinship Care Report
• Develop future recommendations on issues pertinent to kinship caregivers
• Partner with nonprofit organizations and private sector businesses to develop public awareness
• Provide written report to the legislature and Governor each year on kinship issues
Players at the Table

- Diversity of statewide kinship family representation (geographic, ethnic, gender)
- Representatives also from: DSHS, relevant state agencies, private non-profits and businesses, child advocates, Washington Tribes, Legal and judicial representatives
  - Children’s Administration - Meri Waterhouse
  - Aging and Long Term Services - Hilarie Hauptman
  - Economic Services - Tom Berry
  - Partners for Our Children - Laurie Lippold
  - Kinship Navigators and Support Programs
Players at the Table, continued

- Children’s Administration (CA) is currently seated as facilitator of the KCOC. This encourages more child welfare staff to participate in the quarterly meetings.

- CA has used the activity of the KCOC to help support and encourage kinship support via our foster parent Recruitment and Retention contractors.

- Participation by CA staff broadens understanding that the vast majority of kinship caregivers do not have children in the child welfare system.

- Development of the “Kinship Definition” helped expand CA’s kinship/relative caregiver policy.

- CA’s Caregiver Connection highlights issues pertinent to kinship caregivers and foster parents.

- Builds greater awareness and stronger communication about the needs of relative/kinship caregivers.
Successes

• 7 year partnership with Seattle Mariners recognizing/supporting caregivers of children in out-of-home care (foster/kinship/adoption)
  • Expanded to Tacoma Rainiers and Wenatchee Applesox games
• New partnership launched: Seattle Aquarium for free entrance for kinship caregivers and their children living in their home
WE ARE FAMILY

SUN., APRIL 26
1:10 PM

Event Details
Tickets start at $12 and include a Mariners We Are Family Day giveaway. Join the Mariners at Safeco Field as we say Thank You to foster, kinship and adoptive families and the agencies, social workers and community members that support them.

Caregiver Recognition Event: 10 – 11:00 a.m.
Ellis Pavilion; doors open at 9:30 a.m.

In addition, please join us post-game for Movie Day at Safeco Field! The Lego Movie will be played following the final out of the Mariners-Twins game.

Tickets
• $12 View Level
• $27 Main Level

To buy tickets or for more information, please call or visit:
(206) 346-4519 Mariners.com/WeAreFamily
CAREGIVER FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Come watch the Wenatchee Applesox take on the Walla Walla Sweets!

AUGUST 5th

Wednesday

Gates open at 6:00 pm • First pitch at 7:05 pm

Caregivers, for more information on how to get FREE TICKETS for your family, contact Marie Scanlon phone: (509) 665-5334 • email: Scanlon1@dshs.wa.gov

Paul Thomas Sr. Field
Wenatchee Valley College • 1300 5th Street • Wenatchee, WA

KCSY and the Applesox have partnered together to support caregiver families!
Hilarie Hauptman, MSW
Kinship and Family Caregiver Program Manager
Aging and Long-term Support Administration/DSHS
hilarie.hauptman@dshs.wa.gov

Meri Waterhouse, ACBSW
Caregiver Recruitment, Retention & Support Manager
Children’s Administration/DSHS
waterml@dshs.wa.gov
Voices of Children-Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives-Contest
Voices of Children Raised by Their Relatives

They kame and got me before I got took away to foster care. They drove me to Washington and broute me to scool on time, they fed me food, brekfest and lunch and diner. They bring me to my mom when I can. But the most important thing is they love me and I love them too. And they don’t hate me, they read me books and like it. They play outside with me, they play board games with me, they sing with me. When I am hert they take care of it. On warm days they poot suntan loshen on me. When I go to a friend’s house they say the time to go and come and git me. They cutelle me when I am sad.

-Matthew, Age 8
Kinship Care Families Honored Regularly at Governor’s Mansion
Kinship Caregiver Day and Night - Great Wolf Lodge

"Respite Packages" welcomed all caregivers with popcorn, picture frame, throw-away camera, and coupon for spa.

Relatives and their children gathered for **story time**, milk and cookies. Family received books to read together.

**Voices of Children winners** were honored during an awards event.

-Sponsored by Family Education and Support Services
King County Kinship Collaboration
History

- Created with funding from Casey Family Programs in 2005

- Consultant hired and worked with community partners to develop the Collaboration’s structure, vision, mission, charter, etc.

**Vision:** To recognize and strengthen communities where families care for families

**Mission:** To create and maintain a regional collaboration that provides comprehensive and coordinated services, advocacy, and community education to support Kinship families.
Collaboration Focus Areas

- Creating & maintaining a system of support
- Coordinating family events
- Developing partnerships for in-kind resources (e.g., Kinship Center)
- Legislative advocacy

Membership is comprised of caregivers & agency representatives including the child welfare system, legal (KC Bar Assoc), research (Univ of Wash), social services, public schools, health & respite, & economic services.
Child Welfare System

Who’s involved?
- Case workers
- Visitation center staff
- Child welfare staff trainers
- Division of Licensing (home study staff)
- Foster parent trainers
- Foster parent support group leaders
- Economic Services administrative & training staff
KCKC Activities

- Monthly Collaboration meetings
  - Provider presentations
  - Resource sharing
  - System trouble-shooting
- Family events
  - Picnics, bowling, family cooking classes
  - Annual Kinship Camp
  - The Gathering (conference for kinship families)
  - Chronic Disease Self-Management classes
- Participation in statewide activities (Kinship Advocacy Day @ state capitol, Great Wolf Lodge, Mariner’s Game)
Kinship Family Retreat

YMCA Camp Colman - Seattle Branch

1) Promotion of wellness for caregivers and their children through relaxation and fun (e.g. boating, yoga, arts and crafts)

2) Delivery of relevant/helpful resources (e.g., nutrition consultant available, new Kinship Center)

3) Family and community strengthening (e.g. family portraits taken, time spent together outside of daily routine, children meet others raised in kinship families).
Role of Collaboration Coordinator

- Hub of partnerships & communication, transparency on who is doing what, & connection to statewide efforts
- Presentations & outreach to potential community partners
- Facilitate monthly meetings & ongoing planning
- Maintain contact info for caregivers & providers
- Solicit financial & in-kind donations
- Support caregiver involvement
  - Recruit via support groups & community partners
  - Door prizes, tickets to the zoo & aquarium
  - Meetings at times most convenient to families (between 10:30 and 2, allowing for drop off & pick-up from school)
  - Financial reimbursement when possible (for time, transportation, childcare)
Lynn Urvina  
Family Education and Support Services  
lynn@familyess.org

Jennifer Louch, MPH  
Catholic Community Services of King County  
jenniferlouch@ccsww.org

Mary Pleger  
Catholic Family & Child Service  
mpleger@ccyakima.org
Kinship Caregivers’ Perspective
Questions and Feedback

Please type your questions and comments into the chat box on the side of your screen.
For More Information

For information about the Peer Kinship Network Webinar:

Rebecca Robuck
rebecca@childfocuspartners.com

All materials from this webinar will be posted at:

www.grandfamilies.org/RESOURCES/
ChildWelfarePeerKinshipNetwork.aspx
Next Peer Kinship Network Webinar: September 22

**When:** Tuesday, September 22 at 3:00pm ET (2pm CT/1pm MT/12pm ET).

**Topic:** Grandfamilies Advocacy Network Demonstration (GrAND)

Registration link coming soon.