Child Welfare Peer Kinship Network

Webinar: The Grandfamilies Advocacy Network Demonstration (GrAND) September 22, 2015

Joan Callander Dingle, GrAND member
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Ana Beltran, Generations United
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Joan Callander Dingle
Raised grandson Chad since he was two
Chad now 23, married and a dad
The whole family
GrAND at White House Event
May 2015
Casey Family Programs
The nation’s largest operating foundation focused entirely on foster care and improving the child welfare system.

Founded in 1966, Casey works to provide and improve — and ultimately prevent the need for — foster care in the United States.

Casey is committed to its 2020 Strategy for America’s Children — a goal to safely reduce the number of children in foster care and improve the lives of those who remain in care.

For more information, visit [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)
GrAND commitment

- GrAND is based on similar networks we have for birth parents and foster youth.

- Those groups have been very helpful in informing our work.

- We expect GrAND to be similarly impactful and are committed to being a full partner on this initiative.
Generations United (GU)
National Center on Grandfamilies

- Generations United is a national membership organization focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all.

- For almost twenty years, Generations United's National Center on Grandfamilies has been at the forefront of national efforts to support grandfamilies through federal and state legislative testimony and briefings, publications, training, and technical assistance.

- For more information, visit www.gu.org
GrAND is a select group of kinship caregivers from key states who have a range of expertise and personal experience as relatives who have raised children when their parents have been unable to raise them.

GrAND is designed to ensure there are strong caregiver voices in shaping programs, policies and strategies that result in better outcomes for children and families.

GrAND members serve as strategic partners with Generations United and Casey Family Programs to inform kinship policies and practices and to reveal family needs and service gaps.
What GrAND members do

- Advocate on behalf of kinship caregivers to promote improvements to the child welfare system and other supportive services both inside and outside of the child welfare system:
  - White House
  - Congressional briefings
  - State agencies, legislatures, task forces, and working groups
- Provide input on draft publications and other materials for kinship families:
  - Comments re: child welfare data collection – AFCARS
  - Publications like fact sheet for caregivers to access Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Model the value of caregiver engagement
- Foster leadership development
GrAND as a resource to you

- GrAND was recently expanded to 15 states -- Arizona, Kentucky, Iowa, New York, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington State, and West Virginia

- You can call on GrAND members to help provide a caregiver perspective to kinship initiatives at your agency.

- If your state is not already included, this is your opportunity to recommend someone and ensure that your state is represented.

- Our goal is to eventually elevate kinship caregiver voices in all 50 states.
Raising Jazz and Terry since they were born
Jazz and Terry adults now and doing well
GrAND at Congressional Briefing
May 2015
Q & A
If you want to learn more...

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Materials from this webinar will be posted at: