
A Presentation at the 2015 Child Protection Protection Summit
9/10/2015
Orlando, Florida
What is Kinship Care?

Kinship care is the full time care, nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. This definition is designed to be inclusive and respectful of cultural values and ties of affection. It allows a child to grow to adulthood in a family environment.

Child Welfare League of America
Why do we want to talk about it?

We believe that kinship care is the BEST way to keep children who are at risk of abuse or neglect out of the foster care system.

Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties have had supportive services to relative caregiver families for more than a decade.

With the support of a federal grant, we are now able to create an evidence base to support what we do.
Learning Objectives

1. To understand the design and rationale of service innovations for kinship navigator programs
2. To understand the similarities and differences of informal and formal kinship families as they relate to service needs and available supports.
Why Kinship Care is Needed

- Children may be unable to live with their parents because of...
  - Parental substance abuse
  - Death of a child's parent
  - Incarceration
  - Domestic violence
  - Mental health issues
  - Parental abandonment
  - Child neglect or abuse
  - Teenager not ready to be a parent
### Different Types of Kinship Arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal</td>
<td>Arrangements made by family all by themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary</td>
<td>Some involvement with “the system” but family steps up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal</td>
<td>Placement made through the Court</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approximately 6 million children are raised by relatives in the U.S. (4.5 million with grandparents).

Nationally, 26% of children in out-of-home care live with relatives.

Kinship care is the fastest growing type of out-of-home placement.
387,000 Florida children are being raised by relatives.
Florida ranks 4th in the number of grandparents and other relatives raising children in the United States.
Approximately 20,000 or 7% of children in Hillsborough County are living in households led by relatives.
15,000 children in Pinellas County
8,000 children in Pasco County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey
Primary Needs Identified by Caregivers

Based on the USF Kinship Needs Survey:

- Child Care
- Financial Support
- Medical Care
- Educational Assistance for Children
- Counseling for Children
- Support Group(s) for Caregivers
- Legal Assistance
- Information about Program and Services
Why is Kinship Care Preferable?

- Children live with people they know and trust
- Kinship care supports family preservation
- Children keep their family identity
- Lessens the feeling of separation and loss
- Kinship is strength based, not limitation based
- Kinship care supports community and culture

Child Welfare League of America
Community Kinship Program Model

1. Offer a wide variety of supportive, easy-to-access services;
2. Develop an inclusive community collaborative to support dynamic needs of kin families;
3. Partner with well-reputable community service provider agencies to implement the program; and
4. Evaluate the program with valid and reliable measures to promote successful outcomes and develop a replicable model.
Key Elements of Community System

- Services need to be flexible based on needs of family.
- Eligibility needs to be easy to understand – there is something for everyone.
- Key Services include:
  - System Navigation (SNAP, TANF, WIC, SS, Child Support)
  - Case Management
  - Support Groups
  - Legal Assistance (Dependency, Family court)
  - Self-Care Support
  - Social/Networking opportunities
Wide Variety of Easy-to-access Services

- Psychosocial/ Historical Assessment
- Case Management
- Family Support Plan
- Navigation
- Advocacy
- Community Outreach and Public Education
- Educational Workshops
- Support Groups for Youth and Adults
- Adult and Youth Counseling

- Substance Abuse Workshops & Linkage to Services
- Legal Services
- Family Team Conferencing
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Health Assessment
- Respite Services
- Coordinated Child Care
- Follow-up
Inclusive Community Collaborative to Support Dynamic Needs

- Media outlets (public access TV, radio, newspapers),
- Local law enforcement agencies (sheriff’s office, child protective investigations units),
- Private businesses (movie theaters, credit union and beauty salons),
- Community health providers (hospitals, community health programs, substance abuse providers, county health departments) and
- Existing family support programs in the community (in the school system, criminal justice system, and area agencies on aging).
KINSHIP CARE

Centralized Intake
1-888-920-8761

Family Support Coordinators

Legal Assistance

Health & Wellness

Kinship Navigators

Support Groups
Creating the Evidence Base

- In October 2012, The Children’s Home, Inc. was awarded one of seven national awards for Kinship Navigation by the Children’s Bureau.
- Created opportunity for teams in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties to standardize services and to create comparison groups for the purpose of research.
- Dr. Kerry Littlewood with AAJ Research and Evaluation
- Builds on previous research conducted in Pinellas
Evaluation Approach

- Randomized Controlled Trial, utilizing available community resources
- Stratification by:
  - County
  - Relationship with Child Welfare System (Formal/Informal)
- Mixed methods
  - Outcome evaluation
  - Process evaluation
KIN-Tech Intake Call

What county are you calling from?

Pinellas

County

Hillsborough

KIN-Tech FORMAL/INFORMAL DECISION TREE

If No. Continue to Question 2.

1. Do you receive Relative Caregiver Program Benefits?
   - If Yes.
   - If I don’t know continue to Question 2.

2. How much financial assistance are you receiving per child?
   - Under $200
   - Over $200.

3. Does your child have an open or closed case with a child welfare agency
   - If No. Continue to Question 3.
   - If Yes.

STOP. Formal

STOP. INFormal

Pinellas Formal

RANDOMIZE

Child Welfare

Navigator

KSN Standard Care

FKC Needs Survey Informal

High need IDT

Low need Navigator

High need FC

Pinellas Informal

RANDOMIZE

Hillsborough Formal

RANDOMIZE

Child Welfare

Navigator

Kinship Standard Care

FKC Needs Survey Informal

High need IDT

Low need Navigator

High need FC

Hillsborough Informal
Data Collection

- Demographic data collected at the time of intake for all adult caregivers and for each relative child in the home
- Same intake process occurs regardless of condition to which family is assigned
- Incentives in the form of gift card offered for formal relative caregiver families referred back to local child welfare agency
- Follow-ups to occur at 3-6 months, and at 12 months
- Multiple standardized instruments used
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Data Collection Instruments (number of items)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Baseline              | Pinellas and Hillsborough | Intake Coordinator               | Demographic Form  
Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17)  
Protective Factors Survey (20)  
Family Needs Scale (41)  
Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12) |
|                       | Pinellas     | Navigator and Family Support Coordinator | MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (16) Academic  
MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (9) Physical health and development  
MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (40) Social Functioning  
Family Support Scale (18)  
General Health Questionnaire (12) |
|                       | Hillsborough | Navigator                          | MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (16) Academic  
MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (9) Physical health and development  
MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (40) Social Functioning  
Family Support Scale (18)  
General Health Questionnaire (12) |
|                       | Hillsborough | Family Support Coordinator         | General Health Questionnaire (12) |
| 3-6 Month Follow-up   | Pinellas     | Navigator and Family Support Coordinator | Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17)  
Family Needs Scale (41)  
Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12)  
Family Support Scale (18)  
General Health Questionnaire (12) |
|                       | Hillsborough | Navigator                          | Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17)  
Family Needs Scale (41)  
Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12)  
Family Support Scale (18)  
General Health Questionnaire (12) |
|                       | Hillsborough | Family Support Coordinator         | Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17)  
Family Needs Scale (41)  
Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12)  
General Health Questionnaire (12) |
| Twelve Month Follow Up| Pinellas and Hillsborough | TBA                               | Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) (17)  
Protective Factors Survey (20)  
Family Needs Scale (41)  
Florida Kinship Center Needs Survey (12)  
MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (16) Academic  
MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (9) Physical health and development  
MacArthur Health and Behavior Questionnaire, Parent Version (HBQ-P 1.0) (40) Social Functioning  
Family Support Scale (18)  
General Health Questionnaire (12) |

- The following data presents information collected and analyzed from the KIN Tech project from October 2012 through May 2015.
- Final Report findings will be available at program completion by December 2015.
Serving 1257 Kinship Caregivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Full KIN Tech Expanded Services Tx(^1)</th>
<th>Peer-to-Peer Nav Only Tx(^2)</th>
<th>Usual Care</th>
<th>Standard Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2012 to September 29, 2013 (1 year)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2013 to March 31, 2014</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2014 to September 29, 2014</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2014 to March 31, 2015</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2015 to September 29, 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (unduplicated)</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Important Demographics from Baseline

- Benefits received
- Why parents cannot provide care
- Family resource needs
- Sources and adequacy of family support
Reasons Mothers and Fathers Cannot Provide Care to Children

- Drugs and Alcohol
- CPS Placed by CW
- No CPS Informal
- Incarcerated
- Deported
- Health Problems
- Mental Health Problems
- Financial Problems
- Housing Problems
- Deceased
- Unknown
- Domestic Violence

Reasons parents can't provide care
Family Needs

- Financial Assistance
- Child Care Assistance
- Medical Care for Your Children
- Medical Care for Yourself
- Counseling/Mental Health for Your Children
- Counseling/Mental Health for Yourself
- Food Assistance
- Education for Your Children
- Support Groups
- Programs and Services
- Legal Services
- Housing Assistance

Mean (larger indicates greater need)

Family Need Items
Family Support Scale Mean

- Your parents
- Your spouse or partner's parents
- Your spouse or partner's relatives/kin
- Your spouse or partner
- Your friends
- Your own children
- Other parents
- Your co-workers
- Parent groups
- Church members or minister
- Your family or child's physician
- School or day care centers
- Professional helpers
- Professional agencies

Mean
Fidelity Service Tracker

- Random sample of 32,000 hours of service delivery.
- It was important for us to know specific information about the services we were providing:
  - What did service provision include?
  - Who was providing which services?
  - How much time was spent on direct services (with families) and indirect services (with paperwork)?
Peer-to-peer navigators require a lot of time for supervision, approximately 10 times the amount of a professional family support coordinator who has a BSW/MSW.

This is an important finding, especially considering the replication of kinship navigator with peers.

Peer navigators had a narrower scope of activities they were completing for the family (n=10 tasks), compared to professional family support coordinators (n=20 tasks). This could mean that kinship navigators concentrated on tasks they were comfortable with or they did not have an extensive repertoire of skills as the professional family support coordinators. This finding will be further investigated for the final report.
Percentage of Children Entering the Child Welfare System During and After Program

- KIN Tech
- Kinship Navigator Only
- Standard Care
- Usual Care

2014 vs 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KIN Tech</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinship Navigator Only</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usual Care</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 1

How Does the Cost of Raising Children Compare to Available Government Support?

Kinship caregivers, whether they obtain assistance from foster care or TANF, receive much less financial support than what the USDA estimates it costs to raise a child. Caregivers receive considerably greater assistance from foster care than from TANF, especially when they care for more than one child, because TANF assistance only increases incrementally.

**MONTHLY COST OF RAISING TWO CHILDREN**
- Foster Care Benefits: $1,980
- TANF Benefits: $344

**MONTHLY COST OF RAISING ONE CHILD**
- Foster Care Benefits: $990
- TANF Benefits: $249

52% of the estimated cost to raise one child
52% of the estimated cost to raise two children

25% of the estimated cost to raise one child
17% of the estimated cost to raise two children

**SOURCES**
TANF

Less than 12 percent of kinship families receive TANF support, even though nearly 100 percent of the children in these families are eligible.

SNAP

Less than half of low-income kinship care households receive assistance from SNAP, despite the fact that most report food insecurity.

MEDICAID

Less than half of eligible children in kinship care receive Medicaid coverage.

CHILD CARE

Only 17 percent of low-income working kinship caregivers receive child care assistance.

HOUSING

Only 15 percent of low-income kinship caregivers receive housing assistance.

TANF Application and Enrollment Rates During Program

- Usual Care: TANF Application Rate - 10%, TANF ENROLLMENT - 5%
- Standard Care: TANF Application Rate - 50%, TANF ENROLLMENT - 40%
- Nav ONLY: TANF Application Rate - 70%, TANF ENROLLMENT - 80%
- KIN Tech Full: TANF Application Rate - 20%, TANF ENROLLMENT - 15%
KIN Tech Costs

- KIN Tech Full-Tech Expanded Services and Peer to Peer Only are funded by the Children’s Bureau, Juvenile Welfare Board, United Way, Eckerd Youth and Family Alternatives.

- Full KIN-Tech Expanded Services are located in Pinellas County and serves formal and informal families. Services include Peer-to-Peer Navigation, One-e-app, Interdisciplinary Team. Peer-to-Peer Navigation Only Services Hillsborough County include formal and informal families.

- COST: $533 annual per child
Kinship Services Network Cost

- Standard Care is funded by the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas and Children’s Board of Hillsborough County.
- Services include case management and family support program for informal kinship families in Pinellas County and Hillsborough Counties.
- **COST: $648 annual per child cost**
## Detail of Cost Breakdown

### Table 23: Cost of Kin Tech and Standard Care Services from 9/30/2013 through 3/31/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kin Tech</th>
<th>Standard Care Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Staff Compensation (Salary plus benefits)</td>
<td>$396,120 (75%)</td>
<td>$778,716 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Direct Costs¹</td>
<td>$64,462 (12%)</td>
<td>$345,425 (27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>$67,848 (13%)</td>
<td>$154,348 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Expenditures</td>
<td>$528,430</td>
<td>$1,278,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of children served²</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>1313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated cost per child (18-months)</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual cost per child</td>
<td>$533</td>
<td>$648</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Other Program Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinship Services Network of Pinellas</th>
<th>Adjudicated Dependent</th>
<th>Foster Care</th>
<th>Residential Group Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of care</td>
<td>$1,777</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
<td>$11,420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Innovative Research
Caregivers report that the average sleep time of children is $9.6 \pm 1.6$ hours.

Caregivers report that their own average sleep time is $5 \pm 1.5$ hours.

66% report that their child is restless and moves a lot during sleep.

29% of caregivers take sleep aids.

64% of the children are taking medication(s) that caregivers are concerned could be impacting their sleep.
Sleep for Caregivers and Children

- 328 subjects (82 in each group), the mean age of the children was 46 months (47% boys).

  **CAREGIVERS**
  - 44% of caregivers reported that their sleep was troubled.
  - 42% indicated that caregiving for children impacts their sleep.
  - 75% of caregivers are short sleepers (< 6 hours).
  - 23% diagnosed with sleep apnea by a physician
  - 30% have reported that they have fallen asleep out of bed, not on purpose during the week.

  **CHILDREN**
  - The effects of the child waking up more than once per night on caregivers’ perception of how caregiving impacts their sleep \[F(4,42) = 2.74\], whether the child sleeps about the same amount each day \[F(4,42) = 3.25\], and caregiver diagnosis of sleep apnea \[F(4,42) = 6.49\], all \( p < 0.05 \).
To Access Services

- Kinship Intake Coordinator available for Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Orange Counties
- Self-referrals and agency referrals allowed
- Referrals can be taken by phone

1-888-920-8761
For Further Information

Contact Larry Cooper
Director of Kinship Services
The Children’s Home, Inc.
lcooper@childrenshome.org
813-901-3423

Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau Grant # HHS-2012-ACF-ACYF-CF-0510. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders. This information is public domain. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the Children’s Bureau and The Children’s Home Inc.