OCFS Data Webinar
June 17, 2020
Presenters: Dr. Rebecca Colman; Naomi Schultz, Dr. Vajeera Dorabawila

Kinship Foster Care in NYS: Performance Updates

For technical support, please call 1-800-810-1349.
Housekeeping

- Session to be recorded and posted
- Use chat function to submit questions/comments
Agenda

• Welcome
• Kinship Care 101
• NYS Performance Monitoring & Historical Trends
• Data resources to support local goal setting/monitoring
Kinship Care 101

• Generally refers to the full-time care of children by grandparents, aunts/uncles, or other blood relatives, as well as others with a family like relationship to child (e.g., god parents, close family friends)

• Arrangement may or may not involve foster care case

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway
Kinship Care 101

• “Preferred resource” for children in foster care:
  • Maintains family and community connections
  • Reduces trauma
  • Children in kinship foster care have fewer behavioral and mental health problems than children in non-kinship foster care settings
  • Increased placement stability
  • Reduce re-entry

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway
Kinship Care 101

NYS encourages kinship care through both policy and practice:

- Policy directives
- Publications for kin caretakers (18-OCFS-ADM-23)
  - *Know your Options: Kin Caregiving for Children*
  - *Making an informed Choice: Kin Caregiving for Children*
  - *Know Your Resources: Non-Parent Caregiver Benefits*
- Release of the Emergency Approval Process (20-OCFS-ADM-08)

https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external
Kinship Care 101

- LDSSs and VAs expected to:
  - incorporate kinship focus into Administrative Review Teams and Recruitment and Retention plans
  - develop and update kinship policies to reflect
    - expanded definition of kin
    - protocol for requesting non-safety waivers
Non-Safety Waivers

• A waiver is an exemption to any non-safety, non-statutory, regulatory requirement for approving a foster home. Must be:
  ➢ necessary to board a foster child;
  ➢ in the best interests of the child; and
  ➢ consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the child

(18 NYCRR 443.3(b)(16))

• Emergency approval ADM (20-OCFS-ADM-08) provides full process to request waiver - process will vary
In New York State, a kinship caregiver can become a foster parent through multiple regulatory doorways.

Approved Relative Home
- Related children only
- Eligible for non-safety waivers

Certified Foster Boarding Home
- Related or unrelated children
- NOT eligible for non-safety waivers
Kinship Care 101

Whether a kinship caregiver operates under approved relative or certified foster home designation has historically depended on:

• county practice/policy

• the regulatory definition of “relative” in effect at the time the home was opened
Prior to 2018, NYS defined relative as someone related to the foster child by blood, marriage or adoption within the 3rd degree. Only individuals meeting this definition were eligible to:

- operate an approved relative home
- participate in KinGAP
Kinship Care 101

• In 2018, in an effort to expand permanency options, NYS broadened the list of foster parents eligible to receive KinGAP to include:

  • *adults related to the parent(s) or stepparent(s) of a child through blood, marriage or adoption to any degree of kinship;*
  
  • *adults with a positive relationship to the child or child’s family including but not limited to godparents, neighbors, family friends;*
  
  • *unrelated persons where placement with such person allows half-siblings to remain together and the parents or stepparents of one of the half-siblings is a relative of such person.*
Kinship Care 101

• KinGAP expansion did not change foster home regulations
  • New types of kin caregivers could only operate as certified foster homes, so…
Kinship Care 101

• In 2020, NYS regulations for designating an approved relative foster home were brought into alignment with the expanded definition of kinship used in KinGAP, making it possible for more types of kinship caregivers to enter through the approved relative home door and access non-safety waivers
NYS Performance Monitoring
NYS ability to accurately capture and report kinship foster care has evolved over time....
Approved Relative Homes

• NYS has historically relied on counts of children living in approved relative homes to estimate kinship foster care, but…

• This underestimates kinship
  • children placed with relatives in a home opened as a certified foster boarding home are not included
  • Extended “kinship” categories added by KinGAP expansion in 2018 not eligible for approved relative home status until 2020
Certified Foster Boarding Homes

- May or may not be caring for a related child
- Must assess relationship between each child and foster parent to determine kinship
- Workers must use relative flag in CONNX to capture
  - Added in 2015; expanded in 2018
- Challenge- indicator not moved into OCFS data warehouse until 2020
Good News!

• Integration of CONNX fields into data warehouse now allows us to capture the full spectrum of kinship care in pre-defined reports

• Can calculate going back to 2015

• New “kinship care” metric combines approved relative homes and FBH with relative flag to identify children living with all types of kin
## Definition of Kinship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Key Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Relative flag added to CONNX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>CONNX relationship options expanded to mirror KinGAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Relationship flags moved to DW. <strong>NEW</strong> “kinship foster home” metric released</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Regulations for approved relative home
- Limit qualifying relationship to: 3rd degree by blood, marriage or adoption

### KinGAP eligibility
- Expanded to include any degree by blood, marriage, adoption, prior positive, or half sibling

### Kinship measures
- Limited to approved relative homes

### KinGAP eligibility
- Eligibility expanded to include any degree by blood, marriage, adoption, prior positive, or half sibling

### Regulations for approved relative homes
- Expand to include KinGAP categories

### Relationship flag
- Improves ability to identify children living with kin in certified homes, but flag is not moved to OCFS Data Warehouse, leaving predefined reporting limited to approved relative homes
How does the new metric enhance our understanding of kinship foster care utilization and trends in NYS?
In 2018, available data suggested that NYS had a lower percentage of children living with kin than the national average— with 24.5% of NYS children in foster care living in approved relative homes.

NYS set a statewide goal of increasing kinship foster care to 30% by October 2021.
Using our new kinship foster home metric to count all children living with kin changes this picture....
Adding children living with relatives in certified foster homes has minimal impact until 2018 (KinGAP expansion). On 12/31/18, NYS was above national estimate when all kinship settings are counted!
New York State has already exceeded its goal of having 30% of children in foster care living with kin by 2021!
We can do even better-- striving for 50% statewide by 2021.

What is your local goal?
How has kinship practice changed by region over time?
In NYC, use of kinship foster homes has increased 16% in past 5 years. Most kinship caregivers enter through approved relative home door.
In ROS, use of kinship foster homes has increased 25.5% in past 5 years. Certified foster boarding homes/extended kin account for almost half of all kinship placements.
Resources for monitoring local performance
Resources

- **Website**: Updated FFPSA Data Resources page
  
  
  - Quarterly statewide reports
  - Videos

- **Data Warehouse**
  
  - Same reports on demand, monthly, by county/agency
New Family First Reports

- Children in Care by Facility Type
- Family First Prevention Services: Outcome Monitoring Report
- Statewide Children in Care by Agency: Facility Setting and Home County
  - County by Agency
  - Agency by County
### Web Page additions

**Children in Care and Custody (All Statuses) by Setting Type**

This report provides a point-in-time look at all children in care on a specific date, and can be used to understand the demographics and histories of children in care on any given day. The report is broken out by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Children in Care by Facility Type - EDSS: Statewide as of Mar 31, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Type</th>
<th>Certified Foster Boarding Home</th>
<th>Kinship Foster Home</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Group Home</th>
<th>Group Residence</th>
<th>Agency Operating Boarding Home</th>
<th>Supervised Independent Living</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Trial Discharge</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Children in Current Facility</strong></td>
<td>6,957</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>6,506</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home Type</strong></td>
<td>Certified Foster Boarding Home</td>
<td>6,957</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2,012</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>4,494</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kinship homes by home type</strong></td>
<td>Kinship Foster Home</td>
<td>6,506</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>4,494</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of demographics, case type, goal and length of stay for each setting type.
Web Page additions

Strategic Planning and Policy Development

FFPSA Outcome Monitoring Report

CCFS provides quarterly updates on the percentage of children living in foster boarding homes, approved relative homes, institution/group care, SILP, other settings, and those in trial discharge. This data will help with monitoring your FFPSA congregate care and kin care goals.

Breakouts for both Certified Foster Boarding & Kinship Foster Homes
Web Page additions

Number of Children in Care and Custody by Agency and County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Number of Children in Care and Custody by County and Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Statewide Children In Care by Agency: Facility Settings and Home County
as of date Mar 31, 2019
for the Child Status In 24 Hour Care, Absent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Certified Foster Boarding Home¹</th>
<th>Kinship Foster Home²</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Group Home</th>
<th>Group Residence</th>
<th>Agency Operating Boarding Home</th>
<th>Supervised Independent</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counts available by agency and county; settings
Data Warehouse

Data Warehouse Videos

Video 1: New FFPSA Reports - This video takes you through the new FFPSA reports available in the Data Warehouse. The video goes through how to access the reports, how to run the reports, and how the reports can be interpreted.

Video 2: Kinship Care and Outcome Monitoring Reports - This video provides details on kinship care and outcome monitoring reports. It is recommended that you watch Video 1 first.

Where to find in Data Warehouse? LDSS folder:

- Children in Care by Facility Type - LDSS
  3/16/2020 11:48 AM

- Family First Prevention Services Act: Outcome Monitoring
  2/26/2020 9:16 AM

- Statewide Children In Care by Agency: Facility Settings and Home County - County by Agency
  2/26/2020 9:24 AM
Where to find in Data Warehouse?

VA folder:

Statewide Children In Care by Agency: Facility Settings and Home County - Agency by County
3/16/2020 10:45 AM
Questions on the Data Warehouse

• Email: data.warehouse@ocfs.ny.gov
Questions?