

5th Annual Utah Indian Child Welfare Conference: Healing Trauma Through Kinship Connections August 31, 2017 Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel.



Our Legacy, Our Community, Our Kin! "Nothing About Us, Without Us"



"The surest way to end fear and ignorance is being in community with other people and learning how similar we all are in our hopes, dreams, disappointments, and challenges."

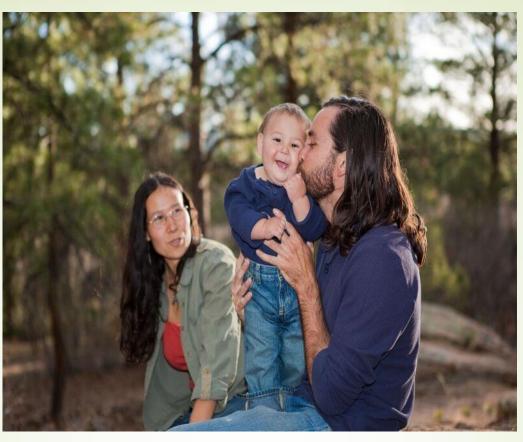
Dr. Patrick McCarthy, AECF

Better a diamond with a flaw, than a pebble without!

Confucius



Shifting our Child Welfare Operating Paradigm



"We must shift from the idea of protecting children from their families and placing them in foster care ---to strengthening families to care for their own children through family support and kinship connections."



- Not enough Foster Care Homes, GA, CA, OR, TX,
- Oregon- Sets up DCFS to house children in their offices
- Texas- Children sleeping in the department offices
- MN- Is foster care protecting children
- TX- Safety concerns arise as more children sleep in state offices
- KS- Foster care numbers n the rise in Lyons County

Every Day In America...

4 children die from maltreatment

1,903 children are confirmed victims of abuse and neglect

402 children are removed from their homes and placed in Foster Care

12,060 per month

144,720 annually Source: CDF

TTTTT

Why are most children in foster care?

Abuse? or Neglect?



In America, we spend more money to remove kids from their families, than we do to prevent the need for removal in the first place.

For every **\$5 spent** for removal, there is **\$1 spent to prevent placement**.

Source: CDF





How you **see me**....*will determine* how you **treat me**!







Family has always been there for kin, since the beginning of time.

Do you value Family?

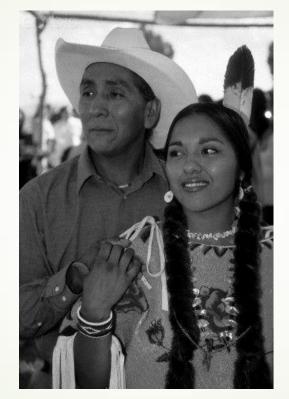
Kinship Care is not a program, it's a natural family response and a moral imperative for systems!

Kinship



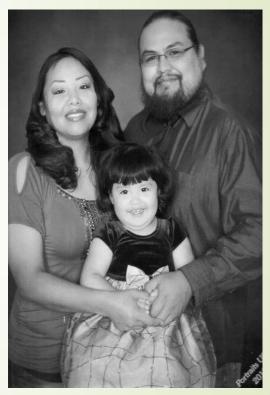
Care

÷



Works

=



A TALE of TWO SYSTEMS



Foster families see this...

Offered Appropriate and a Variety of Supports –
 Legal Guidance Attention to Need Straight-forward Licensing - Relevant Training Welcome and Acceptance into the System...

WIT

Kinship families see this...

 Inappropriate and Lack of a Variety of Supports – Little Legal Guidance – Needs Ignored –
 Irrelevant Training - Difficult & Confrontational Licensing
 Inexperienced and Non-diverse staff for Families of Color
 Not Welcomed into System - Viewed as Part of "The Problem"

Over 20,000 children

Public-Private Partnership

Children – Families - Communities

TRIAD-based Services and Interventions



- Teen and Adolescent
 Support Group (TAGS)
- A Dance for Life
- Camp COPES
- Crossover Youth
 support Groups
- Summer Youth
 Employment
- In Real Life (IRL) Life Skills for Teens
 - ¢ollege Prep

 \frown

Caregiver

- Certification Kinship Care
 Licensing
- Kin as Parents
- Grandparents Support
 Group
- Respite Care
- Child Care
- Grandma's Hands
- Young Men of Promise
- Fathers Mentoring Fathers
- Legal Assistance

Birth Family

- FACT (Family and Children Together –Reunification Group)
- Birth Parents
 Support Group
- Fathers Mentoring Fathers
- And ALL
 Community
 Support Groups
 offered

Support Offered to Every Part of the TRIAD

TRANSPORTATION

CLOTHING AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT

STRENGTH-BASED ASSESSMENT

MENTAL WELLNESS SERVICES

Data speaks louder than words...

We meet families where they are.

in the Public-Private Partnership Since our inception:

-7

We have raised the practice of Kinship Care in Allegheny County from **10%** to **62%** (with a goal of 70%)

Before the implementation of IOC in Philadelphia, we had taken kinship care from **5% to 22%** (with a goal of 55%)

County currently at 47%

County

at 50%

currently

We have saved Pittsburgh DHS over \$65 million.

Each day ASCI serves 1,650 children between both offices.

Length of stay for children discharged to reunification

7.6 Months

National Average

6.23 Months

ASCI Average

Length of stay for children discharged to adoption

29.4 months

National Average



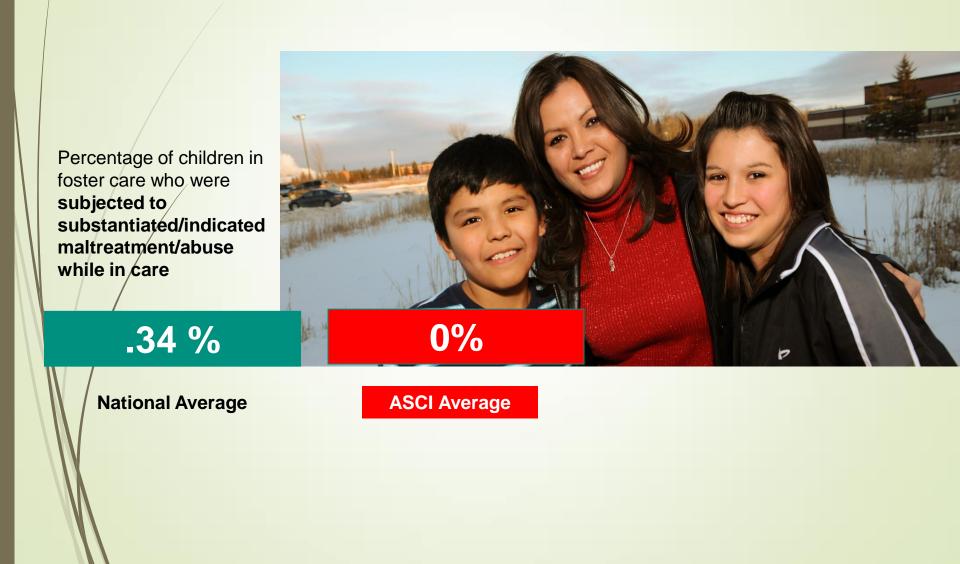
Period of time for SPLC

24 months

Legal Requirement

17 .97 months

ASCI Average



Percentage of foster youth who complete high school

50%

National Average





Percentage of female pregnancy rates for foster youth

33%

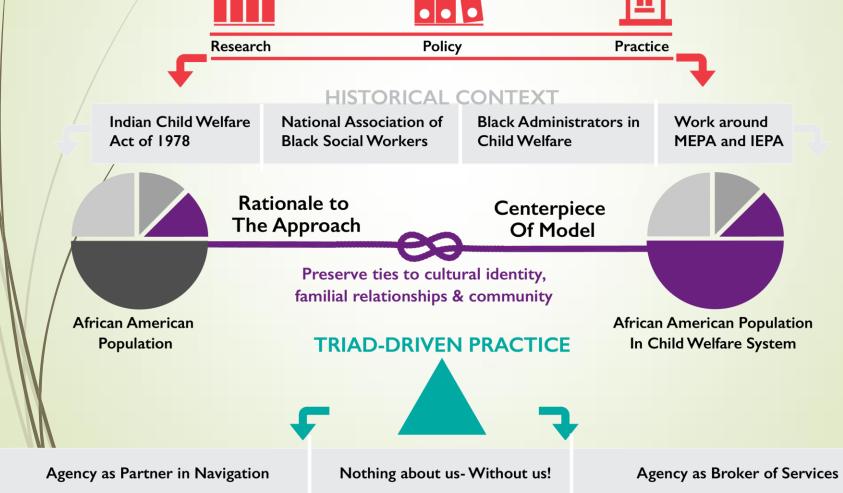
National Average





Kinship Care is our purpose!

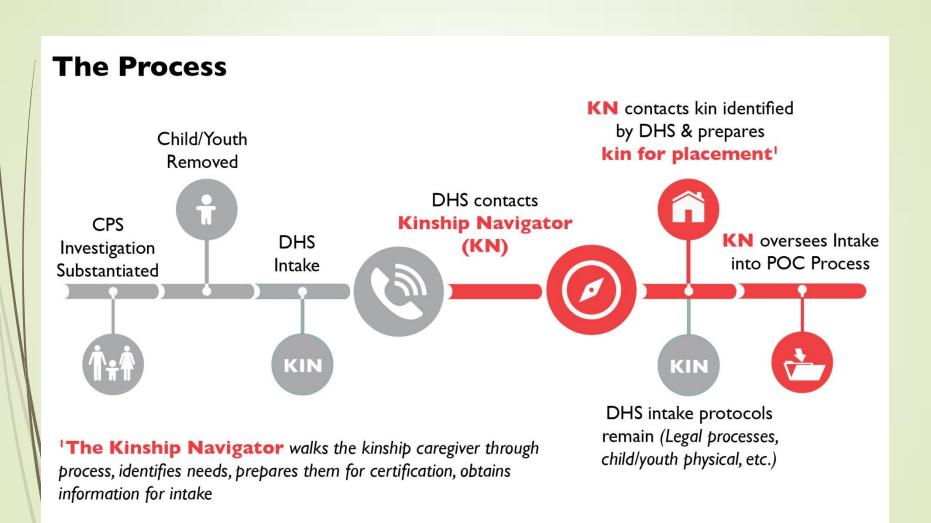






The Kinship Navigator Program





Placement Scenarios

At outset, all identified kin caregivers will be explored so that every opportunity for the child to be placed with kin is exhausted.

Successful placement; case continues to POC Case Management

Kin placement is not feasible at present

In the event that a child cannot be placed with kin, ASCI will place the child in **Family-based Respite**. ASCI continues to explore relatives throughout the 30-days. As soon as a relative is found and approved, the information is given to the CYF caseworker for placement.

If no viable kin placement identified after 30-days; DHS determines placement: A. Child/Youth remains in current Family-based Respite Home B. Alternative placement determined

²**The Family-base Respite Home** is an ASCI identified home where the caregiver was a former kinship caregiver and understands the importance and value of family.

Child & Family Services CORE PRACTICE MODEL



CULTURAL RELEVANCY

- Celebrate the uniqueness of all families and their rituals, practices, and beliefs.
- Policies, Practices, and Services, are written and delivered in cultural relevant, humility, and inclusive context.
- Staff engage the Triad from culturally relevant, humility, and competence mindset.

- Services are developed in partnership with the Triad.
- Services are implemented with Triad involvement and support. We see the Triad as our expert consultants when ASCI is engaged in new initiatives or systems mandates.
- All members of the Triad are important to the success of our partnership and the positive outcomes that we seek to achieve.

VALUE FOR KINSHIP

- Every child has a right to grow up in their own family.
- We meet families where they are and seek agreement with how to move forward.
- We celebrate family diversity and take an individualized approach with all families.
- We treat all families (Triad members) with the dignity, respect, love, and conviction that they deserve.



Partnerships with Regional Offices





Partnerships in the Regional Offices: A balanced **relationship** increases the level of **impact** for kinship families!

An important point to end on... We meet families where <u>they</u> are.





Thank you...

Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel sharonm@asecondchance-kinship.com On My Way Home

Sharon L. McDaniel