



NYS KinCare Summit 2014 Recommendations

*Kinship Care (KinCare) refers to the over 150,000 children raised by grandparents and relatives in New York State. The Summit was sponsored by the NYS Kinship Navigator with funding provided by federal Children's Bureau demonstration project grant #90CF0044/0. The NYS Kinship Navigator is a program of Catholic Family Center of Rochester and is also funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The views expressed are solely the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of its funders. As stated at the Summit, State or local government participation in the day's events does not necessarily indicate their endorsement of the recommendations.

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NEW YORK STATE
Kinship
NAVIGATOR

Information, Referral and Advocacy for Kinship Caregivers

NYS KinCare Summit 2014 Recommendations

PART ONE

Addressing the Special Systems Challenges Facing
Children, Grandparents, and Other Relatives in
Kinship Care*

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CHALLENGES FACING KINSHIP FAMILIES

- Why would grandparents and other relatives who have personal experience in child rearing, along with policy makers in NYS, identify “Parenting education for caregivers” as critical for the safety and well-being of children?
- How come grandparents and other relatives who have personal experience advocating for educational, mental health, or social services insist that a “Designated Kinship Specialist” is still necessary to access services for children?
- What local strategies are available or can be improved to assist children and youth traumatized by the loss of their biological family and in need of immediate care?
- What critical role can state government play in coordinating services that reduces local costs while assisting youth cared for by their grandparents or other relatives to thrive in their household?

These questions, among a host of others impacting New York kinship families, were answered incisively on October 22, 2013 at the fourth semi-annual New York State KinCare Summit held in Albany.

The Summit was designed to improve services for children being raised by grandparents and other relatives (kinship care) currently residing in each of New York’s 62 counties. The event was created through the leadership and support of the NYS Kinship Navigator program with assistance from AARP NY, the NYS KinCare Coalition and the NYS Council on Children and Families. The Summit sought to craft a plan for improving state and local coordination so that the multiple needs of children and their caregivers could be more effectively addressed while reducing costs within the state.

The Summit is far and away the leading gathering of its kind in the state and one of the largest in the nation. An estimated 150 Summit participants consisting of policy makers, agency leadership, legal staff, service providers, caregivers and youth attended.

Speakers with expertise in serving children raised by grandparents and other relatives provided a strong foundation for a series of planning exercises held in the afternoon. These “breakout sessions” enabled attendees to discuss pre-Summit policy and program suggestions, add new recommendations, and identify priorities for NYS kinship family services. The four breakout session topics included:

- A. State and Local Coordination and Community Supports
- B. Local Departments of Social Services Coordination and Collaboration in Services
- C. Specialized Kinship Services and Programs
- D. Legal Assistance to Kinship Families

KINCARE SUMMIT BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

Kinship Summit breakout discussions resulted in additional critical recommendations addressing “systems” challenges facing children, grandparents and other relatives in Kinship Care. Summit participants agreed that the role of kinship families in contributing to the well-being of children should receive greater public recognition. In turn, this increased recognition should be reflected with increased agency focus on support for kinship families. The overarching recommendations and the individual agency/legislative recommendations mirrored this fundamental idea.

Based on the experiences and expertise of Summit participants, the most common and often frustrating challenge for kinship families is “access to services”. This includes temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) non-parent grants, child welfare services, elderly services, mental health services, and others. Participants saw this challenge as presenting a need for dedicated kinship advocates. Summit participants acknowledged that the Kinship Navigator and local kinship services effectively advocate for services, but these organizations are generally under-resourced within select NY counties. Additionally, many service agencies that engage with kinship caregivers do not set aside resources specifically targeting them. Summit recommendations prioritized various actions, including increased funding for kinship services, designated kinship specialists among current personnel, agency staff training (within the social service, mental health, education and aging communities), state and local planning targeting kinship families, and policy decisions that would provide cross-systems solutions.

Kinship caregivers and other participants acknowledged other access-related concerns. Particularly disconcerting are the special challenges faced by older caregivers in raising children in an age of social media, rampant peer pressure, and unique educational demands. As a result, they sought additional resources for education opportunities to increase their parenting skills. Caregivers noted that many parenting courses have relevance for kin but are not accessible to them. Unlike foster care, there is no state funding specifically for kinship parenting education despite the large numbers of families in need of this service.

Underscoring the importance of services to kinship children is the fact that the vast majority of them have experienced trauma/loss and also may have significant disabilities. Summit participants indicated a need for specialized programming addressing these needs. This was viewed as another instance of under-resourced programming that warrants greater local collaboration along with a stronger focus among health and mental health agencies.

Summit recommendations offered solutions to other under-resourced service arrays that significantly impact kinship families. It was suggested that there should be a greater state agency focus on kinship care, including planning and policy decisions by inter-agency and agency-specific committees and programs. Agency collection of data that documents engagement with kinship families was seen as in need of improvement. In addition, it was recommended that more legal

assistance was needed to indigent kinship families facing challenges accessing the "necessities of life" and family stability.

Lastly, Summit participants had difficulty understanding why cost savings through kinship care has not positively influenced policy support for kinship services. "Informal" kinship care provides assistance for vulnerable children at a fraction of the cost of formal foster care. According to an analysis by the Kinship Navigator, foster care annual costs range from a low of \$22,000 to over \$56,000 per child, while the Kinship Navigator costs are under \$50 and local kinship direct services are under \$500.

KINCARE SUMMIT NEXT STEPS

The Summit, as well as actions taken in the planning of that event, successfully resulted in a series of recommendations addressing the special systems challenges facing children, grandparents, and other relatives in kinship care. The "2014 Overarching Recommendations" are expected to form a framework for shaping the kinship agenda for New York moving forward. In addition, recommendations related to specific agencies, organizations or the legislature were also creatively identified by Summit participants.

Next steps will rely on these "Specific Recommendations" in combination with the "2014 Overarching Recommendations" to follow-up with key state and local kinship stakeholders. It is expected that these discussions will stimulate policy reviews and lead to low-cost interventions that can strengthen kinship family stability and promote the well-being of children in these families so they may thrive in their new household.

NOTES:

OVERARCHING AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND THE LEGISLATURE ARE ATTACHED IN PART TWO.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE 2014 SUMMIT EVENT INCLUDING BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS, VOTING ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF KINSHIP PUBLICATIONS, AS WELL AS THE 2005, 2008 AND 2011 KINCARE SUMMIT REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE VIA :

<http://www.nysnavigator.org/pg/professionals/pubsforpros.php>.

INTRODUCTION TO KINSHIP CARE

Hidden in plain sight for decades, kinship families are the largest child welfare system in America. According to a recent Annie E. Casey Foundation publication, "Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families," nationally approximately 2.7 million children are cared for by relatives and family friends, with some of the highest numbers of these young people (153,000) residing in New York. These families are disproportionately poor and people of color. According to the report, based upon Census data, nationally 38% of kinship families are at the poverty level, and 63% are within 200% of poverty. Annie E. Casey also reports that one in five black children, and one in eleven of all children, will live with "kin" during their childhood.

It is estimated that in New York State, approximately 6,000 children are placed with grandparents or other relatives in the foster care system. However, a far greater number of children (at least 147,000) reside with relatives and family friends in informal settings, outside of the child welfare system.

Grandparents and other kin care for children when parents are unable or unwilling to do so, often for the same reasons that children enter foster care. Once they become caregivers, their questions begin: daycare, medical care, early intervention, family court, financial help, parenting skills, to work or stay home, and countless other dilemmas too numerous to name. As a result, kinship families face a series of complex challenges in navigating legal, social services, mental health, justice and other systems. Even for caregivers with agency experience or higher education degrees, assistance is often sought for a local representative to help address the "cross-systems" issues these new families face.

Kinship families have long labored far from the spotlight, while protecting children at risk, healing children with trauma, and persisting through a thicket of legal, social, and family obstacles. Caregivers and advocates have called for action to support these families. New York has responded with assistance and services, despite state fiscal restraints. However, the recognition that all types of kinship families are an integral part of the State's child welfare system hasn't completely happened, and policies supportive of informal kinship families are often difficult to find within the plans of many State agencies.

There are very good reasons to support these families. They are the only large-scale resource for vulnerable children, they get better outcomes for young people, and they are less expensive than foster care. The reasons for their success are clear. Extended families are highly motivated to go the distance and address any challenges that arise over a long period of time. Most of kinship care is done by grandparents, and a grandparent's love is the cure for many ills.

Supporting our grandparents and other caregivers is not just good policy, it's part of our cultural and national traditions. George and Martha Washington raised two grandchildren, Eleanor Parke

Custis and George Washington Parke Custis. They were the first and only children to live in the presidential homes in New York and Philadelphia. Maya Angelou, Sandra Day O’Conner, as well as President Barack Obama and numerous others throughout history spent time in the care of his grandparents. It’s finally time to recognize these families.

Recently, the federal Children's Bureau has increased its attention to the informal kinship community. Under the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, \$5 million was set aside for kinship navigator demonstration projects. A principal aim of these projects is to connect kinship families to services that increase family well-being, permanency, and safety. New York's Kinship Navigator is one of seven current grantees. The purposes of the federal grants fits well with New York's efforts to assist kinship families.

Bringing attention to the existence of this population and to its needs, and to the ongoing policy discussion on how to support them, is at the heart of the KinCare Summit. This paper contains the 2013 KinCare Summit overarching recommendations, a description of challenges facing kinship families, and an introduction to kinship care. Distributed separately are specific recommendations for individual agencies, organizations and the Legislature as well as a booklet entitled, "A Tradition in Search of a Champion" that narrates stories about kinship families and describes kinship services in New York State.



NEW YORK STATE
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Information, Referral and Advocacy for Kinship Caregivers

NYS KinCare Summit 2014 Recommendations

**Addressing the Special Systems Challenges Facing
Children, Grandparents, and Other Relatives in
Kinship Care***

**PART TWO:
SPECIFIC AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

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2014 OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Increased attention at the state level to the well-being of children raised by their grandparents or other relatives in kinship families, including:**
 - better service coordination and planning,
 - participation in expanding “systems of care” so that complex, multi-agency kinship issues can be addressed in all NYS counties.
2. **Increased attention to the well-being of children raised by their grandparents or other relatives in kinship families by local Departments of Social Services, including:**
 - facilitation of access to temporary assistance,
 - facilitation of access to kinship foster care and/or other custodial options,
 - collaboration with local kinship services,
 - dedicated, trained staff familiar with strengths and challenges of caregivers and children.
3. **Sustain and strengthen funding for dedicated kinship services, including support for:**
 - NYS Office of Children and Families kinship programs,
 - the NYS Kinship Navigator,
 - local area Offices on Aging kinship programs.
4. **Redirect state and local resources so that core services for kinship families are provided, including:**
 - parenting education,
 - support groups for caregivers and youth,
 - youth and caregiver advocacy,
 - engagement of youth.
5. **Increased attention to the legal assistance needs of children as well as the grandparents and other relatives caring for them in kinship families, including:**
 - petitioner eligibility for county-assigned counsel,
 - access to volunteer legal services and county pro bono community,
 - greater use of court-approved alternatives to legal representation.
6. **Strengthen state and local agency data collection to better understand the service needs of children as well as the grandparents and other relatives caring for them in kinship families, including:**
 - OCFS “certified” kinship foster parents and OCA kinship custody and guardianships.

2014 - Legislature

Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. **Expand and strengthen OCFS kinship programs and the Kinship Navigator to include outreach and targeted services in all NYS counties for kinship children and caregivers, including:**
 - collaborations with local departments of social services,
 - support for integration of services across systems,
 - strong client assessment tools,
 - data collection and evaluation for determining evidence-based/best practices
 - assistance in obtaining temporary assistance grants,
 - promote referrals to and from OCFS kinship programs.
2. **Enact amendments to Domestic Relations Law 72(2), to expand legal standing from grandparent caregivers to relative caregivers.**
3. **Enact amendments to Family Court Act 262, to assign counsel to indigent caregivers who are respondent guardians and to petitioner caregivers seeking custody or guardianship.**
4. **Proclaim September as Kinship Care Month.**
5. **Support funding for the Office of Court Administration projects that support family stability and "necessities of life" and support funding for area offices of aging legal assistance to kinship families.**
6. **Support engagement with various agencies and programs in achieving an integrated approach that connects county-wide systems of care with kinship children and families.**
7. **Support actions by public agencies (especially Aging, LDSS, Mental Health) to train staff on kinship care.**
8. **Support the Office of Children and Family Services and the Council on Children and Families' focus on the well-being of kinship children.**

2014 – Legal Assistance - Legislative and Office of Court Administration Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Include Article Six guardianship respondents in FCA 262, along with current Article Six custody respondents.
2. Include petitioning caregivers in FCA 262.
3. Expand Domestic Relations Law Section 72(2) to include relatives.
4. Collect OCA data on third party custody and guardianship proceedings.
5. Provide funding for dedicated legal assistance for kinship families at legal services organizations and establish a statewide, central legal (attorney) support program.
6. Train Family Court personnel, including judges, on kinship families.
7. Promote referrals to and from kinship services programs.
8. Establish local legal assistance family court clinics, using local bar pro bono efforts, volunteer legal services, and legal services organizations.
9. Continue to expand focus on "necessities of life" including family stability as part of the Office of Court Administration's Judiciary Civil Legal Services Oversight Board's annual grants.
10. Increase use of mediation through specifically trained CDRC mediators (CDRC refers to the OCA County Centers).
11. Train and certify attorneys as mediators, and assign cases through courts.
12. Support funding for area offices on aging legal services programs for kinship legal issues.
13. Support access to justice initiatives at law school clinics and encourage an increased focus on kinship families
14. Expand materials available on the NYS Court Help website.

2014 - Office of Children and Family Services Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Engage with the State's Council on Children and Families.
2. Engage with NYS Success in achieving an integrated approach that connects systems of care with kinship children and families.
3. Designate a personal kinship advocate within LDSS's.
4. Support collaboration with local departments of social services, including:
 - expanded training of LDSS staff and clear explanation to caregivers about kinship foster care,
 - in-person review of options for caregivers,
 - staff designated for "child only" cases,
 - consistent terminology/best practices for "alternative living arrangements",
 - development of peer advocates for caregivers, parents, youth,
 - increased awareness of the role of the caregiver in Child and Family Team meetings,
 - stronger financial equity between informal caregivers and foster care parents,
 - engagement with caregivers when children are temporarily placed,
 - engagement with youth when family comes to attention of LDSS/ACS,
 - in-person review of custody options for caregivers,
 - improved sensitivity to cultural competency and customer service through training.
5. Strengthen local planning and actions in serving kinship families.
6. Expand and strengthen OCFS kinship programs and Kinship Navigator for kinship children and caregivers to include outreach in more counties and targeted services, including:
 - use of evidence-based treatments to address trauma, mental health, and substance abuse,
 - support groups for caregivers as well as youth,
 - co-parenting support for caregivers and parents,
 - health and wellness education for youth,
 - assistance in obtaining temporary assistance grants.
7. Collect better data that documents kinship engagement with child welfare (especially "certified" kinship foster parents and use of "alternative living arrangements").

2014 – Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. **Support local department of social services (LDSS) kinship actions that:**
 - dedicate kinship workers at each LDSS for non-parent grants (e.g. Orange County has two dedicated examiners)
 - expand training of LDSS staff to include info about informal kinship families
 - expand training of LDSS staff in customer service skills and cultural competency
 - provide clear explanation to kinship caregivers about kinship foster care
 - promote referrals to and from kinship programs
 - continue to promote consistent terminology/best practices for NPC
 - increase access to temporary assistance.
2. **Revise MyBenefits.NY.gov to correctly identify eligibility for the non-parent grant.**
3. **Strengthen planning and actions by OTDA to increase access to temporary assistance grants.**
4. **Survey county departments of social services to identify compliance with Social Services Law 392.**
5. **Engage with NYS Success in achieving an integrated approach that connects systems of care with kinship children and families.**
6. **Engage state level inter-agency committees on better services for kinship families.**
7. **Engage with kinship service providers to strengthen collaborations and referrals with LDSS.**
8. **Revise OTDA website to better promote availability of the non-parent grant and kinship services.**

2014 – NYS Office for the Aging (SOFA) Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Increase collaboration with Kinship Navigator and with Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) local kinship programs.
2. Designate a personal kinship advocate at local Offices for the Aging.
3. Expand and strengthen local offices for the aging on kinship services for elderly caregivers to include outreach in more counties and targeted services, including:
 - parenting education for caregivers,
 - specialized programs for elderly caregivers,
 - support groups,
 - health and wellness education for caregivers,
 - support for local kinship services,
 - promote referrals from and to kinship services.
4. Support funding for local offices for the aging legal services programs.
5. Engage with NYS Success in achieving an integrated approach that connects systems of care with kinship children and families.
6. Engage with the Council on Children and Families and other inter-agency committees on kinship issues.

2014 – NYS Education Department (SED) Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Promote referrals of kinship families to and from local schools to kinship services and to the Kinship Navigator.
2. Promote referrals to and from Student Support Services and Kinship Navigator and agree for Student Support Services to advise on kinship educational issues.
3. Promote referrals to and from Special Education, including parent support centers, and Kinship Navigator.
4. Support education and training related to kinship families for school personnel.
5. Provide guidance by SED to local districts on kinship children school enrollment eligibility when caregivers do not have custody or guardianship orders.

2014 - Office of Mental Health Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Target mental health services for kinship children and caregivers.
2. Strengthen local planning and actions by offices of mental health by representing kinship families.
3. Designate a personal kinship advocate within county offices of mental health.
4. Engage with local offices of mental health to jointly connect “systems of care” with kinship children and families.
5. Engage with the state’s Council on Children and Families (including NYS Success) and other inter-agency working groups.
6. Support collaborations with OCFS kinship programs and NYS Kinship Navigator for children and caregivers, as well as SOFA kinship services for elderly caregivers to include outreach in more counties and targeted services for:
 - trauma-informed care,
 - support groups,
 - use of evidence-based treatments to address trauma, mental health, and substance abuse,
 - parenting education for caregivers,
 - mental health needs of caregivers/children,
 - leadership by caregivers,
 - assistance in obtaining temporary assistance grants.
7. Increase mental health related referrals to and from Kinship Services Programs.

2014 – NYS Department of Health Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Target local health departments, hospitals, and community partners to protect, improve and promote the health and well-being of youth, grandparents, and relatives who are part of kinship families.
2. Provide training to county health department staff on the health-related needs of kinship families, including trauma-related health and well-being needs.
3. Designate a personal kinship advocate within county health departments to assure kinship family access to essential health care services.
4. Support State and county health department collaborations with local kinship services and with the NYS Kinship Navigator to increase mutual referrals.
5. Work with the NYS Department of Health to take health care preventive steps with grandparent caregivers (e.g. stopping the annual increase of the rate of hospitalizations due to falls among residents ages 65 and over) as well as with children of kinship families (e.g. increasing use of comprehensive well-child care)
6. Engage with county health department staff participating in systems of care so that cross-systems health related issues of kinship children and families can be effectively addressed.
7. Engage with the Council on Children and Families and other inter-agency committees on kinship issues including those related to health, mental health and substance abuse.
8. Support inclusion of kinship families in planning for implementation of Medicaid Managed Care.

2014 – NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Target alcohol and substance abuse prevention/treatment services so they address the behavioral and physical health care needs of kinship children and caregivers.
2. Strengthen the local services planning processes of OASAS (as well as OMH and the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities) to ensure that local mental hygiene services represent kinship families.
3. Engage with local OASAS funded programs to jointly connect “systems of care” with kinship children and families so that complex, cross-systems issues can be more effectively addressed.
4. Engage with the state’s Council on Children and Families (including NYS Success) and other inter-agency working groups.
5. Increase referrals of local OASAS-funded prevention / treatment providers with OCFS kinship programs and NYS Kinship Navigator to strengthen services for children and caregivers, including:
 - use of evidence-based treatments to address trauma of losing biological family,
 - parenting education for caregivers,
 - addressing mental health and substance abuse needs of caregivers/children.

2014 – NYS Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Expand and strengthen Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) kinship programs and the Kinship Navigator in order to reach more kinship children and caregivers, as well as support State Office for the Aging local offices on providing kinship services for elderly caregivers for:
 - trauma-informed care,
 - support groups,
 - evidence based interventions,
 - parenting education for caregivers.
2. Support amending Domestic Relations Law Section 72(2) to include relatives in custody and guardianship proceedings.
3. Support amending Family Court Act Section 262 to include respondent guardians.
4. Proclaim September as Kinship Care Month.
5. Require better planning and action by state and local public agencies regarding kinship families; include kinship caregiver and youth representation in planning.
6. Support local department of social services (LDSS) kinship collaborations that:
 - dedicate kinship workers at each LDSS for non-parent grants,
 - expand training of LDSS staff to include info about informal kinship families,
 - expand training of LDSS staff in customer service skills and cultural competency,
 - provide clear explanation to kinship caregivers about kinship custodial options,
 - increase access to temporary assistance for the child.
7. Identify and implement strategies to provide dedicated legal assistance for kinship families.
8. Engage with NYS Success in achieving an integrated approach that connects systems of care with kinship children and families.
9. Promote engagement with the state’s Council on Children and Families.

2014 – Families Together in New York State Specific Recommendations - High Priorities

1. Engage Medicaid Managed Care in the inclusion of kinship families.
2. Engage Families Together in furthering support for kinship families and the Council on Children and Family Services.
3. Engage with NYS Success in achieving an integrated, coordinated approach that connects systems of care with kinship children and families.
4. Empower kinship families by designating a personal kinship advocate within local departments of social services (LDSS).
5. Support collaboration with LDSS, including:
 - expanded training of LDSS staff to improve sensitivity to cultural competency and customer service,
 - development of peer advocates for caregivers, parents, youth,
 - in-person review of custody options for caregivers including kinship foster care,
 - stronger financial equity between informal caregivers and foster care parents,
 - engagement with caregivers when children are temporarily placed,
 - engagement with youth when family comes to attention of LDSS/ACS.
6. Expand and strengthen OCFS kinship programs and Kinship Navigator for kinship children and caregivers to include outreach in more counties and targeted services, including:
 - use of evidence-based treatments to address social, emotional and behavioral challenges of kinship families
 - support groups for caregivers as well as youth,
 - co-parenting support for caregivers and parents,
 - health and wellness education for youth,
 - increased assistance in obtaining resources for children and families.
7. Establish local legal assistance for kinship families using local bar pro bono efforts, volunteer legal services, and legal services organizations.



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NYS KinCare Summit 2014 Recommendations

Addressing the Special Systems Challenges Facing Children, Grandparents, and Other Relatives in Kinship Care*

PART THREE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

*Kinship Care (KinCare) refers to the over 150,000 children raised by grandparents and relatives in New York State. The Summit was sponsored by the NYS Kinship Navigator with funding provided by federal Children's Bureau demonstration project grant #90CFO044/0. The NYS Kinship Navigator is a program of Catholic Family Center of Rochester and is also funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The views expressed are solely the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of its funders. As stated at the Summit, State or local government participation in the day's events does not necessarily indicate their endorsement of the recommendations.

Kinship DRL 72 Bill

S.2094--A\A.7189-A

AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law, in relation to the standing of certain relatives in custody and guardianship proceedings

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 72 of the domestic relations law, as added by chapter 657 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

2. (a) Where a grandparent or the grandparents of a minor child, residing within this state, OR RELATIVE WHO IS RELATED TO A PARENT WITHIN THE SECOND DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR THROUGH MARRIAGE OR ADOPTION, RESIDING IN THIS STATE can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court the existence of extraordinary circumstances, such grandparent , grandparents OR RELATIVE of such child may apply to the supreme court by commencing a special proceeding or for a writ of habeas corpus to have such child brought before such court, or may apply to family court pursuant to subdivision (b) of section six hundred fifty-one OR SECTION SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE of the family court act; and on the return thereof, the court, by order, after due notice to the parent or any other person or party having the care, custody, and control of such child, to be given in such manner as the court shall prescribe, may make such directions as the best interests of the child may require, for custody rights for such grandparent , grandparents OR RELATIVE in respect to such child. An extended disruption of custody, as such term is defined in this section, shall constitute an extraordinary circumstance.

(b) For the purposes of this section "extended disruption of custody" shall include, but not be limited to, a prolonged separation of the

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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S. 2094--A

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respondent parent and the child for at least twenty-four continuous months, during which TIME the parent voluntarily relinquished care and control of the child and the child resided in the household of the petitioner grandparent , grandparents OR RELATIVE, provided, however, that the court may find that extraordinary circumstances exist should the prolonged separation have lasted for less than twenty-four months AND PROVIDED THAT WHERE THE PARENT PROVES BY PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE THAT AN ACT OR ACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST THE PARENT CONTRIBUTED TO THE RELINQUISHMENT OF CARE AND CONTROL, THE COURT SHALL FIND NO EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST.

(c) Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of parties to enter into consensual custody agreements absent the existence of extraordinary circumstances.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Proposed Amendment Family Court Act 262

Family Court Act § 262. Assignment of counsel for indigent persons. (a) Each of the persons described below in this subdivision has the right to the assistance of counsel. When such person first appears in court, the judge shall advise such person before proceeding that he or she has the right to be represented by counsel of his or her own choosing, of the right to have an adjournment to confer with counsel, and of the right to have counsel assigned by the court in any case where he or she is financially unable to obtain the same:

(i) the respondent in any proceeding under article ten or ten-A of this act and the petitioner in any proceeding under part eight of article ten of this act;

(ii) the petitioner and the respondent in any proceeding under article eight of this act;

(iii) the respondent in any proceeding under part three **OR PART FOUR** of article six of this act;

(iv) the parent or person legally responsible, foster parent, or other person having physical or legal custody of the child in any proceeding under article ten or ten-A of this act or section three hundred fifty-eight-a, three hundred eighty-four or three hundred eighty-four-b

of the social services law, and a non-custodial parent or grandparent served with notice pursuant to paragraph (e) of subdivision two of section three hundred eighty-four-a of the social services law;

(v) the parent of any child seeking custody or contesting the substantial infringement of his or her right to custody of such child, in any proceeding before the court in which the court has jurisdiction to determine such custody;

(vi) any person in any proceeding before the court in which an order or other determination is being sought to hold such person in contempt of the court or in willful violation of a previous order of the court, except for a contempt which may be punished summarily under section seven hundred fifty-five of the judiciary law;

(vii) the parent of a child in any adoption proceeding who opposes the adoption of such child.

(viii) the respondent in any proceeding under article five of this act in relation to the establishment of paternity.

(ix) in a proceeding under article ten-C of this act:

(1) a parent or caretaker as such terms are defined in section one thousand ninety-two of this act;

(2) an interested adult as such term is defined in section one thousand ninety-two of this act provided that:

(A) the child alleged to be destitute in the proceeding held pursuant to article ten-C of this act was removed from the care of such interested adult;

(B) the child alleged to be destitute in the proceeding held pursuant to article ten-C of this act resides with the interested adult; or

(C) the child alleged to be destitute in the proceeding held pursuant to article ten-C of this act resided with such interested adult immediately prior to the filing of the petition under article ten-C of this act;

(3) any interested adult as such term is defined in section one thousand ninety-two of this act or any person made a party to the article ten-C proceeding pursuant to subdivision (c) of section one thousand ninety-four of this act for whom the court orders counsel appointed pursuant to subdivision (d) of section one thousand ninety-four of this act.

(b) Assignment of counsel in other cases. In addition to the cases listed in subdivision (a) of this section, a judge may assign counsel to represent any adult in a proceeding under this act if he determines that such assignment of counsel is mandated by the constitution of the state of New York or of the United States, and includes such determination in the order assigning counsel;

(c) Implementation. Any order for the assignment of counsel issued under this part shall be implemented as provided in article eighteen-B of the county law.

2014 – Legislative

Specific Recommendations - Proclaim September As Kinship Care Month

Proclamation for Kinship Care Month September, 2014

Whereas, this year during the month of September, Kinship Care Month is observed, as New Yorkers are proud to recognize children and the grandparents and other relatives who raise them in kinship care who ensure their safety, promote their well-being and establish a stable household for these young people to thrive, and

Whereas, nationally 2.7 million children are living with grandparents and other relatives in kinship care of which over 150,000 of these young people reside in New York, and

Whereas, New Yorkers join to honor famous kinship caregivers such as President George Washington, as well those grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural and suburban households in every county of New York who “famously” step forward out of love and loyalty to care for relatives when the child’s biological parents are no longer able to do so, and

Whereas, New Yorkers join to honor famous youth who were raised in kinship care such as Maya Angelou, Sandra Day O’Conner, and Barack Obama as well as those children residing in urban, rural and suburban households in every county of New York who through the unconditional support of grandparents and other relatives, have successfully addressed the emotional trauma of losing their parents, and

Whereas, the public becomes increasingly aware of the challenges faced by children, grandparents and other relatives in kinship care to work in partnership with the education, legal, social services, mental health, justice and other systems to access services that can enable kinship youth to flourish in all facets of their life, and

Whereas, one in eleven of all children and one in five Black children will live within a kinship family sometime during their childhood, kinship care provides the best opportunity to retain the child’s cultural heritage and community ties.

Now, Therefore, _____ do hereby proclaim September, 2014 to be

Kinship Care Month In the Empire State.

2014 – Legal Assistance Past KinCare Summit Recommendations

2005 KinCare Summit

17. Collect and maintain statistics on third-party custody disputes.

2008 KinCare Summit

18. Create a statewide legal assistance network by enhancing current kincare legal resources and expanding other legal programs to include kincare representation through funding and other assistance of the Office of Court Administration.
19. Mandate assigned counsel to kinship caregivers in Family Court Act 262 (L-3)

2011 KinCare Summit

1. Provide permanent funding for legal services (consultations and representation) as part of the OCFS kinship program funding and ensure that legal services for kinship caregivers includes legal information and assistance for matters regarding family law, education, and public assistance.
2. The Office of Court Administration should create and provide “do-it-yourself” forms online and also available at the courthouses so pro se litigants may address “extraordinary circumstances” as well as best interests.
3. The Office of Court Administration should include Family Court proceedings in its pro bono programs.
4. New York State should enact the recommended funding for “family stability” legal services in The Chief Judge’s Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services Report and also insure that a significant percentage of the funding targets family court pro se indigent litigants.
5. Amend NY Family Court Act § 262(a)(iii) to create a right to an attorney as a legal custodian or legal guardian where the parent has filed a petition for return of the child by adding “under part 4 of article six of this act” (currently only legal custody is mentioned). Amend FCA § 262 to include the right to assigned counsel to all primary caregivers, regardless of whether they have a prior order of custody or guardianship.
6. Amend Domestic Relations Law § 72 to include all relatives who may benefit from an extended disruption of custody as an extraordinary circumstance.
7. Train judges, court clerks and attorneys for the children on the rights of kinship caregivers, including mandated distribution of OCFS kinship publications.
8. Each family court in New York State should have a “help center” with information for kinship caregivers. The center should have legal fact sheets available and a staff person who is able to provide legal information to kinship caregivers. The New York City Family Court Help Centers, collaboration between the courts and LIFT, should be expanded statewide to meet this need.
9. Pro Bono legal services should be encouraged by funding regional and a statewide kinship legal assistance project similar to those run by MFY Legal Services and by the Rural Law Center. This project would provide legal trainings (CLE) on kinship issues, assistance in establishing pro bono programs, and be staffed by an attorney coordinator. The attorney coordinator would assist pro bono attorneys who commit to representing kinship families (or provide petition assistance or ADR/mediation services), and also create a statewide network of pro bono legal assistance providers.

2011 – KinCare Summit Report Recommendations

Mental Health Recommendations

1. Develop a Specialized Tool Kit for Kinship Families.

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) should convene a workgroup to promote informed self-advocacy regarding mental health by kinship caregivers for themselves, their children, and parents.

2. Include Kinship Mental Health Needs in Efforts to Overcome System Fragmentation.

The Governor's Children's Cabinet, the Council on Children and Family, the Office of the Aging's Caregiver Council, and other working groups dedicated to eliminating silos and fragmentation should focus on kinship families.

3. Promote the Recognition of Kinship Mental Health Needs. Kinship care should be part of state and local health, mental health, child welfare, and other plans, including the NYS Children's Plan via the Office of Mental Health.

More attention is needed from not only the mental health and substance abuse service systems but also from primary health care providers such as community health centers. Outreach to community health centers and the Academy of Pediatrics, improved education at professional schools and most importantly in residency training, and health and mental health education for kin caregivers via primary health care practices is strongly urged.

4. Promote Improved Mental Health Services. OMH should establish a workgroup to review and modify OMH's clinic standards to assure appropriate attention to the family context and to the challenges involved in reaching and treating family caregivers.

In addition, OMH should establish a workgroup to recommend ways to include parenting as an important goal of psychiatric rehabilitation. This would include recommendations for OMH's guidelines for Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS).

5. Address Questions Regarding Mental Illness and Child protective services.

The NYS KinCare Coalition should work with The Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities Initiative of the Mental Health Association of New York State to develop realistic and unbiased strategies and suggestions regarding the removal from home of a child of a parent with a mental disorder. These strategies and suggestions should be included in a guide designed to be used by child protective service workers and the Family Courts. The NYS KinCare Coalition should also review and take a position on recommendations to change current state law regarding parental mental illness and the termination of parental rights.

NYS Estimated Demographic Profile of Kinship Families (Based upon Census Grandparents Households)

County	Population (ACS 2006- 2010)	Population Under 18 (ACS 2006- 2010)	Grandparent Householders Responsible for Grandchildren (ACS 2006-2010)	Non- Grandparent Caregivers	Estimated All Non-Parent Caregivers	Approved Kinship Foster Families (2012)	N Docket - (Direct) Custody	OTDA Non- Parent Grant Type 1 Cases	Kinship Families No Foster Care or OTDA Type 1 Grant	Percent of Kinship Families Not Receiving Assistance
NYS	19,303,733	4,307,867	131,108	87,405	218,513	5,183	1590	18,066	195,264	89.36%
Albany	304,102	60,516	1,036	691	1,727	13	31	337	1,377	79.73%
Allegany	49,030	10,590	299	199	498	11	6	66	421	84.55%
Broome	200,745	40,550	1,406	937	2,343	11	0	490	1,842	78.62%
Cattaraugus	80,494	18,836	589	393	982	9	12	124	849	86.45%
Cayuga	80,211	17,326	454	303	757	8	20	106	643	84.93%
Chautauqua	135,065	29,444	1,051	701	1,752	14	0	250	1,488	84.93%
Chemung	88,725	19,874	803	535	1,338	8	2	199	1,131	84.53%
Chenango	50,790	11,529	304	203	507		3	108	399	78.68%
Clinton	82,265	15,877	623	415	1,038	4	14	192	842	81.12%
Columbia	63,116	12,813	377	251	628	13	9	68	547	87.11%
Cortland	49,396	10,423	423	282	705	2	20	74	629	89.22%
Delaware	48,126	9,433	158	105	263	6	16	87	170	64.68%
Dutchess	296,910	65,914	1,819	1,213	3,032	28	21	264	2,740	90.37%
Erie	919,519	198,616	5,265	3,510	8,775	7	263	1,543	7,225	82.34%
Essex	39,405	7,605	135	90	225	1	0	39	185	82.22%
Franklin	51,731	10,760	278	185	463	9	12	47	407	87.91%
Fulton	55,556	12,333	571	381	952	1	0	69	882	92.64%
Genesee	59,970	13,253	358	239	597		5	40	557	93.30%
Greene	49,333	9,521	267	178	445	20	7	44	381	85.62%
Hamilton	4831	792	24	16	40		0	4	36	90.00%
Herkimer	64,429	14,303	522	348	870	7	34	119	744	85.52%
Jefferson	115,546	29,464	748	499	1,247	1	26	159	1,087	87.17%
Lewis	26,999	6,669	163	109	272		6	35	237	87.12%
Livingston	65,463	13,224	277	185	462	2	5	71	389	84.19%
Madison	73,228	15,964	479	319	798	7	0	78	713	89.35%
Monroe	742,931	168,645	4,740	3,160	7,900	1	52	1,231	6,668	84.41%
Montgomery	50,067	11,766	318	212	530	1	4	70	459	86.60%
Nassau	1,332,821	310,547	5,790	3,860	9,650	27	7	558	9,065	93.94%
Niagara	216,127	46,467	1,226	817	2,043	18	50	368	1,657	81.11%
Oneida	234,649	51,388	1,480	987	2,467	44	0	307	2,116	85.77%
Onondaga	465,436	107,050	2,895	1,930	4,825	10	1	786	4,029	83.50%
Ontario	107,211	24,122	290	193	483	5	1	165	313	64.83%
Orange	371,878	101,151	2,539	1,693	4,232	69	27	296	3,867	91.37%
Orleans	43,028	9,552	482	321	803	1	16	124	678	84.44%
Oswego	122,178	28,223	1,042	695	1,737	3	7	196	1,538	88.54%
Otsego	62,358	11,661	364	243	607		5	61	546	89.95%
Putnam	99,639	23,614	251	167	418	2	5	25	391	93.55%
Rensselaer	159,156	33,900	836	557	1,393	9	14	172	1,212	87.01%
Rockland	308,749	86,758	1,468	979	2,447	9	13	157	2,281	93.22%
St. L	111,916	23,838	757	505	1,262	15	17	114	1,133	89.78%
Saratoga	218,631	49,629	1,000	667	1,667		4	143	1,524	91.42%
Schenectady	154,100	35,289	780	520	1,300	11	58	287	1,002	77.08%
Schoharie	32,796	6,526	442	295	737		3	40	697	94.57%
Schuyler	18330	3,886	62	41	103		0	40	63	61.29%
Seneca	35,285	7,516	272	181	453	2	0	33	418	92.28%
Steuben	98,868	23,135	975	650	1,625	3	27	114	1,508	92.80%
Suffolk	1,487,286	356,949	7,401	4,934	12,335	162	250	962	11,211	90.89%
Sullivan	77,634	17,623	502	335	837		0	154	683	81.59%
Tioga	51,261	11,995	383	255	638		9	139	499	78.22%
Tompkins	101,167	16,591	350	233	583	45	10	90	448	76.86%
Ulster	182,749	36,915	1,007	671	1,678	20	30	247	1,411	84.09%
Warren	65,746	13,544	440	293	733	4	1	60	669	91.27%
Washington	63,206	13,336	548	365	913	2	1	88	823	90.15%
Wayne	93,712	22,303	565	377	942	3	8	118	821	87.15%
Westchester	944,064	226,575	4,334	2,889	7,223	60	71	518	6,645	92.00%
Wyoming	42,215	8,696	182	121	303		4	40	263	86.81%
Yates	25,331	6,206	168	112	280	7	2	55	218	77.86%
New York City	8,128,223	1,756,836	68,790	45,860	114,650	4,468	381	5,695	104,487	91.14%
Bronx	1,375,469	365,875	16,268	10,845	27,113				27,113	
Kings	2,485,484	589,060	24,612	16,408	41,020				41,020	
New York	1,585,717	234,686	9,520	6,347	15,867				15,867	
Queens	2,214,877	458,480	15,611	10,407	26,018				26,018	
Richmond	466,676	108,736	2,779	1,853	4,632				4,632	



NYS KinCare Summit 2014 Recommendations

Addressing the Special Systems Challenges Facing Children, Grandparents, and Other Relatives in Kinship Care*

PART FOUR APPENDIXES

*Kinship Care (KinCare) refers to the over 150,000 children raised by grandparents and relatives in New York State. The Summit was sponsored by the NYS Kinship Navigator with funding provided by federal Children's Bureau demonstration project grant #90CFO044/0. The NYS Kinship Navigator is a program of Catholic Family Center of Rochester and is also funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The views expressed are solely the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of its funders. As stated at the Summit, State or local government participation in the day's events does not necessarily indicate their endorsement of the recommendations

Appendix A: SUMMIT PROCEEDINGS

Special Interests of Summit Participants

A review of the breakout sessions shows that there were certain special interests and priorities unique to participant categories.

Caregivers and Youths

Speaking from personal experience, the highest priority among caregivers and youth was advocacy to obtain services. They were especially concerned about the lack of special attention from local departments of social services temporary assistance and child welfare personnel. In particular, they felt that temporary assistance payments were too small and too difficult to obtain. The caregivers and youth felt that their efforts are saving county and local governments millions of dollars in reduced foster care payments, so there should be a greater allocation of resources for informal kinship families. In addition, they believed that child welfare personnel should provide better assistance in understanding caregiver options and provide more time for caregivers to decide. For kinship children who needed foster care services, they wanted an expedited path to becoming foster parents. In general, they felt a need for better advocacy, by both government agency staff and kinship service providers.

Kinship Service Providers

These participants agreed with the opinions of caregivers/youths and added priorities from their own perspective. The kinship service providers wanted better collaborations with the local departments of social services, as well as other public agency service providers, particularly schools and mental health organizations. They also wanted a "seat at the table" in local agency planning. Caregivers and kinship service providers also prioritized core services that should be available to all kinship families. Ranking number one among core services was "parenting education" for caregivers.

Government Agency Senior Staff

Agency personnel expressed an increased commitment to addressing kinship issues. For some agencies, the Summit represented a first impression about kinship; for others they recognized a need for greater efforts by their agencies. Nearly all agreed that kinship representatives should be part of their planning processes and should be represented at state and local planning committees as well as other coordination efforts, including systems of care. Agency staff also expressed support for better data collection to identify how their agencies can best engage with kinship families.

Attorneys

Attorneys focused on legal representation, particularly related to family court custody and guardianship. However, they also related to representation in administrative areas, such as temporary assistance, education, and future planning. They explored ways to provide full legal representation, partial representation, and alternatives to representation. They also acknowledged that the Office of Court Administration does not collect data on "third party" custody and guardianship petitions, and consequently there is no accurate accounting of the number of such petitions filed in a given year.

Others (legislative staff, non-kinship family service non-profits, and policy/advocacy organizations)

Participants in this category expressed their lack of familiarity with kinship issues, and the importance of their attendance at the Summit to improve their knowledge base. They saw the plenary speakers and particularly the breakout sessions as providing invaluable information that related to their agency's need to recognize the importance of developing a response to the benefits as well as challenges of kinship families. Agency representatives from the Department of Health, the Office of Mental Health, the Department of Education, and others recognized a greater need to have kinship represented before their agency and at various planning and state projects regarding services to children. They additionally recognized the importance of accurate data collection to the development of kinship policies. Non-profits and policy/advocacy organizations also wanted better efforts at coordination of services, breaking down of "silos", inter-agency referrals, and agency defined action steps.

Breakout Voting

In addition to the six overarching recommendations noted above, Summit participants identified a number of additional critical steps for consideration in improving service accessibility, coordination, planning and capacity for children and their caregivers. These additional recommendations are noted below and listed by topic and by order of importance. Voting employed a point system with each participant having 5 weighted votes of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 points respectively.

Following each recommendation are the accumulated point totals of the 150 Summit participants to further illustrate critical steps for strengthening kinship care in New York in the years ahead. The specific recommendations below will be shared (along with the Overarching Recommendations) with the state agency/organization/legislative group that has primary responsibility for addressing that critical step.

A. State and Local Coordination and Community Supports:

- Create a personal kinship advocate (67)
- Better planning and action by public agencies (training, etc) (60)
- Engagement with NYS Success in Achieving an integrated approach that connects systems of care with kinship children and families (59)
- Engagement with the state's Council on Children and Families (52)
- Collect better data that shows the different levels of custody and foster care (43)
- Kinship Care participation in communities that are funded to collect data as part of the National Evaluation of systems of care (17).

B. Local Departments of Social Services Coordination and Collaboration in Services:

- Dedicated kinship workers (38)
- Informal caregivers should get the same rate of financial assistance as foster care parents (34)
- Consistent terminology/best practices for NPC (28)
- Dedicated staff at DSS for Child Only cases (27)
- Expanded training of DSS staff and clear explanations to kin caregivers about kinship foster care (21)
- Fostering community connections (18)
- Engagement that assists with obtaining temp assistance (18)
- Specialized kinship home finder (DSS) (18)
- Development of peer advocates for both caregivers, parents, youth (14)
- Child and Family Team meeting; build awareness of this concept (dedicated staff in Albany) (13)
- Engagement with caregivers when children are temporarily placed (16)
- Engagement of youth when family comes to attention of LDSS/ACS (11)
- Engagement with caregivers when children are temporarily placed – no Article 10 (4)

- In-person review of options for caregivers (12)
- Central DSS unit to work with caregivers (9)
- Better training sensitivity (cultural competency) (9)
- Customer service training for LDSS staff (7)
- Court personnel need to be trained/educated about kincare issues, services, supports, rights (7)
- Engagement with caregiver when children are removed (5)
- Need for cultural competency when engaging children in care plan/CPS visits (4)
- Improve communications between CPS and DSS (4).

C. Specialized Kinship Services and Programs:

Expand and strengthen OCFS kinship programs and Navigator for both kinship children and caregivers, and expand OFA kinship services for elderly caregivers to include outreach in more counties and targeted services that include:

- Parenting education for caregivers (70)
- Support groups (50)
- Trauma-informed care (33)
- Use of evidence-based treatments to address trauma, substance abuse, mental health issues (31)
- Mental Health/leadership by caregivers (22)
- Collaborations with LDSS and other agencies (18)
- Co-parenting support for caregivers and parents (18)
- Expansion of Navigator outreach and its information and referral (I & R) system (13)
- Health and Wellness education for caregivers and youth (10)
- Strong program assessment tools and evidence-based evaluations (10)
- Mentoring for youth (9)
- In-house legal assistance (6)
- Outreach to community (4)
- Community partnerships (3).

D. Legal Assistance to Kinship Families:

- Provision of dedicated legal assistance for kinship families (69)
- Inclusion of Guardianship – need representation (43)
- Expansion of Domestic Relations Law Section 72(2) (43)
- Training for caregivers, access to information in court, training of judges/caseworkers, new materials need to be released (40)
- Outreach by Kinship Services programs (25)
- Increase mediation (20)
- Expand materials available on the NYS Court Help website (14)
- Adoption Day Law Clinic (13)
- Expand focus to include more than custody and guardianship (12)
- Have attorneys trained and certified as mediators and then assign cases through the court (10)
- Funding for area offices on aging legal services programs (10)
- Information/toolkit sharing among attorneys (8)
- Attorneys collaborate as a team with social workers (8)
- Train caregivers to help other caregivers to draft petitions (6)
- Inclusion of legal representation by law students (3).

Appendix B: Summary of Cost Benefit Calculations

Average Cost of (Formal) Kinship Foster Care

Annual overall costs of foster care = **\$1,376,000,000** (OCFS foster care budget).

Number of children in all foster care placements = **24,541**.

Average cost of all foster care placements (institutional, special and exception needs, foster parents, etc. + administrative costs) = **\$56,060** per year.

Average cost of one child placed in regular foster care (basic foster parent payment + administrative cost) = **\$21,535** per year.

Average Cost of Informal Kinship Care

Annual cost of one child in an OCFS kinship program (\$140,000 per program, over 300 children served per year per program) = **\$466**.

Annual average cost of public assistance per child (OTDA payment + administrative costs) = **\$6,024**.

Total cost per child of informal kinship care = **\$6,490**.

Average Difference in Cost

Difference between average cost of children in all formal foster care placements (\$54,060) and the cost for children in informal kinship care (\$6,490 – including a public assistance grant) = **\$49,570**.

Difference for a child placed in regular foster care with a foster parent = **\$14,595**.

Appendix C: SELECTED PUBLICATIONS ON KINSHIP CARE

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