



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program (Ohio KAN)

Subcommittee Updates

Ohio FFPSA Leadership Committee | May 2019

Shannon Deinhart, LISW-S
Associate Director - Kinnect
Shannon@kinnectohio.org
216.692.1161

Karen McGormley
Project Manager - ODJFS
Karen.McGormley@jfs.ohio.gov
614.752.0651

Overview of FFPSA Kinship Navigator Provisions

1. Overview of FFPSA Kinship Navigator provisions
2. Kinnect's role
3. Work done so far
4. Projected timeline moving forward
5. Anything needed from the larger FFPSA Committee

Overview of FFSPA Kinship Navigator Provisions

What is Kinship Care?

- Temporary or Permanent
- Related to child or not related to child
- Established through:
 - Informal Arrangement
 - Placement via child welfare agency that has custody
 - A temporary custody order
 - A legal custody or guardianship order
 - Adoption

Overview of FFSPA Kinship Navigator Provisions

Ohio:

- 227,862 (8.6%) children under 18 live in homes where householders are grandparents or other relatives.
- 185,469 (7.0%) of these children live with grandparents.
- 42,393 (1.6%) of these children live with other relatives.
- 124,000 (5%) children live with a relative with no parent present.



Overview of FFSPA Kinship Navigator Provisions

History of Kinship Navigator Programs in Ohio:

- 1999 - Legislation established a navigator program in each county
- 2004 - ProtectOHIO Phase 2 - Kinship Supports Intervention added
- 2009 - Fostering Connections Grant - Kinship Navigator Program
- 2018 - Family First Prevention Services Act signed into law

Overview of FFSPA Kinship Navigator Provisions

Must be planned and operated in consultation with kinship caregivers, organizations representing them, youth raised by kinship caregivers, relevant government agencies and community-based or faith-based organizations.

Must provide outreach to kinship care families, including by a kinship care website, other guides and/or outreach materials.

Overview of FFSPA Kinship Navigator Provisions

Must establish information and referral systems that link (via toll-free access) kinship caregivers, kinship support group facilitators, and kinship service providers to:

- Each other,
- Eligibility and enrollment information for Federal, State, and local benefits,
- Relevant training to assist caregivers, and
- Relevant legal assistance and help obtaining legal services.



Ohio

Department of
Job and Family Services

Overview of FFSPA Kinship Navigator Provisions

Must promote partnerships between public and private agencies.

May also establish and support a kinship ombudsman.

May support any other activities.

Overview of FFSPA Kinship Navigator Provisions

Additional Information:

- Children are not required to meet IV-E income eligibility requirements and are not required to meet the definition of candidate for foster care
- State has the discretion to determine the scope of population and service area
- Statute does not define kinship caregiver

Kinnect

2005



Kinnect

We believe that childhood is a fundamental human right, and that every day for a child in foster care is a day in crisis

We envision a world where families, agencies, resources – and children – work together so that every child is loved and nurtured in a permanent chosen family

We develop partnerships that transform beliefs, values, and actions to achieve permanency for all children in the shortest time possible



30 Days to Family® Ohio

- Research shows that children who cannot remain with their biological families have better outcomes when they are placed with kin
- Through this program, 30 Days to Family® Specialists embedded in each partner county conduct intense family finding and engagement to ensure that 1) 70% of children served are placed with kin within 30 days of entering care, and 2) every child has a network of kinship support to meet their ongoing needs
- Kinnect currently partners with nine Ohio counties, and during 2019 is expanding 30 Days to Family® Ohio to six additional counties



Affirm Me

- Partnership with CCDCFS to develop and implement Affirm Me – an intervention to prevent youth from entering foster care or to find permanency for LGBTQ+ youth in the PC of the agency
- This population is disproportionately represented in foster care and represent anywhere from 20-25% of your foster care population
- Very poor outcomes – homeless, trafficking, increased rates for suicide
- Three pronged approach – Safe ID; Pride Caregiver Network; Chosen Affirming Family; Youth Pride Board



Education, Outreach, Advocacy

We engage child welfare professionals to advance the implementation of evidence-informed practices that improve permanency outcomes.

Activities include:

- An annual convening for state and county leaders to discuss solutions and learn from national experts
- Contract-based program development
- A monthly executive directors' breakfast that promotes learning and collaboration
- Keynote and workshop presentations at national and international conferences
- Facilitation of Ohio's statewide Permanency Roundtable working group
- Participation in Family Builders Network



OhioKAN

The primary goal of this effort is to partner with ODJFS and Stakeholders from around the state to develop a collaborative framework to better assist kinship and adoptive families navigate systems and receive the support they need and deserve to achieve better outcomes for Ohio children.

Kinnect will facilitate the research, design, and implementation planning efforts for an Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program (OhioKAN).

OhioKAN Leadership Team

Karen McGormley – ODJFS

Shannon Deinhart, LISW-S – Kinnect

Cara Textoris – Kinnect

Roxana Bell – Kinnect

Sarah Kaye, PhD. – Kaye Implementation & Evaluation

Bob Friend, LCSW – Director of the National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness

Jamole Callahan – State of Ohio IHS Trainer and Motivational Speaker



OhioKAN Development Process

- Convene a Stakeholder Group that details the process, expectations, and roles during the development of the Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program
- Utilize assessment techniques, including Appreciative Inquiry, environmental scan, surveys, and interviews, to conduct a thorough and comprehensive research study of kinship and adoption navigator programs in Ohio, nationally, and federally-approved
- Engage kinship and adoptive caregivers in the assessment and design process
- Identify 30 to 35 key individuals for participation as members of the Stakeholder Workgroup



OhioKAN Development Process

- Guide the Workgroup to develop a shared vision, values, goals, and communication strategy in the effort to develop an Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program
- Guide the Workgroup to establish an Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program recommendation
- Guide the Workgroup to establish an implementation and evaluation framework for the program model
- Facilitate regional Town Hall meetings to gather regional feedback



Work Completed to Date

- Weekly Leadership Phone Calls
- Stakeholder List being finalized
- Stakeholder Meeting Dates: May 29; June 17; July 22 at FYLaw
- Ohio KAN website on Kinnect's website is live
- Phone interviews with Stakeholders and Subject Matter Experts in kinship and adoption
- Location of meeting determined: FYLaw
- Research and summaries completed on evidence based programs, national & local Kinship and Adoption Navigator programs



Research Completed

Kinship Programs

- **Ohio** (Enhanced Kinship Navigator & Kinship Supports Intervention)
- **New Jersey** (Kinship Cares)
- **Washington State** (Kinship Navigator Program)
- **Florida** (KIN-Tech)

Research Completed

Post-Adoption Programs

- **Pennsylvania** (Statewide Adoption Network, SWAN)
- **New York** (New York State Adoption Services, NYSAS)
- **Virginia** (Post-Adoption Services)
- **Wisconsin** (Post-Adoption Resource Centers, PARC)

Blended Kinship and Adoption:

- **Tennessee** (Adoption & Guardianship Support and Preservation Programs, ASAP/GSAP)



Work Moving Forward

- Facilitate and Coordinate Stakeholders Meetings
- Program Development
- Planning Town Hall Meetings
- Invitations for Town Hall Meetings
- Implementation and Evaluation Plan for Program that is developed

Questions to Consider

If you could imagine Ohio working at its best to support kinship and adoptive caregivers, what would it look like?

Who would be involved and in what capacity?

Please share a successful story about how a program or services you know of/or experienced supported a kinship or adoptive caregiver and their youth?

Questions?

Shannon Deinhart, LISW-S
Associate Director - Kinnect
Shannon@kinnectohio.org
216.692.1161



Karen McGormley
Project Manager - ODJFS
Karen.McGormley@jfs.ohio.gov
614.752.0651

