**A Second Chance - Point of Contact (POC)**

ASCI’s kinship care process is carried out through our Point of Contact (POC) program, which assists kinship families in meeting Department of Public Welfare requirements. All services are conducted in a culturally responsive and informed manner, meeting families where they begin and operating from a strengths-based paradigm. Furthermore, ASCI’s case managers recognize the importance of families’ natural support and assist in fostering family connectivity.

When the Department of Human Services removes a child and places them with a relative caregiver, the case is referred to ASCI within four days for Foster Care Licensure. ASCI assigns a case manager and enters the home within 24 hours. ASCI’s intense 24-hour evaluation includes an orientation to services, safety assessment, identification of immediate needs, discussion of home safety, clothing and emergency fund allowance, discussion of discipline and review of available resources. There is a 60-day process to certify the family, which includes weekly home visits and the writing of an Individual Service Plan (ISP).

ASCI’s ISP is trauma-informed and kinship sensitive. It examines the strengths and needs in the areas of behavioral, educational, vocational, social, medical and psychological well-being. Upon certification, service delivery moves to case maintenance and includes monthly visitations, safety assessments and birth parent/sibling visitations. Educational, medical and dental monitoring also occurs.

Support services made available include respite, clinical services and support groups for all members of the triad. The ISP is reviewed throughout and permanency services are explored. ASCI’s case managers stress family-based decision-making, including the processes of Family Team Conferencing and Permanency Roundtable. Both tools guide the family into identifying resources that will sustain them and strengthen their capacity to assure safety, stability and permanency. ASCI’s strengths-based model recognizes that most of its children have been exposed to trauma, which has an impact on development, the ability to form relationships and the power to learn.

**KIN-TECH™ Kinship Navigator Model**

The Children's Home Network has been offering Kinship Services since 2000. This program has developed into an evidenced based, family driven wraparound model KIN-TECH™ that respects and supports children and families. The Kinship program has been working with an external evaluator for over 18 years to both evaluate the program design and effectiveness in practice as well as testing new innovations that enhance child and caregiver well being and increasing placement stability and permanency.

The KIN-TECH™ Kinship Navigator program offers centralized intake and referral services, intensive in-home case management and navigation services, support groups as well as leading community collaborative meetings and local partnerships to support relative and non-relative caregivers.

Intended target population

Target population includes those relative caregivers (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, sisters, or any adult with a close kinship bond with the child) who are providing full time care of a child. For the KIN-TECH™ Kinship Navigator Program, caregivers who are formally involved in the child welfare system AND caregivers who are not involved with the child welfare system are eligible to participate in the program.

Core components and essential functions that define the essence of the program and represent the key building blocks leading to positive outcomes; • Connect caregiver with a wide variety of supportive, easy-to-access services • Develop an inclusive community collaborative to support dynamic needs of kin families • Evaluate the program with valid and reliable measures to promote successful outcomes and develop a replicable model.

KIN-TECH™ Kinship navigator program is social service delivery programs intended to provide grandparents and other relatives raising their kinship children with information and referrals regarding available resources and services specific to their families’ needs, and assist kinship caregivers navigate large, complex service systems, (i.e., child welfare, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, education) in order to obtain these resources.

**Kinnect to Family**

The 30 Days to Family® Ohio Program is transforming to “Kinnect to Family.” The enhanced model reflects the expanded services and innovations that our program offers families. Kinnect to Family is a specialized, intense, family search and engagement program. The program uses diligent search strategies to identify a vast array of connections for children and families encountering child welfare. A key differentiator of the Kinnect to Family program is the exhaustive approach they take to finding all family members. Central to this is the Kinnect to Family Genogram.

**The Kinship Navigator (CHN-KN)**

The Kinship Navigator (CHN-KN) Children’s Home Network provides supportive services to any relative or nonrelative raising a child on a full-time basis when a parent is unable or unwilling to provide care. Nonrelative refers to someone unrelated who has a significant or family-like relationship to the child. This program provides services to families regardless of their status with the child welfare system, therefore serving informal and formal families. CHN-

KN provides a centralized intake line, comprehensive assessments, family conferencing, and navigation services that include securing concrete needs, enrollment in public assistance, linkage to key community resources, development of informal and formal supports, service and crisis planning, support groups, and follow-up contacts at 3-month intervals post completion of the program.

 **KEEP**

The objective of KEEP is to give parents effective tools for dealing with their child's externalizing problems, trauma, and other behavioral and emotional problems and to support them in the implementation of those tools. Curriculum topics include framing the foster/kin parents' role as that of key agents of change with opportunities to alter the life course trajectories of the children placed with them. Foster/kin parents are taught methods for creating a safe environment, encouraging child cooperation, using behavioral contingencies, strategies for self-regulation, effective limit setting, and balancing encouragement and limits. There are also sessions on dealing with difficult problem behaviors including covert behaviors, promoting school success, encouraging positive peer relationships, and strategies for managing stress brought on by providing foster care.

There is an emphasis on active learning methods; illustrations of primary concepts are presented via role-plays and videotapes. An adaptation of KEEP, for foster and kinship parents of teenagers called KEEP SAFE, has been reviewed by the CEBC and is rated a 2 – Supported by Research Evidence on the CEBC Scientific Rating Scale in the areas of Behavioral Management Programs for Adolescents in Child Welfare and Resource Parent Recruitment and Training Programs.

**The Kinship Caregiver Engagement and Support Program**

The Kinship Caregiver Engagement and Support Program is a trauma-informed, triad- centric, child welfare intervention that aims to increase the likelihood of a placement with relatives or fictive kin. In turn, this placement can lead to improved outcomes in safety, well-being, and permanency for children. Additionally, the kinship placement ideally facilitates higher levels of devotion to meeting placement goals for the entire family, as the kinship caregiver has more insight into family dynamics than a traditional foster parent would possess. Kinship Caregiver Engagement and Support Program is designed to assist the local Child Welfare agency in: Identifying kinship family supports, Providing education on kinship licensure processes, Finding emergency kinship identification for placement options for children being removed, Finding kinship identification for children in congregate care, Increasing culturally and racially relevant placements

**Kinship Supports Intervention**

The purpose of the Kinship Supports Intervention is to ensure that kinship caregivers have the support they need to meet children's physical, emotional, financial, and basic needs. The intervention helps kinship caregivers, including relatives and fictive kin, navigate the child welfare system and connect them to federal, state, and local resources to support the children in their care.

Through the intervention, Kinship Coordinators or other designated child welfare kinship staff complete several tools for each kinship family, including a home assessment that evaluates the caregiver's ability and willingness to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children placed in their care, and a needs assessment that identifies services and supports the caregiver's needs. A caregiver support plan is developed in accordance with the needs assessment, and the needs assessment is updated on a quarterly basis to ensure that services and supports continue to address changes in the family's needs over time.

**Support Groups for Grandparent Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities and Delays**

Support Groups for Grandparent Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities and Delays provide information on: 1) financial issues, 2) guardianship, 3) respite care, 4) emotional support, and 5) problems interacting with multiple social service systems, including accessing health care, educational supports and housing.

**Connecting**

Connecting is a program for foster/relative caregivers and the teens (11-15 years old) in their care. It uses a trauma- informed approach and is designed to help strengthen family relationships and help families develop skills to reduce risk of drug use, risky sexual behavior, and violence among teens. The program includes two DVDs and a workbook with step-by-step activities that families complete at their own pace.

Families receive weekly check-in contacts from a trained family consultant to answer questions about the program, facilitate use of the materials, and encourage families to complete the program. The book includes ten chapters covering background information, activities for caregivers to do alone and to do together with the teen, and ideas

**The Edgewood Kinship Support Network**

The Edgewood Kinship Support Network is designed to support kinship caregivers in an effort to keep the children in their care or reunited with a biological parent and to relieve the burden of the formal foster care system. The network offers comprehensive services to support kinship families including: Case management, Caregiver support groups in multiple languages located throughout San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, Parenting and educational workshops, Food and supplies, Independent living skills and classes, Family activities and celebrations, Wellness activities for caregivers (mindfulness, stress reduction, harm reduction),Referrals to Edgewood's Outpatient Mental Health Services program

A comprehensive, website (www.iKinship.org) updated regularly with information for kinship families

**Family Ties**

Family Ties provides case management and resource and referral to ensure permanence for children being raised by relative caregivers. Assessment and case planning guide services for the caregiver and family are provided through: Support groups, Educational classes, Referral to community resources with follow-up, including therapy, Assistance with legal guardianship, Respite, Recreation events, Networking with other caregivers, Emergency assistance, Transportation; Any other identified need. Family Ties is designed to be used with families that are not connected to the child welfare system, but are informal placements rather than placements in formal foster care.

 **Generations of Hope**

Generations of Hope offers consulting and technical services to help organizations conceptualize, plan, and expedite the creation of new intergenerational communities based on the “intentional neighboring” model. The intentional neighboring framework was designed to enable people, through neighboring, to mitigate the effects of personal and social challenges on their day-to-day lives that threaten their well-being and the social fabric of their communities. It embodies an image of kindness and possibility that reflects how all of us would like to think of ourselves and the kind of community we would like to live in.

Generations of Hope develops and helps operate intergenerational communities of up to 150 people. Of these about 70% are seniors and the remainder families and vulnerable populations.

Affordable housing is provided to seniors and in return they volunteer to support the foster families and children (or other populations). Support is given by mentoring, tutoring, socialization, and joint activities. The program is staffed by a small staff that works with all groups to increase and improve interaction. The impact of this programming is designed to augment any needed social, child welfare, and behavioral services.

**GrandFamilies**

GrandFamilies House provides housing and support to intergenerational grandfamilies. The fully accessible House offers 26 apartments for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, and a unit for the resident manager. GrandFamilies House was co– developed by Boston Aging Concerns – Young and Old United (BAC– YOU) and the Women's Institute. It is owned and operated by BAC–YOU, which has since merged with Nuestra Comunidad Community Development Corporation.

**Grandparent Family Apartments**

The mission of the Grandparent Family Apartments is to provide safe and affordable housing and support systems that enable grandparents raising grandchildren to reach their full potential and their grandchildren to gain the emotional and educational tools essential for success. GrandParent Family Apartments is a collaborative project among Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS), West Side Federation For Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc. (WSFSSH), and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

The housing is in a building that was built for this purpose with elders and children active participants in the design of the building. The building includes a ground-floor activity center and garden; apartments with emergency cords in bedrooms and grab bars in the bathrooms; and 24-hour staff and support. Services provided for caregivers include: Support groups, respite counseling, intergenerational programs, Education workshops and seminars and benefit and entitlement assistance.

**GFC**

GFC is a multifaceted, community-based service program that works with grandparent- headed households (GHH) in their homes and in the context of their neighborhoods to help them meet the basic needs of the children in their care and prevent child maltreatment. Nine practice principles guide GFC interventions: Ecological developmental framework, Community outreach, Individualized family, assessment and tailored interventions, Helping alliance, Empowerment principles, Strengths-based practice, Cultural competence, Outcome-driven service plans with specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely (SMART) goals, A focus on the competence of the practitioner

Individualized family interventions are tailored to address the special needs of GHH and geared to increase protective factors, decrease risk factors, and target child safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes.

**Grandparents as Parents**

Grandparents as Parents offers advocacy services, support groups, and crisis intervention for relative caregivers who have taken on the role of parent to their child relative rather than place them in the child welfare system. KAT is a modification of the Parents as Teachers program designed to meet the special needs of relative caregivers raising children from birth to kindergarten entry. The KAT program addresses the following areas: Parent knowledge and parenting practices, Detection of developmental delays and health issues, Prevention of child abuse and neglect, Promotion of school readiness and success

**KAT program**

The KAT program establishes a two- year time limit for delivery of services, due to a waiting list, and it utilizes case management services rather than resource networking. The program was created specifically to address the needs of vulnerable young children in kinship families who often need extra support and special services.

**KCC**

The KCC, is an innovative school- based intervention designed to increase children's self-esteem and to mediate kin caregiver burden through the implementation and evaluation of support groups and case management services (including counseling, advocacy, and resource procurement) for caregivers and tutoring, mentoring, counseling, advocacy, and resource procurement for children.

**KEPS**

KEPS was implemented to address the needs of formal kinship caregivers in a large urban city. Its four goals are to provide kinship caregivers with: Education, preparation, and support focusing on concrete information relating to all aspects of the public child welfare system; Peer support from other caregivers to help build on or strengthen the skills needed to parent the children in their care; The skills needed to manage the behavior of the children’s birth parents; The skills to work with line workers as a team to support case planning goals

**Kinship Navigator Program - Arizona**

The Kinship Navigator Program - Arizonaprovides staff positions (Kinship Navigators) to assist kinship caregivers with understanding, navigating, and accessing the system of out-of- home care supports and services for children. Kinship navigators provide flexible and responsive services to kinship families based on family needs.

Kinship navigators initially provide caregivers with information, referrals, and advocacy services. Navigators also assist caregivers in identifying and removing barriers to service receipt; accessing benefits for which they are eligible; accessing legal services; and utilizing existing community resources and support systems (such as health, financial, legal services, support groups, training, and emergency funds). The program model is designed to empower families to support and advocate for one another and therefore, foster interdependence

**Kinship Navigator Program - Family Connections Grantee Model**

## The Kinship Navigator Program - Family Connections Grantee Model provides staff positions (Kinship Navigators) to assist kinship caregivers with understanding, navigating, and accessing the system of out-of- home care supports and services for children. Kinship navigators provide flexible and responsive services to kinship families based on family needs.

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**Kinship Navigator Program - Washington State**

The **Kinship Navigator Program - Washington State** is a program that serves 30 counties and 8 tribes and provides a human services worker known as a Kinship Navigator that provides services to kinship care families in a single or multi- county area or for one of eight Tribes. The role of the Kinship Navigator is to connect grandparents and relatives who are raising children with community resources, such as health, financial, legal services, support groups, training, and emergency funds. Since many kinship care families are unaware of services for which they are entitled, Kinship Navigators also explain how to apply for federal and state benefits. The Kinship Navigator services help kinship care families establish or maintain greater self-sufficiency and long-term stability needed to keep their children out of foster care.

**PASTA**

PASTA is a parenting program designed for relative caregivers who are not the biological parents of the children in their care. PASTA provides grandparents and other kinship caregivers with information, skills, and resources designed to enhance their ability to provide effective care for the young relatives they are parenting. PASTA consists of eight sessions that focus on topics including child development, discipline and guidance; caring for oneself as a caregiver; rebuilding a family; living with teens; legal issues; and advocacy.

**Peer-to-Peer Kinship Liaisons**

The intent of Peer-to-Peer Kinship Liaisons is to strengthen kinship foster parents' caregiving skills while empowering them as key stakeholders in providing care and protection for vulnerable children. A secondary intent is to foster trust and support among all parties involved in the kinship caregiving aspect of a child welfare program.

**PHG**

The goal of PHG is to improve the well-being of families in which grandparents are raising their grandchildren in parent-absent homes. PHG provides case management by master's prepared social workers, as well as health services by registered nurses. PHG's comprehensive services include monthly home visitations by registered nurses and social workers, parenting education classes and support groups, legal service referrals, as well as early intervention services for young children. In many cases, referrals are made to other healthcare or community service providers, and transportation services are available, if needed. To be eligible for services, the grandparent(s) must be responsible for at least one grandchild age 16 years or younger and the child's parents must be absent from the home. Once enrolled, participants have access to all PHG services free of charge for one year. Participation in support groups is available after

**RAPP**

RAPP is designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting due to the absence of the parents. RAPP provides services primarily to relative caregivers caring for children outside the foster care system. The Brookdale Foundation conducts the National Orientation and Training Conference to facilitate opportunities for training, networking, and information exchange and provides technical assistance to the RAPP Network through listservs, site bulletins, conference calls, web chats, and an annual newsletter.

**ParentLink Kinship Navigator Program**

ParentLink’s Kinship Navigator program covers the entire state of Missouri and provides ongoing, problem-solving support, quality information, and connection to services to kinship caregivers. Kinship care is an arrangement that allows grandparents, relatives, and non-relative loved ones to provide safe and caring homes for children when the parents cannot. Kinship arrangements can be an informal agreement between the parents and the caregivers or a formal placement that involves the child welfare system.

ParentLink’s Statewide Kinship Navigators are credentialed community health workers who assist caregivers in any county in Missouri by providing educational information, access to essential items, and connections to needed services. They understand the obstacles and opportunities for kinship families and work with them to navigate barriers to get the resources and supports they need. Statewide Kinship Navigators can assist with areas such as:

• Finding transportation

• Assistance with housing and utility needs

• Connection to mental and behavioral health resources

• Access to developmental screenings for young children

• Finding household items, clothing, and diapers