



Kinship Care

Creating a Kin First Culture in Virginia
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Objectives

- 1) Why kinship care and what's the research?
 - 2) Learn the current climate for kinship care
 - 3) Ongoing efforts happening around the state
 - 4) Barriers and recommendations
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Kahoot for Survey!

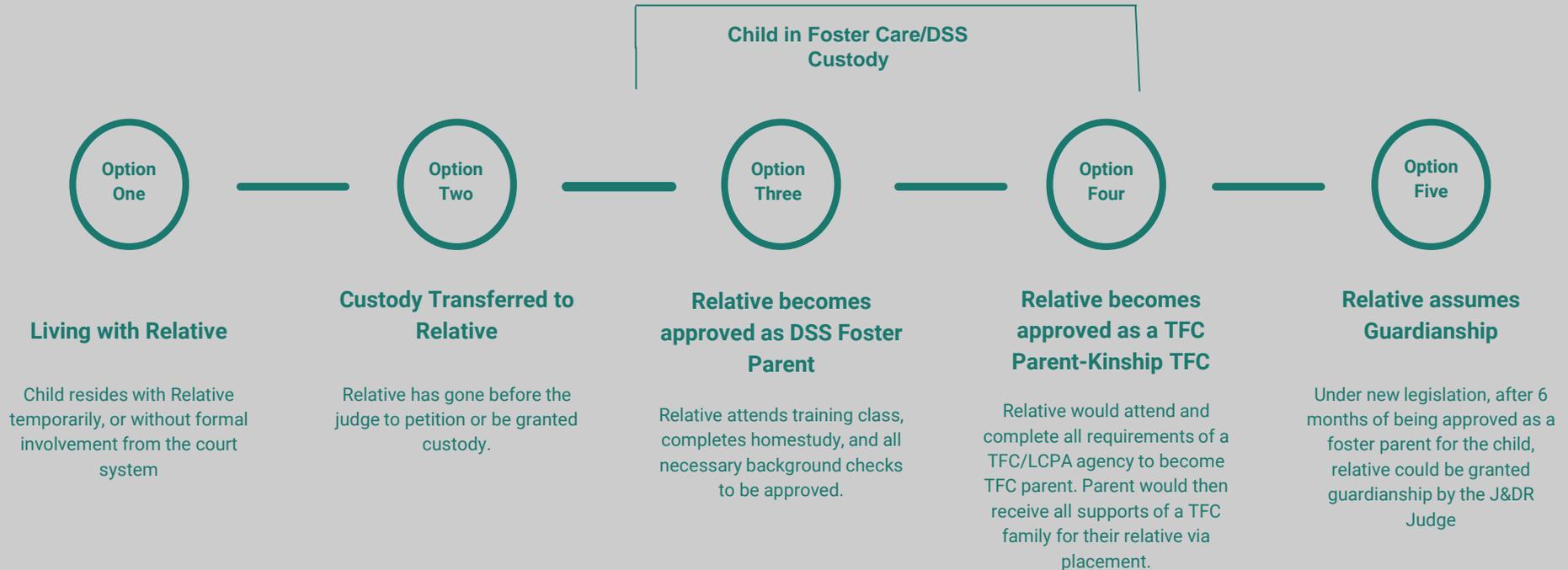
Kinship Care Defined

Code of Virginia § 63.2-100 "Kinship care" means the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives.

Formal: All living arrangements in which children are cared for by relatives of the children's parents who have been approved as foster parents.

Informal: Living arrangements in which parents, or whoever is the primary caretaker for a child, have placed children with relatives who are not approved as foster parents for these children. These substitute caregivers are providing voluntary informal care for the original caregivers.

Kinship Care: A spectrum



Why is this important?

Foster children living with relatives

experience FEWER placement changes

have FEWER behavioral problems

are MORE likely to report liking those with whom they live with

are LESS likely to change schools

are MORE likely to live with their siblings

are more likely to report that they “always felt LOVED”

are LESS likely to run away

are LESS likely to re-enter foster care

32%

of all US foster children live in a **RELATIVE** foster home

2016 AFCARS Data report

1.54%

of Virginia's children are placed in Kinship Foster Care

65%

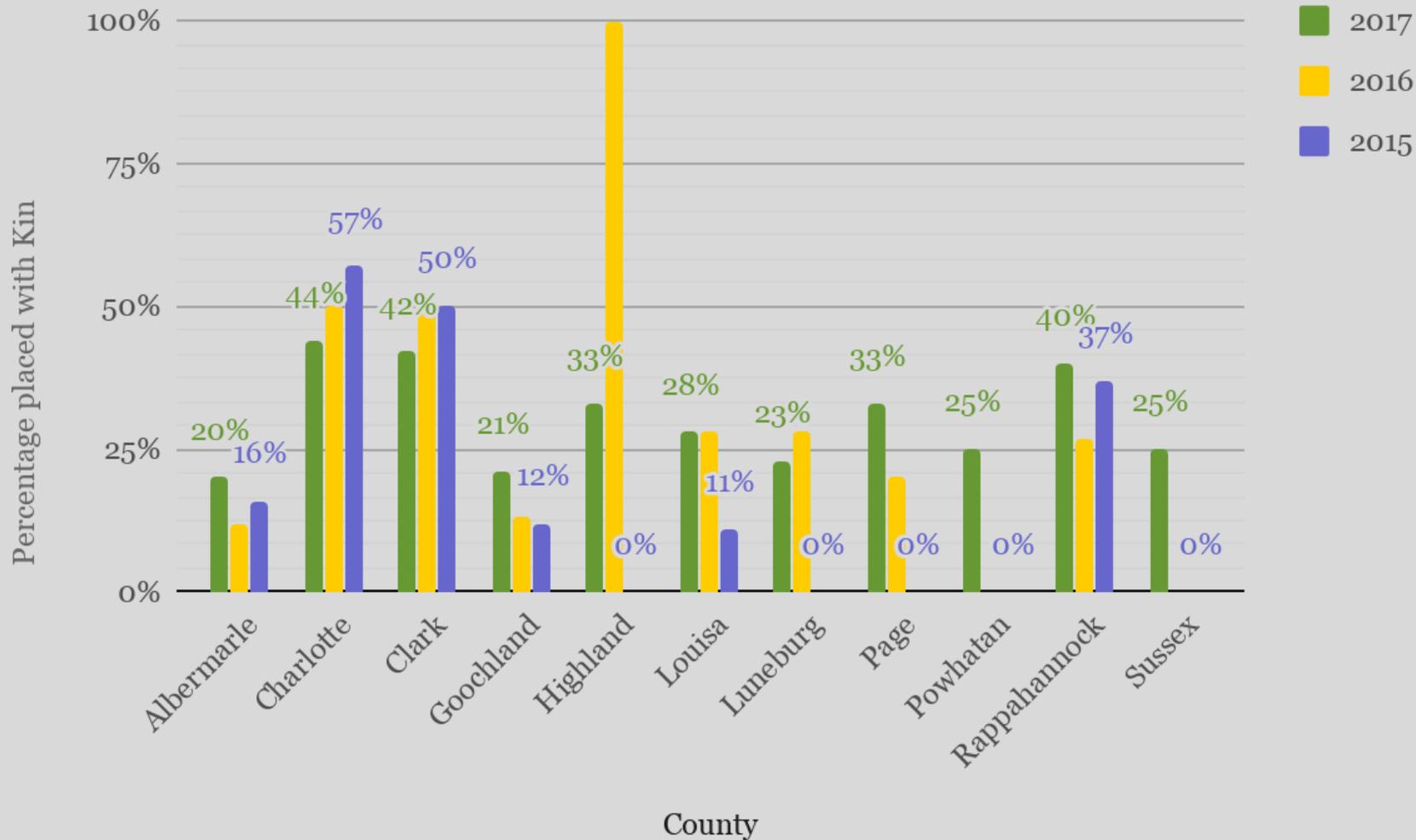
of Virginia children are placed in non-relative foster homes

482

Virginia children with the permanency plan of relative placement

5171

Children in foster care in Virginia



VDSS Practice Model

We believe

- ❖ that all children and communities deserve to be safe
- ❖ in family, child, and youth-driven practice
- ❖ that children do best when raised in families
- ❖ that all children and youth need and deserve a permanent family
- ❖ in partnering with others to support child and family success in a system that is family-focused, child-centered, and community-based
- ❖ how we do our work is as important as the work we do

VDSS Policy

Divert foster care placement and services if a relative or non-relative can be found that is appropriate

Within 30 days of placement, a diligent search must be done to locate and assess any relative or non-relative (fictive kin)

If TPR occurs for the birth parents, consideration of permanent placement with a relative, including transferring legal custody to the relative must be considered

FAMILIES FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

- ❖ Allows federal dollars to be used for children placed in **family based settings**
 - Utilized to prevent foster care placement for children with emotional and behavioral needs
- ❖ Evidenced Based Kinship Navigator programs
 - Begins October 2018
 - Allows for reimbursement for programs that meet Evidenced Based Program needs
- ❖ Support for Relative Caregivers
 - Linking caregivers to services and supports
 - Requires states to document how licensing standards accommodate kin.

FFPSA: Who Is Eligible?

Candidates for foster care (includes those who have been adopted or are in guardianship care), children in foster care who are pregnant or parenting, parents and kin caregivers who need services to prevent disruptions.

FFPSA: Kinship Licensing Standards

Department of Health and Human Services will identify reputable model licensing standards for foster family homes.

States will need to review how their standards compare to these standards and submit in their state plan to HHS why they are different if they are by April 1, 2019.

FFTA Kinship TFC Summit

March 30-31 2016
Richmond, VA

- ❖ Grant funded through FFTA national
 - ❖ Work group formed in the eastern region, open to public and private sectors
 - ❖ Survey completed
 - ❖ Kinship TFC pilot
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Work Group Process

Day Two

Developed work plans

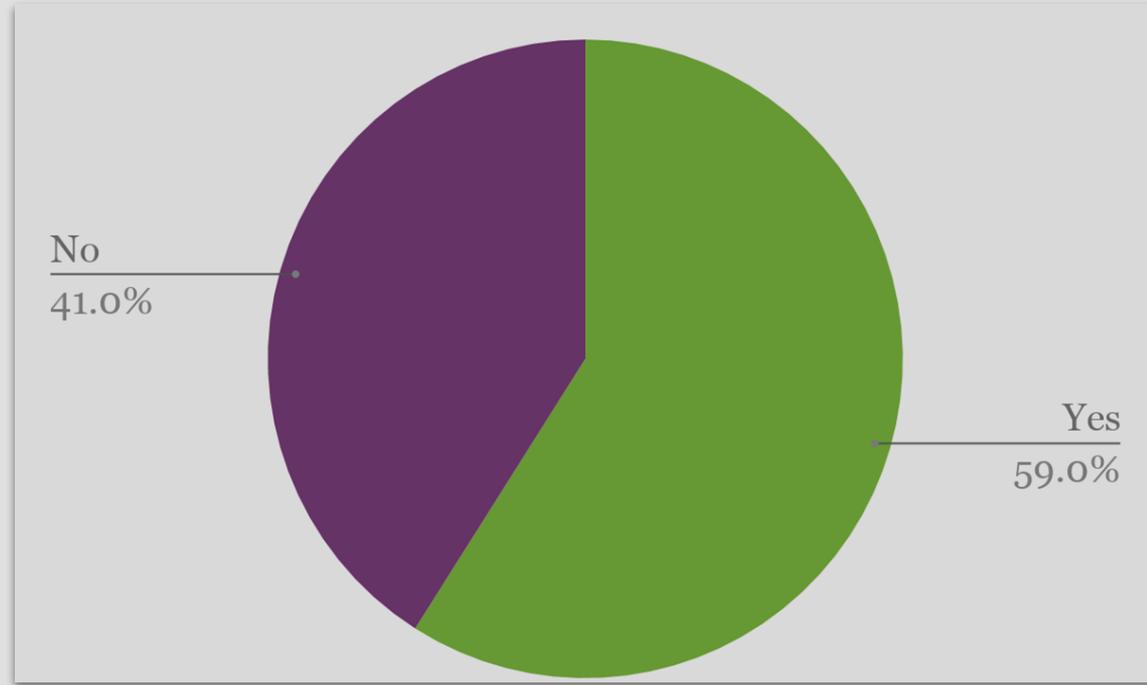
- ❖ Regulatory & policy changes needed
- ❖ Funding strategies
- ❖ Strategies of how to engage kin

Needs defined by Workgroup:

- ❖ Identify Kinship TFC training program
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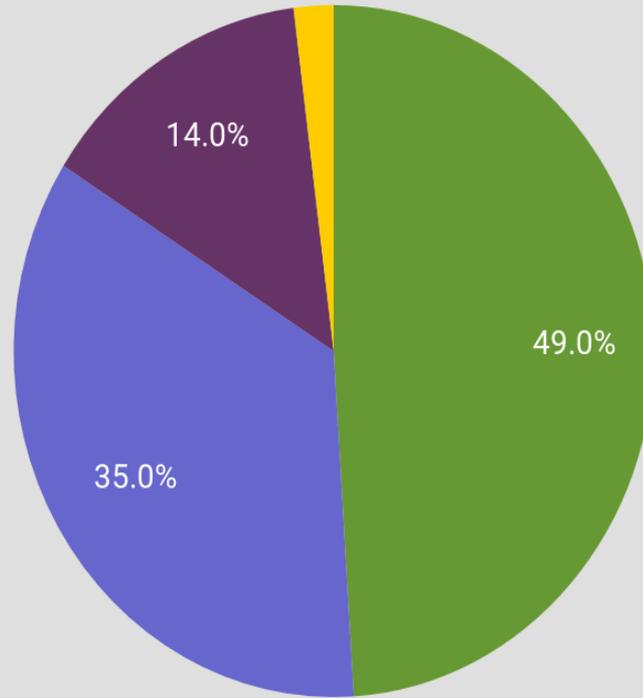
Survey Results

Do you
Provide any
Training to
Kinship
Families?

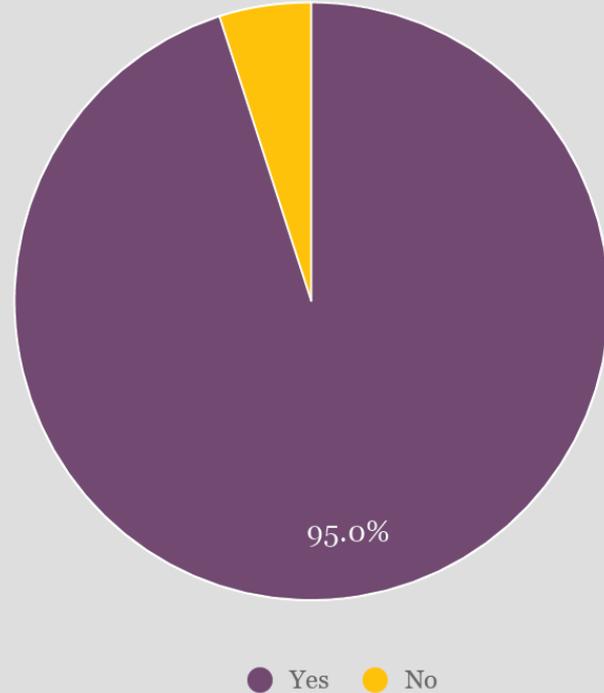


Describe
how your
agency
currently
works
with Kin

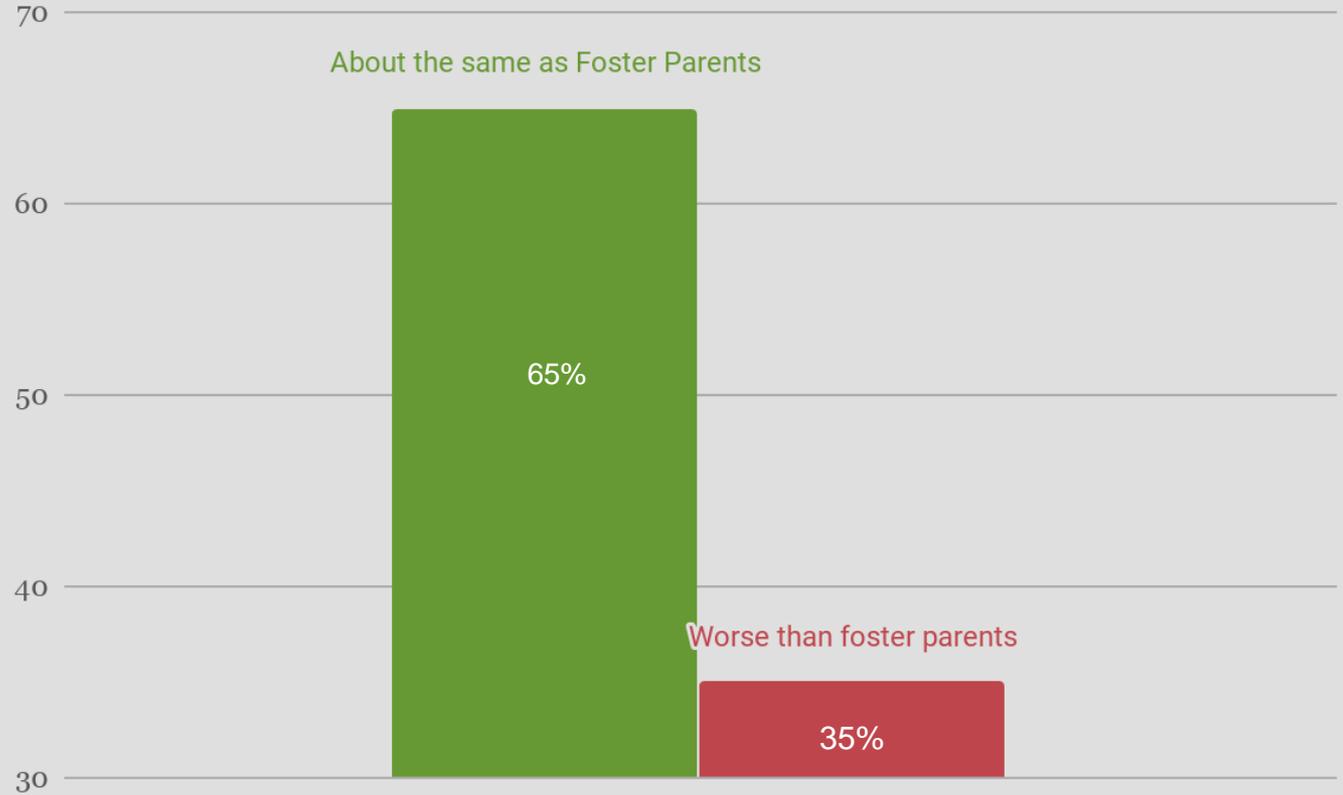
● Diversion to Foster Care ● Other ● Foster Care Placement
● Do not use kinship placement



Would
Kinship
Families
benefit from
formalized
training?



Describe
the
support
Kinship
parent
receive.



Is the
value your
locality
places on
kinship
care a
barrier?

Locality Does not Value Kin

Significant

3.0%

Not sure

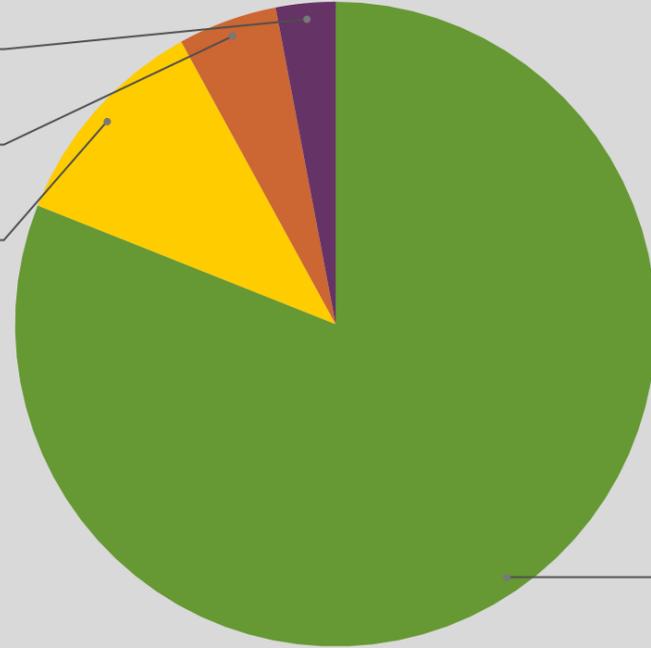
5.0%

Somewhat of a

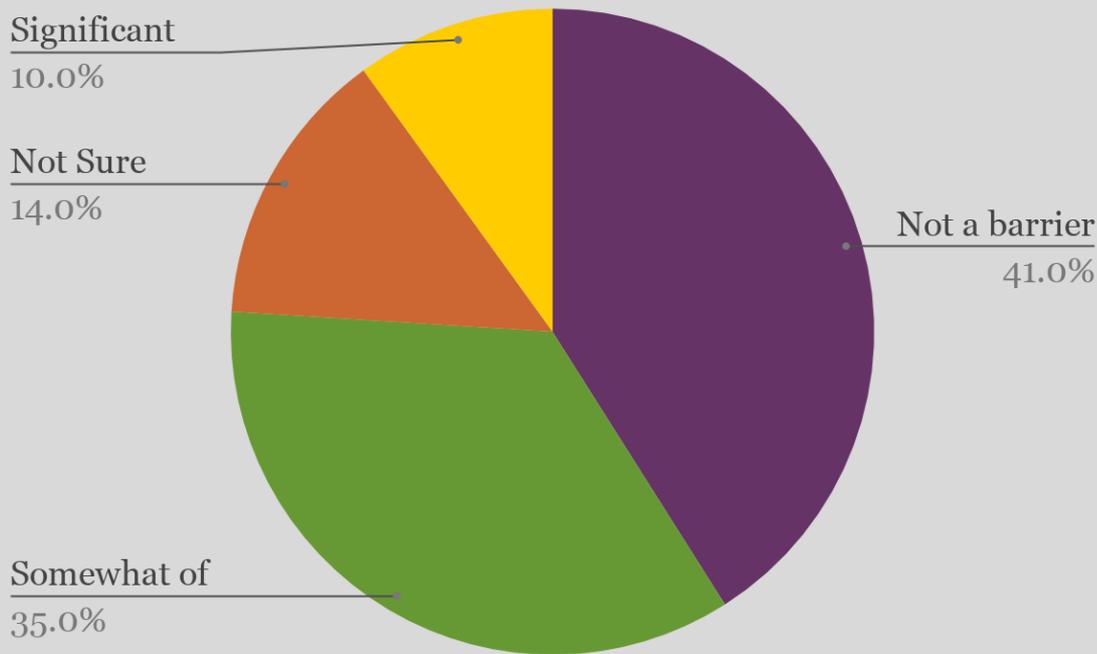
11.0%

Not a Barrier

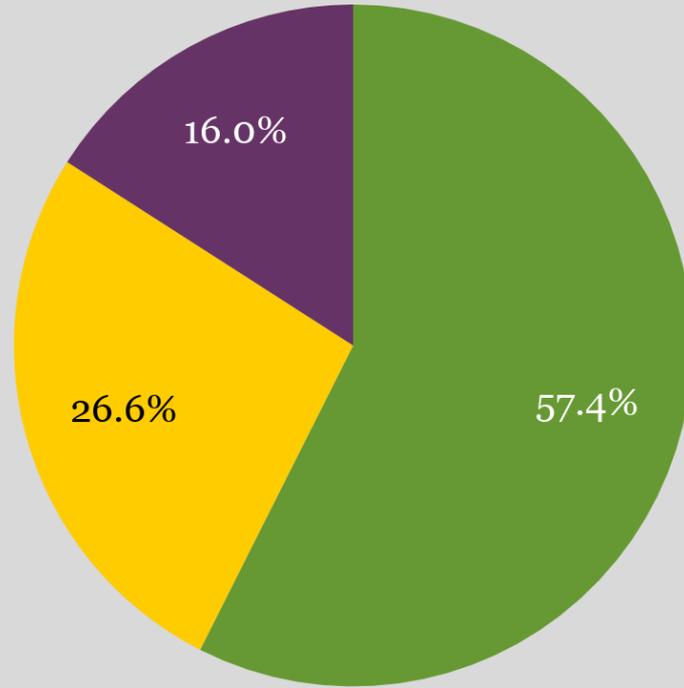
81.0%



Are licensing standards a barrier?



The belief
that
Kinship
families
do not
have the
skills
needed?



● Somewhat of a barrier ● Significant Barrier ● Not a barrier

Values and Attitudes

Kinship TFC is the best option when TFC is needed

- 88% Agree
- Placement with family is always preference
- No financial or case management support

Our Agency would like to do more with kin as TFC providers

- 89% agree

Clinical family dysfunction prevents use of kin

- 67% disagree

Values and Attitudes

Kinship parents should get the same financial support and services as foster parents

87 % agree

Significant staffing resources would need to be put in place to make this happen. ...it would become yet another unfunded mandate.

I think our local DSS agencies have this opinion but there are no resources to 'back it up' and 'make it real'. I think they feel they have no voice with the state DSS.

Which Children would most benefit from Kinship TFC?

1. Children who are at risk for entering congregate care because of emotional, behavioral or developmental needs cannot be met in the kin home
2. Children who are at risk from disrupting from kin
3. Children whose goal is permanency with kin
4. Children who are transitioning from congregate care
5. Children's first time being placed with kin who have significant emotional, behavioral or developmental needs

Collaborative Partnerships

Private partners who currently understand some of the complex needs of youth with emotional and behavioral issues can prepare the most appropriate training and support plan for kinship parents

It would aid in making sure that the training is consistent and correct

...our focus is on prevention of foster care, often through diversionary placement and the move to TFC for kinship seems to move in a different direction than that to which we are moving when work is needed elsewhere



Concerns about Kinship TFC

1. Reluctance of kin to participate in the process
2. Training
3. Policy and Licensing Issues
4. Inability to identify appropriate kin caregivers
5. Finances
 - a. Lack of financial support to kin
 - b. Lack of financial resources
6. Lack of services
7. No barriers
8. No buy in-by local DSS, Staff, and/or judges

Kinship Guardianship

It's a start!

- ❖ Child must be placed with their relative in foster care for 6 months.
 - ❖ No option to reunify, or be adopted.
-

Local Efforts

- ❖ Fairfax
 - ❖ Charlottesville
 - ❖ Henrico
 - ❖ Chesterfield
 - ❖ Hampton
 - ❖ Any others?
-

30 Days to Family

A pilot in the Richmond Area

- ❖ Case begins after a child first enters foster care
 - ❖ Utilizing search technologies, techniques, and data bases
 - ❖ Identify possible relatives
 - ❖ Collaborate with DSS worker
-

Challenges-30 Days to Family

❖ Worker Turnover

➤ Recommendation

- Implement ongoing trainings and information sessions for new staff, or online video
- Identify supervisors/DSS team member

❖ Judges

➤ Recommendation

- Best Practice courts
- Build relationships with GALs, ASAP.

❖ Worker Resistance

➤ Recommendation

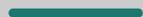
- Understand the root concern
- Seek TDM/FPM assistance from the team to problem solve

Creating a Kin First Culture



Lead the way

Encourage champions of kinship care amongst staff.
Create benchmarks and continuously review.



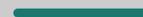
Policies and Procedures

Assess and train staff on current policies and procedures related to approving Kin as placement options.



Identify and Engage Kin

Searching for family and Kin at every possible step, not only when a child enters care. Focus on the role the relatives can play other than placement.



Create a sense of urgency for first placement

Carve the path for staff to have resources to search for kin upon a child's entrance into foster care.

Creating a Kin First Culture

Step
Five

Make licensing kin a priority

Seek partnerships with community agencies for training, assess need for TFC/additional services.

Know current policy, procedures and requirements.

Step
Six

Support Permanency Families for Children

Implement family voice and choice for family meetings. Offer supportive services and options for adding services after permanency is achieved.

Step
Seven

Create a strong community network to support kin

Involve all stakeholders during TDMs/FPMs.

Provide support group/networking opportunities for Kin in your localities. Partner with private providers.

Kin First Philosophy

- ❖ Routine identification of kin creates a connection for the child
 - ❖ Placement of the child with kin is stabilizing and reduces trauma
 - ❖ Recognition that some children's social, emotional and behavioral challenges require additional intervention
-

Kin First Treatment Model

- ❖ Intensive family based services for children with special needs
 - ❖ Trauma focused interventions
 - ❖ 24/7 family crisis intervention
 - ❖ Specialized training and education
 - ❖ Licensing support, if required
-

Areas of growth for a Kin First Culture

Simplify licensing
process for kin

Consider wraparound
services for kin
families and children
even when diverted

Children placed with kin could
benefit from high quality
services as children placed in
foster homes

Family engagement and
diligent search need priority.

Recommendation: Webinars are a great
way to educate staff

Recommendation: Invest in staffing

Continued growth of public/private partnerships

Recommendation: Participate in workgroup, or reach out for help
with trainings, approval, wraparound services

Question and Answer

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Resources

Free Kinship Video series with Annie Casey and Joseph Crumbley

<http://www.aecf.org/blog/engaging-kinship-caregivers-with-joseph-crumbley/>

FACES Kinship Care Toolkit:

<https://facesofvirginia.org/kinship-families/256-kinship-care-resource-toolkit>

Creating a Kin First Culture

<http://www.aecf.org/blog/how-to-creating-a-kin-first-culture-in-child-welfare/>

Voices Blog on KinGAP

<https://vakids.org/our-news/blog/virginia-lawmakers-pass-the-kinship-guardianship-assistance-program>

Fairfax Kinship resources

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/children-youth/kinship-family-institute/about-us>

DSS Data VA

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/children/fc.cgi>