CHAMPS in New York

GENERATING STATEWIDE SUPPORT OF FOSTER AND KINSHIP PARENTS







Foster Care Best Practices

- Foster care should be temporary
- Children do best in placements with someone they know and trust

- Next best placement is with foster parents who are well supported and committed to helping them return to their parents
- Residential care should only be used as a short-term placement







State of the State for NY Children

Child poverty remains stubbornly high

• 22% of NY children live below the poverty line

NY's foster care census is down to 16,000 but we still struggle with placements & permanency

- 26% of children are placed in residential care vs national average of 13% for counties outside of NYC
- 48th in the country for time to permanency for children in care 12+ months

Challenging state budget and policy environment

- \$62 million cut from Foster Care Block Grant in FY18
- Governor FY19 proposal caps preventive, protective and adoption funding stream for NYC







Challenges and Myths

Too many good foster families leave discouraged. More than half quit within 12 months

Common concerns that foster parents are "in it for the money"

Teens are perceived as too challenging for kin/foster parents; drives up residential care placements, in NY

Reticence to place with kin: "apple doesn't fall far from the tree"

"Census is down, we must have enough families"

on how many foster parents are licensed, trained or available.







Statewide Involvement

- Co-chairs: Schuyler Center and Families Together
- Provider Agency leads: Children's Village, Northern Rivers, Children's Home
- Parents: Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of NY and NY Kinship Navigator
- Residential and Foster Care Provider agencies:
 - Good Shepherd, Graham Windham, Children's Aid, Heartshare
- Advocacy Organizations:
 - Citizens Committee for Children, Children's Agenda, Westchester Children's Assoc.
- Foundations:
 - Redlich Horwitz Foundation, Conrad N Hilton Foundation, Casey Family Programs







Potential Policy Playbook

Kinship Care

KinGAP Financing Reform

Kin-First Firewalls

Child-centered recruitment as soon as case is opened

Expedited licensing and training for kin

Foster Family Support

Funding for improved recruitment and support

Respite Care/Child Care/Transportation

Model licensing and flexible training

Dedicated support workers for foster parents

Oversight and accountability

Census of foster parent capacity, specialized recruitment plans and report data

Decrease diversions to informal kin care

Limit liability of foster parents

Foster Parent "standing" in court





