

Implementing Family Preservation Services for Adoptive and Guardianship Families: Lessons from the Field

September 22, 2020

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Housekeeping

- This webinar will be 90 minutes.
- We will record this webinar. We will share the recording with you and post it on the AdoptUSKids YouTube channel and website (professionals.adoptuskids.org).
- Your line will be muted throughout the webinar.
- The webinar will include polls and opportunities for you to share information via the “questions” pod in the control panel.
- Please evaluate the session. You will receive an email from AdoptUSKids Evaluation.

About AdoptUSKids

Our mission:

- Raise public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families for children in the public child welfare system
- Assist states, territories, and tribes to recruit, engage, develop, and support foster and adoptive families

Goals for the webinar

- Share how systems can create or improve family preservation services for adoptive and guardianship families
- Hear from leaders in the field on program implementation considerations
- Discuss strategies to ready your system for new or expanded family preservation services

Building on foundational concepts

August 2020 • Find more resources at professionals.adoptuskids.org

AdoptUSKids

Improving Family Preservation Services for Adoptive and Guardianship Families

Many adoptive and guardianship families need support services at some point to encourage child and family well-being. Some families will need more intensive support services—family preservation services—to keep them intact.

Adoptive/guardianship family preservation services are specific support services designed for families whose children are at risk of disruption, dissolution, or out-of-home placement. They are usually short term, high intensity, and family focused, addressing both the current crisis and the ongoing needs of the family as a whole.

Adoptive family preservation as prevention

By investing in family preservation for adoptive and guardianship families, child welfare systems are fulfilling the promise of permanency and preventing young people from reentering foster care. For this reason, it's important that we consider the work of adoptive/guardianship family preservation as prevention services.

Family preservation services can require a larger resource investment than less intensive services. But as administrators seek to build on their family preservation services, it's important to consider the costs—both human and financial—of having children reenter foster care. There are two main

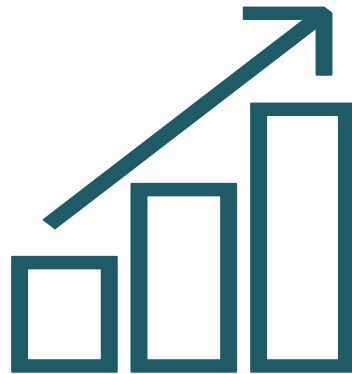
strategies administrators can consider to help preserve adoptive/guardianship families:

1. Expand post-permanency services to include more intensive supports.
2. Make existing family preservation services more adoption- and guardianship-competent.

The Family First Prevention Services Act allows federal Title IV-E funding to be used on evidenced-based services provided to families whose children are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The law includes all families who are at risk of out-of-home placement, including adoptive and guardianship families.¹ By building an evidence base of effective family preservation services designed for adoptive and guardianship families, systems are more likely to ensure the sustainability of these services because they will be able to access the funding made available through Family First.

¹ Section 475(35) of the Social Security Act [42 USC 675] defines a child who is a candidate for foster care to include "a child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement."

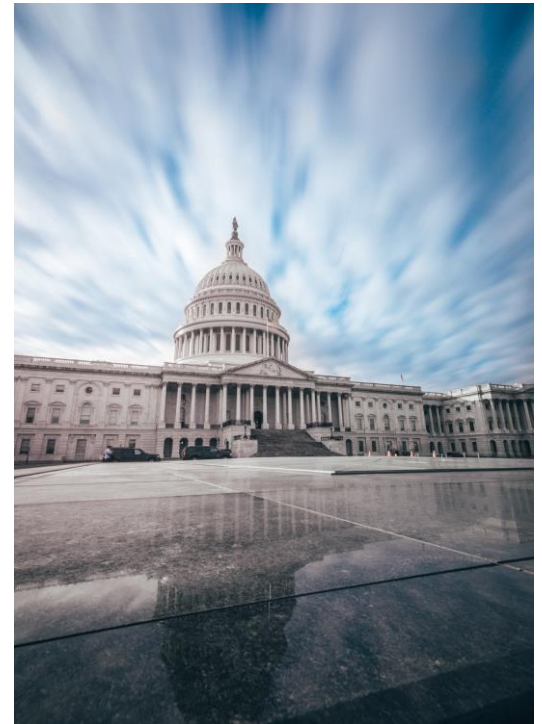
Let's start with some poll questions



Family preservation as prevention

Family First Prevention Services Act:

A candidate for foster care includes “a child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement.”



Services designed for adoptive and guardianship families



Adoptive/guardianship family preservation programs

Crisis Intervention
Teams

Georgia DFACS

Behavioral
Intervention
FosterAdopt
Connect



Questions

Type into the "questions" pod in the control panel.



Crisis Intervention Teams

Georgia DFACS

Adrian Owens
Social Services
Administration Unit
Director



Crisis Intervention Teams

Georgia DFACS

Primary program components:

- 72-hour crisis response
- Short-term, intensive services, including in-home crisis response, behavioral therapy, and service navigation
- Referral to ongoing supports to promote positive interactions and family functioning
- Families receiving adoption or guardianship assistance eligible

Crisis Intervention Teams Georgia DFACS

How did this program come to be? How was it designed?

How was funding secured? How do you sustain it?



Crisis Intervention Teams Georgia DFACS

How is it staffed?

How are the services
tailored to fit
adoptive/guardianship
families?



Crisis Intervention Teams

Georgia DFACS

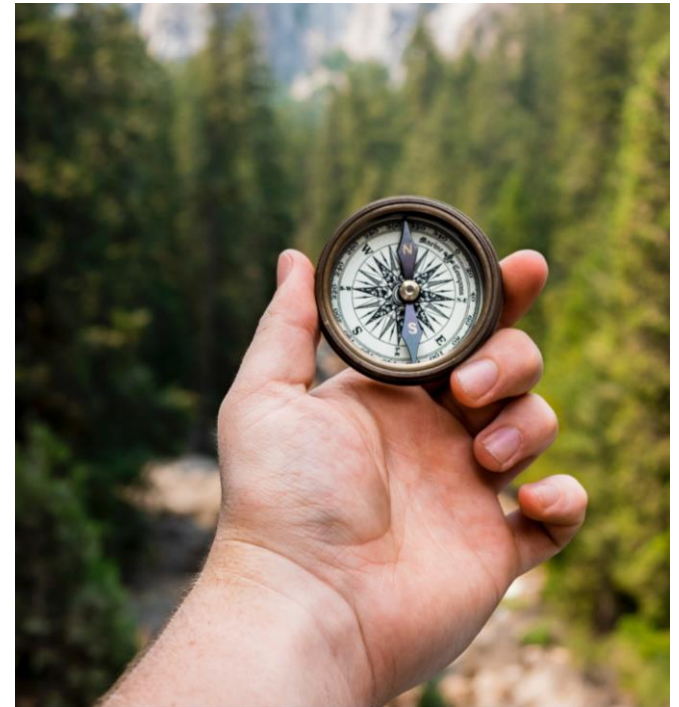
How do you evaluate the program?

What outcomes can you share?



Crisis Intervention Teams Georgia DFACS

What recommendations do you have for other administrators seeking to implement, expand, or improve a family preservation program for adoptive and guardianship families?



Behavioral Intervention FosterAdopt Connect

Nathan Ross
Vice President of
Children and Youth
Programs



Behavioral Intervention FosterAdopt Connect

Primary program components:

- Intensive in-home services for children whose behavioral or emotional challenges put their placement at risk
- One-on-one neuro-developmental activities with child to improve self-regulation
- Respite and education for caregivers

Behavioral Intervention FosterAdopt Connect

How did this program
come to be? How was it
designed?

How was funding
secured? How do you
sustain it?



Behavioral Intervention FosterAdopt Connect

How is it staffed?

How are the services
tailored to fit
adoptive/guardianship
families?



Behavioral Intervention FosterAdopt Connect

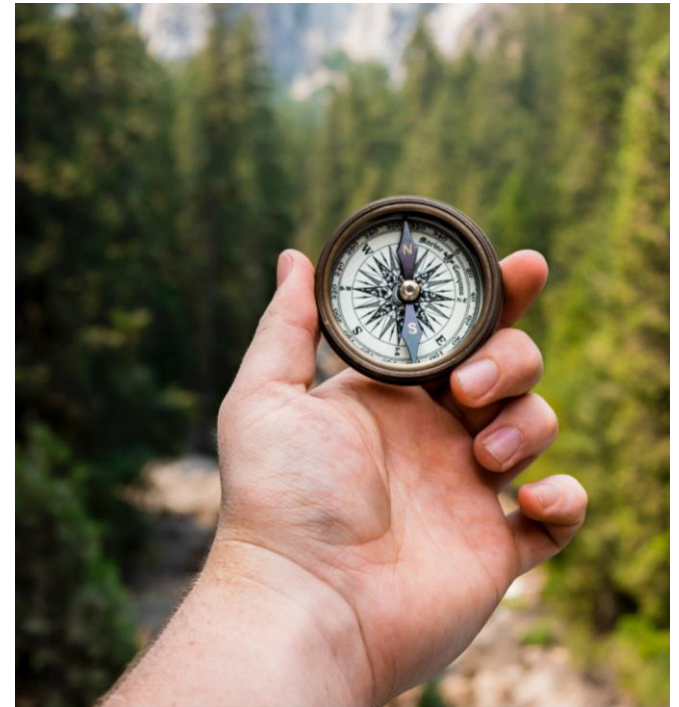
How do you evaluate the
program?

What outcomes can you
share?



Behavioral Intervention FosterAdopt Connect

What recommendations do you have for other administrators seeking to implement, expand, or improve a family preservation program for adoptive and guardianship families?



Questions from the audience

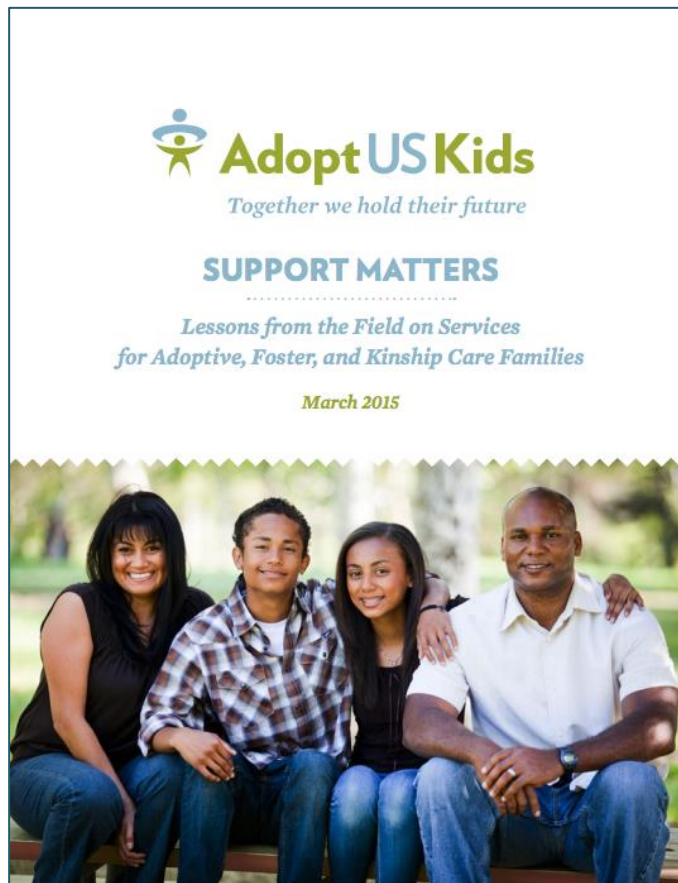
Type into the “questions” pod in the control panel.



Other examples

- Seneca Family of Agencies, CA
Permanency Wraparound Program
- Illinois Adoption and Guardianship
Preservation

Readying your system for new or expanded services



Needs assessment
available in
AdoptUSKids
publication *Support
Matters*

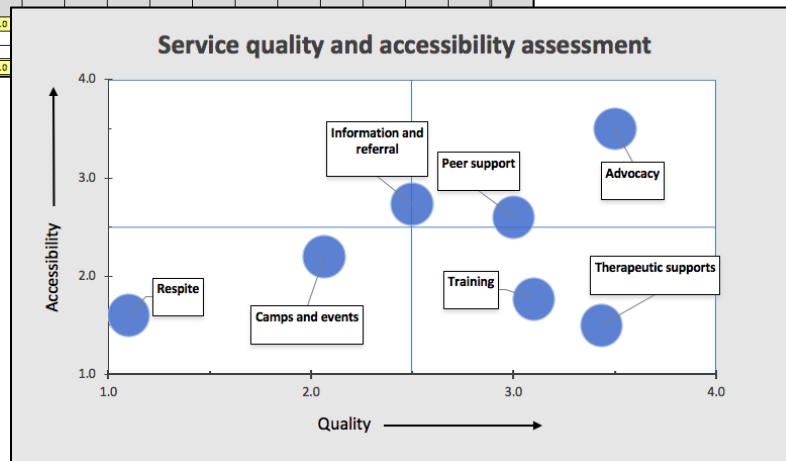
Readying your system for new or expanded services

- Review displacement, disruption, and dissolution data.
- What services are families accessing?
- What are the outcomes of your current services? Do these outcomes demonstrate efficacy?
- What do families tell you they need?

Readying your system for new or expanded services

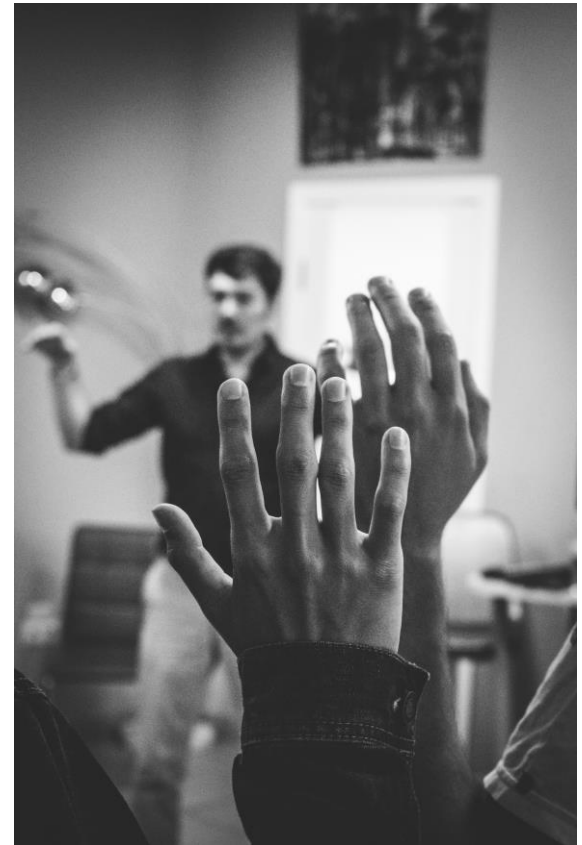
Service	Provided (yes/no)	Adoption/ permanency-compatible	Trauma-informed	Designed with family and youth input and feedback	Family-focused (e.g., engages the whole family appropriately)	Outcome-evaluated/ evidence-based (with positive results)	[Other items identified by the child welfare system]											Average
Scale: 1=Poor; 2=Fair; 3=Good; 4=Excellent																		
Peer Support																		
Peer support for parents and caregivers	Yes	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0												3.2
Peer support for children & teens	Yes	3.0	3.5	2.5	2.5	3.0												2.9
Mentoring for parents	No																	0.0
Mentoring for children & teens	Yes	1.5	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.0												2.5
																		0.0
Average peer support		2.5	3.0	3.0	2.8	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
Advocacy																		
Advocacy for child or parents' needs	Yes	2.0																
Educational support and advocacy																		
Average advocacy																		2.0

AdoptUSKids Support Services Assessment Tool



Readying your system for new or expanded services

Meaningfully engage parents, caregivers, and youth.



Importance of data and continuous quality improvement

Revisiting our earlier polls



Importance of data and continuous quality improvement



Share with us!

What's one action you will take to improve adoptive/guardianship family preservation in your system?



Resources and services from AdoptUSKids

- Assessment tool and guide
- Capacity-building services
- Publications and webinars

Find out more: professionals.adoptuskids.org

We can help! consultation@adoptuskids.org

Other federally funded projects

Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG)

National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Institute (NTI)

Contact information

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