

Kinship Navigator

Henrico Social Services
Presentation

for

Opioid Abatement Authority

March 2025



Agenda

Discovering the need

Identifying the resource
needed

The research

Making the request

Evolution of Kinship Care in Henrico Co.

Prior to 2019

Rarely approved relatives as
foster parents

Regularly safety planning
youth out of their homes with
relatives but not calling it
kinship care

2019

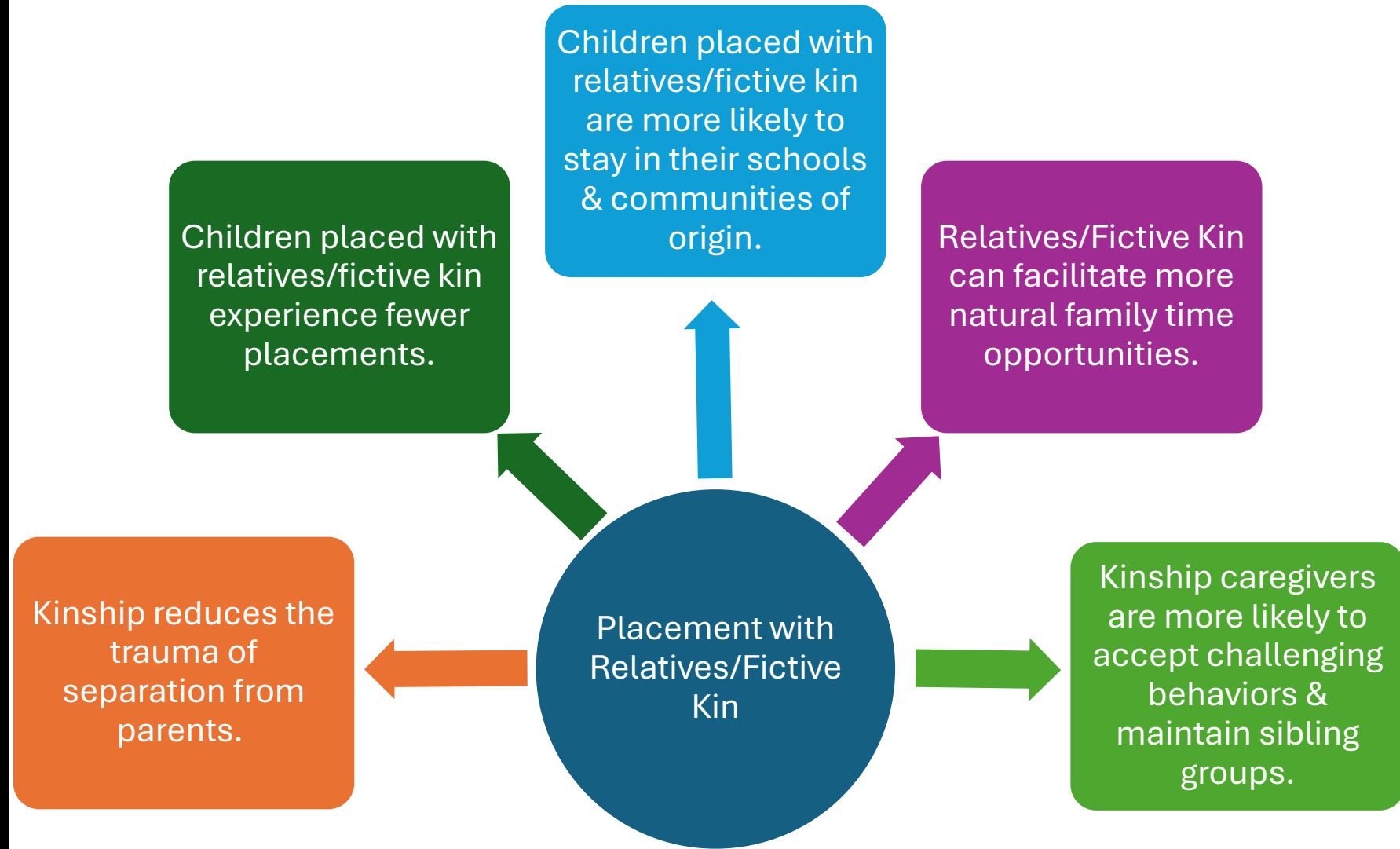
Hired new resource family
coordinator

Challenged our old
practices & the myths that
had become our belief
system

Challenges for Kinship Caregivers



Why kinship care?



Kinship Progression in Henrico Co.



Also in
2023....



Opportunity...

We know there are direct connections between substance use disorder & child welfare, so how can we access OAA \$\$\$?

Fast-forward to January 2024

Kinship Foster Care

146 youth in foster care

70% (102 youth) have parents or prior custodians with SUD

- 35 kinship foster homes
- 38 regular foster homes
- 7 treatment foster homes
- 8 congregate care
- 3 trial home placements
- 11 IL arrangements

Kinship Care - Diversion

114 families served in Family Preservation

33% have identified SUD as a primary issue

22 families have children placed in kinship diversion

13 families with children placed away from their primary caregivers have SUD identified as a primary issue



For every child in foster care living with a relative, 19 children are being raised by grandparents or other relatives outside of the foster care system.

Generations United, 2018

Child welfare by the numbers

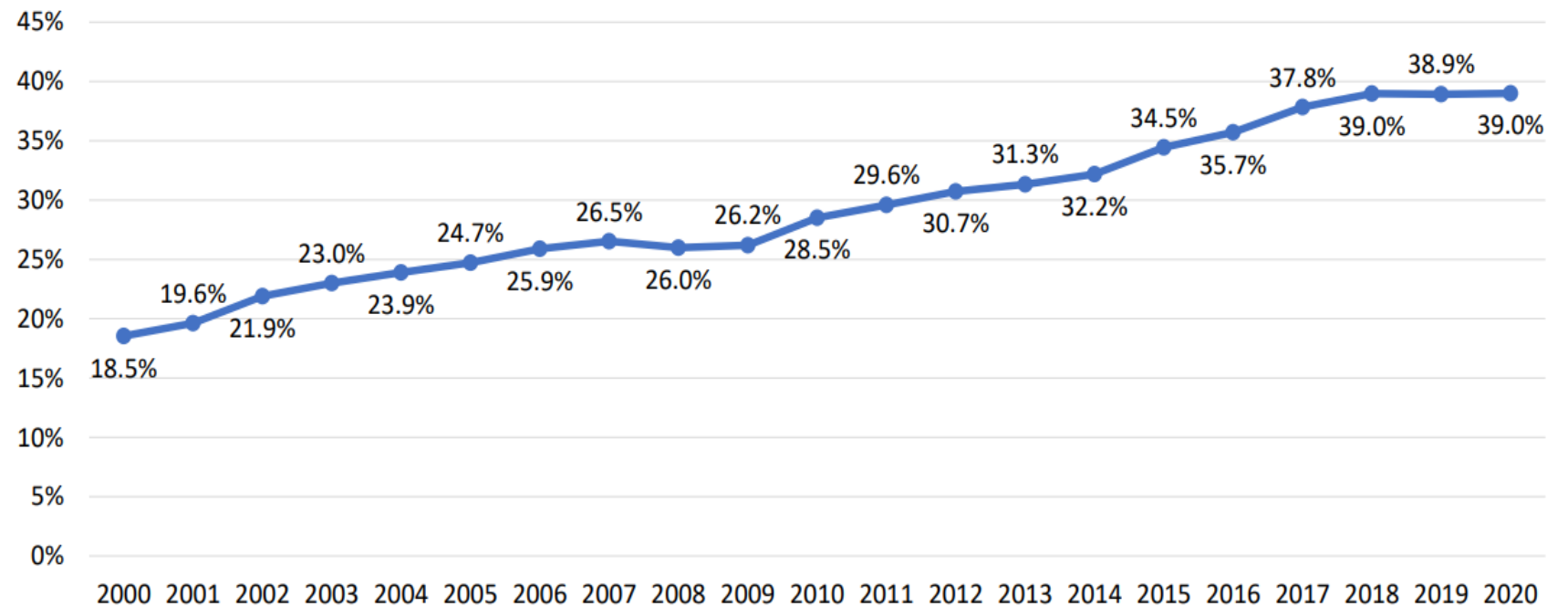
Over 7.5 million children involved in Child Protective Services intervention annually.

In 2017, caregiver drug misuse was identified in 30.8% of child substantiated abuse/neglect cases

These families receive ongoing child welfare services

National Data

Prevalence of Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse as an Identified Condition of Removal in the United States, 2000 to 2020



These data indicate that the prevalence of parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition of removal of children and placement in out-of-home care has increased from 2000 to 2020. Data from 2000 show a prevalence rate of 18.5%. This increased to 39.0% in 2020, an increase of 20.5%.

What we know...

23,000+ children age out annually across the U.S.



Virginia ranks near the bottom of all states



1 in 2 youth who age out of foster care develop substance use disorder (National Foster Youth Institute)

**We also
know that....**

Inherited biological factors play a significant role in a person's likelihood of developing a substance use disorder

Genetics account for 40-60% of risk for developing SUD (NIH)

Drug addiction is as much as 70% inheritable (Rutgers Univ.)

And
finally...a
little good
news

In Virginia...

Foster care youth placed with
kinship caregivers achieve
permanency at a rate of 97% and
0% age out

Our request

Funding to support a senior family services specialist in the role of Kinship Navigator

Our request

The Cost

Senior Family Services Specialist	Annual
Salary (HP Grade 29, Step 1)	\$ 66,353
FICA @7.65%	\$ 5,076
Retirement @17.50%	\$ 11,612
Hospitalization	\$ 11,084
Life Insurance @1.4%	\$ 929
Hybrid Disability @ 0.59%	\$ 391
Hybrid Disability @ 2.50%	\$ 1,659
Total Salary and Benefits:	\$ 95,445

Kinship Navigator

The kinship navigator will assist kinship caregivers in identifying & utilizing services to meet the needs of the children they are raising.

The kinship navigator will promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to provide resources and support families involved with the child welfare system as well as before & after child welfare involvement.

Kinship Navigator Duties

Case Management:

Provides support, education, information & referral to kinship caregivers open to family preservation and foster care services

Direct provision of services, such as:

- assisting with permanency assessments & placement decisions
- conducting needs assessments
- facilitating kinship caregiver support group

Kinship Navigator Duties

- Resource development & management:
 - Help community partners develop kin-focused services & supports
 - Develop information & referral system to assist kinship caregivers such as information packets, a referral database and other tools to offer support and information on available resources
 - Work collaboratively with other local social services departments & community providers to coordinate a regional approach to kinship support

How we will measure success

Provide support and resources to kinship providers to promote placement stability, to reduce the number of kids entering foster care and to increase the number of foster care youth placed in kinship homes.

How we will measure success

Data collection:

- Decrease foster care entries
- Increase use of kinship placement in foster care
- Improve timeliness to permanency

Resource Development in the Community

Where we are today...



- Appropriation July 2024
- Hired November 2024
- March 2025
- New request

Why now?

Agency Culture

Legislation & budget amendments

Community Engagement

Thank you

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