
Learning Collaborative:
Understanding Kinship Care
in Philadelphia

*National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
and the Joseph J. Peters Institute*

Zoom Orientation

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Captions

To adjust or remove captions, click the “Live Transcript” button at the bottom of your Zoom window and select “Hide Subtitle” or “Show Subtitle.”

CC
Live Transcript

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Questions

Please add your questions for the speaker and comments for the group into the chat or raise your hand.

Chat



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Technical Issues

Please message Zaharaa Davood in the chat.

Chat



●●● Accreditation Statement

Accreditation Statement: The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This session, *Understanding Kinship Care in Philadelphia*, has been approved for 1.0 NCPD contact hour.

Success Completion Requirements: To obtain the 1.0 contact hour of nursing continuing professional development, you must attend the entire activity and complete the evaluation.

Please rename yourself on Zoom with the name you used to register for the training!



The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) is a nonprofit public health organization working to strengthen community health through quality, compassionate, and collaborative nurse-led care. NNCC's mission is to advance nurse-led healthcare through policy, consultation, and programs to reduce health disparities and meet people's primary care and wellness needs.

Joseph J. Peters Institute (JJPI) is a non-profit mental health organization that provides outpatient, trauma-informed services to survivors of trauma as well as individuals with histories of violence and abuse. JJPI's mission is to restore hope with dignity, we do that by providing compassionate person-centered evidence-based practice interventions that provide healing and mental health wellness. JJPI is one of the few providers on a national level that provides comprehensive trauma treatment that encompasses the entire cycle of abuse.

The Philly Supporting Parenting Relationships through Outreach, Understanding, and Training (Philly SPROUT) will support children and their caregivers participating in NNCC's home visiting programs, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and Mabel Morris Family Home Visit Program (MM), through mental health services provided by JJPI mental health clinicians. The program will also enhance the capacity of Philadelphia-based child and family service providers through infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) training and learning collaboratives.

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Subject Matter Experts



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Turning Points for Children



UNDERSTANDING KINSHIP CARE IN PHILADELPHIA

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Executive Director, Grand Central

Emily LaBree

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WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Increase understanding of kinship care and services available to kinship families
- Raise awareness of the unique challenges facing children and caregivers in kinship care
- Explore how other professionals can support kinship families

WHAT IS KINSHIP CARE?

Kinship Care is when a child is cared for by a relative (grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sibling, etc.), close family friend or another person previously known to the child.

“Fictive Kin” refers to a kinship caregiver who is not related to the child. Examples include family friends, godparents, neighbors, current or former teachers or coaches.



KINSHIP CARE IN PHILADELPHIA: THE NUMBERS

According to the Philadelphia Department of Human Services July-September 2024 Quarterly Indicators Report:

- Almost half (48%) of the children and youth in dependent placement on September 30, 2024, were in kinship care
- Over 14,000 children in Philadelphia live in homes where kinship caregivers provide their primary care
- 46% (6,600) of caregivers are over age 60

BENEFITS OF KINSHIP CARE

Research shows that children living in kinship care, compared to children living in foster care with non-relatives:

**HAVE MORE STABILITY AND
BETTER BEHAVIORAL AND
MENTAL HEALTH
OUTCOMES**

**ARE LIKELIER TO STAY
CONNECTED TO SIBLINGS,
FAMILY CONNECTIONS, AND
CULTURAL IDENTITY**

**HAVE A GREATER CHANCE
OF RECONNECTION WITH
THEIR PARENTS**

CHALLENGES FACED BY KINSHIP FAMILIES¹¹

FINANCIAL

LEGAL

**SYSTEM
NAVIGATION**

PHYSICAL HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH

FOOD INSECURITY

**HOUSING
INSECURITY**

**STRAINED FAMILY
RELATIONSHIPS**

LITERACY

**COMPUTER/
TECHNOLOGY SKILLS**

**LACK OF TRAUMA
UNDERSTANDING**

SOCIAL ISOLATION

FORMAL AND INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE

Formal Kinship Care:

A legal arrangement in which the youth is adjudicated dependent and is under the custody and supervision of the Philadelphia Department of Human Services. The Kinship Caregiver is certified, trained and licensed and receives case management services and a monthly stipend.

Informal Kinship Care:

A private arrangement between the biological parents and the kinship caregiver. There is no child welfare involvement but the caregiver can decide to apply for custody of the youth.

KINSHIP VIDEO



FORMAL KINSHIP CARE

The youth has a CUA (Community Umbrella Agency) social worker and the kinship caregiver has an RPSW (Resource Parent Support Worker)

Kinship homes are required to adhere to (mostly) the same guidelines as foster homes: all household members receive criminal and child abuse clearances, the home is regularly assessed for safety, the caregiver is required to meet with social workers and other professionals regularly

The goal is for the youth to achieve permanency and be discharged from DHS. This can occur by reunification with bio parents, adoption/subsidized legal custody with the kinship caregiver or Independent Living for an older teen



FORMAL KINSHIP CARE

PROS

- Financial assistance: monthly stipend as well as beds and safety items provided by agency
- 24/7 support from CUA and RPSW
- Direct access to school, medical and mental health services
- Legal protection as the youth's caregiver

CONS

- Adherence to strict policies regarding caregiver's home and household members
- Less freedom in terms of schooling, travel, relocating, etc.
- The youth can be removed and placed in foster care if caregiver or home is found to be unfit
- Pressure to provide permanency

INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE

The kinship caregiver assumes responsibility for the youth through an informal arrangement with the biological parents or because they recognize that the youth are not being cared for appropriately

The kinship caregiver can choose to apply for custody for the youth- this gives them more authority in terms of schooling, medical and dental care, etc.

There are fewer resources available for informal caregivers but there are some: TANF benefits, SSI, WIC, ELRC



INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE

PROS

- No oversight from a government agency
- The caregiver can make decisions about housing, schooling, household members, etc.
- Custody can be obtained without child welfare involvement
- The caregiver and bio parents can decide together when and if the child returns to the bio parents

CONS

- Less financial assistance and resources
- Schooling, medical, mental health, etc. can be difficult if custody is not obtained
- No legal protection if biological parents decide to take the youth back into their care

KINSHIP VIDEO



RESOURCES

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Grand Central, Inc

<https://www.grandcentralinc.org/>

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

<https://pcacares.org/>

Connectedly

<https://www.connectedly.org/>

Senior Law Center

<https://seniorlawcenter.org/>

Annie E Casey Foundation- Dr. Crumbley Kinship Training Series

<https://www.aecf.org/blog/training-series-coping-with-the-unique-challenges-of-kinship-care>

PA Kinship Connector

<https://www.kinconnector.org/>

RESOURCES

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Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network

<https://www.gksnetwork.org/>

Generations United

<https://www.gu.org/>

Zero to Three

<https://www.zerotothree.org/>

Philadelphia Department of Human Services

215-683-4DHS

Philadelphia CUA map and contact info

<https://www.phila.gov/media/20250410084259/DHS-zip-code-map-April-2025.pdf>

Closing



Evaluation

- The evaluation link will be sent to attendees in a follow up email.
- If you are applying for the 1.0 NCPD contact hour, you must attest to attending to the entire session and complete the evaluation.
- The evaluation will close **EOD Tuesday, September 30, 2025.**



Trainings

October 15, 2025

12:00 - 1:30 PM | Mitigating Vicarious Trauma

Presented by Sarah Yanosy, LCSW-R, Director of Consulting and co-founder of *Creating PRESENCE*, Adjunct Professor of Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services, consultant, and therapist

Learning Collaboratives

September 23, 2025

12:00 - 1:30 PM | Come Explore Reflective Supervision with Una and Blair: Centering Relationships in Our Work with Young Children

Presented by Blair Lamb, BSN, RN, Nurse Supervisor with the Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership at NNCC, and Una Majmudar, MSW, LCSW, IMH-E®, Clinical Director with the Health Federation of Philadelphia

The Philly SPROUT Project appreciates your continued engagement.

Continue learning with our upcoming trainings focused on IECMH. Scan the QR code for more details!



Upcoming Trainings & Learning Collaboratives



●●● Contact Information



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