

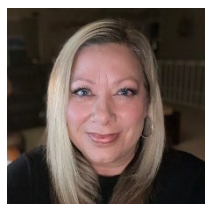
Creating a Kin-First Approval Process: Leveraging the New Federal Kinship Regulations to Rethink Kinship Support, Engagement and Approval
January 16, 2024 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST

Content Summary

The federal government recently updated their kinship approval standards required for Title IVE reimbursement, significantly lowering the requirements for kin approval in an attempt to support more children to be placed with kin. This provides a unique opportunity for agencies to go above and beyond just reducing their approval requirements for kin, and truly shift toward being kin-first in their approach on kinship finding, engagement, support and approval.

Join thought leaders in kinship from around the country including Kevin Campbell, state leadership and mission driven organizations focused on kin to learn tactical next steps on how your agency can make a shift toward being kin-first.

Presenters



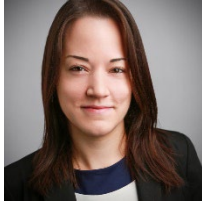
Jessica Bodell, Relative Licensing and Placement Specialist, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Jessica Bodell is a Relative Licensing and Placement Specialist for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services with over 20 years of experience in child welfare in both private and public sectors. She is responsible for overseeing relative placement and licensure policy and forms as well as various relative initiatives and programing, and serves as the statewide resource for relative placements and licensure. Jessica is also the Kinship Advisory Council Lead and MDHHS administrator of the Kinship Support Program (kinship navigator services).



Kevin Campbell, Co-Founder and CEO, Pale Blue and Model Author of Family Finding and Family Seeing

Kevin Campbell, Co-founder and CEO of Pale Blue, is a pioneering figure in American Child Protection, Children's Mental Health, and Health Care Innovation. Pale Blue, a collaborative initiative, focuses on disseminating participatory methods exploring the intersection of Equality, Economics, and the Environment for human health, flourishing, and justice. Kevin's strategies, Family Finding and Family Seeing, are widely adopted in North America, Australia, and Western Europe, catalyzing efforts in responding to critical issues. His impact extends to transforming family engagement practices globally, resulting in legislative recognition and inclusion in federal bills. Notably, Kevin played a crucial role in a successful lawsuit on behalf of separated families at the U.S. border and supports initiatives promoting whole person, whole family, and whole community health. His collaborative efforts include a Truth Telling in Child Welfare project, addressing family separation harms, and he continues to advocate for radical reform in Child Protection, Children's Mental Health, and equitable healthcare. Kevin's influential work has been featured in CBS 60 MINUTES, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Time Magazine, and various international publications.



Marina Nitze, Fellow, Resource Family Working Group & Child Welfare Playbook, New America's New Practice Lab

Marina Nitze, co-author of the new book *Hack Your Bureaucracy*, is currently a partner at Layer Aleph, a crisis engineering firm that specializes in restoring complex business systems to service. Marina is also a fellow at New America's New Practice Lab, where she works on improving America's foster care system through the Resource Family Working Group and Child Welfare Playbook. Marina was most recently the Chief Technology Officer of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under President Obama, after serving as a Senior Advisor on technology in the Obama White House and as the first Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the U.S. Department of Education. She serves on the advisory boards of Foster America, Smartsheet, and Think of Us; created TaskTackler, the personal productivity app for Type-A personalities; and previously authored the book *Business Efficiency for Dummies*. She lives in Seattle, WA.



Steven Olender, Senior Director, Strategic Policy Initiatives, Think of Us

Steven Olender is Senior Director for Strategic Policy Initiatives at Think of Us, a research and design lab for child welfare, focused on fundamentally transforming the system so that people with lived experience are at the center of designing, imagining, and building. Prior to joining Think of Us, Steven helped direct the child welfare policy portfolio at the Children's Defense Fund and co-led the Child Welfare and Mental Health Coalition, an informal partnership of more than 200 organizations dedicated to child welfare reform. He serves as the co-chair of the Public Policy Committee at Generations United and as a Subject Matter Expert for the Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center.



Felicia Curcuru, Co-Founder and CEO, Binti

Felicia Curcuru is the CEO of Binti. Felicia was first introduced to the world of child welfare many years ago when her sister adopted two children. Years later, Felicia began volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster youth in San Francisco. Through these experiences and coming from a technology background, she saw a lot of opportunity where technology could improve the outcomes of families and children in the foster care and adoption world. Prior to starting Binti, Felicia had a career in business and technology, and was an Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company and Head of User Experience and Director of Business Development at FundersClub, a leading online venture capital firm. Felicia graduated from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.



Adrian Saldana, Organizational Effectiveness Consultant, American Public Human Services Association

Adrian has over 19 years of experience in human services, seeking to help individuals, families and communities thrive. His functions have encompassed frontline service delivery, learning and development, training evaluation, and change management. Prior to joining APHSA, Adrian worked at New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) for six years. There he supported continuous quality improvement and participatory leadership

initiatives at the ACS Workforce Institute as well as implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in the Division of Family Permanency Services. He has also supported transformational reform efforts at the United Nations, the National Harm Reduction Coalition, Safe Horizon and Henry Street Settlement. Adrian received his Master of Public Administration from the New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.