

# D.C. Child and Family Services Agency

## Kinship & Placement Administration

### “Moving from a Child Welfare System to a Child and Family Wellbeing System”



# Agenda

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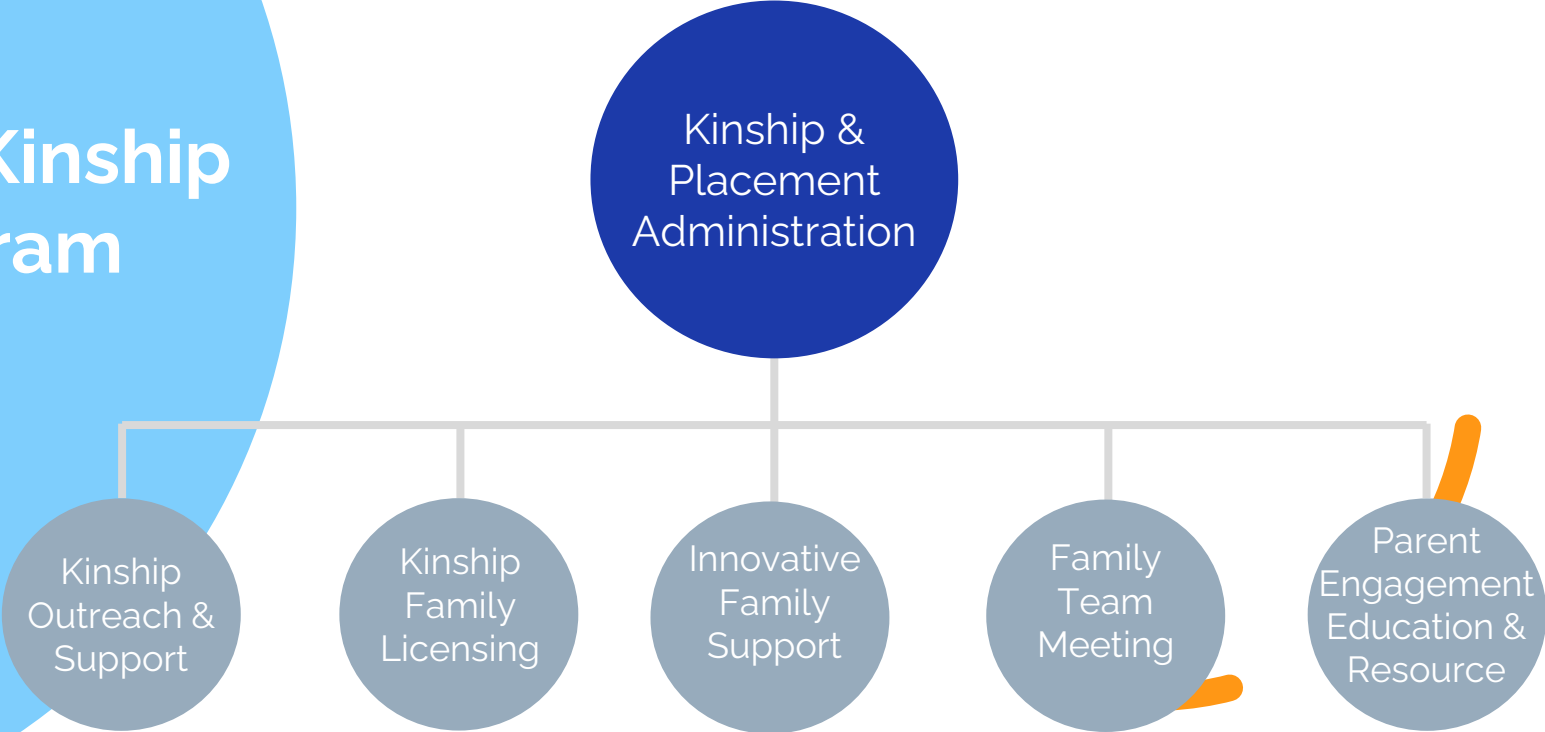
- Kinship Program Overview
- Kinship Outreach and Support Services
- Kiley's Story:
  - Kinship Licensing
  - Family Team Meeting
  - Parent Engagement Education & Resource
  - Permanency
  - Innovative Family Support





Kinship care is when children are cared for by a relative or close family friend. It is a way for children who have been (or may be) separated from their parent(s) to stay attached to their family and maintain those family ties.

# CFSA's Kinship Program





# Kinship Outreach & Support Services

- **Grandparent & Close Relative Caregiver Program** helps low-income District residents who are raising their kin children. Those who qualify may receive money every month to help care for children living with them.
- **Kinship Navigator Program** enhances the community and caregiver capacity to keep children safe and well in the homes of their relatives.

Kinship  
Caregiver  
Support Line

(866)FAM-KIN1

Web Based  
Community  
Resource  
Directory

[Kinship Navigator](http://kinshipdc.org)  
([kinshipdc.org](http://kinshipdc.org))

Kinship  
Programming  
Advisory  
Committee  
(KinPAC)



# Entries and Re-entries Summary

- **240** Entries or Re-entries (238 kids)
- **227 children/youth (95%)** stayed in care at least 8 days
- **55 (24%)** experienced a kin placement



# Barriers to Emergency Kin Licensing

- **Clinical Concerns:** Untreated MH- Inability to set boundaries with parents/guardians-Vacillation in commitment to licensing-Criminal/CPS history
- **Unwilling/Unable:** Kin refusing to engage with kinship licensing team and/or CFSA. Self reported age, illness, or lifestyle making it difficult to care for children.



# Barriers to Emergency Kin Licensing

- **Child's Behavior:** When children are emotionally dysregulated, families have often attempted to support the child prior to CFSA involvement. Unsafe behaviors such as, criminal activity, suicidal ideation or attempts, aggression toward parents/caregivers or household members, involvement in community violence or gangs, and sexually acting out behaviors are all reasons families feel disease when considering caring for a child.
- **Parents Behavior:** When parents are emotionally dysregulated, families are often unwilling to care for their children. Dysregulated mood, verbal and physical aggression, family history of unresolved issues, active substance abuse and threatening behaviors are all reasons families have sited in their decision to not move forward with licensing



## 90 days to Kin!

Kinship's effort to identify, locate and engage kin for licensing or lifelong support and to address any related barriers



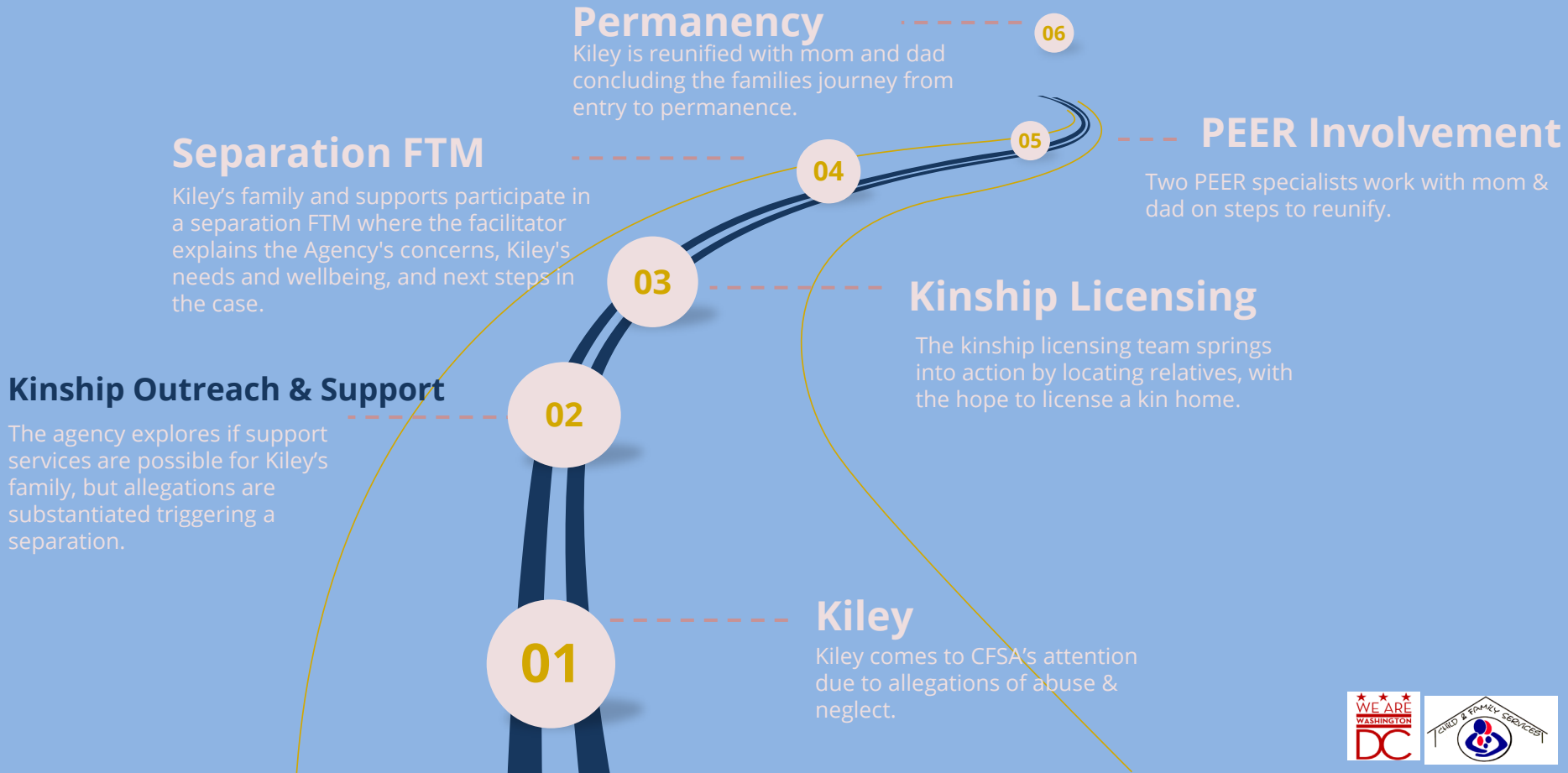


# Kiley's Story

- Female child under the age of two
- Lives in a two-parent household; both parents are in their early 20s
- No prior history with CFSA
- Allegation: Unexplained physical injuries



# Kiley's Roadmap





# Kinship Licensing Process

CFSA's Diligent Search Unit supports  
KFL identifying kin

Telephonic efforts begin with  
potential kin providers

Social Worker completes phone  
assessments with viable kin

Completion of lead inspection (ages 0-6 for  
D.C. homes)

Conduct home assessment

Utilize the Agency's resources to provide beddings as required by  
jurisdiction, and other essential items to support the placement.

Upon placement, the licensing team is assigned to the family to assess and  
support during the 150 day licensing period

# Kinship Licensing: Behind The Scenes

## Kin Identified

Placement  
Stabilization  
Staffing

Caring for Our  
Own Pre-Service  
Training

30/60/90/120  
Day  
Consultations

Joint Team  
Staffing's  
between  
Licensing &  
Permanency

## No Kin Identified

90 Days to Kin

Partner with  
Permanency  
Social Worker to  
locate and engage  
kin

Participate in the  
FTM

Interstate  
Compact on the  
Placement of  
Children



# Kiley's Kinship Journey

Official separation → Kinship licensing  
efforts began → Kin identified and licensed  
→ Kiley had a smooth transition to her  
maternal grandmother's home



# Family Team Meeting (FTM)

- An FTM is a structured planning and decision-making meeting that uses skilled and trained facilitators to engage families, family supports, and professional partners in creating plans for children's safety, well-being and in laying the groundwork for permanency.



# FTM Core Values



**All Families have Strengths.**



**Families are the experts on themselves.**



**With appropriate support, families can make informed choices and good decisions about how to keep their children safe.**



**Children are more likely to achieve long lasting, positive outcomes when their family is involved in decision- making.**



**Teamwork is the best way to make creative, high-quality decisions about complex, multidisciplinary issues.**



**Families deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.**



# Parent Engagement Education and Resource (PEER)

## **Provide**

one-on-one orientation for  
parents experiencing  
separation

## **Accompany**

CFSA staff and parents  
during key meetings or  
interventions

## **Lead**

consultations on  
engagement to  
Permanency Supervisors  
and Social Workers

## **Participate**

in team meetings to  
address the needs of birth  
parents and families

## **Facilitate**

parent support groups  
focusing on topics such as  
fatherhood, co-parenting,  
addiction, and coping with  
mental health challenges



# Support Groups

## Parents Talk

- Parents Talk is a bi-weekly educational support group for birth parents involved with CFSA.



## Dads Acknowledging Dads (D.A.D.)

- D.A.D. is a new PEER initiative that builds fathers' communication and partnership with mothers, and enhances their ability to engage with their children in meaningful ways.

The PEER Program Presents:

## D.A.D.

Dads Acknowledging Dads


Monthly every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

**JOIN BY COMPUTER**  
ZOOM Login:  
[bit.ly/CFSA\\_DadLab](https://bit.ly/CFSA_DadLab)  
Meeting ID: 827 7546 5912  
Passcode: 082906

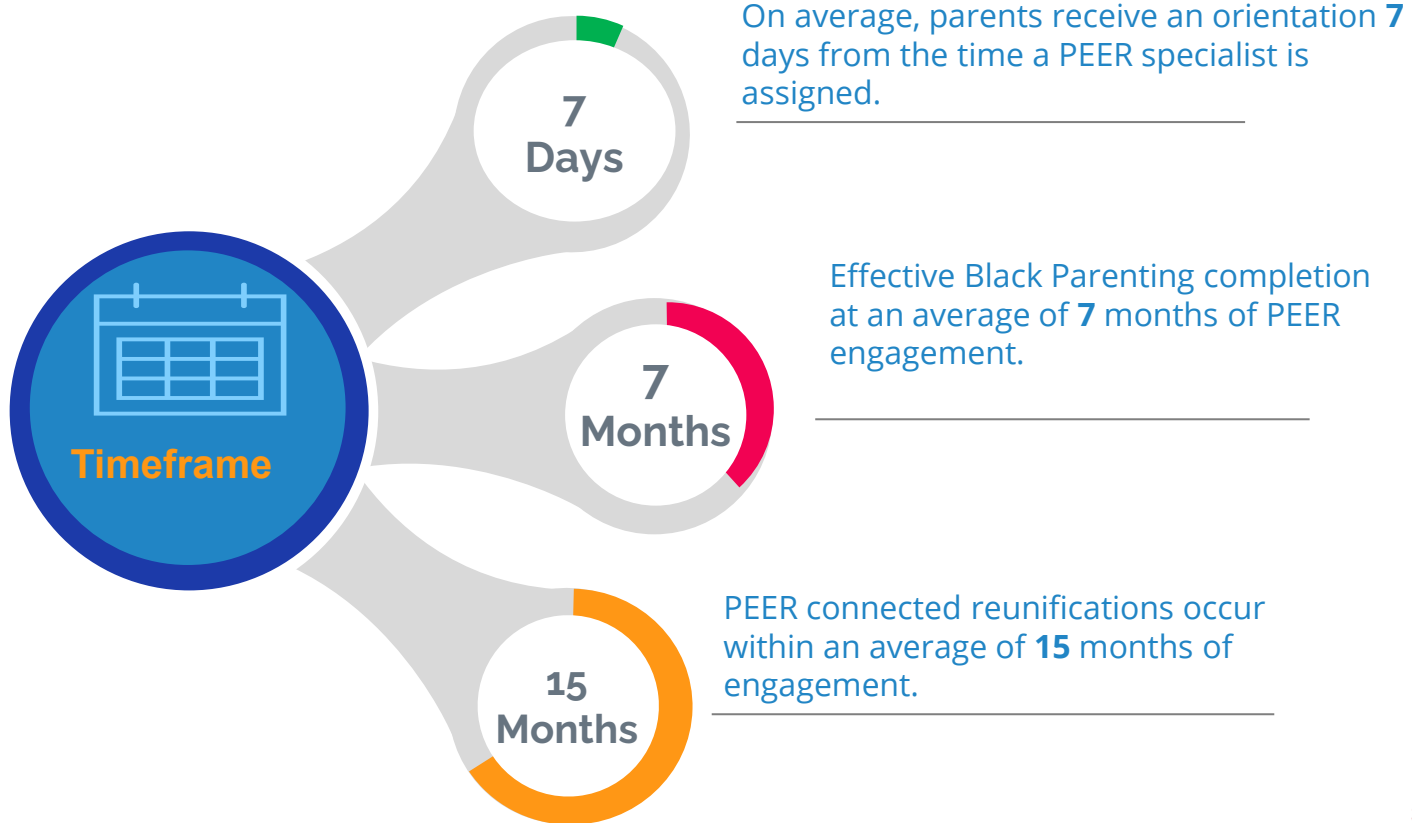
**JOIN BY PHONE**  
Dial-in Number:  
(301) 715-8592

**Come for camaraderie and engagement. Leave with knowledge and tools.**

A structured, safe, judgement-free space where men of differing points of entry into fatherhood are empowered to seek real solutions, enrich the lives of their families, and enhance their role as fathers.

 D.C. GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

# Timeline of PEER Engagement



# Permanency Achieved

Kiley and her family's journey from separation, to kinship placement, FTM then PEER support concludes with Kiley being reunified with her parents 😊





# New Units: Innovative Family Support



# Q & A

