Closing the Gap: Providing Effective Services to Kinship Families

What do we know?

- Preferred Placement Setting
- Formal and Informal Arrangements

Today’s Goals

- Recognize the benefits and challenges of kinship care,
- Identify key areas where families need support, and
- Clarify ways in which we can provide needed supports.
Recognizing The Benefits and Challenges

Benefits:
- Placement Stability
- Cultural Connection
- Greater Sense of Belonging
- Maintaining Relationships and Connections in their Community

Challenges:
- Thrust into the Role Unexpectedly
- Unprepared for Questions
- Redefining Family Roles
- Unaware of Services

Identifying Key Areas of Needed Support

- Freedom to Feel and Express
- Education
- Assistance in Defining Roles
- Setting Boundaries
- Maneuvering the Generational Gap
Clarifying How to Provide Needed Support

- Communication
- Effectively Engage
- Get them Connected
- Clinical Support
- Setting Boundaries

Professional Considerations

- What was the relationship between the parent and current caregiver prior to placement?

Professional Considerations

- What was the relationship between the child and current caregiver prior to placement?
Professional Considerations

- Does the caregiver have any previous experience with the system that needs to be addressed in order for them to engage effectively?

Professional Considerations

- Don’t hesitate to ask questions!

Conclusions

Today we...
- Recognized the benefits and challenges,
- Identified key areas of support, and
- Clarified how we can meet the need.

Let us take these lessons and serve our families well!