

RURAL COMMUNITIES
OPIOID RESPONSE
PROGRAM FOR
EAST TENNESSEE
CONSORTIUM

RCORP-
ETC 

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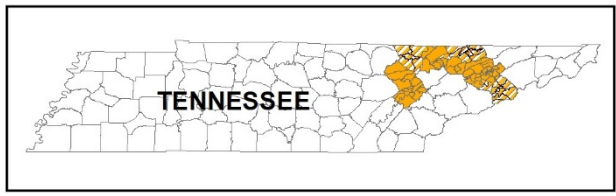
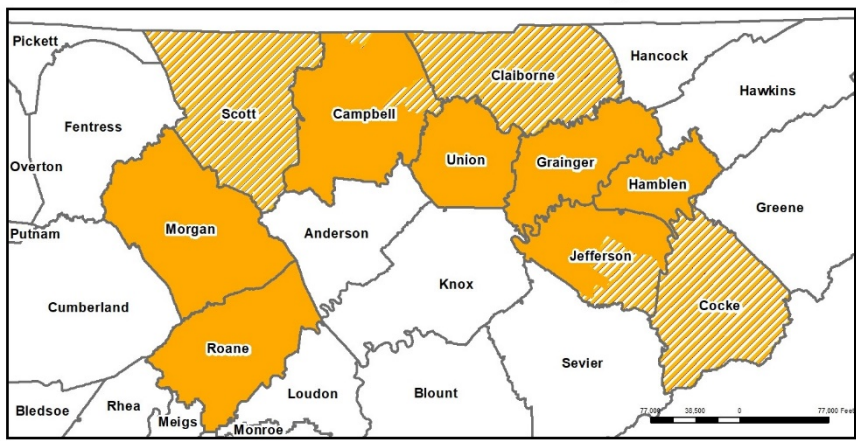
THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Laurie L. Meschke
Public Health

Jennifer Tourville
College of Nursing



- Initiated in 2018
- 34 membership organizations
- Over 150 listserv members
- Mission: *To eradicate opioid use disorder, the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – East Tennessee Consortium strives to create healthy communities by enhancing health promotion and prevention, collaboration, and access to health services and care. Together these efforts will promote safety, physical and emotional wellness, and economic security.*



- Quarterly meetings via Zoom
- Next meeting: April 22, 2022 from 1-3 p.m.

More information?



- <https://tnopioid.utk.edu/>
- Laurie L Meschke at LLMeschke@utk.edu
- Jennifer Tourville at jtourvil@utk.edu

Agenda

- Introducing Kinship Care
 - Kinship care: Meaning and characteristics
 - Kinship in the context of substance use and stigma
- Panel 1: Lived Experience with Q & A
- Panel 2: Resources and Services with Q & A



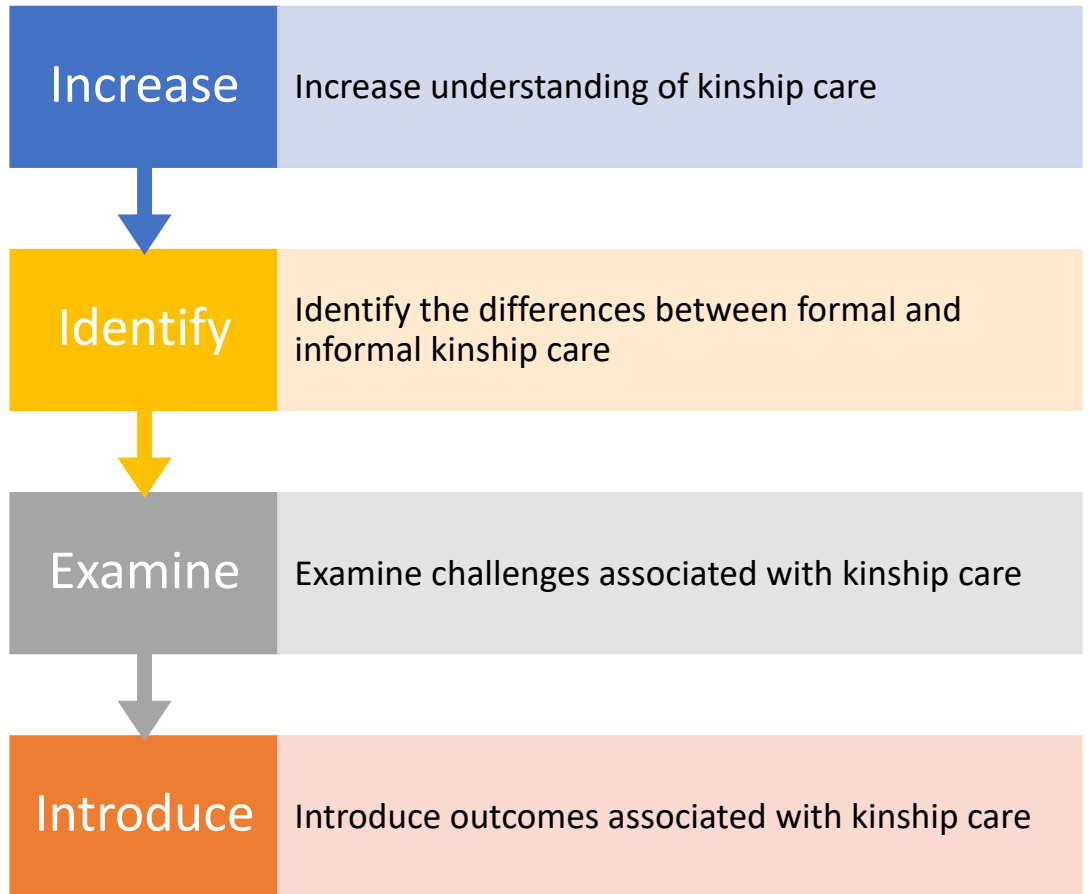
Status of Kinship Care: Overview for Young People and Their Families

Heath Cook, MPH Candidate
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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Presentation Outline

1. Learning Objectives
2. Child Welfare Overview
3. Kinship Care Definitions and Statistics
4. Difference Between Formal and Informal Kinship Care
5. Outcomes for Youth in Kinship Care
6. Outcomes for Caregivers





Welfare of Young People

- Child welfare services
- Public and Private children service agencies
- Keep children in their homes whenever possible
- When necessary, it is preferred that a child stay with a relative rather than foster care

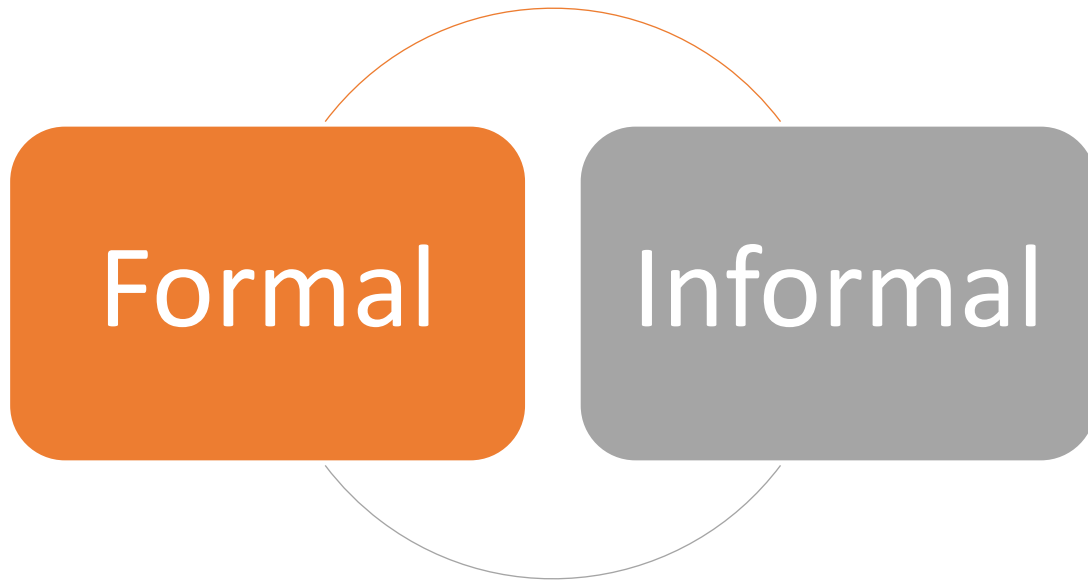
What is Kinship Care

- *“Kinship care refers to the care of children by relatives or, in some jurisdictions, close family friends (often referred to as fictive kin).”*
– Children’s Bureau, US Dept. of Health and Human Services
- *“Kinship care is when relatives step up to raise children when their parents can’t care for them for the time being...If you were raised by a grandparent, an aunt or a close friend, you were raised under kinship care.”* – Annie E. Casey Foundation
- *“CWLA defines kinship care as the full-time protecting and nurturing of children by grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents, older siblings, non-related extended family members, and anyone to whom children and parents ascribe a family relationship.”* – Child Welfare League of America

Kinship Care Demographics

Average Number of Youth in Kinship Care ¹			
	2017 - 2019	2018 - 2020	2019 - 2021
United States	2,654,000	2,682,000	2,614,000
Tennessee	69,000	70,000	73,000

1. 9% of African American children <18yrs were living in a grandparent led household²
2. Kinship caregivers face disproportionate challenges with various socioeconomic factors³
3. 41% of child removal situations in 2020 were due to parental substance misuse⁴



Types of
Kinship Care
Arrangement
s

Formal Kinship Care

Guardianship Granted Through Child Welfare System

Caregiver Rights

Physical V. Legal Custody

Substance Misuse as a Leading Cause⁵

Private arrangements between the parent and relative caregiver

Believed to be more prevalent than formal arrangements

Often unsupported in terms of financial subsidies, supervision, and access to services⁶

Challenges for Informal Care



Enrolling in School



Obtaining Insurance⁶



Authorizing Medical Care



Social Service Benefits⁷

Evolution of Informal Kinship Care

Recognition of the need to improve kinship caregiver support

Family First Prevention Services Act

Decision Making Waivers

TN Relative-Caregiver Program

Outcomes For Youth



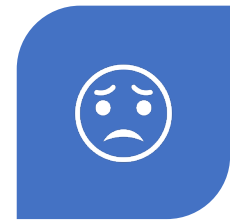
CULTURAL
CONSISTENCY⁸



INCREASED
PERMANENCY^{6,9}



INCREASED MENTAL
HEALTH⁹



DECREASED
BEHAVIORAL
PROBLEMS^{6,9}

Outcomes For Caregivers

Decreased Mental Health¹⁰⁻¹²

Physical Health¹⁰⁻¹²

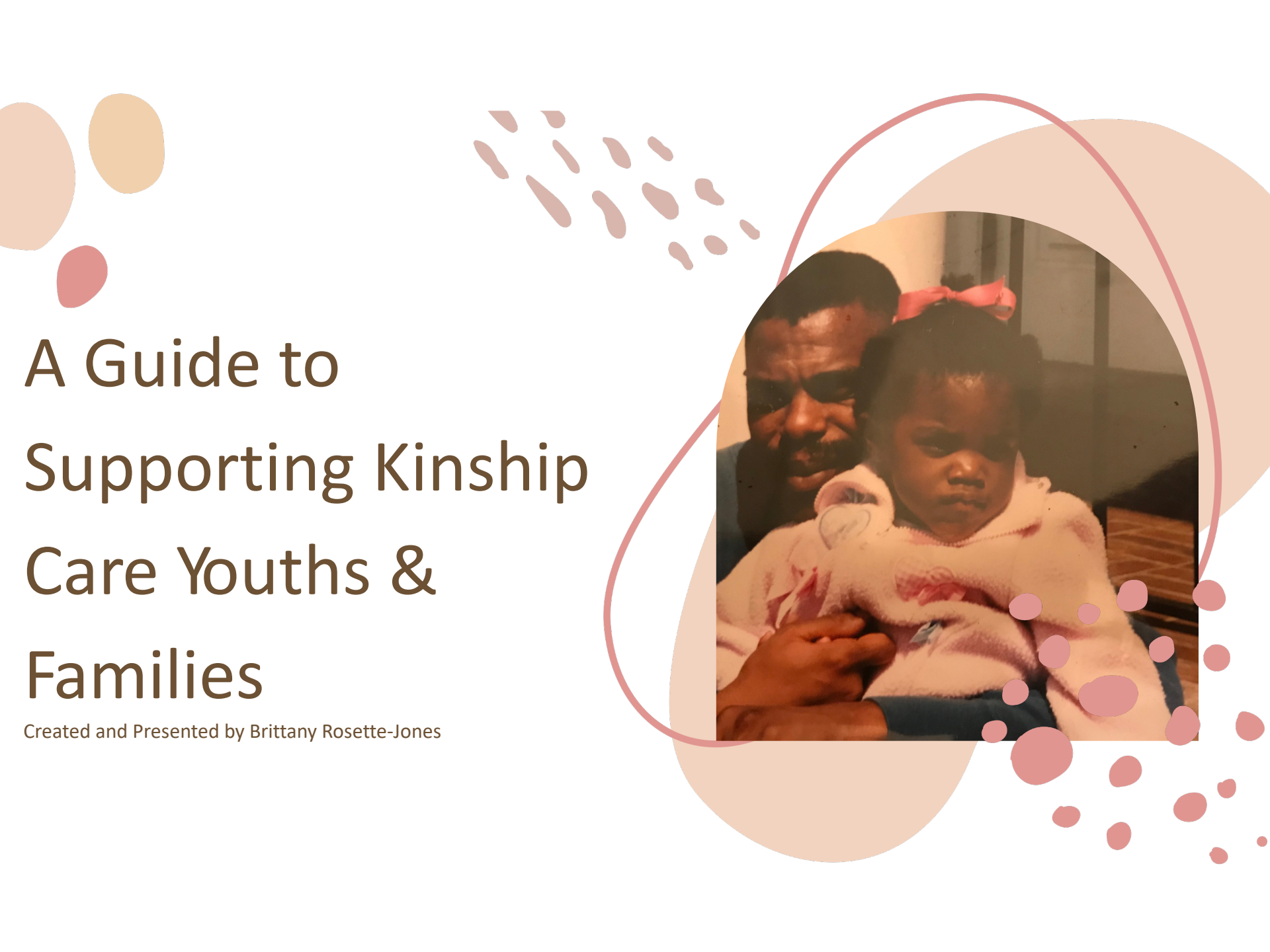
Social and Peer Support¹⁰⁻¹²



Moving
Forward

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- 12. Fuller-Thomson E, Serbinski S. The rewards of caring for grandchildren: Black Canadian grandmothers who are \custodial parents, co-parent, and extensive babysitters. *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy*. 2014;1(1)(Article 2)



A Guide to Supporting Kinship Care Youths & Families

Created and Presented by Brittany Rosette-Jones





Sensitive Content Disclaimer

This presentation contains topics that are sensitive in nature in an effort to be transparent. If triggered at any point during the duration of this presentation I encourage you to cut off your camera and to take time to step away.

Overview

01. My Adoption Story

Brittany's adoption story.

02. Looking Back

Exploring personal difficulties and resource availability for youth in kinship families

03. Supporting Youths & Families

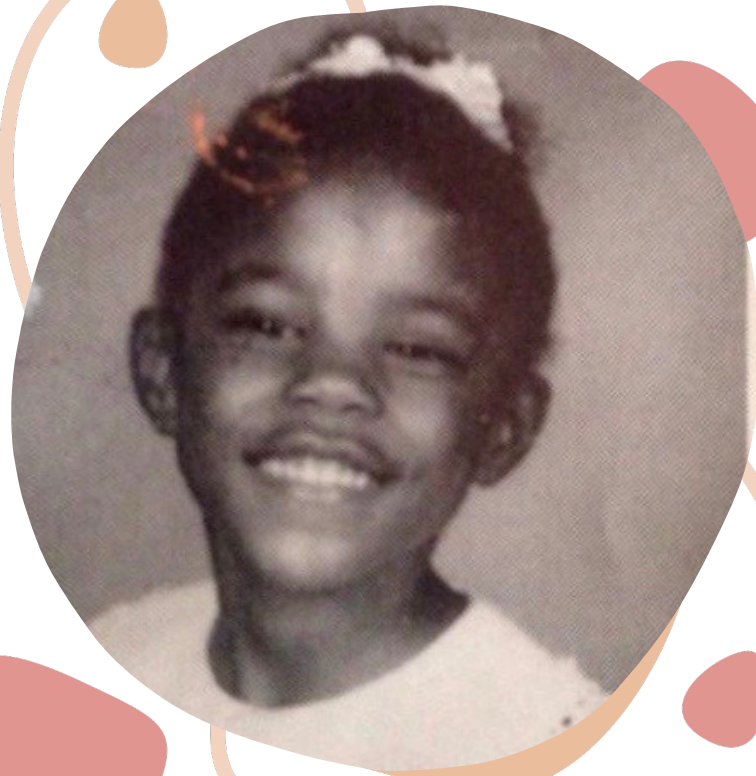
Advice and strategies on how professionals can support kinship care youths and families





My Adoption Story

Small, but mighty.



The Early Years

Connecticut to Georgia

At 2 years old I was adopted by my maternal grandfather Louis (known to many as Poppy) and his wife Dorothy. My brother and I then relocated to Hephzibah, Georgia where we were raised in a blended household.

The image features a minimalist, abstract design. On the left, there are three small, overlapping circles in shades of light brown and red. In the upper center, a cluster of small, teardrop-shaped marks is arranged in a roughly rectangular pattern. On the right side, a large, light brown organic shape is partially enclosed by a thin, dark red line that loops around it. At the bottom right, a group of small, dark red circles of varying sizes is scattered together. The text 'Looking Back' is positioned in the middle-left area of the composition.

Looking Back



Personal Struggles

- Struggles with identity
- Difficulties understanding the reason for being adopted
- Abandonment issues
- Feelings of worthlessness, not being good enough
- "Black sheep of the family"
- Uncertainty

Supporting Kinship Care Youths & Families



How We Can Support Kinship Care Families?



Build Relationships

- Encourage kinship families to connect with other families facing similar situations.



Engage

- Provide educational opportunities and resources to caregivers.



Collaborate


- Create safe space for youth and adults .



01. Educate yourself on kinship

02. Provide a non-judgemental ear

03. Promote effective partnerships



Call the Child Abuse Hotline to report
child abuse or neglect in the State of
Tennessee.

877-237-0004

Thank You



In Loving Memory of Dorothy VanWright, Louis VaWright and Janet VanWright Rosette

The Relative Caregiver Program

Presented by:

Aisha Abu-Asaba

Aisha.asaba@tn.gov

615-532-1111



What is RCP?

- An option for relative caregivers who are not foster homes
- Emotional Support
- Emergency Financial assistance
- Guidance for next steps

Eligibility

- Related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- Have primary care and control of the child through informal family arrangements or through legal custody or guardianship.
- Birth Parents must not reside in the home.
- Financial eligibility

Services

- Information and Referral – for counseling or any other local services needed
- Caregiver Support Group – to give caregivers a space to grow as a relative caregiver
- Groups for Children and Teens – for children seeking an outlet
- Education and Informational Workshops
- Respite & Enrichment Services – such as games and events that are no cost to the caregiver
- Family Advocacy – short-term Case Management with caregiver, child, birth parent
- Emergency Financial and/or Start-up Assistance – such as replacement mattresses, clothing, assistance with buying school supplies, etc.

Other types of assistance

- Information about applying for TANF, SNAP, Child Only Grant
- Aid to enroll the child into a new school or information to share with the current school.
- Support in locating birth certificates, social security cards, and insurance cards



Relative Caregiver Program

The **Relative Caregiver Program (RCP)** is an option available for relatives to care for non-custodial children who require out-of-home care. Children and relative caregivers receive supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and stability to ensure the child is able to stay within the family instead of entering foster care. The family does not receive a monthly stipend through the program, but rather has access to several other opportunities to support them.

Who is eligible for RCP services?: The relative caregiver must be related to the child by blood, marriage or adoption. The relative caregiver must have primary care and control of the child through informal family arrangements or through legal custody or guardianship. The birth parent(s) must not reside in the caregiver's home. Once RCP and the caregiver meet, there will also be financial eligibility determined to be enrolled to the program.

RCP agencies deliver the following core services:

- ◆ Information and Referral – for counseling or any other local services needed
- ◆ Caregiver Support Group – to give caregivers a space to grow as a relative caregiver
- ◆ Groups for Children and Teens – for children seeking an outlet
- ◆ Education and Informational Workshops
- ◆ Respite & Enrichment Services – such as games and events that are no cost to the caregiver
- ◆ Family Advocacy – short-term Case Management with caregiver, child, birth parent
- ◆ Emergency Financial and/or Start-up Assistance – such as replacement mattresses, clothing, assistance with buying school supplies, etc.

Other types of assistance:

- ◆ Information about applying for TANF, SNAP, Child Only Grant
- ◆ Aid to enroll the child into a new school or information to share with the current school.
- ◆ Support in locating birth certificates, social security cards, and insurance cards

What's next?

A Family Advocate from the Relative Caregiver Program will be available to meet once you take the step to call the RCP that covers your county in which you live. The sooner you call the Relative Caregiver Program the more likely you are to have clarity about how to proceed as a new caregiver.

Hotline for RCP Calls: 833-984-1498



Upper Cumberland

Upper Cumberland Development District

Vickie Reels

931-476-4123 vreels@ucdd.org

1104 England Dr., Cookeville, TN 38501

Counties Covered:

Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress,
Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith,
Van Buren, Warren, White

Shelby Region

UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities

Laura Teresa English

901-448-3926 ldaniel1@uthsc.edu

University of Tennessee Boling Center for Develop-
mental Disabilities, Memphis, TN, 38105

County Covered:

Shelby

Davidson Region:

Family and Children's Services

Emily Nourse OR Joel Alex

(615) 340-9729 OR (615) 340-9725

enourse@fcsnashville.org

2400 Clifton Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209

County Covered:

Davidson

Northwest and Southwest Regions

Carl Perkins Center

Beth Wilson

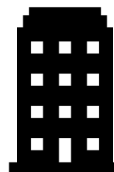
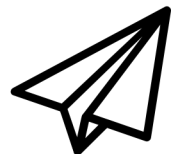
731-772-8378 OR 731-225-8026

bwilson@carlperkinscenter.org

130 Boyd Ave., Brownsville, TN, 38012

Counties Covered:

Benton, Carrol, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake,
Obion, Weakley, Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Harde-
man, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale,
Madison, McNairy, Tipton





Hotline for RCP Calls: 833-984-1498



Mid-Cumberland Region

New Vision Inc.

Kennatta Harris

(615) 445-8711 kharrisnewvision@gmail.com

5211 Linbar Drive, Suite 500, Nashville, TN, 37211

Counties Covered:

Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, Wilson, Dickson, Humphreys, Houston, Stewart.

South Central Region

The Center for Family Development

Sue Fletcher

(931) 684-4676 ext. 206 sue@mytcfcd.org

514 Belmont Ave , Shelbyville, TN 37160

Counties Covered:

Bedford, Coffee , Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, Wayne

Tennessee Valley

Southeast TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability

Theresa Jorgensen

1-866-735-8752 tjorgensen@sedev.org

1000 Riverfront Pkwy., Chattanooga, TN, 37402

Counties Covered:

Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Franklin, Hamilton, Marion, Meigs, McMinn, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie,

East, Smoky, Knox, Northeast Region

Omni Community Health

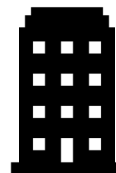
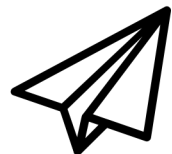
Dusty Cantrell (865) 755-3290

dcantrell@omnivisions.com

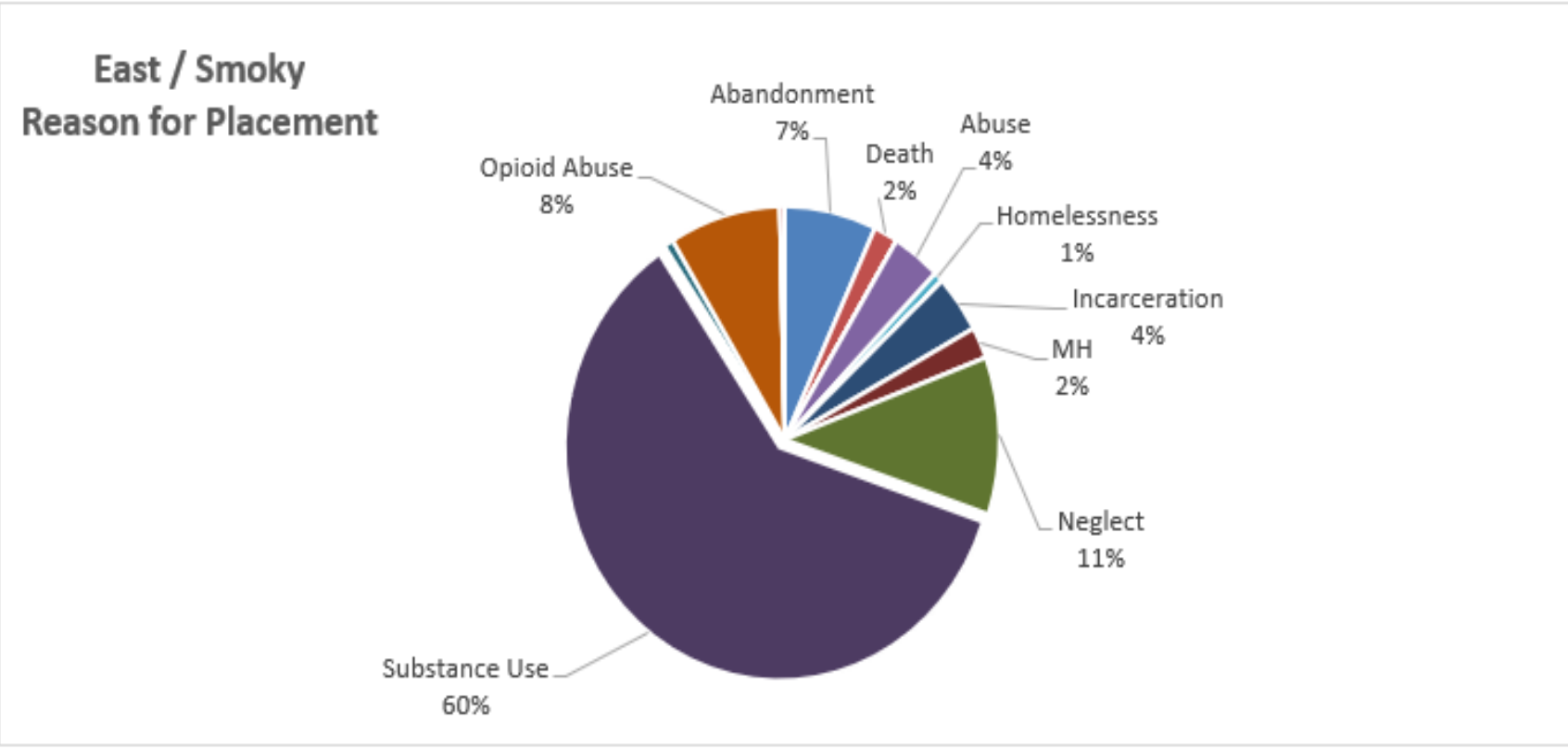
1324 Lawnville Road, Kingston, TN, 37763

Counties Covered:

Anderson, Campbell, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roan, Scott, Union, Knox , Blount, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Sevier, Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington



This pie chart below indicates the percent of cases for each reason for placement during FY '20- '21:



Parental Substance Abuse is the highest reason for placement in East / Smoky region. This is the same number one reason as last fiscal year.

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