

# Kinship & Foster Care

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**Family First**

**Policy Exploration**

**February 14, 2020**

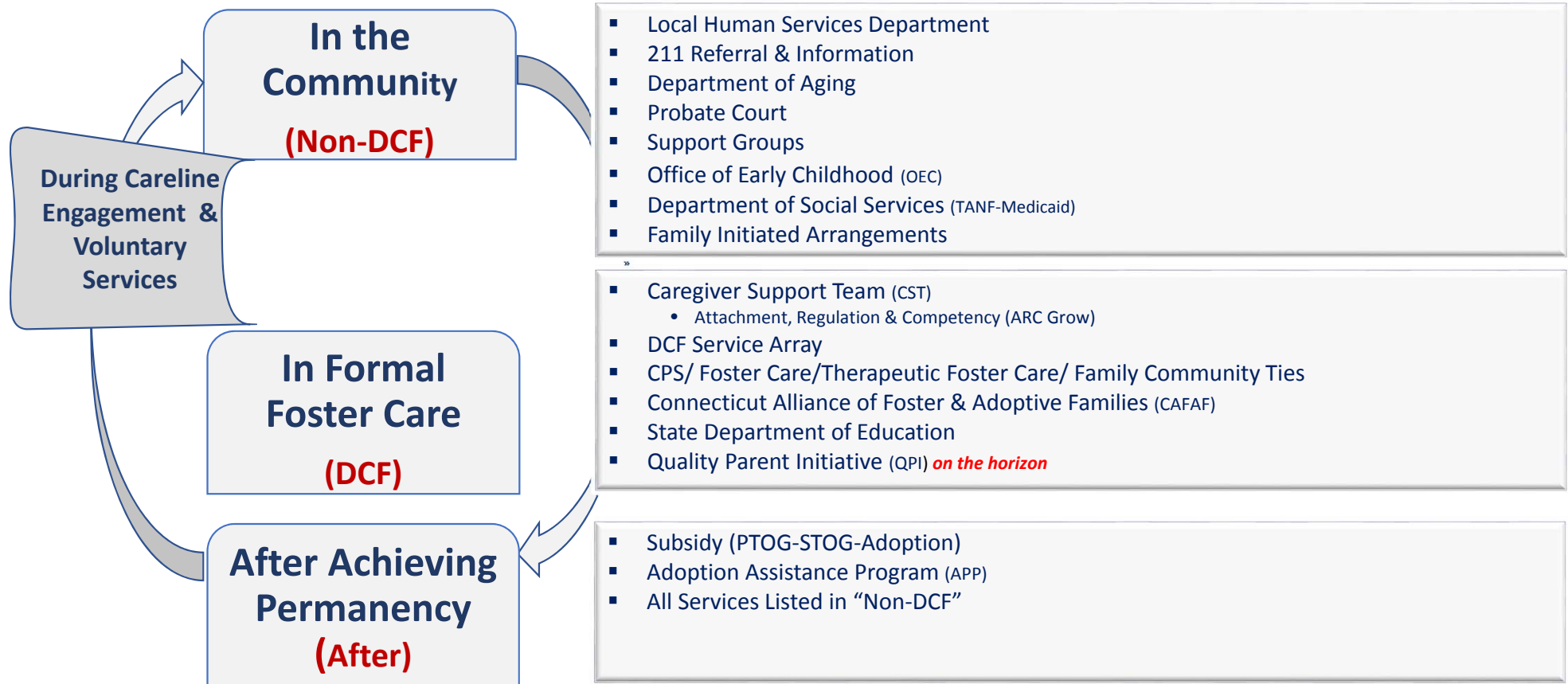
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# Agenda

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- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Review Identified Barriers from Data Exploration**
- **Policy Exploration Break-Out Sessions**
- **Break**
- **Policy Exploration Break-Out Sessions**
- **Group Report Outs**
- **Closing**

# Kinship Services- Current State



# Workgroup Goals & Key Deliverables

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**For children living with relatives or kin  
(Informal family arrangements or formal and legal  
arrangements)**

**Recommend policy changes that will address and  
mitigate the identified barriers to better support  
relatives and kin**

# **In the Community Data Exploration Results**

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## 2-11- Identified and assess barriers

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- **Primary search - Financial and Legal Assistance**
- **Under-utilized Crisis Services (i.e., Mobile Crisis)**
- **Myth busting (i.e., Call Response Time)**
- **Limited to non-profit agency information**
- **All providers do not update information on website**
- **“Guardianship” not online (i.e., search engine limitations)**

## Probate Court- Identify and assess barriers

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- **Limited Funding for Caregivers**
- **Family Specialist/Regional Children Courts not Statewide**
- **20% of cases are DCF-involved**
- **Filing Fees (waivers)**
- **TOG not permanent or financially supported**

# **During Careline Engagement & Voluntary Services Data Exploration Results**

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## Family Arrangements- Identify and assess barriers

### **Non-DCF involved**

- No Safety Assessment of Caregiver
- No legal authority outside of probate court
- No Time-limit
- Limited financial assistance
- No assessment of service needs

### **DCF involved**

- DCF required to sanction family (i.e. background checks, CPS history)
- Safety factor may exist
- DCF does not have custody or guardianship/Caregiver not licensed
- Time-limited
- No financial assistance
- No tracking of homeless children

# **In Formal Foster Care Data Exploration Results**

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# Caregiver Support Team- Identify and assess barriers

- **Not available for Non-DCF involved Families or Family Arrangements**
- **Missing data on does service help in achieving permanency**
- **Kin Families needs identified:**
  - Help with added and new expenses
  - Someone to walk them through the process
  - Case managers
  - Experienced peers to support
  - Training delivered gradually
  - Experienced clinicians with multi-generational trauma
  - Better bridge to post DCF services
- **What happens when Birth Parents need to regain custody?**
  - Expansion of CST
  - to allow after care check after 6 months
  - check-in post permanency

## CAFAF- Identify and assess barriers

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- **No financial support or very limited**
- **Establish alumni families**
- **Contact after closing by including them on email list**
- **Training offered (new topics, how many online)**

# **After Achieving Permanency Data Exploration Results**

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# Adoption Assistance Program- Identify and assess barriers

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- **Guardians not calling**
- **Creating safe environment to reach out for assistance**
- **Types of Financial Support sought?**
- **Create Awareness of financial assistance such as security deposits excludes rents & child care**
- **Post adoptive youth homelessness after aging out of adoption**
- **Developing plans for long-term needs**
- **Have data but needs to be analyzed**

## DCF Subsidy- Identify and assess barriers

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- **Successor guardianship - subsidies can transfer only for guardianship not adoption**
- **College stipend for subsidy follows child regardless of home, currently only for adoption**

# Policy Exploration Break-Out Sessions

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**Groups:** In the Community

During Careline Engagement & Voluntary Services

In Foster Care

After Achieving Permanency

**Question:** Based upon what we know about the identified policy limitations, what are some strategies and/or opportunities for improvement?



# Next Steps

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**Family First**

**Next Meeting: 2/28/2020**

**Location: Beacon**

**Focus: Services Exploration**

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# Thank You

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