GROWIN' UP!

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Yo' Adrian

- NATIONAL CONSULTANT
- PROGRAM OFFICER
- KINSHIP CARE PROVIDER
- LIVED EXPERIENCE IN FOSTER CARE
- DENZEL WASHINGTON LOOK-ALIKE
- IN A BROMANCE W/ SPRINGSTEEN



Today's Goals:

CHALLENGE you in the right way.

Add a NEW perspective(s) to your existing narrative.

Answer **YOUR** question(s).



My grandparents....









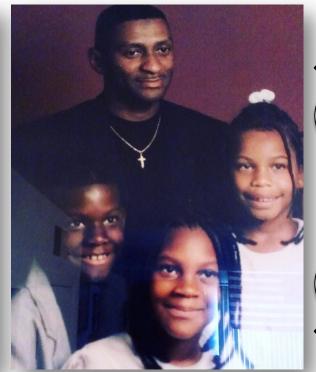
Greetings from Asbury Road

The greater a child's terror, and the earlier it is experienced, the harder it becomes to develop a strong and healthy sense of self.

- Nathaniel Branden









Challenging Behaviors

> Parental Engagement

Lack of Placement Options

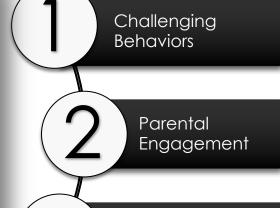
"Greetings from Asbury Road"

Grandma Essie, ELI & DORA LUKE, Ernest McLemore









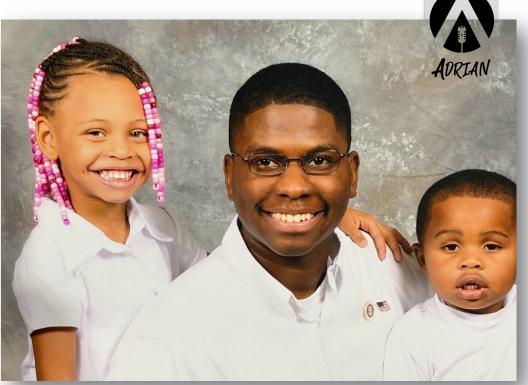
Lack of Placement Options

Return to Foster Care | "INDEPENDENCE DAY"

"Teens are experience rich but language poor."

- Dr. Bob McCarthy





Kinship Care Provider | How it started....





Kinship Care Provider | How it started....



Asset-Framing

HOW ARE WE DEFINING OUR FAMILIES? HOW ARE WE ASSESSING "KIN"?



The principle that defines 'families' by their aspirations and contributions, rather than their challenges and deficits

Asset-Framing | What is it?



The notion that we 'as professionals' are adding value to families, or that we are not recognizing challenges exist

Asset-Framing | What it is NOT.





Kinship Care | "LIVING PROOF"

- Financial
- Legal/Emotional Stress
- Isolation (before, during, after)

- Stability
- Well-being
- Permanency



3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

FAMILY, YOUTH, & ENGAGEMENT (FYE)



3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

1. JUST do it.



2. Do it well.



3. Do it often.





JUST do it.

3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

- Family-centered, **strength-based** approach in establishing and maintaining relationships w/families and accomplishing **change** together.
- Setting goals, making joint decisions w/ the inclusion of children & youth, as well as adult family/kin members



Do it well. **

3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

- ► Family Empowerment engaging, involving and lifting up the **voice** of families throughout the practice/system
- Parents/families are MORE motivated to make needed changes
- When family buy-in is achieved, reunification rates and overall family outcomes improve



Do it often.

3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

- Include family/kin as **KEY** stakeholders/advisors in:
- Policy Development
- Service Design
- Program & Service Evaluation







INPUTS



KEY ACTIVITIES

OUTPUTS

OUTCOMES

IMPACTS



- Funding for kinship care services
- 'Asset-Framing' staff to provide services
- Referrals from child welfare agencies, courts, and other community organizations
- Collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations and support services
- Training and resources for kinship caregivers

- Conduct assessments to determine the needs of kinship caregivers and children
- Facilitate access to support services
- Provide respite care for kinship caregivers as needed
- Provide opportunities for 'bonding'

- Kinship caregivers are better equipped to meet the needs of the children in their care
- Children in kinship care have improved academic, social, emotional, and physical outcomes
- Kinship caregivers have increased satisfaction with the services they receive
- Families have opportunities to remain connected vs isolated

- Increased stability and wellbeing for children in kinship care
- Reduced likelihood of children entering foster care or group homes
- Increased likelihood of children being reunified with their parents, if appropriate
- Increased satisfaction and retention of kinship caregivers
- Increased collaboration and partnerships with community-based organizations and support services

"FAMILY becomes the new standard and solution."

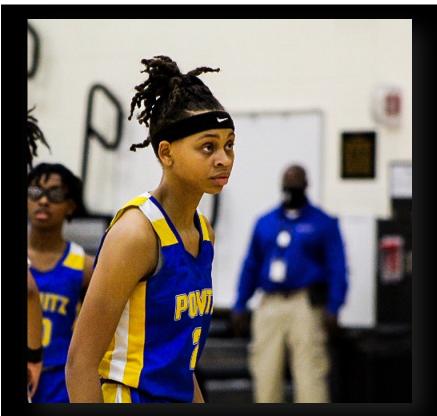
VISION for KINSHIP

Our vision for kinship care is a (state, agency, org) where all youth have the opportunity to grow and thrive in a safe, stable, and loving home with their relatives or other trusted caregivers.

MISSION for KINSHIP

Our mission is to provide comprehensive, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed services and support to kinship caregivers and youth.

LAND of HOPE & DREAMS











Kinship Care Provider | How it's going...

"BADLANDS"

Talk about a dream, try to make it real.





Thank YOU! Questions

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