

# Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Advisory Council Meeting

April 23, 2020



# Welcome and Roll Call

Greg Link

Director, Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services  
Administration for Community Living

# Opening and Convening Remarks

Lance Robertson

Administrator/Assistant Secretary for Aging  
Administration for Community Living

# Council Mission Statement

The mission of the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) is to **identify, promote, coordinate** and **disseminate** information, resources, and best practices to help older adults meet the health, educational, nutritional, and other needs of the children in their care, while maintaining their own physical, mental, and emotional well-being. As part of this vision, all recommendations will consider the needs of members of Native American tribes and families affected by the opioid crisis.

# Agenda Overview & Updates

Timeframe	Agenda Item	Presenter
12:00 p.m. - 12:10 p.m.	Welcome and Roll Call	Greg Link
12:10 p.m. - 12:20 p.m.	Opening and Convening Remarks	Lance Robertson
12:20 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Agenda Overview and Updates	Lori Staulbaum
12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	COVID-19 Council Discussion	Jaia Lent Dr. Ethlyn Gibson
12:45 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Glossary of Terms Discussion</li><li>• Create and Adopt a Vision Statement</li><li>• Develop and Adopt Guiding Principles</li></ul>	Facilitator: Wilma Brockington-Parker
2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Wrap Up and Next Steps	Greg Link

# COVID-19 Council Discussion

Jaia Peterson Lent, MSW, LMSW  
Deputy Executive Director  
Generations United

Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, DNP, MSN, RN-BC  
Director, Center for Gerontology  
Hampton University

# COVID-19: Focus on Families

- **Food and Supplies:** Access to food, medicine and basic supplies without requiring they leave the house and risk greater exposure.
- **Information:** Accurate information from people they trust. Families may be especially vulnerable to misinformation.
- **Technology/Virtual Support:** Internet and technology assistance for tele-health needs, children's distance learning, and to reduce social isolation. Before the pandemic caregivers often found critical help through support groups where they rely on one another for information about how to cope and where to go for help. They need help maintaining these connections through virtual support groups.

# COVID-19 Focus on Families

- **Financial Assistance:** Many caregivers have lost full or part time jobs. Caregivers often use retirement savings to pay for the children's needs. Now those savings are plummeting.
- **Alternative Care Plans:** Emergency plans are necessary in the event a caregiver dies or becomes too ill to care for the children. Children often come into their care unexpectedly and many caregivers have not had the opportunity to plan where the children will go if they can no longer care for them.
- **Help with Children at Home:** Help supporting their children's education at home. Many are caring for children with special needs and who have IEP's and other supportive services that are not available during the pandemic.

# COVID-19: Focus on Families

- **Managing Visitation/Relationships with Birth Parents:** Caregivers are concerned about continuing in person visitation with birth parents because of risk of exposure to the virus, but fearful of violating agreements. Some incarcerated birth parents are being release early and asking to live with them.
- **Kinship Navigators:** These programs are trusted sources of information and referral for grandfamily caregivers to connect to critical services. These programs identify families in need and coordinate with other community-based programs to help families get the supplies and support they need. Demand for these services is skyrocketing.

# COVID-19 Discussion: Resources for Professionals

- [Distancing: Physical Separation Without Social Isolation](#) (The Gerontological Society of America's National Adult Vaccination Program)
- [What you Can do if you are at Higher Risk of Severe Illness from COVID-19](#) (CDC fact sheet)

# COVID-19: Links to Professional Resources

RESOURCE with URL	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">AARP Community Connections</a>	Website to aid communities in organizing mutual assistance
<a href="#">AARP Coronavirus Tele-Town Hall series</a>	Provide updates and topical discussions for older adults
<a href="#">Administration for Community Living (ACL)</a>	COVID-19: Information for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
<a href="#">American Geriatrics Society</a>	Provides resources and tools for professionals and older adults
<a href="#">Center to Advance Palliative Care</a>	Provides toolkit resources and online courses for crisis communication and symptom management protocols
<a href="#">Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</a>	Provides information for professionals and caregivers at home; Older adults and COVID-19; Interim guidance for home care of people not requiring hospitalization for COVID-19
<a href="#">Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</a>	Emergency response and guidance for coronavirus
<a href="#">Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center Interactive Map</a>	COVID-19 global case by Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins
<a href="#">National Council on Aging</a> – Senior Centers	COVID-19 Resources for Senior Centers
<a href="#">National Council on Aging</a> – Professionals	COVID-19 Resources for Professionals
<a href="#">National Council on Aging</a> - Older Adults & Caregivers	COVID-19 Resources for Older Adults & Caregivers
<a href="#">TimeSlips</a>	Webinar: Engagement in a Time of Quarantine
<a href="#">VitalTalk</a>	Open source primer for COVID-ready communication skills
<a href="#">World Health Organization</a>	Provides global situation reports and web-based courses to prepare professionals to respond to COVID-19

# COVID-19: Discussion

1. How is COVID-19 impacting families where grandparents and other relatives are raising children?
2. How can the SGRG Advisory Council inform efforts to help grandfamilies impacted by COVID-19 or other national emergencies?

# Facilitated Discussion

Wilma Brockington-Parker, MBA, SPHR, PCC  
ACL Facilitator

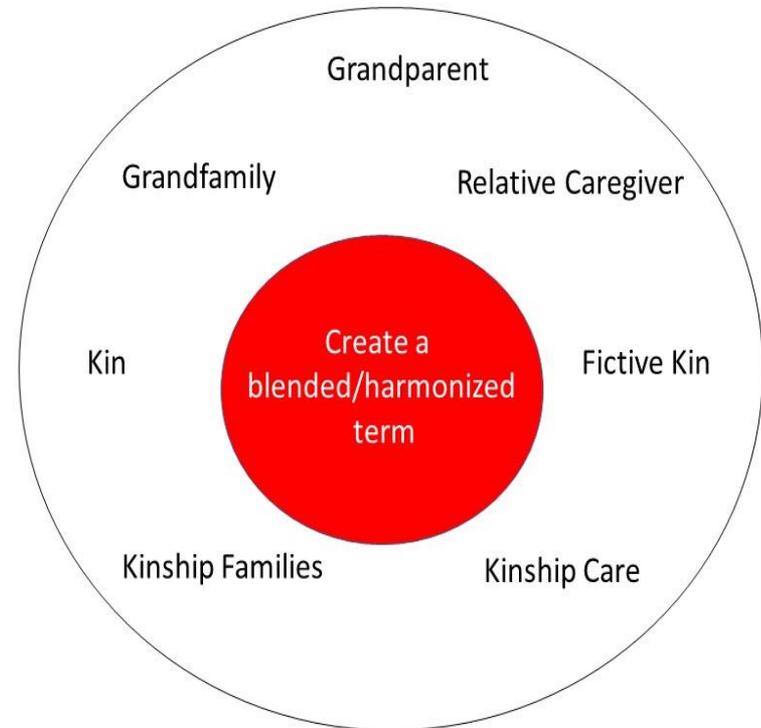
# Glossary of Terms Discussion

Terms:

- Grandparent
- Grandfamily
- Kin
- Fictive Kin
- Kinship Families
- Relative Caregiver
- Kinship Care

# Creating a Blended-Harmonized Term

Considering the definitions for terms in the graph, **what specific term** do you suggest we use to describe caregiver support?



# Create and Adopt a Vision Statement

# Council Mission Statement:

The **Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG)** creates and executes activities to **identify, promote, coordinate, and disseminate** to the public information, resources, and best practices available to help grandparents and other relatives meet the health, educational, nutritional, and other needs of the children in their care, maintain their own physical and mental health and emotional well-being, and consider the needs of those affected by the opioid crisis and the needs of members of Native American tribes.

# Vision Statement Defined

**Vision** is a picture crafted today of what the Council's future will look like. By working with and listening to those with an interest, the Council should acquire an understanding of what services are wanted and the issues of concern.

# Examples of Vision Statements

- New Pathways

“At New Pathways, we believe that – given the chance young people are the key to thriving economies and a vibrant future for us all. And we’ll do everything we can to help them get there.”

- Family Connections Center:

“Families we serve will continue to have access to multicultural/multilingual resources and neighborhood support services that provide opportunities for community-driven initiatives and strengthening individual skills to create a safer, healthier, and empowered community in which to raise children.”

# Vision Statement Checklist

1. Does the vision statement provide a clear picture of the Council's future?
2. Is the vision statement challenging and inspiring?
3. Is the vision statement believable?
4. Will achieving the vision positively add to our overall mission?

# SGRG DRAFT

## Vision Statement

The **Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG)** will be an authoritative leader for identifying and creating best practices to support and advocate for grandfamilies and other caregivers. We will serve to create better tomorrows for families today.

# Guiding Principles

# What Are Guiding Principles?

- Ideas that give an organization guidance in circumstances - even if goals change and work changes.
- Can be critical for framing complex work.
- They help to ensure that shared, core values are articulated upfront and shape results.

# The Why...

Guiding principles will:

- Allow focused decisions when developing outline for Report to Congress
- Assist in reviewing materials to include for the Report to Congress
- Provide foundation for decisions on other activities the Council may undertake in the future.

# Draft Guiding Principles

# Draft Guiding Principles

- [Grandfamilies and kinship caregivers], here used as intertwining terms that are inclusive and holistic, describe families in which children, whose parents are not able to raise them, are being raised by their grandparents, older relatives, or others.
- Promote greater adoption of person- and family-centered supports that place [grandparents, grandfamilies, older relatives, and kinship caregivers] and their families at the center of every support system, while also acknowledging the challenge of possible conflicting goals.
- Efforts to support [grandparents, grandfamilies, older relatives and kinship caregivers] should further their autonomy, choice, and ability to remain engaged and contribute meaningfully in their communities.
- Recommendations should recognize and support [grandparents, grandfamilies, older relatives and kinship caregivers] in a fair and impartial manner that also accounts for financial impact, while respecting and appreciating the complexity, diversity, and dignity of these families.
- Ensure that the needs of [grandparents, grandfamilies, older relatives and kinship caregivers] are integral to the National Family Caregiving Strategy, which is being developed by the Family Caregiving Advisory Council.

# Guiding Principles Discussion

1. Are these principles applicable and relevant for our purposes? If not, what do you suggest?
2. Will these principles help shape and form the Report to Congress? If not, what would you add or change?
3. Are the guiding principles sufficient to shape other activities desired by the Council such as white papers, fact sheets, webinars, and conference presentations? If not, how can we improve?

# Wrap Up and Next Steps

Greg Link, Director

Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services

Administration for Community Living

**Thank You**