



Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren November 16, 2021 Meeting Summary

On November 16, 2021, the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) convened for the fourth time to announce the release of its initial report to Congress. The following is a summary of key elements of the meeting.

Call to Order and Welcome Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Alison Barkoff, Principal Deputy Administrator at the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Principal Deputy Administrator Barkoff thanked the council members for their hard work and commitment over the past two years in completing their report to Congress during a pandemic, and at a time when the issue of supporting caregivers is front and center across America.

Presentation of the Councils Initial Report to Congress

The SGRG Council co-chairs gave an overview of the initial report to Congress. Their presentation focused on the background of the SGRG Act; the SGRG Council's guiding principles, which informed their development of their report to Congress; the content of the report, including the voices of many kin and grandparent caregivers; the analysis and discussion included in the report; and the twenty-two recommendations for systemic change detailed across five priority areas.

Members then participated in a Q&A session, led by the council co-chairs, during which they shared their personal thoughts about the report. Some of the members, many of whom are kin or grandparent caregivers themselves, reflected on what it has meant for them to serve on the SGRG Council.

Overview of National Technical Assistance Center on Kinship Families and Grandfamilies

Two speakers from Generations United: Donna Butts, Executive Director, and Ana Beltran, Director of the National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) on Kinship Families and Grandfamilies gave an overview of this new 5-year grant project recently funded by ACL through authority in the American Rescue Plan Act. Many subject matter experts, including Gail Engel and Sarah Smalls both of whom serve on the SGRG Council, will also advise the work of the NTAC, based on their areas of expertise.

National Family Caregiving Strategy Development

Information about the development of the National Family Caregiving Strategy, relevant to work to be done by federal agencies that serve caregivers and children as well as the work that this council will focus on in collaboration with the RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council. Members from both councils will focus on actions that states, tribal entities, community organizations, and private sector employers can take to support family caregivers.