

The Inherent Strengths of Kinship Caregivers: Training Pilot

Overview

Kinship care has been shown to **improve outcomes for children** compared to foster care. However, kinship care families receive **less training, services, and financial support** than foster care families (Winokur, 2018).

To address this disparity, in 2024 the University of Washington School of Social Work research team evaluated a pilot training curriculum developed by Dr. Joseph Crumbley entitled “**The Inherent Strengths of Kinship Caregivers.**” The curriculum consists of six modules intended for kinship caregivers and those who support them: **Attachment, Legacies, Identity, Healing, Adaptability, and Co-parenting.**

“ I will carry forward...
“That I am not going to be the perfect parent and that I am making a difference!” ”

Purpose of Training

For Kinship Caregivers:

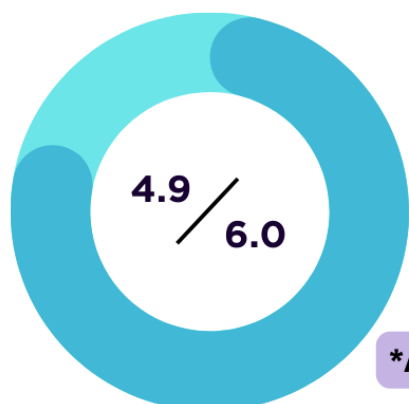
- To identify their strengths and the unique experiences of kinship families;

- To learn how to use their strengths and the benefits of kinship care to provide stability, safety, and permanency for the children in their care.

For Service Providers and Professionals:

- To use a training model that emphasizes caregivers’ strengths;
- To learn how to support caregivers in developing strengths;
- To learn how to incorporate caregivers’ strengths into case management plans

Satisfaction



“ I will carry forward...
“Some of the things that I learned to be love are not actually love and I want to make sure to not pass those ideas on, break that cycle” ”

***Average rating for satisfaction across all modules**

Modules

Module 1: Attachment

How to identify and enhance strengths of attachments between kinship caregivers and their children

Module 2: Legacies

Legacies as a strength; strategies to create new family traditions and goals that interrupt cycles

Module 3: Identity

Role of caregivers in identity formation; approaches to help children make positive choices based on their identity

Module 6: Co-parenting

How to use strengths of common goals to facilitate co-parenting with birth parents

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I will carry forward...

“I think remembering that both the positive and negative sides of the Legacy are important to talk to children about so that they don't get repeated”

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Module 5: Adaptability

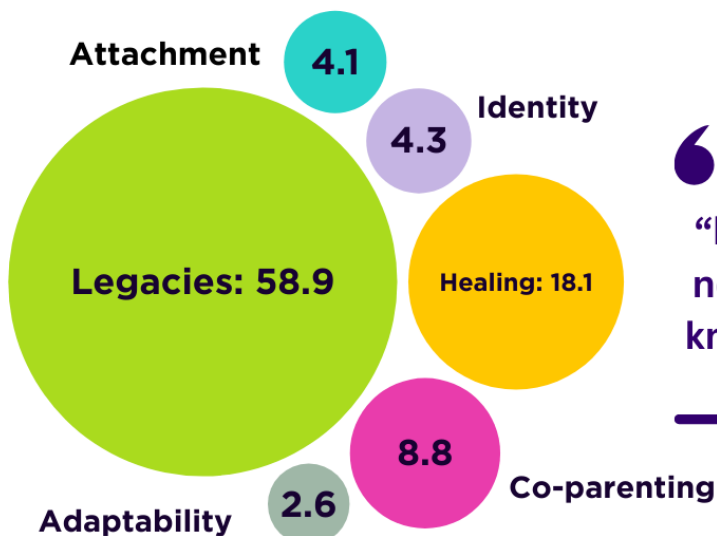
Approaches to assist families in adapting to changes in family dynamics, roles, and relationships

Module 4: Healing

How to minimize trauma for children; shared grief and loss as a strength

Knowledge Gains

*Percentage point increases



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I will carry forward...

“how to explain to my daughter about how I'm not trying to take her daughter. But letting her know this is where she can... do what she needs to do to take care of herself”

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