

Kin Mobilization Learning Collaborative

June 20, 2024



Today's Topic

Asking Youth About Their Kin

**GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK**
A National Technical Assistance Center



**child welfare
playbook**

Guest Speakers

**GOVERNMENT
PERFORMANCE
LAB** | AT
HARVARD
KENNEDY
SCHOOL

- **Lynda Blancato**
- **Emma Cregg**
- **Sherraine Ashley**



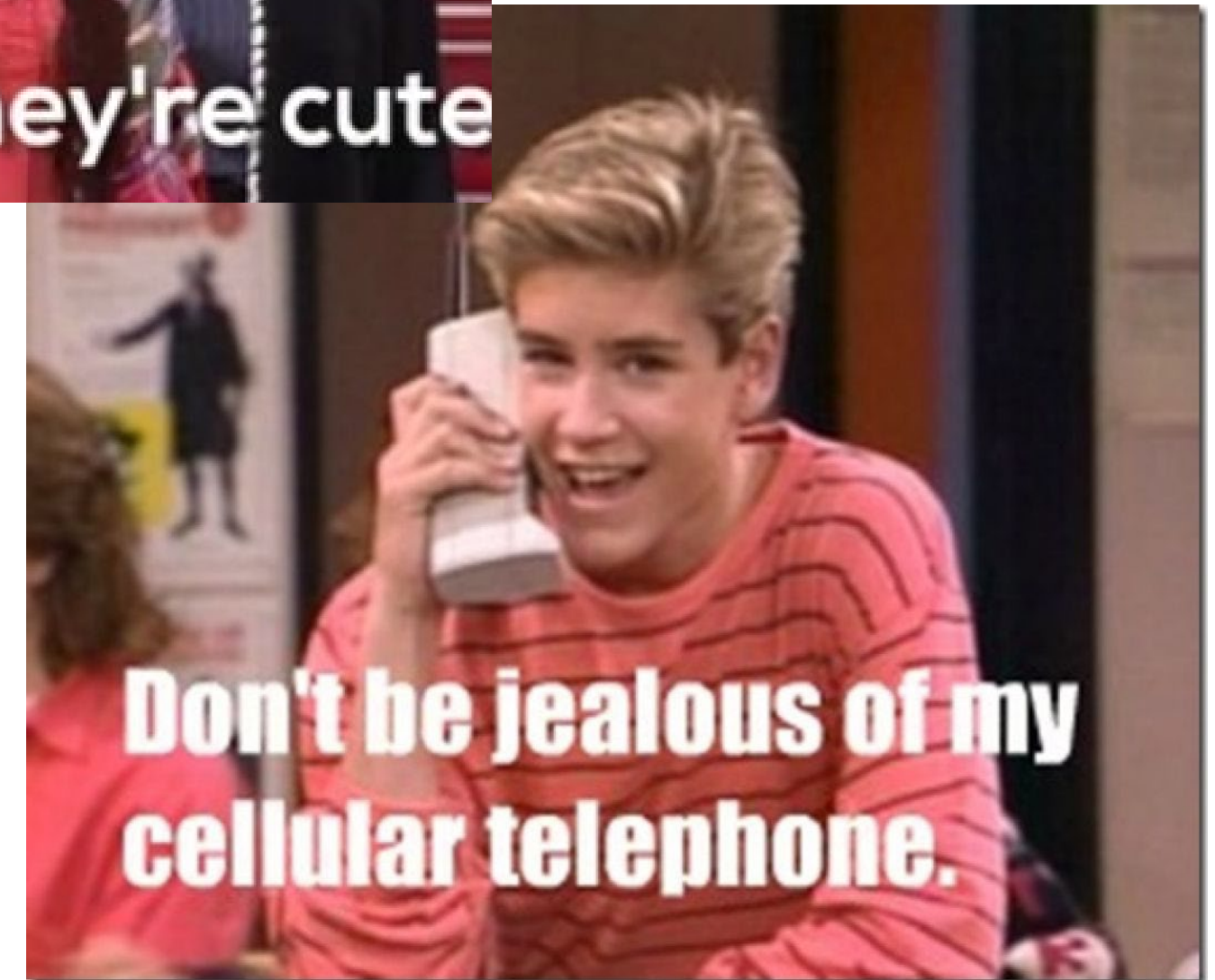
- **Sharon Fernandez**
- **Stephanie Allen**
- **Alison Serian**

GPL's work & mission

The GPL supports governments in building just and effective service systems that deliver better outcomes for the people they serve.

We do this by working closely with state & local governments to develop and test promising practices. We then spread these practices to communities across the country. By investing in public servants. We create long-lasting capacity to sustain change.

Middle School Memories



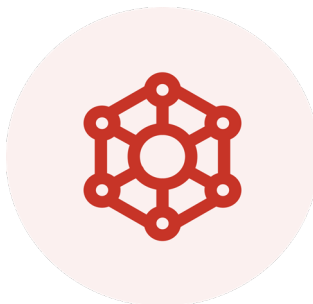
Asking Youth About Their Kin | Why it Matters



Elevating youth voice can help make the best placement and offer children some sense of control in a traumatic time.



Youth know their kin best. Talking with them opens opportunities for preservation of family, culture, and community.



Fictive kin can serve as a bridge for teens. Relationships like coaches and friends' parents can be especially important for teens going through a tough time and might otherwise get overlooked.

What You Can Do to Support Your Staff in Engaging Youth



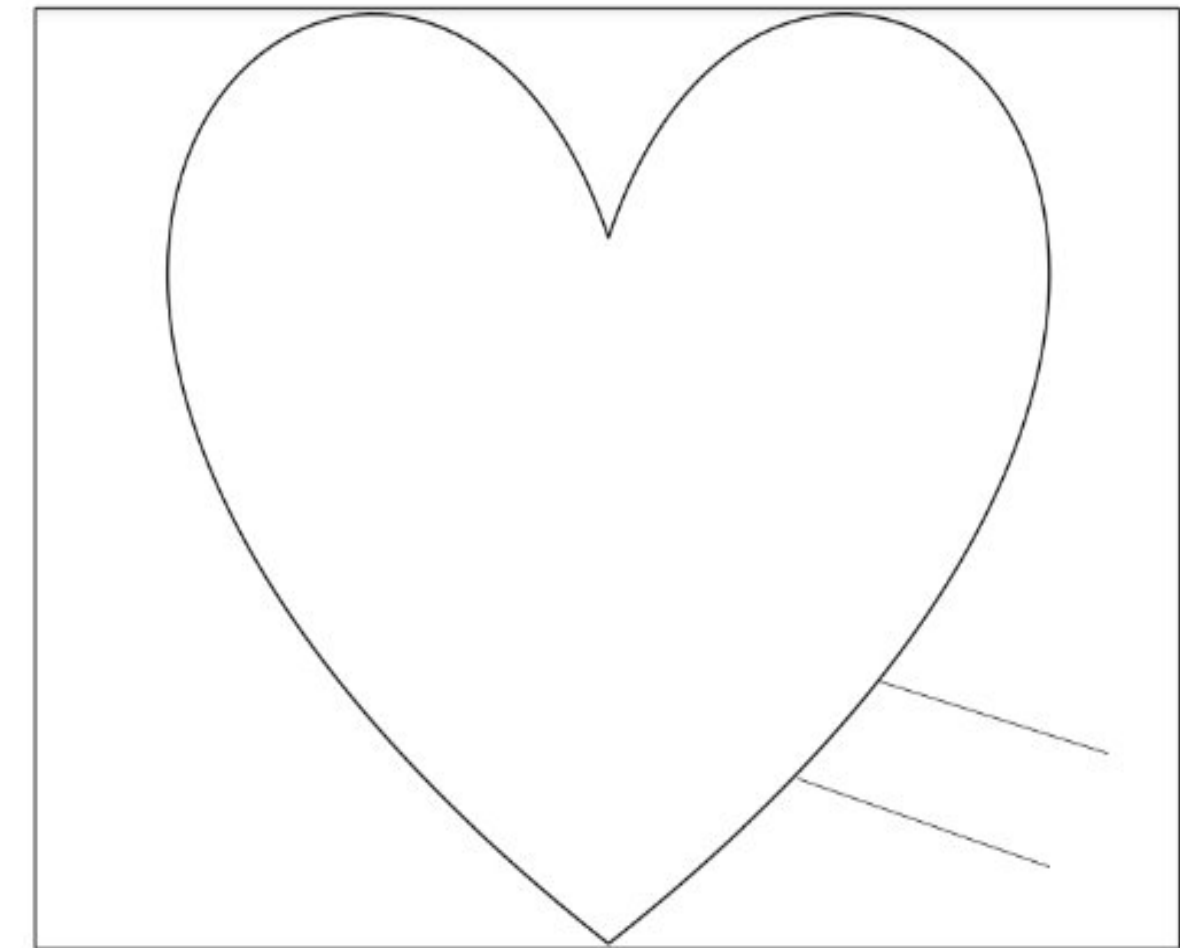
Prioritize time to train staff on the importance of engaging with youth about their kin



Introduce tools & activities (like a heart map!) to use with youth to learn more about their supportive adults



Use existing checkpoints and conversations with staff to check-in, see how it's going & back them up



A **Heart Map** is a visual aid that is used to ensure that youth in care maintain bonds with significant individuals in their lives, helping to provide continuity, support, and normalcy.

Asking Youth About Kin Multiple Times in Multiple Ways

Conversation starters for building rapport with a child/teen

- Tell me about your day. What did you do? What classes did you have?
- Are you involved in any sports teams or after school clubs? Who takes you to practice?
- What is your favorite subject? Do you have a favorite teacher or other adult at school that you go to for help?
- What do you do for fun?
- Who does your family spend time with? Does your grandma or aunt ever come around? What about other relatives? Who else is in your family?
- Who do you hang out with in the neighborhood? Do you ever go to your friend's house? Do you know their parents?



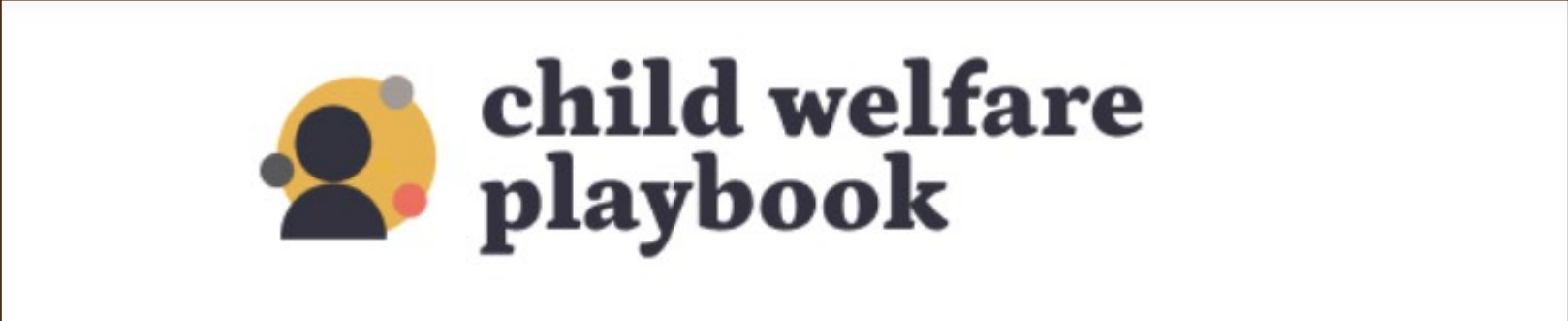
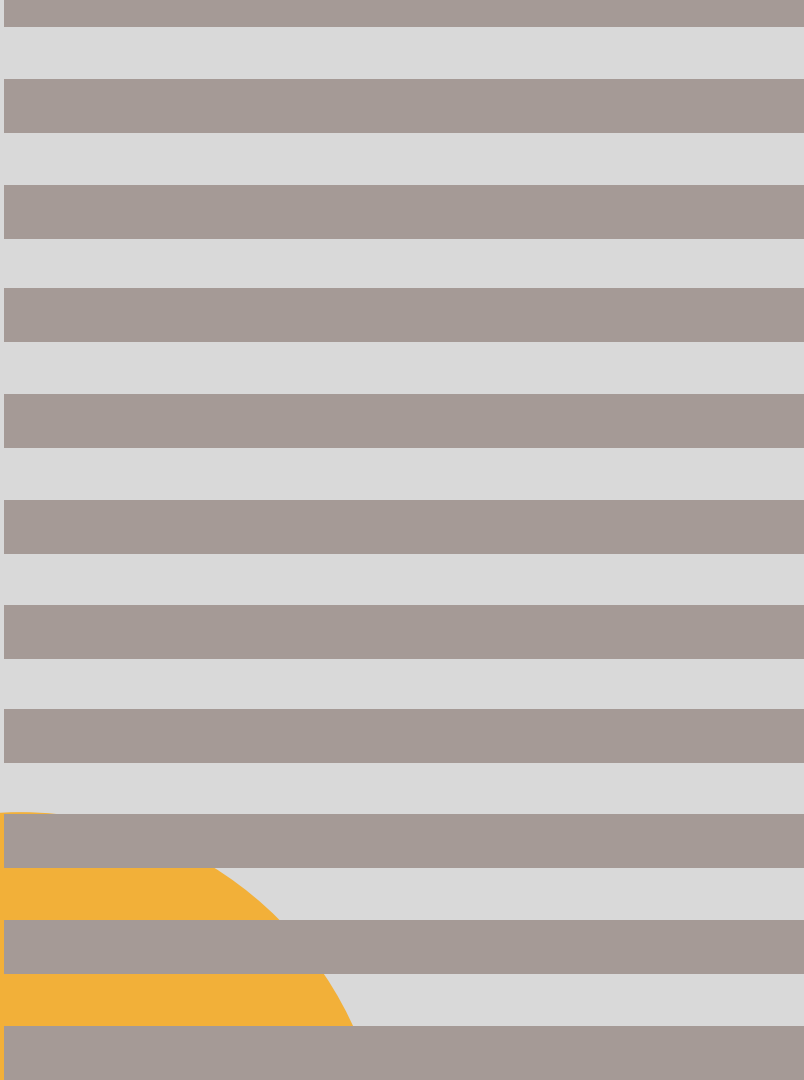
Learning from our Peers

Conversation starters shared in the chat by 6/20 Collaborative call participants

What is a question you use to engage youth about who they trust and feel connected to?

- Who came to your birthday party?
- Where and with who do you spend holidays with?
- If you had a magic wand and could reach out to one person from your past that you miss who would it be?
- If you had to call someone for help, who would that be?
- Who do you share good or bad news with?
- If you're having a bad day, who is someone you feel comfortable sharing that with?
- Who gives you the best advice?
- If (XYZ depending on age, i.e. a flat tire for a teen) who would you call?
- Who is the first person you think of when you want to share something you are excited about with someone?

Q&A with ChildNet

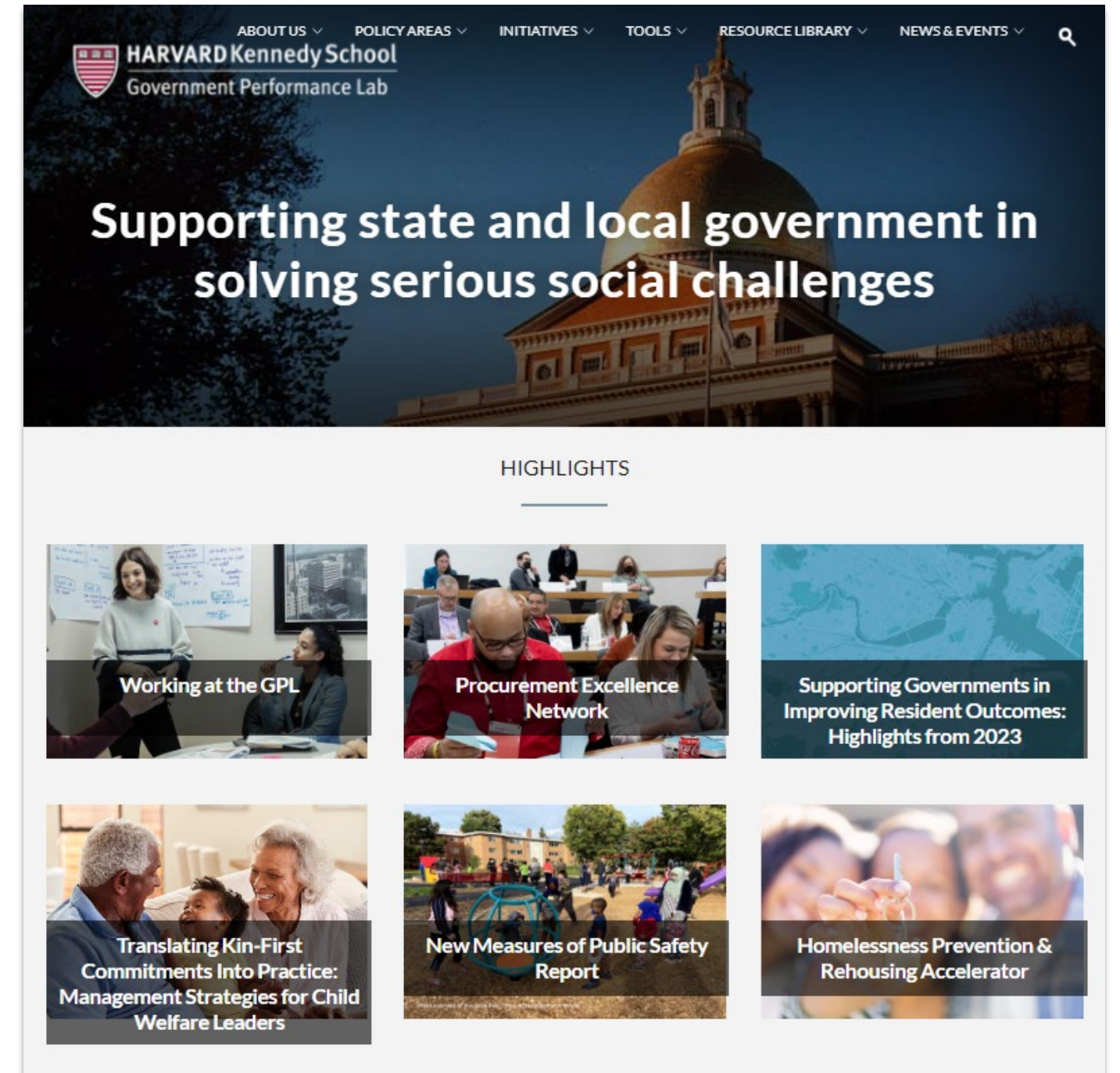


Thank you!

We'd love to connect!

*Want to talk more about any of the strategies
or tools shared today?
Or discuss a kinship care challenge or initiative
your county is working on?*

You can contact us
at Lynda_Blancato@hks.harvard.edu
and EmmaCregg@hks.harvard.edu



For more on about GPL's work and to sign up for our newsletter, visit our website: [Government Performance Lab \(harvard.edu\)](https://www.harvard.edu/government-performance-lab)

Next Meeting

- Thursday, July 18th @ 1pm ET / 10am PT
Panel Discussion about Kin Mobilization Success in Los Angeles
- Sign up [here](#)

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