




1

30 Days to Family®

- An intensive and fast-paced 30 day search for relatives & kin beginning at the time a child enters protective custody
- Notify relatives and identify placement options
- Outline a network of relative supports and connections that promote stability and family involvement, outside of placement

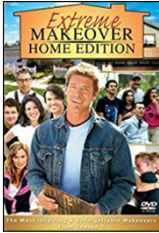


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2

30 Days to Family® History

- 30 Days to Family® launched in February 2011, by the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition in St. Louis, MO
- Influenced by the Coalition's Extreme Recruitment® Program
- Extreme Recruitment® was founded in 2008 and inspired by TV show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*



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3

Goals of Family Involvement

- Assessment of multiple placement options
- Family culture, history, and traditions
- Securing Natural Supports for the entire family
- Child specific needs
- Maintaining "Normalcy"
- Crisis Intervention

So much more than placement!



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4

Re-Imagining the System

~~Why We Can't~~ to Why Can't We?

- Why We Can't:**
 - Default to tradition, "this is how it works..."
 - Tendency to move on when barriers arise
 - Unwillingness to challenge biases
- Why Can't We?:**
 - Become a confident advocate for systems change
 - Develop a strengths-based, curious approach to barriers
 - Proactive awareness and mitigation of biases

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5

30 Days to Family® Philosophies

- Every youth has family members that are able and willing to care for them.
- Every family is unique, and ONLY the family members are experts on the family.
- Children deserve to be with their family and have a right to maintain kinship and cultural connections.
- Everyone has something to contribute
- Active family participation is essential for good outcomes.
- All families are entitled to respect from the child welfare system.

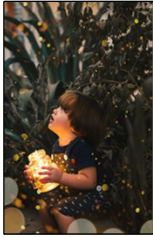


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6

THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELFARE INNOVATION Forgetting "Business as Usual"

- Urgency & Exhaustiveness- what would we do for our own family?
- Partnering with the family, humble ourselves and eliminate toxic power dynamics
- Value all sides and members of the family equally- siblings, "putative" paternal relatives
- Strengths-based, curious approach to assessment, barrier busting, and advocacy
- Natural Supports prioritized over paid/professional services- unconditional, sustainable, transferable
- Broad definition of "family"- follow the relationships, not just the blood
- If we are truly committed to DEI, family members **MUST** be invited and welcomed to the table



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7

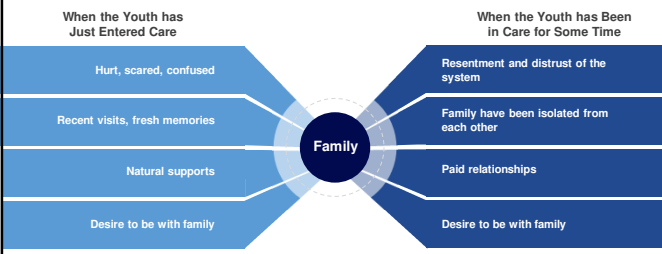
THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELFARE INNOVATION Importance of Urgency ... but it's never too late!

When the Youth has Just Entered Care

- Hurt, scared, confused
- Recent visits, fresh memories
- Natural supports
- Desire to be with family

When the Youth has Been in Care for Some Time

- Resentment and distrust of the system
- Family have been isolated from each other
- Paid relationships
- Desire to be with family



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8

THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELFARE INNOVATION Program Outcomes Goals

- Notify Family: out THROUGH the 4th generation (great grandparents)
- Identify at least 80 relatives/kin, average of 150
- Identify a primary relative/kin placement option for 98% of children served
- Identify at least one backup placement option for 75% of children served
- Identify at least two backup placement options for 45% of children served
- Place 70% of children with relatives/kin by the conclusion of services
- Services concluded within 30 calendar days

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9

THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELFARE INNOVATION Eligibility

- Ages 0-17
- Just entered or re-entered foster care system
- No approved relative or kinship for placement
- No official documentation that the child cannot be placed in a community setting within 30 days



A Specialist will work with No More than Two Families At a Time

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10

THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELFARE INNOVATION Case Activities

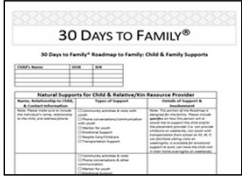
- Day 1
 - Attend Initial Hearing, Begin Engaging with Family Immediately
 - Gather Child Specific Needs info, schedule Barrier Meeting
 - Contact ALL Priority Contacts- the youth, all parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles, siblings
- Week 1
 - Expansion of Genogram Through 4th Generation
 - EVERYONE Receives Contact Attempts
 - Identify Placement Options and Supports, Assessing for Safety and Stability, Advocacy with the Professional Team
- Weeks 2-4
 - Continuing Contacts Efforts
 - Barrier Meeting Held
 - Placement Occurs (if it hasn't already) Assist with Placement Stability Resources
 - Conclusion of Services

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11

THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELFARE INNOVATION Roadmap to Family

- Detailed, Tangible, and Sustainable Support Plan for the Short and Long Term
- Family Supports take tasks off the plates of the professionals
- Linking of Supports, connect family members from across the genogram
- "Who, What, When, Where..." not just names on paper
- Provided to the Caregiver and Entire Professional Team



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12

30 Days to Family® Evidence

More likely to be placed with kin.
 MO: More likely to reunify, less likely to emancipate
 OH: More likely to exit care to live with kin

Fewer days in care.
 MO = 91 fewer days in care
 Children 9 and older = 194 fewer days
 Children with disabilities = 258 fewer days
 OH = 68.5 fewer days in care

Fewer moves while in care.
 81% (MO) & 36% (OH) less likely to change placement after placed with a kin

Immediate cost savings.
 MO = \$10,217 per child served
 Children age 9 and older = savings of \$21,686 per child
 Children with an identified disability = savings of \$28,819 per child
 OH = \$13,194 per child served

Reduced treatment placements.
 50% (OH) & 38% (MO) fewer placements in treatment environments after placed with kin

PolicyWorks, Ltd.
 PROGRAM EVALUATION • PRACTICE EFFECTIVENESS

Atkinson, A.J. (2019). 30 Days to Family®: Confirming Theoretical and Actual Outcomes. *Child Welfare*, 97(4), 97-129.

Atkinson, A.J. (2022). A Comparison of Child Welfare Outcomes and Cost Savings Achieved in Diverse Implementation Contexts with 30 Days to Family® Intervention. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*. DOI:10.1088/1548732.2022.2026271


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13

Clearinghouses

Title IV-E Prevention Services
 “Well Supported”

California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse
 “High Child Welfare Relevance, with Promising Research Evidence”



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14

Replication

3 Phase Process:
 Exploration
 Installation
 Launch

Intense Technical Support and Coaching from the Institute

Regular Fidelity Monitoring and Participation in National Collaboration




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15

Replication

Current Sites:

- Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (MO)
- Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association (MO)
- Foster Adopt Connect (MO)
- Bethany Christian Services (MI)
- Ampersand Families (MN)
- Monterey County (CA)



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16



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17