



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator (OhioKAN) Development Project

Stakeholder Workgroup: Session 3 of 3

July 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Alicia Allen, ODJFS; Doug Althausen, Family and Youth Law Center; Mimi Anglin, Adoptive Parent; Joe Atkinson, Montgomery County PCSA; Darlene Baad, Summit County PCSA; Stephanie Beale, Kinnect; Roxana Bell, Kinnect; Ricka Berry, Beech Acres Parenting Center; Stephanie Blaine, Athens County PCSA; Carrie Block, ODJFS; Sandy Bryant, Dayton Children's Hospital; Jamole Callahan, Kinnect; Rosalind Caro, Stark County PCSA; Carla Carpenter, ODJFS; Brenda Cheatham, Fairhill Partners; Maridell Couture, Cuyahoga County DSAS; Imee Dalton, Adult Adoptee; Shannon Deinhart, Kinnect; Patrick Donovan, Muskingum County, PCSA; Angela Earley, Chrysalis Family Solutions; Dave Earley, Chrysalis Family Solutions; Elizabeth Edington, Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley; Destry Fallen, Dayton Children's Hospital; Bob Friend, Kinnect; Tina Gaston, Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio; Julie Gilbert, Butler County PCSA; Deborah Gmann, Adoptive Parent; Heather Gonzales King, Adult Adoptee; Nancy Griffith, Lorain County PCSA; Heather Gutierrez, Kinship Caregiver; Elise Hagesfeld, Kinship Caregiver; Tim Harless, Richland County PCSA; Kristie Heckman, Clark County JFS; Sarah Kaye, Kaye Implementation and Evaluation; Mike Kenney, Kinnect; Beth Kowalczyk, Area Office on Aging; Carla Lanier, Fairhill Partners; Jaqueline McCray, Cuyahoga County PCSA; Karen McGormley, ODJFS; Dawn Merritt, Beech Acres Parenting Center; Kristine Monroe, ODJFS; Betsie Norris, Adoption Network Cleveland; Kim Novak, Kinship Caregiver; Sue Nowlin, Lorain County Office on Aging; Alexandra Patsfall, Hamilton County PCSA; Johanna Pearce, Fairfield County PCSA; Amy Reinhart, ODJFS; Tara Shook, ODJFS; Wendy Spoerl, Ohio Adoption Planning Group; Lynette Stevens, Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition; Helene Stone, Lorain County Office on Aging; Cheryl Tarantino, Northeast Ohio Adoption Services; Cara Textoris, Kinnect; Crystal Turner, Kinship Caregiver; Barbara Turpin, Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition; Mary Wachtel, PCSAO; Crystal Ward-Allen, Casey Family Programs; Louanne Zipfel, Clintonville Beechwood Community Resource Center

FACILITATORS

Stephanie Beale, Jamole Callahan, Shannon Deinhart, Bob Friend, Sarah Kaye, and Mike Kenney

SPEAKERS

Carla Carpenter and Karen McGormley

Scribe: Cara Textoris

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Shannon Deinhart opened the meeting, welcoming workgroup members and providing an update on the work done by the leadership team since the last session. An overview was given on how the insights and feedback from stakeholders over the last two meetings helped inform key decisions of the developed OhioKAN framework and design

- B. Carla Carpenter thanked stakeholders for their participation, time, and energy. We are well positioned to implement a robust program in the state because of the rich history we have in the realm of kinship care supports services and state officials are committed to seeing the work move forward
- C. Carla gave an update on House Bill 166, the 2-year State of Ohio budget bill, passed by the 133rd General Assembly and officially signed by Governor Mike DeWine on 7/18/19. Under HB 166, the State of Ohio budget has allocated \$8.5MM for the implementation of a kinship navigator program, more than the anticipated \$3.5MM - \$5MM
- D. Karen McGormley walked stakeholders through budget updates. Program evaluation is key to ensuring OhioKAN is achieving impact for families and that we are hitting the Title IV-E Clearinghouse critical standards. Funding for OhioKAN is guaranteed by this state budget (and the program will begin under state funding only), however federal FFPSA matching kinship funds will draw down only after OhioKAN is:
 - 1. Evaluated;
 - 2. Submitted to the Title IV-E Clearinghouse; and
 - 3. Rated by the Title IV-E Clearinghouse as either:
 - ✓ Promising;
 - ✓ Supported; or
 - ✓ Well-Supported(more information on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse or to review the programs that have already received ratings through this process can be found by visiting their website: <https://preventionservices.abtsites.com>)
- E. The kinship page on the State of Ohio's Foster, Adoption, and Kinship Care website went live on 7/23/19 (<https://fosterandadopt.jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ofc/kinship-care>)
- F. Mike Kenney asked Stakeholders what they would like to walk away with from the day's meeting and the group identified the following topic areas:
 - Program framework
 - Recommendation for regional structure
 - Information on evaluation plan
 - Understanding on how existing programs will fit into the model
 - Implementation strategy (how do we implement in sites that are ready but not leave out those that aren't)

II. OhioKAN Program Design and Framework

- A. The working OhioKAN budget framework was shared with stakeholders, identifying a design of how available funding would be allocated within the program
 - The shared budget framework was not the final or approved budget, but an overview on potential structure
 - The shared budget was the operational budget, after OhioKAN was fully implemented and functional; beginning implementation would require a different budgeting structure
 - The majority of funding in an operational budget allocated to direct service staff

- A large percentage of funding in an operational budget is carved out as flexible hub money. As regions conduct community mapping and assess their needs, they will be able to individually determine how to fill in service gaps and how to best allocate flexible dollars
- B. The OhioKAN Mission, Vision, and Values statements were shared and feedback was received from stakeholders on what might need to be altered or improved:

Mission Statement:

OhioKAN is a flexible and responsive kinship and adoption navigator program designed to support children, youth, and their families.

Stakeholder Feedback on Mission Statement:

- Make language more inclusive, it could be perceived that the support offered by the program is only for biological families
- Be more explicit that the program is offered state-wide, not only in select counties
- Spell out the full name of the program and put the acronym in parenthesis

Vision Statement:

We believe that families are inherently capable of finding solutions to the circumstances and challenges they face. By taking an inclusive, engaging, and genuine approach, OhioKAN will strengthen families and their networks.

Stakeholder Feedback on Vision Statement:

- Appreciate that it sounds strengths based
- Add an action statement that shows the value of partnership between family and professional
- Consider flipping the order of the two sentences in the statement

Values Statement:

Children: We value Ohio's children and are determined to keep the safety, permanency, and well-being of our children as our primary driver.

Accountability: We value integrity and transparency. We do what we say and say what we do.

Respect: We value the belief that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

Engagement: We value the voices of all kinship and adoptive families

Strengths: We value every family's strengths and believe everyone can contribute to the solution.

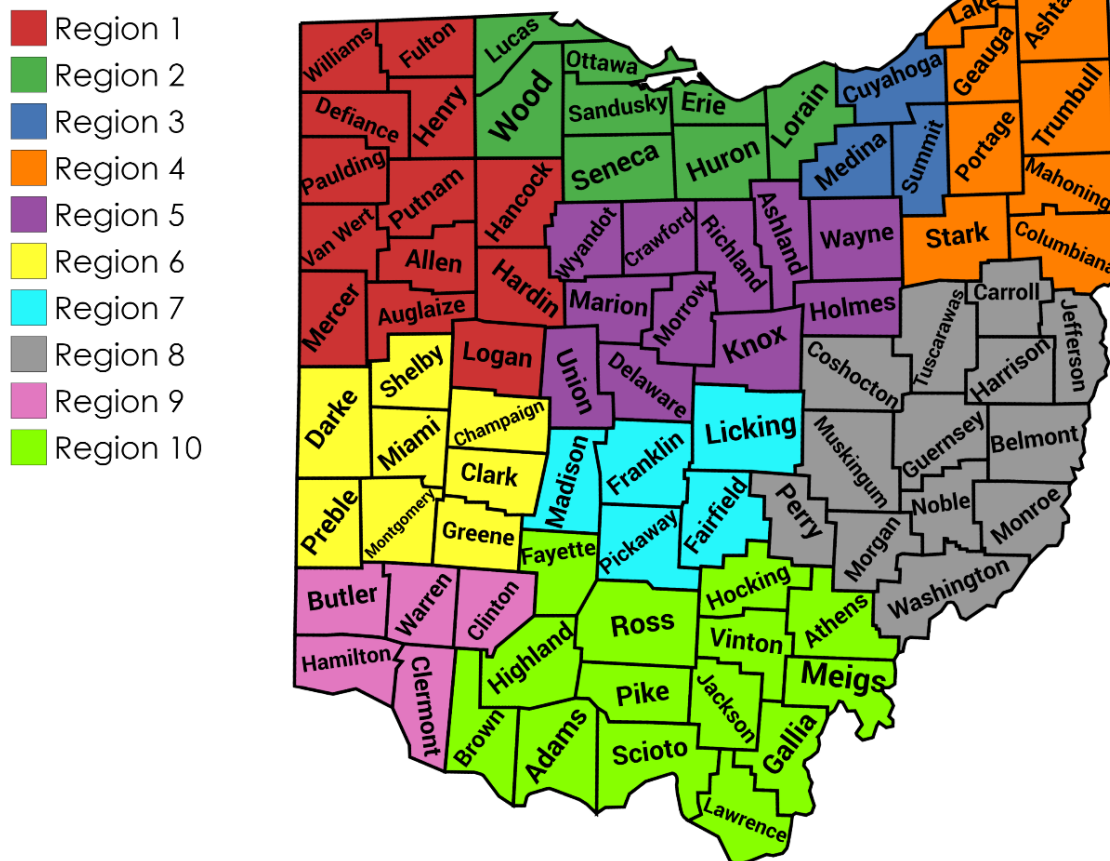
Stakeholder Feedback on Values Statement:

- Add the value of culture and background
- Update language to showcase OhioKAN will engage directly with families

C. The proposed regional structure of OhioKAN: 10 Regions

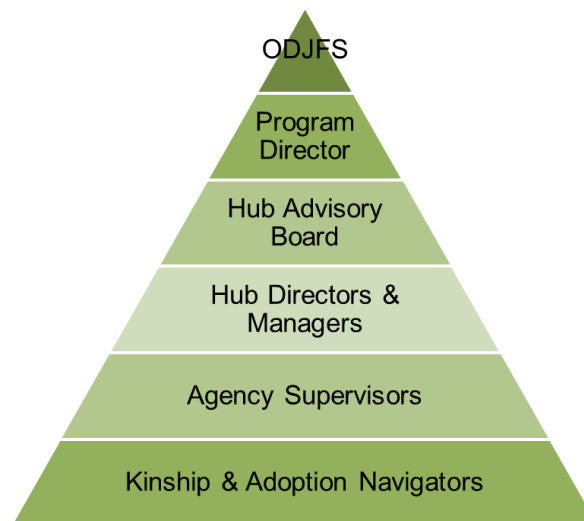
- Regional structure was developed using the following (data and considerations):
 - Stakeholder recommendations
 - ORC 5101.85 criteria
 - 2010 Ohio Census data
 - Number of grandparent households
 - County-reported data:
 - Total population
 - Number of children in foster care
 - Number of children receiving adoption assistance or SAMS
 - Ensuring that counties currently partnering together in the realm of child welfare would be paired within the same region
 - Density of population and geographic scope were balanced to promote maximum equity between regions and workload for Navigators (the denser the population of a region, the less counties assigned to that specific region; the less dense the population, the greater the number of counties assigned to a region)

OhioKAN Regional Map



D. Proposed structure and framework:

- OhioKAN overseen by the **OhioKAN Program Director**
 - Ensures program fiscal responsibility; oversees implementation & evaluation
- Each region overseen by a **Regional Hub Director**
 - Reports to Program Director; coordinates scope of work within region
- Each region will have **Kinship and Adoption Navigators**
 - Work assigned based on specific needs of region & determined by community mapping/regional needs assessment completed by Regional Hub Director and OhioKAN Program Director
- Each region will convene a **Regional Advisory Council** to support goals and outcomes of OhioKAN
 - Identify service gaps and provide regional recommendations



E. Existing programs and new site development:

- OhioKAN will enhance (not replace) existing work being done throughout Ohio
- Teaching/Learning Community Structure; The regional approach of OhioKAN will provide for existing sites to support the growth of development in counties that had previously not provided support/services to kinship families
- Counties that had been part of the Protect Ohio Demonstration Grant were disbursed throughout the regions, since many have existing navigator or support programs, which will aid in future Learning Communities

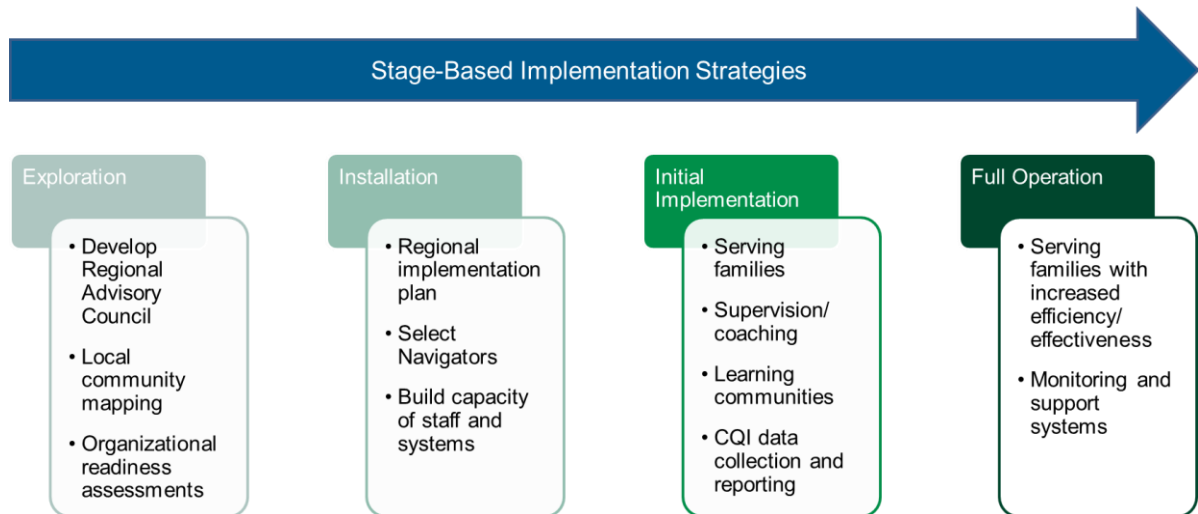
III. OhioKAN Next Steps

A. OhioKAN Regional Town Hall Meetings:

- Currently planned for 5 meetings in August/September, disbursed throughout the state in the following counties: Athens, Butler, Franklin, Summit, and Lucas
- Stakeholders suggested a regional approach to Town Hall Meetings, expanding to 10, which would bring community/regional partners together before implementation and begin the process of community mapping

B. OhioKAN Implementation:

- Sarah Kaye walked stakeholders through stage-based implementation and a potential regional roll-out throughout the state to illustrate what the implementation process may look like
- Implementation roll-out will be planned in order to support final favorable program evaluation



C. OhioKAN Evaluation:

- A favorable evaluation is key to ensuring OhioKAN is ultimately eligible for matching federal funds under FFPSA
- After evaluation, OhioKAN will be submitted to the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse to be rated.
- Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse ratings and rating criteria:

Rating	Number of studies*	Design	Effect	Usual Care
Promising Practice	1	Moderate, High	Favorable	
Supported Practice	1	Moderate, High	Sustained favorable for 6 months	✓
Well-Supported Practice	2	Moderate, High	Sustained favorable for 12 months	✓
*non-overlapping study samples				

IV. Closing of Meeting and Adjournment of OhioKAN Stakeholder Workgroup