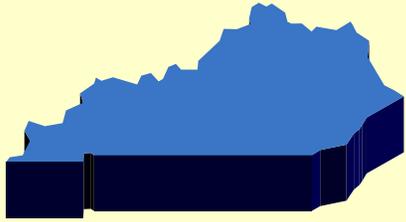


# KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM

BY:

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Quantitative: To evaluate the effectiveness of the Kinship Care Program in the Lincoln Trail Region of the Cabinet for Families and Children on obtaining permanency and safety for children in out of home care.

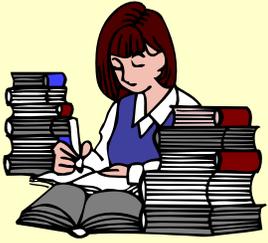
Qualitative: To evaluate the effectiveness of KCP as well as professional satisfaction with the program.

# Literature Review

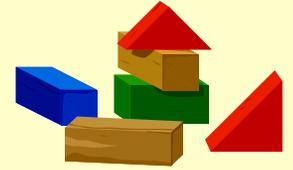
- Boots and Green state that family members have long played a role in caring for children when their parents were unavailable to do so (Kinship Care).
- The Child Welfare League of America's description of kinship care: Full time care, nurturing and protection of children by relatives.

# Review Continues....

- Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 605.120(6) under the Kentucky Administrative Regulation 922.1:30 (1998 pp.6) established the KCP.
- KCP was established to facilitate permanency for children who have or may be removed from their parents' or guardian's home due to a CFC finding of neglect or abuse or death of both parents.
- Relative caregivers are to cooperate with CFC
- Benefits for the child.



# Quantitative Method



## Research questions

- What effectiveness has the KCP had on obtaining permanency and safety for children in the program?
- What is the difference in effectiveness of the KCP for the different race groups?

# Quantitative Method Cont'....

- Research Design: Summative program evaluation, pre-experimental, using a one group post-test only design answering the quantitative questions.
- Sample: Data was collected from case file reviews using a Chart Review Form. All KCP cases in the Lincoln Trail Region were utilized.
- Variables Included: Relationship, date & reason for removal, age, race, & gender of child, # of alleged abuses, # of substantiated abuses & placement moves, permanency granted, type & date of court order, & length of time in care.



# Results



- 85 Children in the Kinship Care Program in the Lincoln Trail Region.
- Mean Age At Removal: 7.8 years (sd 4.9)
- Median Age: 8 Yrs; Mode: 9 Yrs.
- Minimum Age: 6 months; Maximum Age 17 Yrs.
- Gender: 41 Males and 44 Females
- Race: 77 White; 8 Other
- # of Placement Moves Since Initial Placement- 54 children- 0; 19 children-1; 9 children- 2; 1 child-3; 1 child-4; and 1 child- 6



# Results Cont'



## Relationship of Kinship Care Givers

- Grandparents are the number one care giver in KC cases with 44 of the 85 children being placed with Maternal grandparents while 14 were placed with Paternal grandparents.
- Maternal Aunt and/or Uncle: 12 Children
- Paternal Aunt and/or Uncle: 10 Children
- Siblings: 5 Children



# Still more results....



## Reason for Removal

- Neglect - 68 Children
- Physical Abuse- 16 Children
- Sexual Abuse- 1 Child



## Permanency?

32 children gained permanency in the KCP through court orders. 28 children were placed with relatives who were given permanent custody through Circuit Court. 4 children were returned to their parents.

# Chi-Square Test

A Chi-Square test was conducted to test the relationship of race and permanency. A significant relationship was found (Chi-square (1)= 14.63,  $p = .000$ ).

While there is a significant relationship between permanency and race the two groups for race were not equal. There were 77 (Whites) and 8 (Other Races) in the sample. This makes for a weak assumption.



# Qualitative Method

The qualitative study was completed using a formative program evaluation with and ethnographic design. Interviews with five KCP case managers was completed . The sample was a convenience non-probability sample due to the case managers being in the Lincoln Trail Region of the Cabinet for Families and Children and were easily accessed by this researcher.



# Qualitative Questions



- What are the strengths of the KCP?
- What are the weakness of the KCP?
- Is the KCP bringing permanency and safety to the children in the program and if so why?
- Demographic questions of age, gender, race, and number of years employed by the agency were asked of the interviewee.

# Themes and Salient Quotes

- Strengths:
- “Children remain with family”
- Provides financial ability for families to provide for child
- “Frees up foster homes”
- Weaknesses :
- Eligibility is not clear
- “Families can’t afford attorney’s fees”
- “Not reaching permanency as quickly as policy dictates”
- “no weakness known at this time”

# Summary

- This study disclosed that 32 of the 85 children in KCP have achieved permanency. The number of placements also decreased due to the KCP for the children in the program.
- Implications for policy and practice: The Cabinet needs to follow cases until permanency is reached.
- Strengths: This project will make the agency aware of the benefits of the program (safety and permanency for children with family members).
- Limitations: Study not representative of entire state of KY. This is an implication for future research: A study of KCP for all of KY.

# What I would do differently:

I would interview more professionals and perhaps include family interviews in order to get a feel for the whole KCP and find out if the Cabinet is implementing the program according to policy and procedure. Permanency is what P&P is all about.



“It’s all about us!”