

#YesWeKIN



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Director

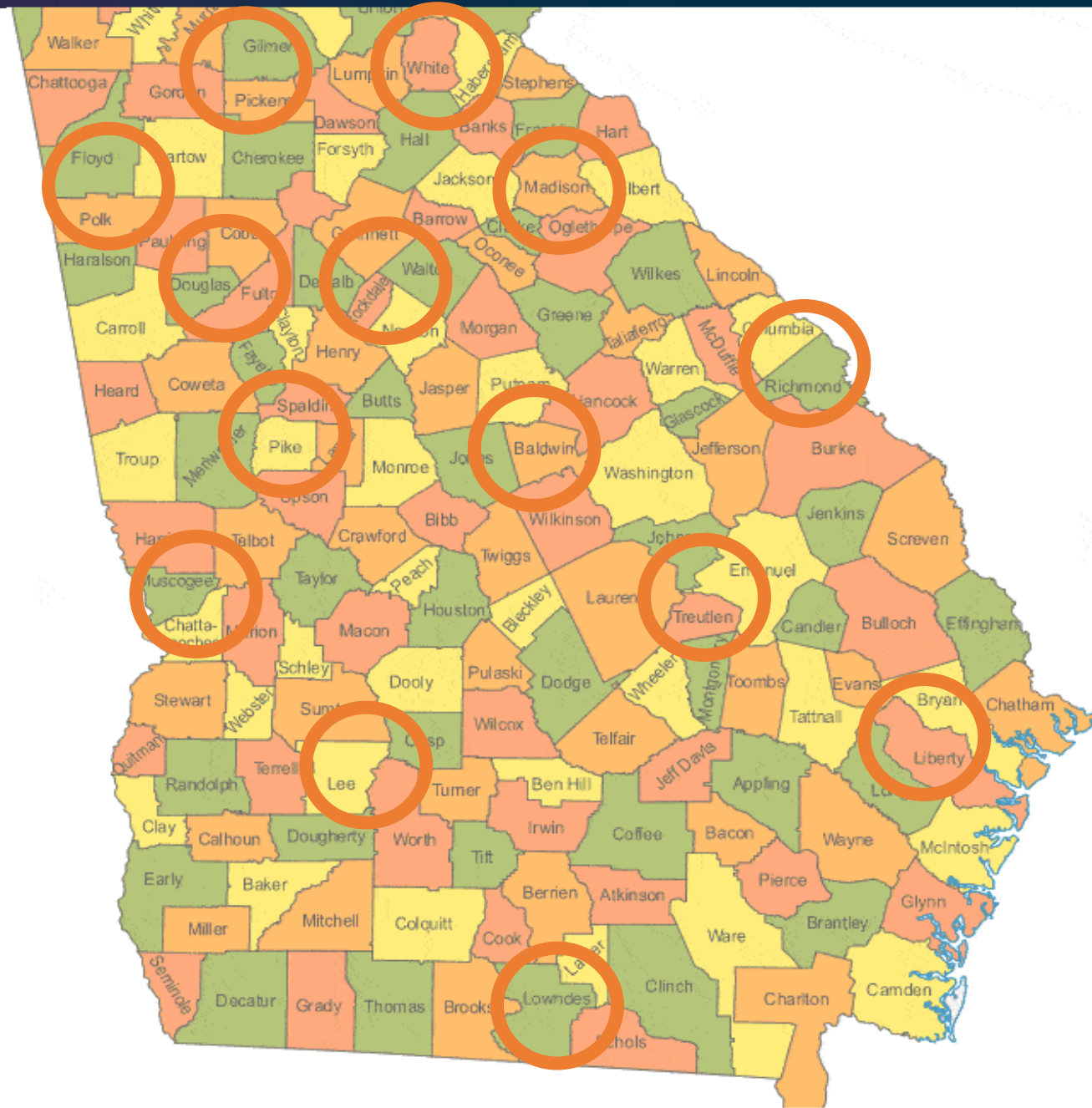
Georgia's Kinship Continuum

#YES
WE
KIN!

- Implementation of Voluntary Kinship which focuses on both safety and treatment and phases out the use of safety resources.
- Applying Georgia's practice model which engages a family's extended supports to resolve safety and permanency concerns.
- Early identification of kin caregivers to mitigate trauma to the child and to provide continuity of relationships and if long-term caregiving is required.

Georgia's Kinship Continuum

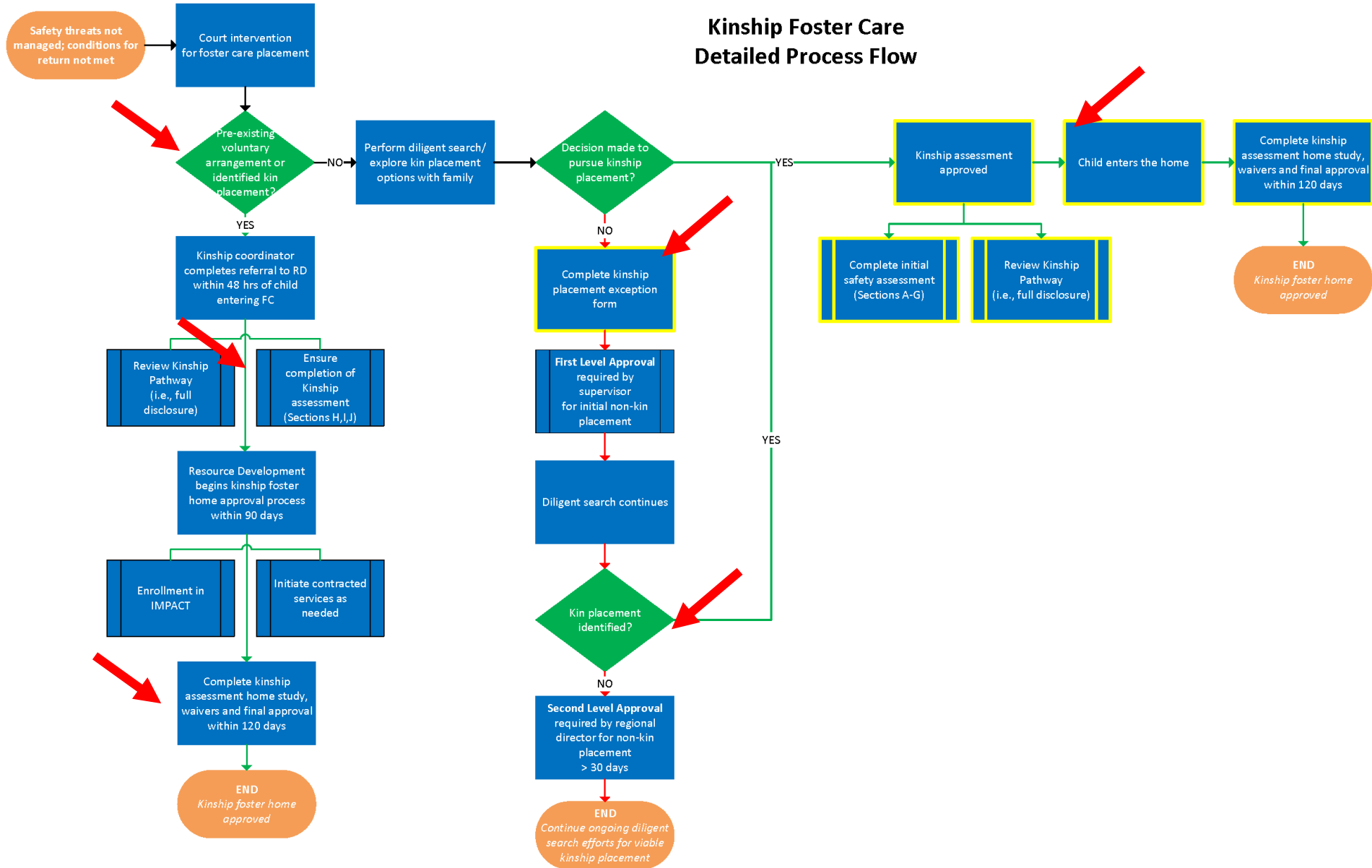
- **2019** -Rollout- Introduction of Practice Change and Values
 - January-October 14 Regions
- **2020**- Practice Support, Targeted Partnerships, Quality Assurance, and Monitoring
- **2021**- Look Back Assessment



Building Quality Caregiving “Kinship Care”



DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES



Kin Caregivers



Foster Parents



Don't Delay Diligent Search

- Locate kin sooner, faster, and quicker. **First 30 days are crucial!**
- Remember better late than never doesn't apply! (**HB167**)
- Inform all parties that you are working to locate kin.
- Thorough **Diligent Search** is not a preference in support of Foster Parents vs Kin. Effective Diligent Search is an opportunity to preserve a child's identity and culture.
- Address concerns/conflicts at the onset with all parties
 - Sibling groups
 - Paternal Relatives and Multiple Fathers
 - Caregiver Concerns (other household members, marital status, etc..)
 - ICPC –Delays
 - Caregiver's Lack of Response

Encouraging Contact with Kin

- Invite Kin to attend school or church functions
- Kin can share family history with child
- Talk positively about the parents/family
- Invite Kin parents to holiday celebrations
- Have Kin share pictures of the family and child



Expediting Kinship Placements for Children in Foster Care

- Key Steps are **REQUIRED**
 - Complete all the requirements for an emergency placement.
 - Review the CPS and Criminal History results
 - Determine if waivers are required
 - Confirm the caregiver's willingness to complete the foster home approval process in 120 days, **AND** their permanent commitment to the child.
 - Notify the foster parent and court of intention to change placements.

What to tell A Kinship Foster Care Resource?

- Thank you for willingly providing care and supervision for your family member.
- Please remember that your home has been initially approved. Your home must be fully approved in order to serve as placement resource for a child in foster care.
- The approval process provides you with education and resources to care for your family member.
- You will be contacted/visited by other agency staff regarding additional requirements. Remember to return calls and partner with DFCS to ensure there aren't delays in your approval process.
- You will be contacted in the next few days by our Kinship staff to share more about your caregiving role.
- Remember DFCS is unable to pay you for caring for your relative child until your home is approved. *Do you have any immediate needs? Urgent matters should be communicated to the Foster Care case manager.* In the coming days if you have concerns be sure to share them with staff members.

Don't Forget to Complete the Form!

KINSHIP COORDINATOR REFERRAL FORM

Name of person referring	Contact Number	Email				
1. KINSHIP CAREGIVER INFORMATION						
KINSHIP CAREGIVER NAME	Contact Number	Shines Case ID				
Address	EMAIL	Case Status Voluntary Kinship <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care <input type="checkbox"/>				
2. Social Service Case Manager/Supervisor						
Case Manager Name	Email/Contact	County Office				
Supervisor	Email/Contact					
3. List the Child(ren) Placed with a Kinship Caregiver						
NAME	Relationship to Kin-Caregiver	DOB	GENDER	RACE (OPTIONAL)	GRADE (K-12)	PRIMARY LANGUAGE
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
Please Provide Primary Reason for Referral:		SUPPORT SERVICES/RESOURCES REQUESTED (check all that apply): CPS Referral Request- <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver Needs Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Community Resource <input type="checkbox"/> Full Disclosure Foster Care Request- <input type="checkbox"/> Impact/Home Study <input type="checkbox"/> Full Disclosure				

Creating Urgency with Kin Caregivers

An Effective Kinship Coordinator

- **Ensures kinship foster placement willingness to completed the foster home approval process. Full Disclosure**
- Facilitates enrollment in Impact classes for kinship caregivers.
- **Provides support or problem solving for any barriers to completing impact timely.**
- Refers to Resource Development to transition the kinship caregiver for foster home approval
- Staffs and tracks the home's full approval within 120 days.



Partnering with the Kinship Coordinator

If it's your region's child than it's your caregiver to support!

Contact the Regional Kinship Coordinator or RD to schedule:

- Live Scans
- Drug Screens
- Walk Thru of the Home
- Impact/Home Study



Kinship Foster Care Practice Guidance

- Training Kinship Caregivers
 - Kinship caregivers will receive IMPACT Training in preparation to meet the needs of the child, to increase awareness and understanding of the needs of the child and to maintain and improve their caregiving skills over time.
 - Enrollment in impact should begin immediately
 - Contract for in-home training when deemed appropriate

Kinship Foster Care Practice Guidance

- Approving Kin

- **Staff must prioritize the assessment and approval of a kinship caregiver if the child already placed in the home or when kin is identified.** Kinship Coordinators will ensure voluntary kinship cases are transferred to Resource Development to expediate the approval process for kin with children already living in their home. Good casework and supervision will reflect the assessment and approval of kinship foster homes within 120 days of a referral to Resource Development.

- If a kinship caregiver's home is found to be appropriate during completion of the initial home safety assessment the child may be placed at that time.

*Note: Placement of a child with known kin should not be delayed due to the foster home approval process. The kinship foster home approval process must be completed within 120 days. *Pilots may contract with providers to complete timely home studies*



A Little
Consideration,
A Little
Flexibility,
Makes the
Difference!

Intention

Search

Consideration

Action



Kinship Continuum

Kinship Foster Care-*Lessons Learned*

- Knowing When to Refer to the Kinship Coordinator
- Diligent Search – Children have over 26 possible relative/connections
- Consistent Messaging to Kin Caregiver (120-day Foster Home Approval)
- Creating Urgency- Full Disclosure
- When Kin Keep Showing Up- Full Disclosure
- Is this concern a Barrier or Does it Require a Plan/Substitution?
- Flexibility- When They No...We ASK How KIN We Help You Through It

Targeted Partnerships- Kinship Services

- **Collaboration with Georgia Family Connection Partnership- Mini Grants in 2020 to support:**
- Evidence Based-In Home Services
- Kinship Foster Home Approval (120 days)
- Kinship Placement Support Services
 - Resources to improve home environments
 - Applying for Benefits and Accessing local services
 - Mentoring





How much

Where

?

What

When

?

Questions

Is it

Why

?

Which

?

Presenter's Contact Information

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THANK
YOU! 😊