


Evaluation of Kinship Navigator Programs: Everything You Always Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask.

Michelle Rosenthal, Ph.D., *Edgewood Center for Children and Families, San Francisco, CA;*

Kerry Littlewood, Ph.D., *School of Social Work, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC;*

Abhishek Pandey, M.D., *Department of Medicine, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY*
and

Larry Cooper, *The Children's Home, Tampa, FL*



E V A L U A T E



Questions

- A. How do we define Kinship Navigation as a model?**
- B. Where are we in the field of kinship studies with this model development?**
- C. What challenges does such a model present for designing and conducting an evaluation?**
- D. What challenges does such a model present in terms of outcomes and rigor?**
- E. Application: How can we bridge research to practice?**



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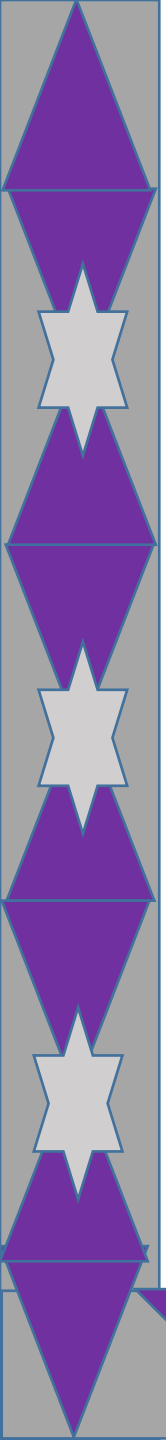


Kinship Navigator Definition

How do we define KINSHIP NAVIGATION as a model?



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Evaluator Discussion

Tucson, AZ (Spring, 2014)

- Seven different kinship navigator programs in cluster funded 2012
- All serving different target populations in unique locations with distinct outcomes
- Began important discussion on the kinship navigator model.



EVALUATE

Where are we with testing this model?

- Joanna DeWolfe (JBA Associates, Cross-site evaluator), Kerry Littlewood, and Michelle Rosenthal developed a tool to assess the model.
- Each program director and evaluator from the grantee cohort assessed each component derived at grantee meeting in May, 2014. These include:
 - Is it essential service?
 - Is it enhanced service?
 - Is it a component the program is currently implementing?
 - Is it a component the program has planned on implementing, but has not?
- Fall, 2014 assessments will be assessed based on agreement and validation on model components. Results will be shared, discussed with evaluation committee and results will be drafted for manuscript Spring, 2014.

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Bi-level model

- Client Level: Serves individual participants, children, caregivers, etc.
- Organizational Level: Includes collaboration and partnership building



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Client Level

- Identification and updating of community resources and gaps in services and systems
- Participant recruitment, such as:
 - Captive audience – Department of Human Services, Child Welfare office
 - Community partnerships to refer clients to program
 - Direct marketing and outreach through advertisement and individual contact at events
- Kinship family engagement and relationship building
- Intake and Needs Assessment
- Education – educating caregivers of resources available, including self-referral; knowledge-building
- Referral – action or activity taken by Navigator and/or caregiver, such as:
 - Medical
 - Basic needs/housing
 - Respite/child care
 - Legal



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Organizational Model

- Community partnership/Child Welfare and TANF agency staff
- Systems coordination
- Crisis planning, protocol for addressing client crisis
- Understand information, education, and resource needs of the intended population
- Data sharing agreements with key partners



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What components are “enhanced”

- Follow-up with clients
- Peer to peer support – support groups, peer Navigators, Grandparent Ambassadors
- Case planning and management
- Advocacy for caregivers
- Advocacy for policy and legislation (systems)
- Specialized populations, such as children of incarcerated parents, immigrants, children with special needs
- Parenting education
- Youth Ambassadors
- IT innovations – e-applications, ifoster/211 – public, private data sharing and integration, e.g. population of online resource portal based on community needs
- Data integration across systems



EVALUATE



Challenges Evaluating the Model: California

- How to design an evaluation that best captures a self-service, online portal for service delivery to kinship families
- An iterative approach and the County Collaboratives--- county readiness to partner, localization, and entry points
- Data sharing with program and county partners
- Enrolling kinship caregivers in an online study



EVALUATE



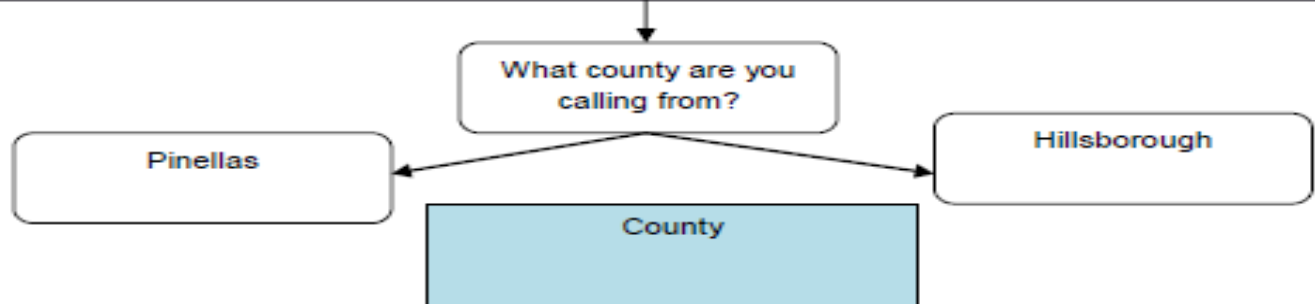
Challenges Evaluating the Model: Florida

- How to adapt a random controlled trial based on community context and revenue streams.
- How to integrate simultaneous enhancements to current model (one-e-app, peer-to-peer, interdisciplinary team)
- Data sharing with county and state in a privatized child welfare model.

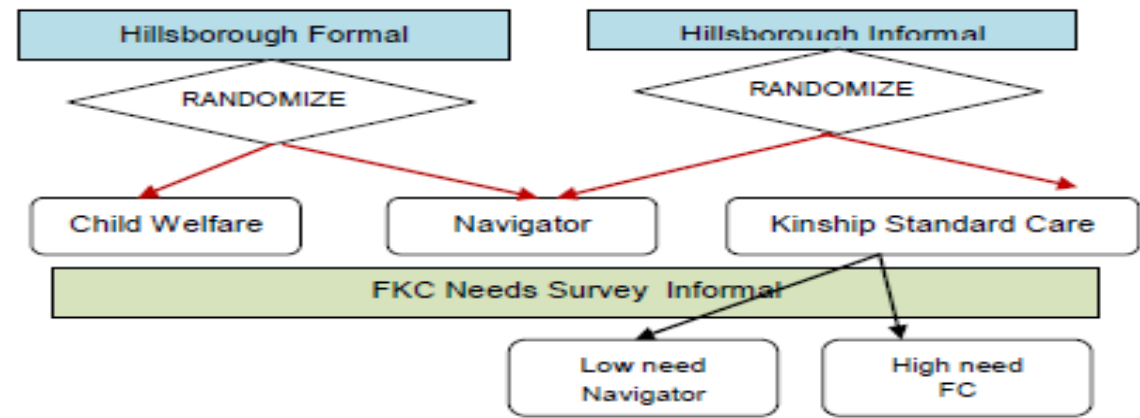
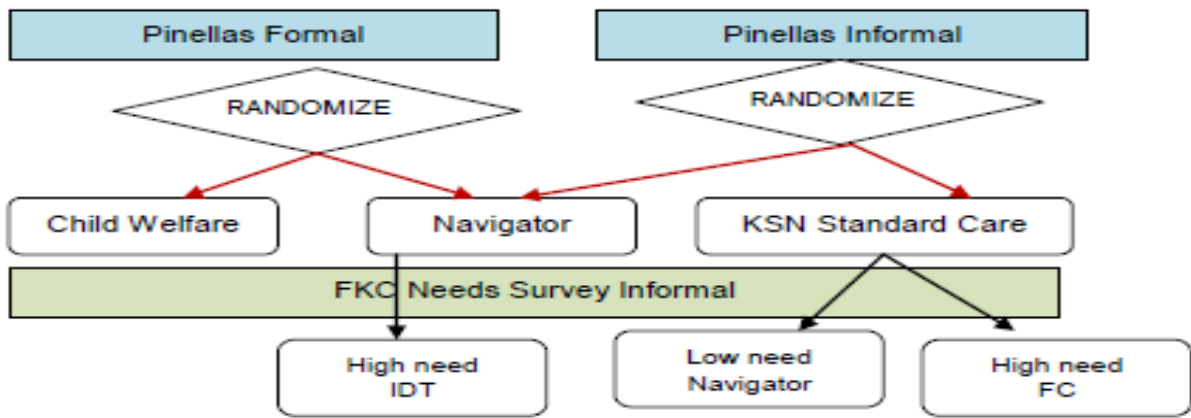
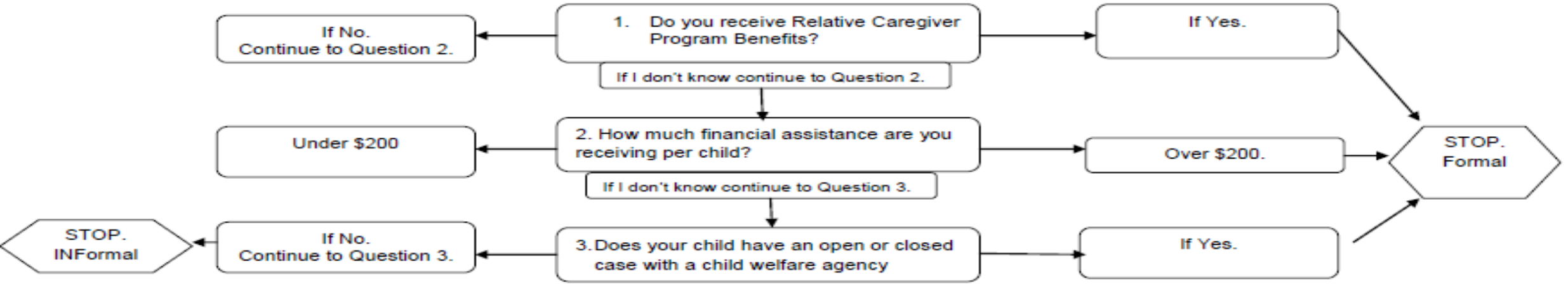


EVALUATE

KIN-Tech Intake Call



KIN-Tech FORMAL/INFORMAL DECISION TREE





What challenges does such a model present in terms of outcomes and rigor?

- Dose of Treatment
- Important Outcomes
 - family needs
 - health
- Cost



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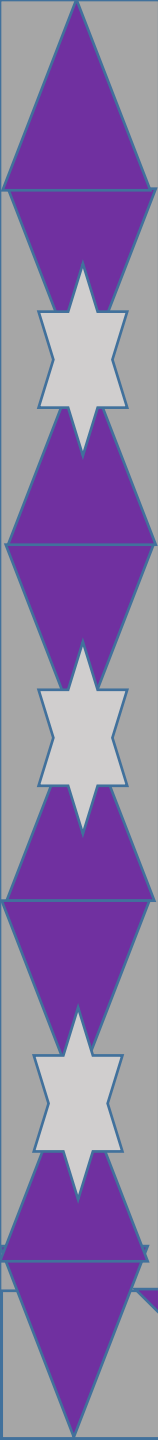
Research to Practice

- How can these kinship navigator models offer us lessons in improved service delivery for kinship families through innovative systems coordination?
- What is the best approach for sharing our findings with a broader audience to best help families?



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Other Questions



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