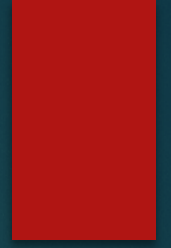




LEGAL & HEALTH CONCERNS FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

PANELISTS: BETTYE MALONE, FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY OF YONKERS,
KATY EDDY, ESQ., LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY, AND
ELENA FALCONE, WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM

LSHV KINSHIP UNIT:



- ▶ **WHAT WE DO FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS**

- ▶ **Overview of LSHV Resources:**

- ▶ What we do:

- ▶ Areas of Service: Housing, DV and Family Law, Income & Public Benefits, Consumer/Finance, Advanced Planning, Elder Law, Disability Advocacy, HIV/AIDS, Special Education, Veterans & Military Families, etc.

What is Kinship?

- ▶ Who: Grandparents, Siblings, other Family members or non-relatives individuals
- ▶ What: usually unexpectedly taking care of a child or children
- ▶ Major Impacts:
 - ▶ Custody/Guardianship
 - ▶ Financial
 - ▶ Health
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Housing
- ▶ How we can assist: Help kin caregivers navigate the legal system to ensure they receive the available benefits for kin.



Partnership with FSSY:

- ▶ We work together to provide:
 - ▶ Legal Education Presentations
 - ▶ Referrals for Kinship Caregivers
 - ▶ Both ways – we refer to FSSY and FSSY refers to LSHV



Family Service Society of Yonkers

When your loved ones need more help than you can provide.

Phone: **(914) 963-5118**

Email Address: info@fssy.org

Assistance with Navigating Family Court:

- ▶ Parental Relationship Designation form (GOL 5-1551 and PHL 2504)
- ▶ Article 6 – Custody/Guardianship Options
 - ▶ Less DSS Involvement
 - ▶ Clients need help navigating DSS for SNAP, HEAP, Housing, SSI, TA, etc.
 - ▶ Use current client example
- ▶ Article 10 – Direct Placement/Kinship Foster Care
 - ▶ More DSS Involvement – which can be difficult for families BUT
 - ▶ More assistance!





EDUCATION FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

- ▶ **Why is this important:**
- ▶ The success of a child's future is significantly based on the education opportunities they receive
- ▶ Kin Caregivers can be a generation removed from knowing the rights and opportunities for children in school

How Kin Caregivers can get involved:

- ▶ Enrollment
- ▶ Immunization requirements
- ▶ Attendance
- ▶ Education
 - ▶ Grades- follow the student's curriculum and know when assignments are due
 - ▶ Achievement of annual goals –read, write, math, etc.
- ▶ School related activities – parent/teacher conference
- ▶ Advocating for your kin – talking to teachers about options
- ▶ After school activities and importance of homework completion
- ▶ Extra Assistance: 504 Plan (reasonable accommodation) or IEP (individualized education plan for special needs)



What About COVID?

- ▶ How School Districts are responding to COVID are NOT uniform
- ▶ Depending on the resources available, students have varying abilities to receive remote learning and complete assigned activities
- ▶ Important now more than ever to have constant communication with teachers to ensure kids are receiving and completing assigned tasks.
- ▶ If child has an IEP or Reasonable Accommodation, need to work with school to ensure students needs are being met
 - ▶ If they are not being met, contact LSHV to open a case



External Resources:

- ▶ LSHV – <https://lshv.org/> (877) 547 8529
 - ▶ Contact us, not just for education questions, but for all legal needs relating to kinship caregiving.
- ▶ New York State Department of Education: <http://www.nysed.gov/>
- ▶ New York State PTA: <https://nyspta.org/home/covid-19/>
- ▶ Westchester Institute for Human: <https://www.wihd.org/>
- ▶ Parent to Parent New York State: <http://parenttoparentnys.org/education/>

Family Services Society of Yonkers

30 So Broadway, 5th Floor, Yonkers, NY 10701 | (914) 963-5118



- ▶ Services provided to Westchester and Rockland Counties
- ▶ Seth Berman, Executive Director
- ▶ Anietra Guzman-Santana, Senior Director, JCY-WCP Programs
- ▶ Carolyn Fluckinger, Director Kinship Support Program
- ▶ cfluckinger@fssy.org
- ▶ Bettye F. Malone, Counselor, Kinship Support Program
- ▶ bmalone@fssy.org
- ▶ Kayla Urena, Program Coordinator, Kinship Support Program
- ▶ kurena@fssy.org

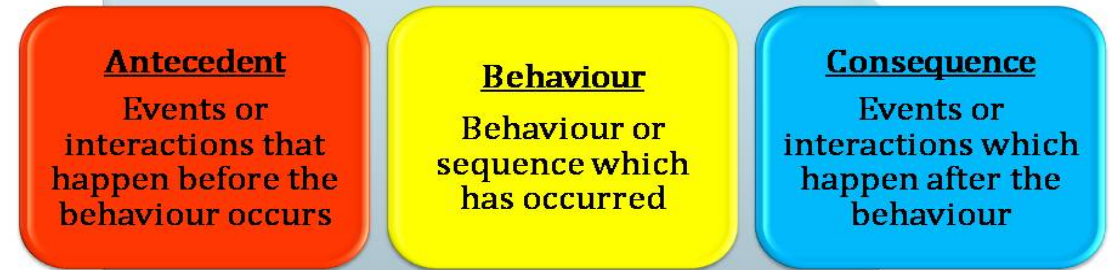
Support Groups for Relative Caregivers and Grandparents Raising Children



- ▶ Opportunity to meet individual who share their experience
- ▶ Provide support for each other

Community Education using Evidence Based Programs

- ▶ Parenting Training Skills using the ABC Model
- ▶ Parenting a Second Time Around





Proper documentation for enrollment

- ▶ Participation in school meetings
- ▶ Review with caregivers child's educational, social and emotional goals
- ▶ Tutoring
- ▶ After school program

Children and Teen Program

- ▶ Summer Youth Program
- ▶ Special Events
- ▶ Children and Teen Programs focused on developing relationships and character building





Family Activities

- ▶ Special Outings
- ▶ Holiday Gifting
- ▶ School Clothing and Supplies Drive
- ▶ Kinship Month Event in September

Grand Power Advocacy Group

- ▶ Advocate for Kinship Support
- ▶ Provide input to ensure programs are beneficial to kinship families



Two free, effective learning resources for all grades

You can find these and more on FirstFind.org (a project of Westchester Library System)

- ▶ **BEFORE KINDERGARTEN** - <https://www.firstfind.org/help-your-children/childhood-learning/before-kindergarten/> - Check out our brochure and videos on core early learning skills and how to apply them.
- ▶ **ELEMENTARY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL** - <https://www.firstfind.org/learning-upgrade/> **Learning Upgrade** is a game-like application that runs on mobile devices and computers. Short music and graphic-rich lessons that build skills in reading, math and digital literacy. Be sure to use the special registration code.
- ▶ **ELEMENTARY...THROUGH GRADUATE SCHOOL** - <https://www.firstfind.org/tutorwestchester/> **tutor.com/westchester** gains you access to live online tutoring from 9am to 10pm. Available in English & Spanish

Find more - on getting a High School diploma, preparing for college, getting a job, learning English, and helping young children learn - all on [FirstFind.org](https://www.firstfind.org)