

# GROWIN' UP!

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## Yo' Adrian

- NATIONAL CONSULTANT
- PROGRAM OFFICER
- KINSHIP CARE PROVIDER
- LIVED EXPERIENCE IN FOSTER CARE
- DENZEL WASHINGTON LOOK-ALIKE
- IN A BROMANCE W/ SPRINGSTEEN



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## Today's Goals:

- ▶ **CHALLENGE** you in the right way.
- ▶ Add a **NEW** perspective(s) to your existing narrative.
- ▶ Answer **YOUR** question(s).

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My grandparents....



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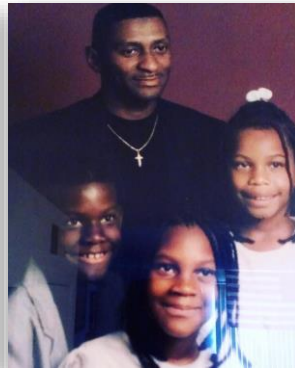


## Greetings from Asbury Road

*The greater a child's terror, and the earlier it is experienced, the harder it becomes to develop a strong and healthy sense of self.*

- Nathaniel Branden

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- 1 Challenging Behaviors
- 2 Parental Engagement
- 3 Lack of Placement Options

## "Greetings from Asbury Road"

Grandma Essie, ELI & DORA LUKE, Ernest McLemore

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- 1 Challenging Behaviors
- 2 Parental Engagement
- 3 Lack of Placement Options

## Return to Foster Care | "INDEPENDENCE DAY"

*"Teens are experience rich but language poor."*

- Dr. Bob McCarthy

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## Kinship Care Provider | How it started....

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- 1 Child Safety
- 2 Plans for reunification
- 3 Minimal Supports



## Kinship Care Provider | How it started....

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## Asset-Framing

HOW ARE WE DEFINING OUR FAMILIES?

HOW ARE WE ASSESSING "KIN"?



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The principle that defines **'families'** by their **aspirations** and **contributions**, rather than their challenges and deficits

Asset-Framing | **What is it?**

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The notion that we 'as professionals' are **adding value** to families, or that we are **not recognizing** challenges exist

Asset-Framing | **What it is NOT.**

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## Kinship Care | “LIVING PROOF”

- Financial
- Legal/Emotional Stress
- Isolation *(before, during, after)*
- Stability
- Well-being
- Permanency

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## 3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

FAMILY, YOUTH, & ENGAGEMENT (FYE)

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## 3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

1. JUST **do it.**



2. Do it **well.**



3. Do it **often.**



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JUST **do it.** 

3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

- ▶ Family-centered, **strength-based** approach in establishing and maintaining relationships w/ families and accomplishing **change** together.
- ▶ Setting goals, making joint decisions w/ the **inclusion** of children & youth, as well as adult family/kin members

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## Do it **well.** ★★★

3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

- ▶ Family Empowerment – engaging, involving and lifting up the **voice** of families throughout the practice/system
- ▶ Parents/families are **MORE** motivated to make needed changes
- ▶ When family buy-in is achieved, reunification rates and overall family outcomes **improve**

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## Do it **often.** ⌚

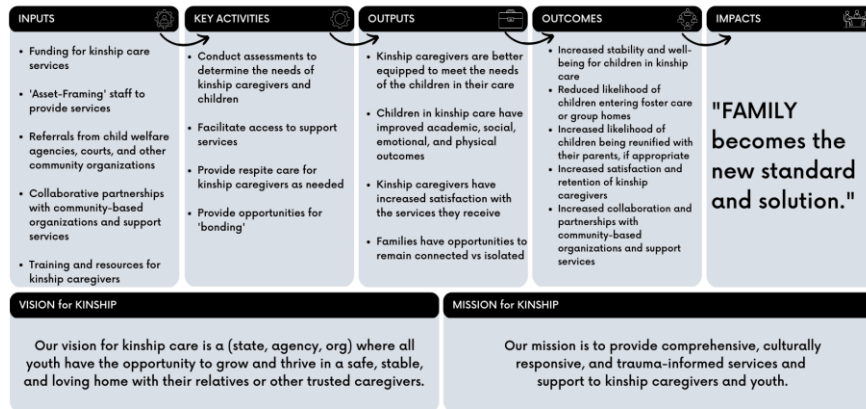
3 Strategies for Kincare Focus

- ▶ Include family/kin as **KEY** stakeholders/advisors in:
- ▶ **Policy Development**
- ▶ **Service Design**
- ▶ **Program & Service Evaluation**

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## KINSHIP CARE LOGIC MODEL



# LAND of HOPE & DREAMS

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Kinship Care Provider | How it's going...

**"BADLANDS"**  
Talk about a dream, try to make it real.



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# Thank YOU! | Questions

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