Long Term Care Arrangements

Permanency Options for Children

Safety, Permanency, Love….for every child
Permanency

Permanency \n\rightarrow \n\text{Intercountry Adoption}

Permanency does include IA
Permanency — An Early Definition

• U.S. - 1970s
  Return foster children to their biological homes or terminate parental rights and place the child for adoption
  Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980

• U.S. - 1990s
  Expeditiously secure a safe, permanent placement for every maltreated child, either by making it possible for children to stay with or return to their own families in safety or by finding safe adoptive homes for them
  National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
Permanency — A Working Definition

• U.S. – 2000s
The systematic process of carrying out, within a brief time-limited period, a set of goal-directed activities designed to help children live in permanent families that offers continuity of relationships with nurturing parents or caretakers and the opportunity to establish lifetime family relationships.

Maluccio, Fein, Olmstead 1986
Permanency – A Current Definition

- Having an enduring family relationship meant to last a lifetime
- Offers the legal rights and social status of family membership
- Provides for all levels of a young person's development
- Assures lifelong connections to extended family, siblings, other significant adults
- Assures family history and traditions, race & ethnicity, culture, religion and language

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Permanency – Programmatic Options

Family Preservation / Reunification

Guardianship / Kinship Care

Long-term Foster Care

Domestic Adoption

Intercountry Adoption
A Rights Based Approach

• CRC Preamble
  – Best Interests of the Child
  – Family…is the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children
  – …the child…should grow up in a family environment of happiness, love and understanding

• CRC
  – Article 2 – child’s rights supersede family or legal guardian
  – Article 5 – legal relationship
  – Article 10 – reunification
  – Article 21 – adoption (domestic & intercountry)
A Rights Based Approach

• Hague Conference - Guide to Good Practice

It is true that maintaining a child in his or her family of origin is important, but it is not more important than protecting a child from harm or abuse.

Permanent care by an extended family member may be preferable, but not if the carers are wrongly motivated, unsuitable, or unable to meet the needs (including the medical needs) of the particular child.
A Rights Based Approach

• Hague Conference - Guide to Good Practice

National adoption or other permanent family care is generally preferable, but if there is a lack of suitable national adoptive families or carers, it is, as a general rule, not preferable to keep children waiting in institutions when the possibility exists of a suitable permanent family placement abroad.

...a temporary home in the country of origin in most cases is not preferable to a permanent home elsewhere
Bucharest Early Intervention Project

- Bucharest Early Intervention Project
  - 5 Investigators & Collaborators
    - Tulane U, U of Maryland, U of Virginia, U of Minnesota, Temple U, Harvard Medical School
  - Romanian Minister of Child Protection

- Compared children residing in institutions vs. children in long term foster care
Bucharest Early Intervention Project

• Outside of Parental Care
  – Loose 1 month in growth for every 3 months in institution
  – Have significant deficits in IQ
  – Have lower level of brain activity
  – Display no facial specialization
  – 97% do not achieve fully developed attachment
  – Demonstrate higher risk for indiscriminate behavior (at risk)
After Camp

Permanency as a Goal
Natural Disaster

Children Separated

Tracing & Documentation

Reunification

Camps & Institutions

- Long Term Foster Care
- Guardianship & Kinship
- Domestic & Int. Adoption
Applications
Russia

• Russia
  – Separated children from Chechnya & Georgia found as far west as Rostov
  – Informal tracing conducted
  – Russian government issue passports and citizenship
  – Foster care utilized
  – Domestic and Intercountry adoption utilized sparingly
Applications
Challenges

• Russia
  – No systematized tracing available
  – Foster care system not fully developed
Applications
Rwanda

- Genocide
- Kinship & Other family settings
- After 14 years
  - 101,000 children living in 42,000 child headed households
- 2007-2008
  - Pilot programs in guardianships, long-term foster care, domestic adoption, intercountry adoption
Applications
Challenges

• Rwanda
  – Foster care system not fully developed
  – Extended timeline resulted in majority of children “aging out”
  – Funding

Nsanga Village
Applications
Ethiopia

• Famine / Conflict
• Family Preservation & Reunification
  – All intakes are screened
  – BID
  – Interventions
• 85% reunified with family of origin
Permanency Challenges

• BID does not include permanency options
• Legal status of the child
• Documentation
• Tracing
• Extended timelines damage children
• Lack of institutions & professional services
• Lack of metrics and empirical data
Families For Orphans Act

• Creates a policy and program office within the USG on permanency for children living outside of family care
• Coordinate the programs of the USG related to permanency for children
• Elevate the status of permanency & integrate into USG programs
• Establish metrics and evidence based decisions