

About Center For Family Connections

At a fundamental level, Center For Family Connections' (CFFC) mission is to help children feel safe, seen, and valued, and to help them adjust to the challenges of being, or having been, moved from one family to another. Many of the children CFFC serves have spent years in countless foster homes, orphanages, residential centers, or hospitals. CFFC constructs families, reconstructs families, refurbishes and restores families. The experienced clinicians understand the interactions and needs of complex families and provide the skills, tools and talent required to build stronger and healthier family units.

CFFC believes that the need to honor connections is an essential part of family life.

CFFC is an educational and clinical resource center that addresses the developmental, structural, and systemic issues related to adoption, foster care, kinship care, divorce and other complex blended families. CFFC serves individuals and families affected by adoption and foster care, as well as the people with whom they are connected, by offering training, education, advocacy, and clinical treatment.

CFFC serves a broad and diverse constituency nationally and internationally as well as in Greater Boston. From its founding, the staff has grown from 2 to 15, enabling CFFC clinicians to help more individuals and families. In the past year, CFFC served about 1,500 people on-site, and about 5,000 parents and professionals in national and international trainings and seminars. About 30% of CFFC's clients were low income; 30% were African American, 10% Latino, 15% Asian, and 45% Caucasian. CFFC's pro bono services to low-income clients are valued at approximately \$100,000 annually. Many of CFFC's clients reside in areas in DSS's Greater Boston and Metro regions.

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Center For Family Connections
presents

a Family Network Service

for

The Department of Social Services

General
Clinical And
Rehabilitative
Services



About CFFC's Clinical and Rehabilitative Programs

CFFC has established competent rehabilitative and clinical services for children and adults in complex blended families,* to produce wellbeing, safety, and permanency through family support, parent support and youth/adolescent support services.

CFFC has designed a continuum of services tailored specifically for each child and his/her families (including birth, foster, kinship and or pre or post adoptive). This includes educational resources, crisis intervention, information, referrals, advocacy and ongoing support and therapy for complex blended families.

*What do we mean by "complex blended families?"

- Root families are families where the mother and father who gave birth to the child are also parenting the child together...
- Complex families are every other type of family structure...
- Complex blended families are a blending of many families by adoption, fostering, kinship care, remarriage, or alternative reproductive technologies.

Program Options

- **Therapy and Groups** - individual, couple, family, and group therapy
- **Consultation** - for therapists, private and public agencies, hospitals, residential treatment centers, lawyers, judges, educators, clergy and others working with complex family systems
- **Education and Training** - educational programs to professionals
- **Permanency Planning** - long-standing contract with the Department of Social Services for consultation and recommendations on permanency planning.
- **Project Understanding** - Develops awareness of challenges and best practices in transracial placement
- **Sibling Kinnections Program** - enhances relationships between siblings that cannot be raised in the same family.
- **Project Inclusion** - works with teens using the creation of a 'Zine to promote self-empowerment, self-expression, relationship building, and identity development.
- **Family Group Contributions**
- **Therapy Dog** - Currently, Dublin is engaged in training, preparing for his duties as a therapy dog at CFFC.

Outcomes

- Ensures that children receive appropriate services to meet their physical, mental health, and educational needs.
- Establishes a therapeutic relationship with a child, as well as with parents by birth, foster, kin and pre or post adoption.
- Builds relationships and self esteem for the child and a sense of support for the family.
- Supports a child's wellbeing by fostering resilience and protecting them from abuse and neglect.
- Provides support, psychoeducation, guidance and therapeutic services to kinship caregivers around the unique dynamic of their blended family.
- Provides family support to both foster and kinship families for children while in a foster family to build the strategies and skills necessary to make a placement permanent.
- Fosters permanency, stability, safety and wellbeing in children's living situations.
- Manages the challenges of facilitating visitation with siblings in multiple placements.
- Conducts assessments needed for decisions about attachment.
- Manages open adoption issues, especially when there are concerns about safety or siblings being placed in different families.
- Preserves family relationships and connections.
- Enhances families' capacity to provide for their children's needs.