



Department of Aging and Disabilities

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For Immediate Release

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Kinship Caregivers Support Groups

Annapolis, MD (Jan. 18, 2012) – The public can attend Kinship Caregiver Support Groups, express their concerns, and support each other during two meetings in February in the county. The meetings are free and are for those who are providing Kinship Care.

Kinship Care is commonly defined as the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives or other adults who have a family relationship to the child. It is a growing phenomenon in this country, with about 1 in 10 children living with their grandparents.

The first support group will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Annapolis Area Library training room, 1410 West St., Annapolis. The second support group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Pascal Senior Activity Center craft room, 125 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie. Participants are encouraged to ask questions about raising a relative's child, such as financial concerns and guidance about county services.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services established a Kinship Navigator program in 2010 to assist family members on a short-term basis to access information and to obtain a resource manual. The program is a joint effort of the county's DSS, the Department of Aging and Disabilities, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Board of Education. The Navigator will guide participants to resources available to them.

For information or to request services, call Chere Torsiello, Kinship Navigator, at 410-897-3933 or e-mail ctorsiel@dhr.state.md.us. TTY users can call via Maryland Relay at 7-1-1.

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