

Trauma-Informed Care for Kinship/Grandfamilies (Part 2)

June 3, 2026

- Welcome, we will begin at the top of the hour
- Please type in the **chat** box - your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role
- Type questions in the **chat** box at any point during our time together
- By the end of the week, all participants will receive a link to the slides and the recording



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Mike Sherman, Psy.D.

June 3, 2026



ZERO TO THREE



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Our mission is to ensure that all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life.



Agreements

1. You will be invited to join a breakout group to share your insights on a case study and participate in a second one with the full group. Make sure everyone is able to contribute. If you're talkative, make room for others. If you're quieter, your contributions are very welcome.
2. Respect others' opinions even if you don't agree with them.
3. Be conscious of others' privacy. (Avoid referring to colleagues or clients by name.)
4. Be fully present. Join us for an hour free of distractions and multi-tasking. (Camera on, phone off, if possible)
5. Take breaks as needed.
6. Participate!



Core Principles Trauma-Informed Care

- 1. Safety:** Ensuring both the physical and psychological environments are secure, removing potential triggers.
- 2. Trustworthiness:** Fostering transparent policies and interpersonal boundaries to build clear expectations.
- 3. Peer Support:** Utilizing shared experiences and mutual support among individuals with similar histories to promote healing.
- 4. Collaboration:** Diminishing traditional power differentials between providers and clients to make decisions together.
- 5. Empowerment:** Validating an individual's strengths and giving them choices and control over their care plan.



Case Study: Oliver, age 4

Oliver is a 4-year-old African-American boy. He lives with his maternal grandparents (82 and 78), who have been caring for him since birth. His mother lost custody of him due to chronic mental health and substance use challenges throughout pregnancy. Oliver's mother currently resides in another state and has no regular contact with Oliver or the family.

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Case Study: Oliver, age 4

Oliver's grandparents have expressed their frustration with their "lives not being what they imagined they'd be doing in retirement" and the anger, guilt, and questioning of their own parenting decisions they made with their daughter throughout her life. Oliver attends a local preschool, where the staff reports his behavioral challenges have been difficult to manage. Caregivers report he has difficulty following verbal directions, is reactive to loud noises, and is generally "disruptive and aggressive" in class. His grandparents describe his energy as "SO much to deal with."

Photo by [TopSphere Media](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Questions to Consider

1. Which of these grandparents' experiences would we want to know more about to better understand their needs and perspectives in this scenario?
2. What would we want to know more about to be trauma-informed in our interactions with Oliver?
3. How would you identify and address your own biases in interviewing family members?
4. What steps might you and your staff take to provide trauma-informed care?
5. What additional resources might be available in your community, and how would you ensure appropriate referrals?



Case Study: Kevin, 12, and Micky, 10

Kevin and Micky are in middle school. Their mother is Latina and their fathers are Caucasian, as are their grandparents. They live with Micky's paternal grandparents. The grandparents have cared for both boys since Micky was an infant. Kevin has a different father and is not biologically related to his caregivers.

Micky's dad has been incarcerated for domestic violence and other charges, including parole violations. The boys' mother is without work and lacks secure housing. She has substance use issues and has promised for years to enter rehab and do what's best for the boys.

Photo by [Vitolda Klein](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Case Study: Kevin, 12, and Micky, 10

Before their grandparents stepped in, the boys witnessed domestic violence, substance use, and firearms in their home. Their mom visits the grandparents' household periodically. Kevin says he misses his mother, but Micky barely speaks of her between visits. Both boys have refused to go to school for long stretches of time. The boys have been in counseling, but their paternal grandparents have not, nor have they availed themselves of support for grandfamilies in the decade since the kids joined their household.

Photo by [Vitolda Klein](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Case Study: Kevin, 12, and Micky, 10

Micky's paternal grandparents are upper middle class and recently retired from running their own successful business. Their maternal grandmother, a single mother, is a retired educator who lives across the country and stays connected by Zoom calls, an annual visit, and holiday gifts. Their paternal grandmother admits to yelling a lot and is uncertain as to the best path forward. Their grandfather supports the boys with backyard construction projects and physical activity. All three grandparents have voiced the fear that the boys will turn out like their parents.

Photo by [Vitolda Klein](#) on [Unsplash](#)

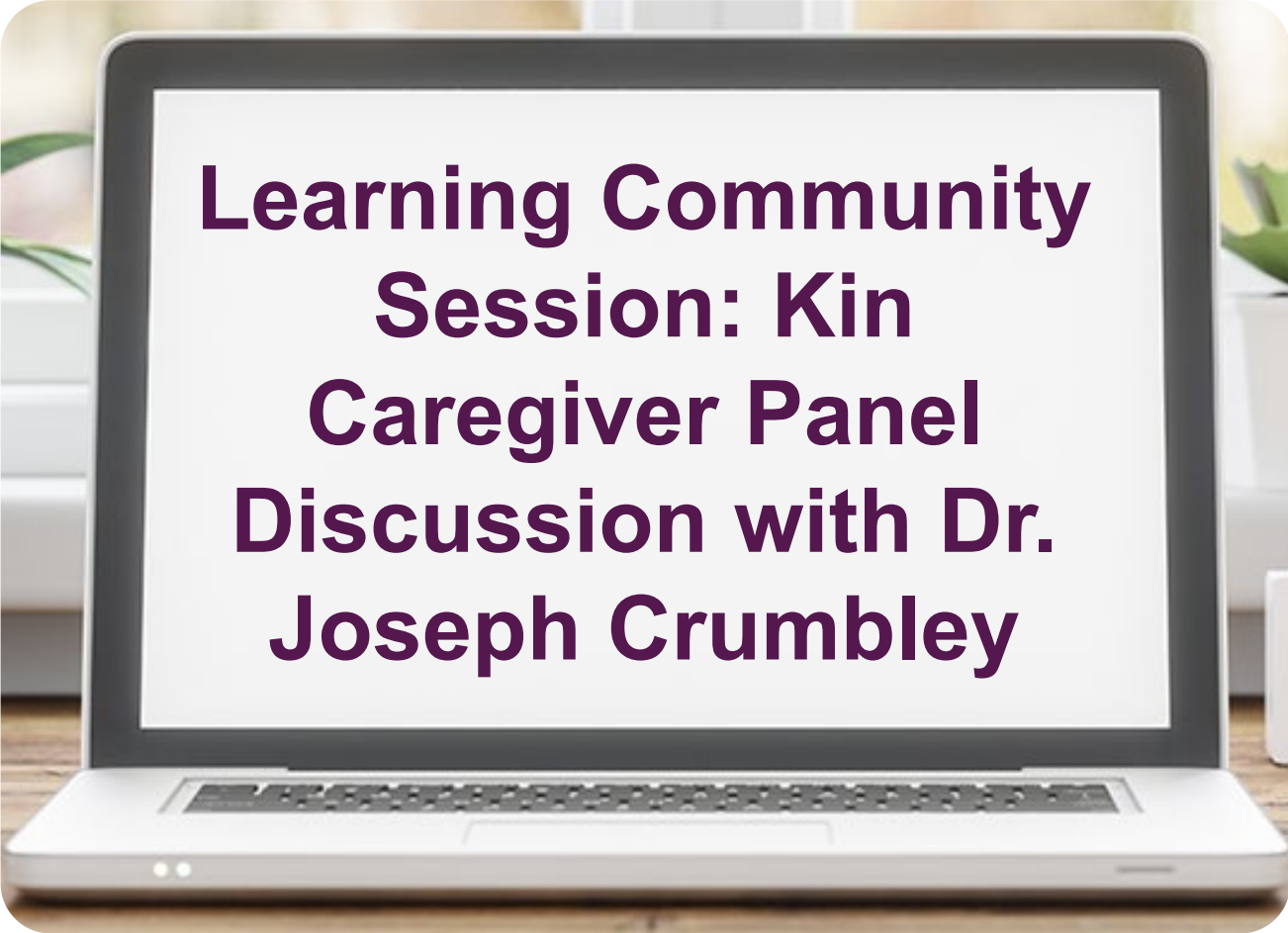


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Reminder



**Learning Community
Session: Kin
Caregiver Panel
Discussion with Dr.
Joseph Crumbley**

**For those who already
registered, remember to join
us for our last session in
this series:**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Registration is now closed.

Connect & Access Support

Request assistance

We will add you to our monthly newsletter list, unless you ask us not to. To see past issues: www.gksnetwork.org/the-network-connection-newsletter/

For the latest updates, follow the Network on [LinkedIn](#)





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