



### **Support and Education for Kin in Probate Guardianship**

In partnership with Family Support Services of the Bay Area (FSSBA) and Legal Assistance for Seniors, Dr. Berrick is working with MSW students and a PhD student to conduct an assessment of parenting classes for kin caregivers. Although an array of services have been thoughtfully developed with the unique needs of kinship caregivers in mind, little is known about the service needs of kin who care for their relative children through the probate guardianship system. FSSBA seeks to address this by providing caregivers with a range of support services, including social network building and parenting skills workshops. Other parenting programs with similar components have proven effective in reducing caregiver stress levels, improving child development knowledge, improving caregiver-child relationships, and increasing the use of positive parenting strategies. The present study seeks to examine whether FSSBA's Kinship Support Services produce similar effects, particularly in terms of (1) improving knowledge of child development and how it is affected by trauma; (2) increasing the use of positive parenting strategies; and (3) increasing caregivers' feelings of social support.

Preliminary findings from the study should become available in late 2016.