

**ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
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1. Federal Agency and Organization Element to Which Report is Submitted US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency	3a. DUNS 3b. EIN	4. Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 03/31/2011	

4. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including zip code) Public Children Services Association of Ohio 510 E. Mound Street, Suite 200 Columbus, OH 43215		5. Recipient Identifying Number or Account Number none	
6. Project/Grant Period Start Date: (Month, Day, Year) 09/30/2009	End Date: (Month, Day, Year) 09/29/2012	7. Reporting Period End Date (Month, Day, Year) 03/31/2011	8. Final Report? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 9. Report Frequency <input type="checkbox"/> annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> semi-annual <input type="checkbox"/> quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> other (If other, describe: _____)

10. Performance Narrative

11. Other Attachments *(attach other documents as needed or as instructed by the awarding Federal Agency)*

12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.

12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official Crystal Ward Allen, Executive Director Public Children Services Association of Ohio	12c. Telephone (area code, number and extension) 614/224-5802
	12d. Email Address crystal@pcsao.org
12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official	12e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) 04/28/2011

13. Agency use only

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Item	Data Elements	Instructions
1.	Awarding Federal agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted	Enter the name of the awarding Federal agency and organizational element identified in the award document or otherwise instructed by the agency. The organizational element is a sub-agency within an awarding Federal agency.
2.	Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by the awarding Federal agency	Enter the grant/award number contained in the award document.
3a.	DUNS Number	Enter the recipient organization's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number or Central Contract Registry extended DUNS number.
3b.	EIN	Enter the recipient organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Service.
4.	Recipient Organization	Enter the name of recipient organization and address, including zip code.
5.	Recipient Account Number or Account Number	Enter the account number or any other identifying number assigned by the recipient to the award. This number is strictly for the recipient's use only and is not required by the awarding Federal agency.
6.	Project/Grant Period	Indicate the project/grant period established in the award document during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends. Note: Some agencies award multi-year grants for a project/grant period (e.g., 5 years) that are funded in increments known as budget periods or funding periods. These are typically annual increments. Please enter the project/grant period, not the budget period or funding period.
7.	Reporting Period End Date	Enter the ending date of the reporting period. For quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports, the following calendar quarter reporting period end dates shall be used: 3/31; 6/30; 9/30; and or 12/31. For final PPRs, the reporting period end date shall be the end date of the project/grant period. The frequency of required reporting is usually established in the award document.
8.	Final Report	Mark appropriate box. Check "yes" only if this is the final report for the project/grant period specified in Box 6.
9.	Report or Frequency	Select the appropriate term corresponding to the requirements contained in the award document. "Other" may be used when more frequent reporting is required for high-risk grantees, as specified in OMB Circular A-110.
10.	Performance Narrative	Leave blank and complete Form ACF-OGM-SF-PPR-B
11.	Other Attachments	Attach other documents as needed or as instructed by the awarding Federal agency.

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Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
B-01	Major activities and accomplishments during this period		<p>Each of the seven counties continued to build on public education activities, through newsletter, media and advertising communication strategies, Local Advisory Group meetings with key stakeholders, Caregiver Support groups, and provisions of services. The Local Advisory and Caregiver Support Groups have been strengthening and stabilizing as successful local strategies to support groups are gelling. Some counties seem to be leveling off in terms of numbers of kin caregivers served, but it appears they have met or exceeded grant proposal expectations for numbers of kin caregiver families to be served annually in each county.</p> <p>The completion of family assessments for caregiver families seeking support beyond information and referral has improved significantly. The tasks of data entry for purposes of the evaluation has greatly improved in the grant sites (one continues to struggle). Thus, the evaluation has started to get beyond just a basic profile of caregiver families, but also navigator type activities, services, time invested. Both types of information are key to build value and credibility to continue services in grant counties, and to expand services to non-grant counties in the future.</p> <p>The linking of SACWIS ID numbers to the children is going slow, but does seem to be picking up in most of the sites, as data shows nearly 2/3 of the children had some type of child welfare involvement - so there should be a SACWIS ID number. We are working on documenting this information more completely going forward, as it is critical to measure key outcomes – prevention from recurrent maltreatment and/or future child placement. We would also like to document safety and stability for those children exiting from the formal child welfare system.</p> <p>Some great local activities include use of RSVP Mature Workers as part of the Kinship Navigator program (Lorain and Richland). Reading initiative (Richland). High quality, regular dependable respite program developed including nutrition program and skilled nursing created and offered weekly for free (Ashtabula). Billboard campaign (Portage). Curriculum based developmentally appropriate support group framework for caregivers (Clark). Hardin and Crawford Counties, while very rural have developed active caseload and community partners.</p> <p>A major related activity is the ProtectOhio Title IV-E Enhanced Kinship Strategy and evaluation. While not directly related, this dedication to enhanced practice for open child welfare kin caregiver cases does a number of things pertinent for the Kinship Navigator Grant – build value for focus on kin caregiver support in addition to case plan activities related to the child or birth family; focuses enhanced child welfare services on those formal, open child welfare kin caregiver cases, captures consistent data on kin caregiver families (regardless of custody status), and for the subset of seven Kin Navigator counties, will link kin navigator services as prevention/diversion or as an exit referral strategy, to outcomes and practice investment for those formal child welfare kin navigator counties. Frankly, it is believed that counties with vibrant Kin Navigator programs will see fewer kin caregiver cases formally opened as child welfare cases, and perhaps a shorter length of stay in both agency custody or as open child welfare cases, as the Kin Navigator program will serve as an effective exit support strategy.</p>

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			<p>SACWIS data entry will consistently capture cases involving children who reside with a kinship caregiver due to safety concerns – in Ohio the custody status of these children vary according to judicial and agency practice and tradition – the custody could remain with the birth family for some cases, it could be awarded to the public child welfare agency, it could be awarded to the kin caregiver, it could be temporary custody or legal custody or legal guardianship. While the custody status is important, in the life of the child and caregiver, life may be the same across counties for very different custody statuses, and this agreement among the IV-E Waiver counties to capture consistent data on all these cases will be significant. (And once the waiver counties figure out a consistent SACWIS data entry, we believe we can implement a Statewide effort for such consistent SACWIS data entry.</p> <p>Finally, Ohio continues to focus on development of viable of legal pathways for kinship families. The following activities are in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Ohio team was accepted to present issues – and current and intended policy development at the July 2011 American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law Conference in Washington DC. The team includes the Kin Navigator Grant Project Manager, an expert Attorney from a grant site and the chair of a Supreme Court Advisory Subcommittee. • The Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Court has accepted the task to explore and develop model forms and procedures regarding legal paths for a continuum of kinship caregivers legal concerns. • A bill on adult adoption, streamlining paths for kin that wish to adult transitioning youth coming out of the foster care system, but unavailable for adoption as a minor, received unanimous support from our House of Representatives, and is pending in the Ohio Senate. Three additional bills to improve kinship policy have been recently introduced.
B-02	Problems		<p>Data entry has been a struggle – for a variety of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems to be extra work, not the mission of navigators • Some of the navigators, while excellent at their jobs, were not comfortable and struggled to see value in the data entry • It became a contract issue in one site – the community based service provider was struggling to meet all expectations, and data entry was not specifically described as a deliverable. <p>Regardless, we actually discussed this during the Leadership Conference opportunity afforded to the Fostering Connections grantees. A plan to address the issue evolved, and the next quarterly convening of the KN sites included a significant time slot to discuss data collected thus far, discuss the value of the data for policy development and resource dedication, strategies for improved data entry including training, supervision, time management, staffing options and of course grantee expectation. Timely data entry improved, we will continue to work for robust participation by all sites and Kin Navigators.</p> <p>The economy and fiscally stressed community based organizational resources continues to be a stress for all.</p>

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B-03	Significant findings and events		<p>We are very excited that the Supreme Court of Ohio has accepted the topic of developing effective policies and models for Legal paths for kin caregivers. While winter weather prohibited this multi-disciplinary group (part of the Court Improvement Plan here in Ohio) from meeting during the winter of 2011, they are finalizing revised membership to consider this topic, including an individual leading a well established Kin Navigator program, a foster alum that spent time in kinship care (and is now a successful college graduate and public child protection caseworker), and a child welfare director representing a ProtectOhio Title IV-E Waiver county.</p> <p>Ohio's initial biennial budget proposed to eliminate the state's Kinship Permanency Incentive program (\$5 Million/year supporting safe permanent kin families for 8,000+ children), and much media attention was given, as well as attention given by other human service advocates, and policy makers. This provided the opportunity to build value re kinship care. Kin Caregivers across the state spoke out, professionals did, the adoption community publicly supported needed support for alternate permanent kin families. While the biennial budget process will not be concluded until June 30, 2011, state media and many advocates supported the program, partial funding was restored (\$3.5 Million/year) in a substitute bill introduced April 28, 2011.</p>
B-04	Dissemination activities		<p>Media coverage and newsletters continued, as summarized below (various audience sizes, similar to past reports). March media included a number of items that covered broad kinship issues, due the proposed elimination of the Kinship Permanency Incentive program. This provided the opportunity to build value re kinship care.</p> <p>April 2011: April 2011 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County April 2011 Newsletter, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>March 2011: All Sides with Ann Fisher : Caring for Ohio's Children – with ODJFS Director Michael Colbert, Grandparent Caregiver Martha Renda, Ashtabula Community Service Coordinator Kathryn Whittington, and PCSAO Executive Director Crystal Ward Allen. 3/24/2011. Ohio budget would cut funds for kids' caregivers – Bloomberg.com, 3/16/2011. The Associated Press. OH Advocate: Child Welfare Dollars and Worth the Investment – Public News Service, 3/14/2011. Report: MARY KUHLMAN PCSAO Director Testifies before U.S. Senate Finance Committee – The Hannah Report, 3/14/2011. Child advocate argues for funding flexibility from feds – The Columbus Dispatch, 3/11/2011. Reporter: RITA PRICE March 2011 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County</p>

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			<p>March 2011 Grand Newsletter, Portage County March 2011 Newsletter, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>February 2011: February 2011 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County February 2011 Newsletter, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>January 2011: January 2011 Grand Newsletter, Portage County January 2011 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County</p> <p>December 2010: December 2010 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County</p> <p>November 2010: November 2010 Crawford County Kinship Connection, Crawford County November 2010 Grand Newsletter, Portage County November 2010 Newsletter, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>October 2010: Ronald McDonald House awards grant to Children Services, October 13, 2010. Gazette newspapers. October 2010 Newsletter, Crawford County Kinship Care Connection October 2010 Newsletter, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>www.KinshipOhio.org – PCSAO has continued to host the website, and promoted it statewide.</p> <p>Advertising Effort – one county, Portage, invested in a billboard effort early in 2011 as an outreach activity. They placed several throughout the county.</p> <p>Local and State Advisory Groups – continue to meet regularly, engaging key local and state stakeholders and building value and education about kinship issues.</p> <p>Statewide Training and Outreach Activities – The Kinship Navigator counties presented a workshop about their programming at the annual PCSAO Conference</p>

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			<p>on Oct. 7, 2010. 30 individuals attended the workshop, with excellent evaluations. 2 hours of CEUs were provided.</p> <p>As project manager of the Kin Navigator Project, PCSAO was invited to speak at the two day ProtectOhio IV-E Waiver retreat in March (90 child welfare professionals), focused on the waiver progress thus far, and the two strategies for the next five years – Family Team Meetings and Enhanced Kin Navigator Services. It gave a great opportunity to review our trend to better ID and engage kin families for children in need – a key contributor to Ohio’s 42% Safe Reduction in Paid Foster / Group care. Also supporting the good work for Enhanced Kinship Services, and finally, tying it to the opportunities with a robust Kinship Navigator program.</p> <p>PCSAO Efforts – PCSAO has continued to regularly highlight the Kin Navigator Grant in a variety of venues. Our PCSAO Thanksgiving Progress Report highlights it, it is often an item in our electronic Weekly Update, both are widely distributed and can be found on our home page, http://www.pcsao.org/. It was discussed at the PCSAO Executive Membership Strategic Planning meeting (50+ execs) in December, 2010. It was highlighted as a key to our good outcomes, in the Executive Membership (60+ execs) March 2011 meeting, focused on budget issues and child welfare reform. It is also highlighted in District meetings with county leadership (usually 15 or 20), at a New Execs Orientation (30 new or potential execs) and in various statewide committees.</p> <p>It has been highlighted with State policy makers – March 2011 PCSAO Annual Legislative Breakfast (50 State Legislative Offices attended, about half Members, and half lead staffers); also discussed in testimony with the Ohio House Health and Human Services Finance Subcommittee (6 legislators, 75 audience, media) and the full House Finance Committee (31 legislators, 75 audience, media), also during individual meetings with state Legislators. You can see various testimony at http://www.pcsao.org/BiennialBudget.htm .</p> <p>PCSAO also had the pleasure to testify to the US Senate Finance Committee, at the invitation of Chairman Max Baucus (committee members, 40 national advocates in audience). The topic was to discuss Innovations in Child Welfare related to IV-E Waivers, written testimony and hearing video can be found at http://finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=e1ac1670-5056-a032-5201-3f2360456776. The hearing afforded the opportunity to highlight the Fostering Connections Kin Navigator Grant in Ohio, and related enhanced services to kin caregivers as a key to better child outcomes.</p>
B-05	Other Activities		<p>As a project, we have continued with our day long quarterly meetings of the seven sites, ensuring time for county sharing of successes and challenges; review of evaluation data.</p> <p>Initial discussion of developing a Replication Manual (as some of the lead individuals were also involved in the ProtectOhio work to develop a Practice Manual for the Enhanced Kinship Strategy, it was decided we would commence active work on the Kin Navigator Replication Manual once the Waiver manual was done (hopefully by summer, 2011).</p>

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B-06	Activities planned for next reporting period		<p>Continued dialogue with the Supreme Court on legal paths.</p> <p>Presentation on legal kinship challenges and policies at the American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law conference in July 2011.</p> <p>PCSAO is actively supporting the Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition Conference scheduled for September, 2011, and we hope Kin Navigator sites will send professionals and caregivers to that conference.</p> <p>The PCSAO Conference will be held Oct. 19 and 20, 2011, and we will once again host a Kin Navigator Workshop.</p> <p>We are connecting with a national researcher focused on kin caregiver needs – the researcher is interesting in connecting with the various Kin Caregiver Support Groups to do surveys/interviews that will come with stipends for the caregiver.</p> <p>Active work on the Replication Manual.</p> <p>Individual sites have various local initiatives in progress.</p>