

**ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**Appendix B - Program Indicators**  
**ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
B-01	<b>Major activities and accomplishments during this period</b>		<p>Each of the county partners continued to expand their kinship navigator staffing and expertise, built their local advisory board partners, did much PR and dissemination activities and began to build vibrant local support groups. Many additional local partnership activities also developed as a result of these activities, ranging from legal partnerships for pro bono or discount legal services for kinship families, local assistance in establishing 501(c)3 groups for kinship, respite partnerships for kin, and of course a variety of donations for group activities such as attendance at family events, or school backpack donations. Of course, the county partners also began entering data into the KIDS databank for our evaluation.</p> <p>State activities have been good. The Joint Kinship Communication letter from various state agencies and statewide associations created the opportunity for further discussion, as has the State Kinship Advisory Council, already in existence, and now serving as the State Advisory Group for the Kin Navigator grant. Following a discussion with Kin Navigator grant members, other members of the statewide council and the Chief of Staff for Human Services at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, statewide policy was revised to disregard the income from the Kinship Permanency Incentive program (only for caregivers with judicial custody), when determining the value of Food Assistance (SNAP) that month. Not only did the county workers get a policy letter, but the MIS system screen was changed. This required discussion with federal SNAP administrators, state policy, and state leadership. Given the food insecurity is a growing issue among low income families, this disregard is significant.</p> <p>The Kin Navigator grant counties also presented an excellent workshop describing KN activities, at the PCSAO annual conference (primarily public child welfare workforce attendees); it was evaluated excellently, dialogue in the workshop was clearly aimed at taking lessons learned from the Kin Navigator grant counties to other communities.</p> <p>Highlights from each of the seven counties are provided below:</p> <p><u>Ashtabula County Children Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinship Support Group – Started 10/2009 – it is our number one success</li> <li>• Kinship Christmas Pot Luck Dinner</li> <li>• Book Bags and School Supplies to 67 children</li> <li>• 2 lap tops given to kinship children in college</li> <li>• 3 book gift cards to kinship children in college</li> <li>• Web Site enhanced</li> <li>• 180 \$25.00 gift cards given at Christmas</li> <li>• \$5,000 in reimbursement for Pro Se filing fees in Juvenile Court</li> <li>• Beds, dressers, special adaptive equipment &amp; therapeutic equipment</li> <li>• Provided trainings for caregivers and staff</li> <li>• Guest Speakers from State Senator Cafaro, attorneys, magistrates, red cross and many other community agency speakers</li> <li>• Library donation of books and provided educational puppet show</li> <li>• Paid rent, mortgages, utilities and given food, clothing and gas vouchers</li> <li>• Paid for diagnostic assessments</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed new partnerships with Kent State University-Ashtabula, Council of Dynamic Rural Ministries and Kings Respite Program</li> <li>• Provided court advocacy, educational &amp; mental health support, KPI and support to navigator through the county and state agencies</li> <li>• Hired additional part time Kinship Navigator</li> </ul> <p><u>Clark County Job and Family Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinship Navigator Therapeutic Support Group established</li> <li>• Probate Court Judge agreed to change his guardianships to "Indefinite" so that KCGs could qualify for KPI (state Kinship Permanency Incentive programs) with only Guardianship as opposed to custody</li> <li>• Local attorney has agreed to assist KCGs with custody motions pro bono</li> <li>• Kinship tab was added to our county website <a href="http://www.clarkdjfs.org/family-children/kinship.html">http://www.clarkdjfs.org/family-children/kinship.html</a></li> <li>• Kinship Brochure was developed</li> <li>• Community Outreach (Clark County Fair, Minority Health Fair, Summer Sky, Developmental Disabilities Resource Fair, Culture Fest)</li> <li>• Kinship Program was featured in the local Sunday paper</li> </ul> <p><u>Crawford County Job and Family Services</u></p> <p>In the past Crawford County contracted the Kinship Navigator program with Family and Children First in our County. The program was in active for quite a few years, but has expanded with our inclusion in the state demonstration grant. The Family Connections Kinship Navigator Grant has enabled our county to meet a need that was lacking in our county, and provide a well-rounded support for our families.</p> <p>We want to connect families with agencies that can fulfill their needs. For example, a grandparent was trying to purchase a larger sized stroller for the special needs granddaughter she was raising. She was looking for months. She contacted us for help. We reconnected her with an agency that same day that she was already receiving respite from, and they were able to purchase her the stroller. This process happened quickly for her, and she had no idea that they could help her in this way. We are also helping a fragile grandmother raise her grandchildren, and we working to help strengthen this family so they do not have another case of neglect as they did with their mother. We are here to strengthen the families so they do not turn into child welfare cases, and we are here to help when they are struggling.</p> <p>The kinship grant allows our county to be there for the families that need us, and we are now able to match the needs with what we have available. We are also working toward becoming a 501(c)(3) so we can expand our funding opportunities. Our kinship families requesting assistance with legal aide is a reoccurring issue with families. Of course, many kinship families also have an ongoing need for respite.</p> <p>We are progressing, and we are very lucky to be part of such a great grant that helps these special families that go out of their way to be there for children. Currently we have sent out a monthly newsletter to our families and community partners, have a local advisory board, a monthly support group, information and referral 24 hours a day as we carry a cell phone, and provide as much case management as our families request. Our newsletter circulation doubled in 3 months. We still have a lot to do for our families, and we are doing everything we can to help build our program so it endures to help others for many years to come.</p>

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			<p><u>Hardin County Job and Family Services</u>  Hardin County Department of Job and Family Services has employed a part time Kinship Navigator who provides information and referral services as well as case management for Kinship Caregivers.</p> <p>Prior to this position being identified, there was no one in Hardin County working directly to provide services for Kinship Caregivers. Some of the highlights to our program have been an active participation from Stakeholders at our Local Advisory Group Meetings, and the gradual increase in participation in our Kinship Caregiver Support Group. The most recent meeting in September was attended by four enthusiastic participants who, when asked about scheduling the next meeting, said “Can we have it tomorrow?”</p> <p>Another highlight to the program was the distribution of county fair passes and ride tickets for kinship caregivers and their children. This program allowed us to identify thirty-one kinship caregivers in our community who all attended a meeting to hear about the services the Kinship Navigator can provide.</p> <p>Possibly the most successful part of the kinship navigator program has been the source of phone calls coming into the agency. Although the agency has advertised in the newspaper, radio, local talk show, speaking engagements, etc., it appears that our most successful source of calls has been word of mouth. This indicates that the caregivers who have engaged in services value them and are willing to refer other caregivers to the program.</p> <p><u>Lorain County Office on Aging, in partnership with Lorain County Children Services</u> - Most importantly we have been able to serve approximately 100 Kinship families and 395 children in case management. Instead of needing to close or significantly reduce the Kinship Navigator program the federal funds made it possible to maintain funding from the Nord Family Foundation, Nordson Corporate and Children Services of Lorain County. We were able to expand the hours for each Kinship Navigator. Parts of the funds were used to assist Kinship caregivers with legal costs related to guardianship and custody filings. We were able to purchase 90 \$50 Walmart cards to provide warm clothing, including jackets to our lowest income children.</p> <p>The convening of the Local Advisory Group has enhanced our relationships with all of the other agencies we have invited to participate. We have learned about new programs, initiatives which benefit our caregivers through this group. The database is an excellent tool for us to track our activity with our clients and generate reports which document the numbers of clients served and services received. Meeting and phone conferences with the other six counties being funded has given us a broader perspective and a number of new ideas to utilize in our program.</p> <p>We were recently invited to submit a proposal to enhance our program to help caregivers improve their children’s learning skills. The fact that we have received the federal funding has given our program greater credibility with funding sources.</p> <p>A great strength has been the leadership of Crystal Ward Allen advocating on the behalf of our clients and structuring the quarterly meetings to provide new knowledge and new resources. The expertise of the HSRI consultants has been invaluable throughout this process. Finally, our relationship with our local Children Services has been strengthened and enhanced by this program.</p>

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**ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

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			<p><u>Portage County Job and Family Services, contracted with Family &amp; Community Services, Inc.</u>            Through a partnership between Family &amp; Community Services, Inc. and Portage County Job &amp; Family Services the Kinship Navigator Program has been in operation in Portage County since February 2010. Since its inception, the program has been able to provide services to 37 kinship families throughout the county. Those services include obtaining cash assistance and medical coverage for the children, helping to provide security deposits for families needing to relocate, completing Kinship Permanency Incentive applications with qualifying families, finding child care and getting assistance with the cost, and working with the legal system to complete Power of Attorney forms, Caretaker Affidavit forms and custody agreements. Through the community collaborations that exist in Portage County, the Kinship Navigator has been able to utilize partnerships and find ways to serve kinship families in the best possible manner. Without this program, many families would struggle to complete applications, pay their monthly bills, keep their family together or to maintain employment.</p> <p>Although there are many programs available in Portage County to assist with housing and legal issues, the Kinship Navigator program has been able to help in areas where other agencies could not. By utilizing kinship funds, security deposits were able to be paid for three clients that needed to move immediately but were not able to find any source of help. These families were able to relocate and provide a better living environment for their family due to the funding. Legal issues are a concern for many kinship caregivers with regard to providing stability and permanency. Without legal custody, many children may be stripped of their routine and the family they have come to know. The Kinship Navigator Program works closely with a retired attorney to complete paperwork and to be an advocate for the caregivers within the court system. It is because of this advocacy that 3 caregivers have been awarded custody of kinship children since August 2010.</p> <p>It is because of the devotion of the local PCDJFS and Family &amp; Community Services that the kinship program has gained recognition, support, clientele, and a name within Portage County. By participating in local groups, utilizing free press and making new contacts in the community, more and more people are becoming aware of the kinship navigator program and are able to call with questions, ask for help or gain guidance in order to improve their situation and provide the best possible care for the kinship children in their home.</p> <p><u>Richland County Children Services, contracted with DRCA</u>            The Richland County Kinship Navigator has strived to provide local kin caregiver's supportive services in an effort to provide stability and permanency for youth in our community. Kinship services have become part of the local culture for the local Children Services and they are active in supporting kinship services. Some of the efforts to improve service delivery are described below, and Richland County is grateful to have the Fostering Connections grant to enhance all aspects of service delivery to kinship families.</p> <p>The current kinship navigator is operated under a contract with the City of Mansfield Department of Regional Community Advancement (DRCA). The site has had a rich history of providing services to the local community. Some of the goals for the DRCA program for kin caregivers are listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved school attendance for youth in kinship families</li> <li>2. Involvement in skill-building employment programs for older youth</li> </ol>

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**Appendix B - Program Indicators**  
**ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

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			<p>3. Obtain employment for youth not enrolled in school            4. Stable and safe housing            5. Access to quality mental and physical health providers</p> <p>Kinship workers coordinate with Richland County JFS to make sure clients have access to the Child Only TANF cash assistance, medical card for the children in their care, transportation to medical appointments, day care eligibility, and the Early Learning Initiative. Workers also coordinate with Social Security to redirect funding for the caregiver if applicable. Kinship workers also utilize community resources such as: the Area Agency on Aging to tap into resources to help with utility bills, HEAP, Warm Choices, The Rehab Center, city and county schools, and Mansfield Homes Central City Economic Development Cooperation (CCEDC) to name a few. Clients will be informed how to access legal services. The local kinship navigator has partnered with a local attorney who provides legal services to kin caregivers seeking legal custody, power of attorney, or general legal questions.</p>
B-02	Problems		<p>Probably the biggest concern for the Kinship Navigator programs was related to getting the program up and running. While all county partners had some staff on board and trained in the first six months of the grant period, really ramping up with full staff, trained, building the local partnerships and getting the word out has been difficult, even in the second half of the year.</p> <p>On the other hand, in communities where programs were already up and the grant allowed them to expand, response has been overwhelming. In Richland County, they find that while they try to serve as a “navigator” to assist kin families to access existing resources, stressed community agencies (public, community based and even faith based) are often referring kinship families back to the Navigator Program for hard services. They are finding families from contiguous counties often seek them out, despite their association with an agency in a different county. Lorain County has experienced similar situations. “If you build it they will come.”</p> <p>All communities, whether grant participants or not, would express economic concerns – both for families (Ohio has a 10+% unemployment rate, and many jobs went from better paid manufacturing jobs to lower paying service sector positions); also stressed and sometimes reduced agency budgets for all public and private agencies. As the cash assistance roles have increased, the flexible TANF funds that often covered short term preventive need and services, (often through community based contracts), have diminished, and many community based agency programs have thus suffered.</p>
B-03	Significant findings and events		<p><b>Legal concerns and challenges continue to be a major issue for formal and informal kin families.</b> While those formally involved in the child welfare system have full legal services (often leading to very painful and lengthy judicial processes), the informal kin families desire to have legal documentation and status, but are loathe to present at the child welfare agency. In a quarterly meeting with all the Kin Navigator sites, we hosted local legal experts from two counties – Lorain and Richland – for education and brainstorming. The result was rich in ideas (and follow up work) but the meeting also highlighted the real variations across counties, and the lack of consistent policy or legal practice for these families.</p>

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**Appendix B - Program Indicators**  
**ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

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			<p>The Lorain County attorney has had a long standing relationship with the Lorain County Office on Aging (the local Kin Navigator site), funded in discount amount, with support from the local Area Agency on Aging's allocation from the Older Americans Act National Family Caregivers Support Program (NFCSP) funds; the partnership has been supplemented / expanded with additional funds from the Kinship Navigator Grant. The result is legal support for assisting caregivers with a range of legal processes depending upon the family's needs.</p> <p>The Richland County legal expert is a former Juvenile court magistrate, hired by the County Children Services Agency, specifically to assist caregivers to achieve custody status. Again, the relationship had already been in place using ProtectOhio Title IV-E Waiver funds, and has been expanded with the Kinship Navigator funds.</p> <p>Ohio allows Juvenile Courts to make Legal Custody awards to kin caregivers, and Probate Courts to make Legal Guardianship awards. The state law surrounding these custody statuses mirrors each other, both including "intended to be permanent". The typical paths to permanency for kin caregivers vary among counties, dependent upon the local judge, and traditional practice. All child protective work occurs in Juvenile court, but some counties have more friendly kin processes in their Probate courts.</p> <p>Other counties discussed their practice, one county (Portage) shared a pro se form a local probate court magistrate had drafted for use by kin caregivers, as materials developed by the judicial community are more readily received than materials developed by others. Following the session, Kin Navigators went back to their counties empowered with new ideas for navigation the legal issues for kin - and many have made progress by way local bar association partnerships for pro bono or discounted fees, smoother processes with their courts, etc.</p> <p>On the state level, PCSAO is seeking to bring this issue to the attention of the Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Law, a multi-disciplinary workgroup appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio. This group has significantly contributed to issues such as Guardian Ad Litem training improvements, a rewrite of child maltreatment law, promotion of Alternative or Differential Response, and more. Continued direction for this group, is pending, as leadership change at the Chief Justice level will determine ongoing priorities.</p> <p><b>Another key finding – when presented with the value of kinship care, needs and a menu of opportunities, community partners offer valued services and supports.</b> The Local Advisory Groups are finding that convening these groups are resulting in unexpected partnerships.</p>

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**Appendix B - Program Indicators**  
**ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

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B-04	Dissemination activities		<p><b>PCSAO launched a website, <a href="http://www.KinshipOhio.org">www.KinshipOhio.org</a> in the winter of 2010.</b> While initially built and populated for the seven Kinship Navigator grant sites, it was later opened up to other counties, inviting them to post local contact information and services. At this time 25 counties have designed their county webpages, and PCSAO has posted them.</p> <p><b>Both to track media and to lengthen its' life, we post known media coverage on the News page of the KinshipOhio.org website, as listed below.</b> As one can see, the seven county sites have been very busy highlighting their kinship programs locally, with much positive coverage. Additionally, we have received good statewide coverage, including the recent Sept. 8 article by ODaging Director Barbara Riley in their monthly newsletter; and national coverage with the Brookdale Foundation's RAPP Reporter, Fall 2010.</p> <p>October 2010:  <a href="#">Ronald McDonald House awards grant to Children Services</a>, October 13, 2010. Gazette newspapers.  <a href="#">October 2010 Newsletter</a>, Crawford County Kinship Care Connection  <a href="#">October 2010 Newsletter</a>, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>September 2010:  The Brookdale Foundation <a href="#">RAPP Reporter of 2010</a>, The Kinship Navigator Program of Lorain County, Ohio  <a href="#">September 2010 Newsletter</a>, Crawford County Kinship Care Connection  September 8, <a href="#">Kinship Care Supporting grandparents raising grandchildren</a>, Department of Aging</p> <p>August 2010:  <a href="#">August 2010 Newsletter</a>, Crawford County Kinship Care Connection  August 10, <a href="#">Kinship Care program "connects" with new number, more</a>, by Missy Harris, Galion Inquirer</p> <p>July 2010:  July 10, <a href="#">Crawford County agency keeps kids with relatives, saves money</a> by Kimberly Gasuras, BucyrusTelegraphForum.com.  July 6, <a href="#">Program helps kin caregivers: Portage partners offer assistance</a> by Mike Sever, Recordpub.com.  <a href="#">July 2010 Newsletter</a>, Crawford County Kinship Care Connection</p> <p>June 2010:  <a href="#">June 2010 Newsletter</a>, Crawford County Kinship Care Program  <a href="#">June 2010 newsletter</a>, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>May 2010:  <a href="#">May 2010 Newsletter</a>, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County</p> <p>April 2010:  <a href="#">Great-grandparents return to child rearing</a>, Springfield News Sun, Clark County.</p>

**ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**Appendix B - Program Indicators**  
**ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

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			<p><a href="#">Support available for grandparent caregivers</a>, Springfield News Sun, Clark County.</p> <p><a href="#">April 2010 Newsletter</a>, Area Office on Aging Kinship Navigator Program, Lucas County.</p> <p>March 2010:</p> <p><a href="#">GRAND Newsletter</a>, Portage County Kinship Program</p> <p><a href="#">Public News Service: Help is Out There for Kinship Caregivers in Ohio.</a></p> <p>PCSAO Launches KinshipOhio.org Website: <a href="#">PCSAO's Press Release</a>, and news articles on <a href="#">The Hannah Report News</a>, and <a href="#">CapitolMonitor.com</a>.</p> <p>February 2010:</p> <p>Wayne County, The-Daily-Record.com: <a href="#">Wayne Children Services Takes Focus to Relative Care.</a></p> <p>Ashtabula County, Star Beacon Newspapers: <a href="#">Kinship Group Reaches out to Caregivers.</a></p> <p>Ashtabula County, Gazette Newspaper: <a href="#">Kinship Support Group Welcomes Guest Speaker Cafaro.</a></p> <p>Lorain County Office on Aging, The Senior Years: <a href="#">Kinship Program to Continue at Lorain County Office on Aging.</a></p> <p>November 2009:</p> <p>Public Children Services Association of Ohio, The Hannah Report: <a href="#">PCSAO, Seven Counties Awarded Kinship Navigator Grant</a>,</p> <p>October 2009:</p> <p>Ashtabula County, Star Bacon Newspaper: <a href="#">Children Services get award for kinship caregivers - Ashtabula County.</a></p> <p>Ashtabula County, Gazette Newspaper: <a href="#">Federal Grant Enhances Services for Kinship Families in Ashtabula County</a></p> <p>Ashtabula County Commissioners: <a href="#">Ashtabula County Children Services Board Received Kinship Grant.</a></p> <p>The local media audiences are typically the county's general population.</p> <p>The RAPP Reporter has a national audience of kinship service providers, policy makers interested in kin issues, funders and the like</p> <p>The Hannah, Capitol Monitor, and Gongwer reports are aimed at a sophisticated audience of Ohio state level policy makers, including state elected officials, state legislators, local elected officials, State Administration and agency staff, and statewide advocates. The Ohio Department of Aging newsletter is promoted statewide, linked with targetted audiences such as with AARP-Ohio and more.</p> <p>The program newsletters (such as the Portage GRAND, the Crawford County program newsletter, and the Lorain County Senior Years) typically have a targetted mailing list of local kinship caregiver families, local service providers and other community and faith based groups.</p> <p><b>Local Advisory Group meetings</b> – as an essential part of the Ohio Kinship Navigator grant, each of the seven county sites meet regularly with their LAG. The LAGs vary in membership, frequency and agenda, in each county. At</p>



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			<p>minimum they meet quarterly, most monthly. Membership typically includes kin caregivers, local Family and Children First Council members, community service provider leadership, local bar association, and youth. Often a brief presentation is made on either a kinship challenge, or service available for kin caregivers, and discussion ensues, to brainstorm local solutions.</p> <p><b>State Advisory Group meetings</b> – the already existing State Kinship Caregiver Advisory Board has assumed the role of the SAG. While the KN Grant project manager was already a long time member of the Board, we added KN Grant county representation, and the Chair or other representation from the Board has joined the KN Grant quarterly in-person meetings. This group meets quarterly (in coordination with the Ohio Kinship Grandparent Coalition, consists of kin caregivers, state and local leadership in child welfare, state and local aging, state and local Family and Children First, and the academic community involved on aging issues. Policy issues are considered.</p> <p>The most recent SAG group resulted in a change in state policy to disregard the value of Kinship Permanency Incentive funds when calculating eligibility for SNAP. The group also expressed strong message to state leadership that as biennial budget planning and deliberations occur, we advocate that all fiscal supports being delivered directly to families (TANF/Ohio Works First Cash Assistance, State and Title IV-E Adoption Assistance subsidies and Kinship Permanency Incentive program) be held harmless from any across the board cuts. Finally, discussion included request for State agencies to join advocacy efforts to extend the budget neutral Grandparent Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization Affidavits to other kin caregivers.</p> <p><b>Local Outreach Activities</b> – as noted in the attached evaluation, 217 Outreach Activities were recorded by the Kin Navigator counties, including local collaborative phone calls, local group presentations (12%), distribution of newsletters/brochures and other written materials (24%), press releases, and meetings with local partners (36%). The main goal of these activities was local education and promotion of the KN program (106 events), with a secondary goal of collaborative service development and partnership (46 events). Some of the events also addressed technical assistance and advocacy.</p> <p><b>Statewide Training and Outreach Activities</b> – The Kinship Navigator counties presented a workshop about their programming at the annual PCSAO Conference on Oct. 7, 2010. 30 individuals attended the workshop, with excellent evaluations. 2 hours of CEUs were provided.</p> <p>PCSAO also regularly provides brief Kinship Navigator Grant updates, and other kinship/guardianship related news, in our electronic PCSAO Weekly Update, <a href="http://www.pcsao.org/weekly_update.htm">http://www.pcsao.org/weekly_update.htm</a>, check out Sept. 21, Aug. 24 (the updates are posted for only a limited time). This publication is emailed out regularly to each of our 88 public child protection counties (usually forwarded out to their full staffs), private agency child welfare leadership, state child welfare leadership, others requesting to be on our email list, as well as any past and present PCSAO funders.</p>

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			<p>As part of our more integrated outreach efforts, PCSAO discusses the value of kinship, and specifically the Kinship Navigator Grant, in our PCSAO Quarterly HeartBeat Newsletter, <a href="http://www.pcsao.org/Newsletters.htm#Issues_in_2010">http://www.pcsao.org/Newsletters.htm#Issues_in_2010</a> mailed to 3,000+ elected officials, members of the judiciary, policy makers and child and family service leaders, and emailed to many, many more. Check out the <i>Managing Safety, Wellbeing and Budgets</i> article in 2010 Issue 2.</p> <p>PCSAO regularly includes a broad continuum of kinship policy and practice, as part of a successful strategy for Ohio's Safe Reduction of Kids in Out of Home placement, visual and narrative provided below:</p> <div data-bbox="565 781 1284 1522" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <p><b>Building on our Proud Accomplishments:</b> Between 1991 and 2009, Ohio has experienced a 42% safe reduction in the number of children experiencing the trauma of out of home care. Recent statewide accomplishments include CAPMIS (safety, risk and family planning tool), supports for kinship care, and a statewide SACWIS MIS system. It is time to create a legislative foundation for reform, and to bring other innovations and initiatives to scale statewide, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>CHIPS Legislation</b> – focusing practice and legal procedures on the Needs of a Child, within the philosophy of engaging and strengthening families.</li> <li>2. <b>Expanding Alternative Response</b> beyond the current 10 county pilot</li> <li>3. <b>Enhancing Kinship Caregiver policies</b> and support (HB 197, HHS Kinship</li> </ol>

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			<p>Navigator grant)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>Promoting Family Engagement</b> – Family Team Meetings, Group Decision Making, Community based collaboration and services</li> <li>5. <b>Improving Permanency Outcomes for Lingering Youth</b> – expanding Child Specific Recruitment and Family Finding strategies, enhancing education and workforce outcomes for youth, reducing foster and teen pregnancies, OFCF Youth Transitions workgroup</li> <li>6. <b>Flexible Funding</b> – Ohio is seeking a renewal of our Title IV-E ProtectOhio Waiver to support the full continuum of prevention, diversion, placement and reunification services, vs. only placement costs. The budget neutral waiver has contributed to our safe reduction of children in care, and reduced child trauma.  <i>All efforts must address the disproportionate rate of minority children in care.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Sharing among and within the KN Grant counties</b> – each month, PCSAO hosts a conference call that begins with county sharing (the networking spurs great ideas), sometimes brainstorming re: local problems, and of course discussion of any evaluation related items. Quarterly, our meetings are day long, and hosted by Richland County Children Services, as they are centrally located, and have a state of the art training facility. This allows guest trainers (Ohio Benefit Bank, local Legal Experts, Central Ohio Mentoring Center, Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, Grant Writing expert, etc.) as well as in-house training on advocacy / PCSAO, community mapping / HSRI, and effective data entry for the HSRI evaluation. The day long quarterly meetings provide time for training, sharing, problem solving and networking.</p>
B-05	<b>Other Activities</b>		Evaluation, see attached, as prepared by HSRI.
B-06	<b>Activities planned for next reporting period</b>		<p><b>Legal Progress</b> - On the state level, PCSAO is seeking to bring attention to the lack of judicial consistency or practice for kin families to seek custody. We hope to have this considered by the Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Law, a multi-disciplinary workgroup appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio. This group has significantly contributed to issues such as Guardian Ad Litem training improvements, a rewrite of child maltreatment law, promotion of Alternative or Differential Response, and more. Continued direction for this group, is pending, as leadership change at the Chief Justice level will determine ongoing priorities.</p> <p>PCSAO also continues to educate policies makers on the success of the Grandparent Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization Affidavits, in order to have policy changed to extend to other kin caregivers, allowing them to enroll children in their care in school, and access routine and emergency healthcare.</p> <p>The seven KN Grant sites continue to work on effective legal strategies within their local courts.</p>

**ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**Appendix B - Program Indicators**  
**ACF-OGM-SF-PPR**

Program Indicators			
(1) Item	(2) Activity Description	(3) Indicator	(4) Explanation
			<p><b>Continued Outreach and Dissemination</b> – all counties continue with outreach activities. Ashtabula is purchasing renewed billboard space, Portage is planning aggressive PR activities, all sites will work locally on holiday activities on behalf of their kin families. All expect continued growth in their local support groups as word spreads among caregivers. The sites will also continue to explore the referral relationship with their local 211 provider. Thus far, despite collaboration, training, provision of scripted inquiry and referral, very few referrals have resulted from 211 mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Lorain County 2<sup>nd</sup> year plans</b> - In the second year of the program we hope to collaborate with a number of agencies and expand the program by training Retired Senior Volunteers as tutors. We will be working with the Children and Family First Council which is establishing a consortium in the county that links literacy initiatives and hope to work with the Foster grandparent reader program already created in a local school. Finally, we plan on utilizing the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to expand the current tutoring services in the schools. We have been accepted by the Stocker Foundation to submit a \$10,000 proposal in October 2010 to help to fund this expansion and provide reading resources over the next few years!</p>