



Kinship Services Network of Pinellas Five Year Evaluation Report

**Presented to the
Juvenile Welfare Board
The Children's Services Council of Pinellas County**

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Presentation Outline

I. Introduction to Kinship Care

II. Kinship Services Network of Pinellas (KSN)

III. KSN Evaluation

A. Caregiver Outcomes

B. Child safety and permanence

C. Low Cost

IV. Recommendations

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I. Kinship Care

- In 2000, 1 in 12 children under 18 live in a household that is headed by the child's grandparent or other relative other than the child's parent.
- For approximately 2.4 million of these children, the relative is the child's primary caregiver.
- For approximately 2.3 million of these children, their biological parents do not live in the home.

Source: Gleeson, 2007; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; National Survey of America's Children--Ehrle & Geen (2002).



Growth in Kinship Care


- Growth is most dramatic among families with the least financial resources and the highest social service needs
- African American children are 4 to 5 times more likely to live in kinship care. (44% of children living with kin)
- 38% Caucasian
- 15% Latino
- 3% Other



Children Placed in Kinship Care

- Have fewer mental health and behavioral problems than children and youth placed in general foster care;
- Experience greater placement stability and fewer placement changes than children and youth who are placed in general foster care;
- Have a greater sense of satisfaction with their living arrangement and feel less stigmatized than those living in general foster care; and
- Are less likely to re-enter the foster care system once reunified with birth parents.

- Reference: Handout from Gleeson CWLA presentation (listed below in References) citing James, 2004; Terling-Watt, 2001; Testa, 2001; 2002; Wulczyn, Histop, & Goerge, 2000; Zinn, DeCoursey, George, & Courtney, 2006.



When Kinship is supported,
it reduces time in foster care and
saves money.

- Studies in both Illinois and Wisconsin found that children spend less time in foster care when kinship care is supported.
- Illinois reduced average length of stay in foster care by 269 days.
- Wisconsin reduced the average length of stay in foster care by 133 days.

Number of grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years

	Pinellas		Florida		US	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number	13,260		387,451		6,207,179	
Responsible for grandchildren	6,299	47.5	150,391	38.8	2,541,364	40.9
Female	4011	63.7	95,079	63.2	1,598,084	62.9
Married	4385	69.6	104,968	69.8	1,796,713	70.7
Years Responsible						
Less than 1 year	1463	11.0	37080	9.6	573,629	9.2
1 or 2 years	1484	11.2	36,243	9.4	605,926	9.8
3 or 4 years	1464	11.0	24,221	6.3	412,026	6.8
5 or more years	1,888	14.2	52,847	13.6	940,783	15.2



II. Kinship Services Network of Pinellas (KSN)

- **KSN** is a case management and family support program for families who are taking care of relative children in Pinellas County, FL.
- Funded by the **Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County**
- Serves approximately 280 relative caregivers and 300 children annually



Partnerships Program Model

- **National Experts:**

- Edgewood Family Center (CA),
- Cornell University, Cooperative Extension
- Joseph Crumbley, Temple University, and
- USF: Florida Kinship Center

- **Primary Partnerships:**

- Children's Home, Inc.
- Catholic Charities
- Big Brothers Big Sisters



KSN Services

- Psychosocial/
Historical Assessment
- Case Management
- Family Support Plan
- Navigation
- Advocacy
- Community Outreach
and Public Education
- Educational Workshops
- Support Groups for
Youth and Adults
- Counseling
- Substance Abuse
Workshops & Linkage to
Services
- Legal Services
- Family Team
Conferencing
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Health Assessment
- Respite Services
- Coordinated Child Care
- Follow-up



III. KSN Evaluation

Tests the expectation that six months of an expanded array of community-based family support services and case management will

1. Improve outcomes for caregivers, including family support, family resource needs, and health.
2. Increase child safety and permanence
3. Reduce administrative costs associated with community based child welfare services for kinship families.

Participant Characteristics	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Total
<hr/> Program Involvement <hr/>						
Youth	170	243	395	417	507	1732
Adult	156	225	293	251	298	1224



1. Outcomes for Caregivers

Statistically Significant Results include:

- More adequate **Family Support**, both informal and formal (Dunst, 1994)
- More adequate **Family Resources** (Dunst, 1994)
- Improved **General Health**, including **physical and mental health** (GHQ-SF12) (Ware, Kosinski, Turner-Bowker, and Gandek, 2002)



2. Child Safety and Permanence

Prevention & Diversion

- Over 99% of children in program did not enter out of home care at one year follow up in 2008.
- 100% of children in program did not enter out of home care at one year follow up in 2010.

3. Cost

KSN is a low cost program delivering high return on investment.

	Kinship Service Network	Adjudicated Dependent*	Foster Care*	Residential Group Care*
Cost of Care for a Child	\$1,777	\$3,900	\$11,420	\$38,276
	FY 09-10			

*Source: Florida Kinship Center (USF)



IV. Recommendations

1. Access
2. Research
3. Education
4. Cooperative relationships
5. Funding opportunities
6. Policy



1. Access

Expand KSN Model and to include other communities who have a commitment to promote safe and stable families.

Improve access to community resources to kinship care families by addressing barriers such as:

- limited public information on service availability,
- lack of culturally appropriate services, and
- inadequate transportation services for families.



2. Research

Increase the availability of data in several areas, including:

- Identifying health disparities for kinship families
- Examining the experiences of families involved with the child welfare system, at the front and back end of the service delivery model

Determine the effectiveness of the individual interventions in KSN model



3. Education

- Provide education to the public through media campaigns and school-based programs, to health care professionals using continuing education opportunities, and to community social workers with trainings on KSN model.
- Continue and expand community education about kinship care with existing and new partners.
- Expand education for child welfare, DCF, schools, legal, and other systems of care serving kinship families.



4. Cooperative Relationships

- Expand cooperative relationships
- Continue work with universities to promote evidence based practices, such as Grandfamilies Work Group with Yale, USF, and East Carolina University.
- Promote expanded partnership opportunities with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Catholic Charities to highlight national presence and other family foundations and private businesses for support and sustainability.



5. Funding Opportunities

- Pursue funding opportunities from foundations interested in theories of change and making sustainable differences in communities.
- Pursue funding opportunities that promote child safety, healthy aging, intergenerational relationships, etc.



6. Policy Recommendations

- Promote KSN as a cost effective, best practice model for improving outcomes for kinship caregivers, child safety and permanence.
- Promote important role of Children's Services Council toward replication of KSN Model statewide
- Determine if KSN Model would fit best as a program supplement for Community Based Care or Children's Services Councils.



V. Recognition

- National and International Presentations
 - Annual Program Meeting of Council for Social Work Education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in October, 2008.
 - Generations United 15th International Conference, July 30, 2009
 - Larry Cooper, selected Co-Chair of Generations United 15th and 16th International Conferences in 2009 and 2011.
 - Brookdale Relatives as Parents Program National Conference 2011



Recognition, cont.

- **Reporting Results**

- KSN is highlighted in the report *Kinship Care in Florida* submitted to the *Grandfamilies Report* to United States Senate Special Committee on Aging.

- **State and National Advocacy**

- Rally in Tally, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010. Advocacy trip for relative caregivers at the State Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida
- Grand Rally, 2007. Advocacy trip for relative caregivers at the Capitol in Washington, DC.



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