

# KERRIE L. OCASIO

Assistant Professor

Graduate Social Work Department

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Email: [kocasio@wcupa.edu](mailto:kocasio@wcupa.edu), Phone: 973-229-1293, ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4522-5196>

## TEACHING, RESEARCH AND SERVICE STATEMENT

---

I utilize my social work practice experience promoting child and family well-being, conducting strategic planning, developing and evaluating services, grant writing, policy analysis, and advocacy to educate the next generation of social workers, lead the policy sequence of courses in my department, and support the annual assessment of my department as required by our accrediting bodies. As a scholar, the purpose of my research is to: 1) understand the effects of foster care and legal or relational permanency on children and families, 2) improve the quality of services provided by child welfare agencies and related systems, and 3) contribute to racial and economic justice in the child welfare system.

## EDUCATION

---

|             |  |                   |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>2015</b> | <b>Rutgers, The State University Of New Jersey</b><br><i>Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work</i>             | New Brunswick, NJ |
| <b>2008</b> | <b>Fordham University</b><br><i>Master of Social Work, Specialization: Research</i>                          | New York, NY      |
| <b>2001</b> | <b>Rutgers, The State University Of New Jersey</b><br><i>Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, Phi Beta Kappa</i> | Newark, NJ        |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

|   |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <b>West Chester University, Graduate Social Work Department</b> |   | West Chester, PA  |
| <b>Present</b>  | <b><i>Assistant Professor</i></b>   |                   |
| <b>- Fall 2018</b>  | SWG 511: Dialectic of Oppression and Liberation<br>SWG 534: Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation<br>SWG 541: Social Welfare Policies and Services<br>SWG 542: Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities<br>SWG 555: Organizations and Communities<br>SWG 576: Child Welfare: A Resilience and Trauma-informed Approach   |                   |
| <b>Rutgers University, School of Social Work</b>                |   | New Brunswick, NJ |
| <b>Spring 2018 -</b>  | <b><i>Assistant Research Professor</i></b>  |                   |
| <b>Spring 2015</b>  | SW 595: Methods of Social Work Research II (Hybrid format)  |                   |
| <b>Rutgers University, School of Social Work</b>                |   | New Brunswick, NJ |
| <b>Fall 2014 –</b>  | <b><i>Adjunct Instructor</i></b>  |                   |
| <b>Fall 2010</b>  | SW 504: Social Welfare Policy and Services I (Hybrid format)<br>SW 534: Child Welfare Management<br>SW 585: Social Welfare Policy and Services II (Hybrid format)<br>SW 585: Social Welfare Policy and Services II: Children and Families<br>SW 585: Social Welfare Policy and Services II: Children and Families<br>SW 595: Methods of Social Work Research II (Hybrid)<br>SW 608: Theories of Non-Profit Management and Strategic Planning (Hybrid) |                   |
| <b>Montclair State University</b>                               |   | Montclair, NJ     |
| <b>Spring 2013</b>  | <b><i>Adjunct Co-Instructor</i></b>   |                   |
|   | CHAD 210: Child Abuse and Neglect   |                   |

## PEER REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS AND EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

---

- McKernan-Herbster, J.\* & **Ocasio, K.** The complex relationship between sibling contact and child and family wellbeing in foster care: An exploration of child and family functioning in a pre-permanency cohort. (Accepted 2021; Children and Youth Services Review). DOI: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106257 \*Student mentee
- Ocasio, K.**, Rolock, N., Greenfield, B., Gallese, R., Webb, J., Havighurst, S., Fong, R., & MacKenzie, M. J. (2021). Implementation fidelity in the replication of Tuning in to Teens (TINT) adapted for adoptive parents and guardians in the US. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, online ahead of print*. DOI: 10.1080/26408066.2021.1924912
- White, K. R., Rolock, N., Marra, L., Faulkner, M. Fong, R., & **Ocasio, K.** (2021). Understanding wellbeing and caregiver commitment after adoption or guardianship from foster care. *Journal of Public Child Welfare, 15*(1), 105-130. DOI: 10.1080/15548732.2020.1850601
- Rolock, N., **Ocasio, K.**, White, K. R., Havighurst, S., Cho, Y., Fong, R., Marra, L., & Faulkner, M. (2020). Tuning in to Teens (TINT) with adoptive parents and guardians in the US: The replication phase of intervention research. *Journal of Public Child Welfare, 15*(1), 22-51. DOI: 10.1080/15548732.2020.1846660
- Rolock, N., **Ocasio, K.**, White, K. R., Cho, Y., Fong, R., Marra, L., & Faulkner, M. (2020). Identifying families who may be struggling after adoption or guardianship. *Journal of Public Child Welfare, 15*(1), 78-104. DOI: 10.1080/15548732.2020.1831679
- Rolock, N., **Ocasio, K.**, Webb, J., Fleary-Simmons, D., Cohen, L., & Fong, R. (2019). Implementation science and prevention in action: Application in a post-permanency world. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, 16*(1), 1-17. DOI: 10.1080/23761407.2018.1517068
- Rolock, N., White, K. R., **Ocasio, K.**, Zhang, L., MacKenzie, M. J., & Fong, R. (2019). A comparison of foster care reentry after adoption in two large U.S. states. *Research on Social Work Practice, 29*(2), 153-164. DOI: 10.1177/1049731518783857
- Stepleton, K., Bosk, E.A., Duron, J., Greenfield, B., **Ocasio, K.**, & MacKenzie, M. (2018). Exploring associations between maternal adverse childhood experiences and child behavior. *Children and Youth Services Review, 95*, 80-87.
- Koivunen, J., Van Alst, D., **Ocasio, K.**, & Allegra, C. (2017). Understanding engagement in mental health services for preschool children: An analysis of teacher, clinician, and parent perspectives. *Early Childhood Education Journal, 45*(3), 313-320.
- Shpiegel, S. & **Ocasio, K.** (2015). Functioning patterns among older adolescents in foster care: Results from a cluster analysis. *Children and Youth Services Review, 58*, 227-235.
- Walsh, T. B., McCourt, S. N., Rostad, W. L., Byers, K., & **Ocasio, K.** (2015). Promoting protective factors and strengthening resilience. In D. Daro, A. Cohn Donnolly, L. A. Huang, & B. J. Powell (Eds.), *Advances in child abuse prevention knowledge: The perspective of new leadership* (203-233). New York: Springer Publishing.
- Ocasio, K.**, Van Alst, D., Koivunen, J., Huang, C. C., & Allegra, C. (2015). Improving social emotional development in at-risk preschoolers through a combination of universal and selected approaches. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, DOI: 10.1007/s10826-014-9983-7.
- Ocasio, K.**, Morton, C., & Simmel, C. (2013). An exploration of child welfare investigation disparity differences between states. *Journal of Public Child Welfare, 7*(1), 79-97.
- Morton, C. M., **Ocasio, K.** & Simmel, C. (2011). A critique of methods used to describe the overrepresentation of African Americans in the child welfare system. *Children and Youth Services Review, 33*(9), 1538-1542.

## **MANUSCRIPTS AND BOOK CHAPTERS IN DRAFT OR UNDER REVIEW**

---

- Perez, A. G., **Ocasio, K.**, White, K., Farina, A., & Rolock, N. Family well-being after adoption and guardianship: Considerations for engaging families across the life course. (Child and Family-Serving Systems: A Compendium of Policy and Practice; Chapter accepted with minor revisions).
- Ocasio, K.** & Van Alst, D. Installing child welfare practice profiles: A mixed methods approach to understanding implementation outcomes. (In draft)
- Ocasio, K.** & Gallese, R. PACS practice guide development process: Utilization of the AGREE Clinical Practice Guidelines. (In draft)

## **PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

---

- Ocasio, K.** & McKernan, J. (2021, January). *Exploring the relationship between kinship placements and a sense of belonging for child and caregivers moving towards adoption*. In Rolock, N. (chair). *Social change in child welfare: Outcomes for children living with kin vs. non-kin caregivers*. Symposium presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, online.
- Marra, L., Faulkner, M., Fong, R., Rolock, N., White, K. R., & **Ocasio, K.** (2021, January). *Exploring the impact of a parenting intervention: Does child-caregiver biological relatedness matter?* In Rolock, N. (chair). *Social change in child welfare: Outcomes for children living with kin vs. non-kin caregivers*. Symposium presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, online.
- Rolock, N., **Ocasio, K.**, White, K. R., Marra, L., Faulkner, M., & Fong, R. (2021, January). *The kinship effect during teen years: Understanding outcome for relative vs. non-relative adoptive parents or guardians*. In Rolock, N. (chair). *Social change in child welfare: Outcomes for children living with kin vs. non-kin caregivers*. Symposium presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, online.
- White, K. R., Rolock, N., Marra, L. Faulkner, M., **Ocasio, K.** & Fong, R. (2021, January). *Strengths associated with relative adoption or guardianship after foster care: Results from universal surveys*. In Rolock, N. (chair). *Social change in child welfare: Outcomes for children living with kin vs. non-kin caregivers*. Symposium presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, online.
- Rolock, N., **Ocasio, K.**, White, K., & Fong, R. (accepted for September 2020, postponed until September 2021 due to Pandemic). *Testing Tuning in to Teens (TINT) with adoptive parents and guardians in the U.S.: The replication phase of intervention research*. Paper accepted for presentation at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EUSARF 2021), Zurich, Switzerland.
- Ocasio, K.** & Rolock, N. (accepted for July 2020, postponed until July 2021 due to Pandemic). *Building the evidence of what works with at-risk adoptive families: A study of an adaptation of tuning in to Teens (TINT)*. In Rolock, N. (chair). *Intervention research with adoptive families: Lessons from interventions tested in multiple sites across the U.S.* Symposium accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Adoption Research 7 (ICAR 7), Milan, Italy.
- Ocasio, K.**, Rolock, N., & White, K. (2020, January). *Tuning in to Teens (TINT) replication: A study of a universal intervention for families adapted for an at-risk population of adoptive and guardianship families*. In **Ocasio, K. (chair)**, *Child welfare challenges in designing, replicating and adapting evidence-based interventions*. Symposium presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Rolock, N. & **Ocasio, K.** (2020, January). *Selective prevention: Using administrative data to understand response and uptake rates for programs designed to improve post adoption and guardianship family stability and wellbeing*. In White, K. (chair), *Results from prevention-focused outreach efforts to identify and support adoptive and guardianship families*. Symposium presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- McKernan, J. & **Ocasio, K.** (2019, October). *The complex relationship between sibling contact and child wellbeing in foster care*. Student paper presented at the West Chester University Fall 2019 Research and Creative Activity Day.

- Ocasio, K.,** Gundy, J., & Fay, K. (2019, August). *Innovators and early adopters in implementation of a child welfare practice model*. Session presented at the National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit.
- Rolock, N., **Ocasio, K.,** Marra, L., Webb, J., & Fong, R. (2019, August). *Lessons learned from the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG)*. Session presented at the National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit.
- Jalkiewicz, L. **Ocasio, K.,** Coburger, N., Duff, L., Greenfield, B., & Lagattuta, M. (2019, April). *Establishing effectiveness in existing pre- and post-adoption counseling services*. Workshop presented at the Child Welfare League of America 2019 National Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Greenfield, B., Bosk, E. A, Williams-Butler, A., Fay, K., **Ocasio, K,** & MacKenzie, M. J. (2019, January). *Forward not back: The persisting need for relationship-based services in child welfare*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Stepleton, K., Bosk, E. A. Duron, J. F. Greenfield, B., **Ocasio, K.,** & MacKenzie, M. J. (2019, January). *Exploring associations between maternal adverse early childhood experiences and child behavior*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Fay, K., **Ocasio, K.,** Stepleton, K., Gale, A., Williams-Butler, A., & MacKenzie, M. J. (2019, January). *Benevolence vs. self-interest: An experimental test of two survey conditions with child welfare staff*. Poster presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Rolock, N., White, K., **Ocasio, K.,** Zhang, L., MacKenzie, M., & Fong, R. (2018, July). *A comparison of foster care reentry after adoption in two large U.S. states*. In N. Rolock (Chair), *An examination of post-adoption experiences of children, young adults, and families in the U.S.* Symposium presented at the International Conference on Adoption Research 6, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Ocasio, K.,** Forsythe, M., & Diaz, C. (2018, June). *Psychological Assessment Tools: An Exploration of Usage and Appropriateness for Child Welfare Forensic Evaluations*. Poster presented at the American Professional Society for Abused Children (APSAC) 25th Annual Colloquium, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Rolock, N., White, K., **Ocasio, K.,** Zhang, L., MacKenzie, M., & Fong, R. (2018, April). *A comparison of foster care reentry after adoption in two large U.S. states*. Poster presented at the 2018 Rudd Adoption Research New Worlds of Adoption Conference and winner of the "Outstanding Poster Presentation Award".
- Ayers, C., **Ocasio, K.,** Fay, K. P., Riley, M., & Kisor, A. (2018, April). *Virginia Children's Services Practice Model Implementation Study*. Workshop presented at the Child Welfare League of America 2018 National Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Ocasio, K.,** White, K. R., Rolock, N., & Fong, R. (2018, January). *Using administrative data to target prevention efforts: A longitudinal examination of outcomes post adoption*. In N. Rolock (Chair), *Using intervention research to improve permanency services for foster children and youth: Initial results from the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation Project*. Symposium presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Shpiegel, S. & **Ocasio, K.** (2015, July). *Patterns of functioning among older youth in foster care: A cluster analysis*. Paper presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Annual Colloquium, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Ocasio, K.** & Van Alst, D. (2015, January). *Risk, resiliency, and protective factors: Influences on foster parent retention*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Hubel, G., Klika, B., Lanier, P. J., Maquire-Jack, K., Geiger, J. M., Neugut, T. B., & **Ocasio, K.** (2013, January). *Making the stakes and stakeholders in child maltreatment visible: A discussion of innovative approaches to prevention research design and methodology*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Diego, California.
- Ocasio, K.** & Morton, C. (2010, October). *Where does the responsibility lie for racial disproportionality in child welfare?* Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting, Portland, Oregon.

- Van Alst, D. & **Ocasio, K.** (2010, October). *Finding the "Field" in social work research*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting, Portland, Oregon.
- Blake, A., Klena, J. C., & **Ocasio, K.** (2010, April). *Using strategic planning and branding to achieve organizational change: Understanding the role of human behavior*. Paper presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Management Institute, New York.
- Ocasio, K.** (2010, January). *An examination of the relationship between public child welfare involvement, motivation for substance abuse treatment, and treatment dropout for mothers of minor children*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, California.
- Ocasio, K.,** Morton, C., & Blake, A. (2009, November). *Disproportionality in child welfare: Examining inequity in a racially diverse state*. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Program Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

## **TECHNICAL AND BRIEF REPORTS**

---

- Ocasio, K.,** Rolock, N., White, K., Cho, Y., Diamant-Wilson, R., MacKenzie, M., Greenfield, B., & Fong, R. (2019). Evaluation results from New Jersey-Final evaluation report. In Rolock, N. & Fong, R. (Eds.). *Supporting adoption and guardianship: Evaluation of the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG)-Final evaluation report*. (pp. 5-1 – 5-73). Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau.
- Ocasio, K.,** Gallese, R. & Kelly, E. (2019). *New Jersey's Pre/Post Adoption Counseling Service (PACS) Practice Guide*. National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption/Guardianship Support and Preservation and the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau.
- Ocasio, K.,** (2019). *PAC practice guide development process: Utilization of the AGREE Clinical Practice Guidelines*. Report prepared for the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption/Guardianship Support and Preservation and the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau.
- Ocasio, K.** (2019). *Virginia Children's Services Practice Model Implementation Study: Outcomes of the Practice Profile Initiative (Report 3)*. Report prepared for the Virginia Department of Social Services. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K. & Van Alst, D.** (2017). *Virginia Children's Services Practice Model Implementation Study: Staff reflections on implementation of the practice profiles (Report 2)*. Report prepared for the Virginia Department of Social Services. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K. & Van Alst, D.** (2017). *Virginia Children's Services Practice Model Implementation Study: Implementation readiness and variation by agency and individual staff characteristics (Report 1)*. Report prepared for the Virginia Department of Social Services. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K.** (2017). *Improving Outcomes for Families and Young Children: Brief report*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families and Casey Family Programs. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K.** (2016). *Improving Outcomes for Families and Young Children: Short- and intermediate outcomes report*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families and Casey Family Programs. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K.** (2016). *Improving Outcomes for Families and Young Children: Focus group results from community partners and CPP caseworkers, supervisors, and leadership engaged in the pilot project*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families and Casey Family Programs. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K.** (2016). *The Protective Factors Framework in child protective service and community-based practice: Implementation of training and impact on practice and collaboration*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families and Casey Family Programs. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.

- Ocasio, K.** & Van Alst, D. (2016). *The New Jersey collaborative adoption recruitment education and support project: Promoting permanent connections and adoption opportunities for New Jersey's longest waiting youth*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families for submission to the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, under Grant #90CO1123.
- Ocasio, K.** & Van Alst, D. (2015). *Batterers Intervention Program: Intervention evaluation*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work, Second Year Report.
- Van Alst, D. & **Ocasio, K.** (2015). *NJ's Family Success Centers: An exploration of service use and outcomes*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K.** & Van Alst, D. (2015). *Resource parent perspectives*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work, Second Year Report.
- Simmel, C., Forenza, B., Kim, S., Phillips, A., Sapiro, B., & **Ocasio, K.** (2015). *Compendium Report on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment of DCF-Involved Youth*. Rutgers University School of Social Work, Office of Child Welfare Research. Report prepared for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Office of Adolescent Services. Trenton, NJ.
- Abramson, D., Van Alst, D., Merdjanoff, A., Piltch-Loeb, R., Beedasy, J., Findley, P., Peek, L., Mordy, M. Moroso, S., **Ocasio, K.**, Park, Y.S., Sury, J., and Tobin-Gurley, J. (2015). *The PEOPLE Report: Sandy Child & Family Health Study (S-CAFH)*. Rutgers University School of Social Work, New York University Global Institute of Public Health, National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University, Colorado State University, Briefing Report 2015\_1.
- Abramson, D., Van Alst, D., Merdjanoff, A., Piltch-Loeb, R., Beedasy, J., Findley, P., Peek, L., Mordy, M. Moroso, S., **Ocasio, K.**, Park, Y.S., Sury, J., and Tobin-Gurley, J. (2015). *The PLACE Report: Sandy Child & Family Health Study (S-CAFH)*. Rutgers University School of Social Work, New York University Global Institute of Public Health, National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University, Colorado State University, Briefing Report 2015\_2.
- Ocasio, K.**, Van Alst, D., Ray, A., Koivunen, J., Pirozzolo, K., & Terry, A. (2015). *Batterers' Intervention Program: Male participant attitudes and service engagement*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work, First Year Report.
- Ocasio, K.**, Van Alst, D., Pirozzolo, K., Terry, A., & Mayo, M. (2014). *Resource parent perspectives*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work, First Year Report.
- New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. (2014). *New Jersey standards for prevention programs: Building success through family support*. Trenton, NJ: Author. White paper prepared by ad-hoc committee; chaired by **K. Ocasio**.
- Ocasio, K.**, Van Alst, D., Koivunen, J., Pirozzolo, K., Terry, A. (2013). *DCP&P domestic violence attitudes and case practice*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work, Baseline Report.
- Ocasio, K.** (2013). *New Jersey's family success centers: Exploring implementation of the "movement"*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Simmel, C., **Ocasio, K.**, Redcay, A., Forenza, B., Murshid, N.S., & Kim, S. (2012). *Reflections on case practice in New Jersey's Division of Youth and Family Services*. Report prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families. Rutgers University School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K.** (2011). *Adolescent services strategic plan: Striving for success in transitions to adulthood: 2011-2014*. Strategic plan prepared for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families, Office of Adolescent Services. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.

- Ocasio, K., Williams, D., Bergacs, K.M., & Johnson, H. (2010).** *Family preservation services: An essential partner in the public child welfare system.* Brief Report. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K., Koivunen, J., Van Alst, D., & Allegra, C. (2010).** *The early childhood mental health promotion and access initiative: A model for addressing and preventing mental health and behavioral problems in young children.* Brief Report. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K., Vizcaino, J., & Bergacs, K.M. (2010).** *Breaking the cycle of low educational achievement in impoverished families and communities: The importance of the family in early childhood education.* Brief Report. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Blake, A., Huang, C.C., Van Alst, D., Koivunen, J.M., Allegra, C., & **Ocasio, K.** (2010). *Cross-site evaluation of the early childhood mental health promotion and access initiative: Final report.* Report prepared for the Health Care Foundation of New Jersey. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K., Koivunen, J., Van Alst, D., & Allegra, C. (2009).** *The early childhood mental health promotion and access initiative: A model for addressing and preventing mental health and behavioral problems in young children: Preliminary Report.* Report prepared for the Health Care Foundation of New Jersey. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K., Staats, A., & Van Alst, D. (2009).** *Keys to achieving resilient transitions: A program to reduce substance use and promote resiliency in youth aging-out of foster care.* Brief Report. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Jou, M.K., Liu, C.W., & **Ocasio, K.** (2009). *The New Jersey Child Support Institute: Promoting self-sufficiency and ensuring economic and medical support for children.* Brief Report. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.
- Ocasio, K. & Morton, C. (2009).** *Disproportionality and disparity in New Jersey's public child welfare system: An examination of inequity in a racially diverse state.* Brief Report. Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work.

#### **PI/CO-PI AND CONSULTING RESEARCH**

---

- 2018 - 2021** **Principal Investigator,** *A Study to Develop the Practice and Evidence-base of the New Jersey Permanency Adoption Counseling (PAC) Service* (\$47,000; 2019)
- 2017 - 2018** **Evaluation Coach/Consultant,** *Sibling Connections Initiative.* Contracted by the Capacity Building Center for States for the New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department. (\$55,000)
- 2016 - 2018** **Principal Investigator,** *The Virginia Children's Services Practice Model Implementation Study.* Funded by Casey Family Programs in partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services. (\$244,000)
- 2016 - 2018** **Principal Investigator,** *The New Jersey Coordination Center for Child Abuse and Neglect Forensic Evaluation and Treatment.* Funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. (Annual grant = \$400,000)
- 2015 - 2019** **Co-Principal Investigator,** *Promoting Adoption and Guardianship Stability in NJ (PAGS-NJ).* Subaward from the Quality Improvement Center for Adoption & Guardianship Support & Preservation under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Grant #90CO1122. (Total base grant = \$400,000 over four years, \$160,000 funds for short-term projects)
- 2016 - 2017** **Principal Investigator,** *Transitions for Former Foster Youth Enrolled in Higher Education* Investigator initiated pilot study.
- 2015 - 2016** **Principal Investigator,** *Training for the New Jersey Standards for Prevention Programs: Building Success Through Family Support.* Funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. (\$75,000)
- 2015 - 2016** **Principal Investigator,** *Improving Outcomes for Families of Infants and Young Children: Integrating Best Practices of Child Protection and Early Childhood.* Funded by Casey Family Programs, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. (\$100,000)

- 2014 - 2015** **Co-Principal Investigator**, *Family Success Center Study*. Funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. (\$15,000)
- 2014 - 2016** **Co- Principal Investigator**, *NJ Collaborative Adoption Recruitment, Education and Support (NJ CARES)*. Subaward from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau, Grant #90CO1123. (Total grant = \$400,000, research portion = \$75,000)
- 2014 - 2015** **Project Coordinator**, *Sandy Child and Family Health Study (S-CAFH)*  
Institute for Families, Rutgers University School of Social Work  
PI: Drs. David Abramson, Donna Van Alst, Patricia Findley, and Lori Peek
- 2013 – 2015** **Co- Principal Investigator**, *Batterers’ Intervention Program (BIP) Evaluation*. Funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. (\$80,000)
- 2013 – 2015** **Co- Principal Investigator**, *New Jersey Resource Family Perspectives*. Funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. (\$100,000)
- 2012 – 2014** **Principal Investigator**, *Engagement in Child Welfare: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect through a Family Resource and Support Program*. Funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (\$25,000) and through the Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-being.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

---

- 2019** West Chester University, Spotlight on Research
- 2015** Dean’s Dissertation Award, School of Social Work, Rutgers University
- 2011 – 2013** Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-being: Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Policy mentor - Dr. Allison Blake, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Children and Families. Academic mentor – Dr. Cassandra Simmel, Rutgers University School of Social Work.
- 2008** Nicholas J. Langenfeld Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award, Fordham University.
- 2008** IRIS Award for Outstanding Annual Report for the Institute for Families 2008 Annual Report. Responsibilities included general concept, content choices, writing, and photography.

## **SERVICE AND COMMITTEES**

---

### **WCU, Graduate Social Work Department**

#### **Administrative Position**

Assessment Coordinator (Fall 2020 – present)

#### **Chairperson**

Curriculum Committee, Co-Chair (Fall 2020 – present)

#### **Lead Instructor**

SWG 534: Advanced Research Methods: Program Evaluation (Fall 2020 – present)

SWG 541: Social Welfare Policies and Services (Fall 2019 – present)

SWG 542: Specialized Social Work Practice with Communities (Fall 2019 – present)

#### **Committee Member**

Admissions Committee (Fall 2020 - present)

Curriculum Committee (Fall 2018 – Spring 2020)

Department Bylaws Revision and Development Committee (Fall 2018 – Spring 2020)

### **WCU, College of Education and Social Work**

#### **Chairperson**

Program and Curriculum Committee, Co-Chair (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)

#### **Committee Member**

Research and Development Committee (Fall 2019 – present)

### **WCU, University Service Activities**

Department representative for APSCUF (Fall 2018 – present)

Alternative Delegate for APSCUF (Fall 2019 – present)  
Proxy for CAPC – General Assembly (Fall 2020 – present)

### **Professional Service**

Founding Member of the Child Well-Being Research Network; member of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Committee (Fall 2019 - present)  
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children: Prevention Committee (Fall 2018 - present)  
Chair: Ad hoc Workgroup, Prevention Committee of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect; charged with revising the Standards for Prevention Programs (Fall 2012 – Spring 2014)  
Strategic Partnerships Subcommittee and Public Policy Subcommittee, Positioning Public Child Welfare Guidance: Strengthening Families in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Fall 2008 – Spring 2009)  
Prevention Subcommittee, New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (Fall 2001 – Spring 2004)

### **Reviewer – Journals, Conferences, and Grants**

FY 2021 Family Self-Sufficiency Demonstration Development Grants, HHS-2021-ACF-OPRE-PE-1944, for the Office of Planning Research and Evaluation Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Summer 2021)  
2021 Biennial Meeting for the Society for Social Work and Research (Fall 2020)  
2021 Annual Conference for the Society for Social Work and Research (Spring 2020)  
2020 SRCD (Society for Research in Child Development) Special Topics Workshop: The State of Research on Prevention of Child Maltreatment: Current Knowledge and Future Directions to Inform Policy and Practice (Spring 2020)  
2011 SRCD (Society for Research in Child Development) Biennial Meeting (Spring 2011)  
Ad-hoc Abstract Reviews for: Journal of Public Child Welfare; International Social Work; Children and Youth Services Review (Fall 2015 – present)

### **Prior University Service**

Rutgers University, School of Social Work: Assessment Committee (Fall 2017 – Spring 2019)  
Grants Committee at the Institute for Families, Chair (Fall 2015 – Spring 2016)  
Student Representative - Rutgers University, School of Social Work: Doctoral Program Executive Committee (Fall 2009 – Spring 2010)

### **POLICY, PLANNING, AND DIRECT SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

---

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>2008 - 2015</b> | <b>Research Assistant and Project Coordinator</b><br>Institute for Families, Rutgers University School of Social Work<br>Conducted strategic planning, program development, and program evaluation in partnership with numerous public and private agencies, including the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. |
| <b>2007</b>        | <b>Resource Development Specialist</b><br>New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, Morris County Local Offices<br>Provided resource/contract service linkages and consultation to over 100 CPS staff and educated the community regarding child abuse and neglect reporting.  |
| <b>2004 – 2006</b> | <b>Family Services Specialist I (Permanency Caseworker and Investigator)</b><br>New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, Morris County Local Offices<br>Provided direct services to families involved with CPS, including participation in Family Drug Court pilot project.   |
| <b>2004</b>        | <b>Director, Community Education and Public Policy</b><br>Family Promise, Summit, NJ<br>Developed public policy platform for national, volunteer-based organization.   |

- 2001 – 2004**      **Lobbyist and Policy Analyst**  
Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Newark, NJ  
Managed two “Campaign for Kids” initiatives and Annie E. Casey School Readiness Indicators Initiative, provided written and oral testimony on proposed legislation, analyzed state policies related to early care and education and child abuse and neglect prevention.
- 2000 – 2001**      **Program Specialist**  
Prevent Child Abuse - New Jersey, Newark, NJ  
Provided training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers (PAT) sites throughout New Jersey, served as State Coordinator for PAT National, and expanded PAT from 15 sites to all “Abbott” contracted childcare centers.
- 1997 – 2000**      **Parent Educator**  
Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey, Newark, NJ  
Provided direct services to 30+ teen parents per year, through the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, worked with the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative in Newark to address the needs of fathers in the PAT program and provide expertise to other fatherhood programs in the city, and provided direct services to adult parents through the EPIC (Every Person Influences Children) program, conducting six-week series group meetings at Newark elementary schools. Maintained a PAT certification for five years.