PENNSYLVANIA

CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 37

April 13, 2015

An OCYF-County Partnership

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

The Program Monitoring efforts for calendar year 2014 include four numbers worth considering:

- 6054 Family Engagement Meetings Completed
- 4602 FAST Assessments Completed
- 2490 CANS Assessments Completed
- 2016 ASQ Assessments Completed

While there is plenty of room to improve in these areas, the lives of the children and families touched by these efforts should not be overlooked. Efforts made to engage families and conduct excellent assessments are leading to county specific EBP referrals.

The Department, county staff, and all of our involved partners are now committed to refining business practices that will optimize improvements in our project activities and lead to better outcomes for children and their families. We have come a long way, we have a long way to go – but let's not forget to celebrate successes.



STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

A CWDP Steering Committee meeting was held on March 31, 2015. The committee thoroughly reviewed recent feedback from ACF of our Semi-Annual Report submitted in January. It was agreed that the types of questions/comments received were indicative of the report being thorough and a content match for federal expectations. The group discussed responses and is planning on having a phone call with ACF in the near future. The group also received an update from the Implementation Workgroup, as Fran Gutterman, Casey Family Program, provided details of upcoming training events for the CANS, and a Referral Pathways convening scheduled for May. Gloria Gilligan, OCYF, discussed current fiscal monitoring efforts and how they related to the completion of our federal claiming form. The Steering Committee agreed that a combined Fiscal Workgroup/Executive Committee was needed to further this discussion.

If you have issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Steering Committee, please contact your county representative:

Kirsten Johnson	Dauphin
Lindsay and Diane Weckerley	Venango
Stacey Hirsch, Susan Kinnevy, Jonah DeChants, and Chanell	Philadelphia
Hanns	
Marc Cherna and Shannon Fairchild	Allegheny
Bill and Kerry Browning	Lackawanna
Mark Weindorf	Crawford

TITLE IV-E WAIVER WEBINAR OPPORTUNITY - FROM KIRSTEN KEENE, JBA

We are writing to invite you to participate in a webinar on the topic of well-being on April 28, 2015, at 2:00 PM eastern time.

Through earlier outreach and a recent survey that sought input on peer learning opportunities for current title IV-E waiver jurisdictions, the definition and measurement of well-being was identified as a topic of interest for further peer discussion and learning. The upcoming webinar will be a facilitated discussion focused on questions and topics posed previously by the waiver jurisdictions, including:

- How are jurisdictions defining well-being and implementing well-being components under their waiver demonstrations? (e.g., getting buy-in from workers who must already complete numerous assessment instruments or believe that maintaining safety should be the primary focus of their time, determining what aspects of well-being should be measured, etc.)
- What tools are jurisdictions using to measure well-being? (e.g., their selection and use as both assessment and evaluation tools, sensitivity to change over time for measuring improvement, lessons learned, etc.)
- How do we incorporate well-being assessments into waiver demonstrations that focus on providing front-end services?
- How can we measure well-being after a child welfare case closes and/or if private providers are providing the interventions and administering well-being assessments?
- What well-being outcomes are we seeing or expecting to see?

To ensure that this is a meaningful and participant-driven discussion we ask that you be willing to share your experiences associated with any of the questions listed above, or on related aspects of your jurisdiction's current work around well-being. Information on joining the webinar is provided below.

In addition to well-being, we are also planning peer learning events in the near future around Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), Cost Analysis, and Propensity Score Matching (PSM). Additional information regarding peer learning activities associated with these topics is forthcoming. We look forward to an engaging conversation with you on the subject of well-being on April 28th!

URL Link to Join the Well-Being Webinar:

https://jbassoc.webex.com/jbassoc/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb97ecc0a892e93d1d579a78631e5a507

IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP STATUS REPORT – FRAN GUTTERMAN, CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS

A core issue that was identified at the recent PA CWDP convening was how to better identify (or map) the appropriate service interventions to the strengths and needs identified in the CANS/FAST assessment. The Implementation Workgroup has identified a subgroup that will be working on this issue. On May 7th, they will be meeting with Dan Warner from Community Data Roundtable to discuss a tool he has developed that matches the appropriate evidence based interventions to the strength and needs identified in the CANS/FAST assessment. The workgroup will also be looking at developing logic models for the EBPs to help workers better understand the underlying logic of how these EBPs will address the safety, permanency, and well-being needs of children and families

Registration materials were sent out to the counties for the May 20-21, 2015 CANS Training of Trainers to be held at the Child Welfare Resource Center in Mechanicsburg. There is a registration deadline of April 17, 2015. Robin Orlando (Allegheny County) will be the primary training and will be sending out pre-work to the participants prior to the training.

UPCOMING PROJECT DUE DATES

April 15, 2015 Crawford County IDIR – Component 3
April 30, 2015 January – March Program Monitoring Report
August/2015 Next Semi-Annual Progress Report

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

May 20-21, 2015 CANS Training of Trainers – CWRC
July 16-17, 2015 CANS Training of Trainers - Pittsburgh
TBD Fiscal Workgroup/Executive Committee Meeting

• TBD ACF Phone Call

Communication – we need articles: This newsletter is one mechanism utilized to report out on key accomplishments and communicate upcoming tasks and due dates. If anyone has information to include for future editions, please email Bill at wshutt@pcgus.com or one of our county newsletter representatives:

Lackawanna – Kerry Browning Allegheny – Robin Orlando Philadelphia – Susan Kinnevy Dauphin – Kirsten Johnson Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel Crawford – Kelly Schwab

Our newsletter is a much more dynamic and useful newsletter when we get county contributions articles for May now being accepted!