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Call for 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 e-mail Katie Bright (kbright@pcgus.com) or one of our county newsletter

representatives:

- **Allegheny:**
Robin Orlando
- **Crawford:**
Kelly Schwab
- **Dauphin:**
Rick Vukmanic
- **Lackawanna:**
Kerry Browning
- **Philadelphia:**
Stacey Hirsch
- **Venango:**
Amie Wood-Wessel

Please send PCG representative Erin Palmer any county updates or changes in position/title and contact information for the various workgroups via e-mail: epalmer@pcgus.com

Important Dates:

- PA Convening: 5/5-5/6 2016
- Program monitoring reports for January-March are due to PCG by 5/9/16

Evaluation Update from the CWRC: Data collection for the EBP sub-study and Family Engagement sub-study remains underway and ongoing. The Evaluation Team continues to provide support by reaching out to counties as needed to deliver technical assistance in collecting and submitting data. If you have any questions about the EBP data collection process, please contact our EBP Evaluation Coordinator, Jenna Meister (jem275@pitt.edu). For questions regarding family engagement data collection, please contact our Evaluation Specialist, Alexis Pigott (alp159@pitt.edu).

The EBP focus groups activity with county caseworkers and supervisors is coming to a close. These focus groups will assist in providing insight into the understanding and completion of the EBP referral process at the county level. A big thank you goes out to those counties that have already completed this activity. Thank you!

Additional evaluation activities include the SPANS as well as the family engagement conference observations. These activities continue to occur on a rolling basis in addition to other evaluation activities that only occur once per year. If you have any questions regarding the evaluation activities please contact Evaluation Coordinator, Justin Donofrio (jdd63@pitt.edu).

As noted last month, the Interim Evaluation Report has been sent to the CWDP Executive Team. The Evaluation Team intends to provide a brief overview of the report findings at the PA Convening in May (convening dates are May 5th and May 6th). In the meantime, if you have questions regarding this report, please reach out to the Evaluation Team.

PA Convening Update, Planning Session: A planning session was held on Tuesday, April 12th for the upcoming convening and was followed by focus area-specific calls with the presenters. The call included representation from all six participant counties, the CWRC, OCYF, and PCG, and was led by Fran Gutterman (Casey). The agenda, was presented and to be discussed, with changes to be made as needed.

Interest in communications, expressed during a portion of the call led by Patti-Jo Burnett, indicated the need for a breakout session. There is a focus on how to involve stakeholders in the development of basic communications pieces to create a shared sense of ownership in goals and outcomes. Patti-Jo has some thoughts on how to think of stakeholders differently within the waiver than in child welfare in general that could be of use in Pennsylvania. Internal messaging is also to be discussed in the convening, as there is a need to ensure a consistent understanding of goals and tactics used in pursuit of those goals. Branding is still a topic of interest among the counties to create a more impactful message. Not all participant counties have communications or public relations resources available to the child welfare agencies for this purpose, so the convening will provide an opportunity for counties to come together with Casey communications staff who are familiar with this in a waiver context. There is an interest in creating a common brand for Pennsylvania that would reflect a unified image but which could be modified at the county level to ensure that it resonates in a county-specific way where needed; speaking with a unified voice is preferred when responding to media requests.

Robin Orlando asked which areas might be most beneficial surrounding CANS/FAST. She has some ideas related to staff understanding the assessment and why they do it; understanding how to engage in a trauma-informed conversations; and discussing practical applications of and approaches to CANS/FAST in planning and supervision. Also mentioned were SPANS, the feedback sheets Allegheny has used, and tip sheets.

Gloria noted that fiscal session preparation will tie in nicely with the evaluation discussion. The evaluation team intends to discuss key findings of the evaluation report and use the county sessions to discuss county-specific questions. If anyone has additional suggestions/ideas, please contact Fran (fgutterman@case.org).