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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 Sandy Shedlock at sshedlock@pcgus.com or one of our county newsletter representatives:

- Allegheny:
Robin Orlando
- Crawford:
Kelly Schwab
- Dauphin:
Rick Vukmanic
- Lackawanna:
Kerry Browning
- Philadelphia:
Kim Ali
- Venango:
Bethany Cloonan

Please contact epalmer@pcgus.com with any contact updates.

Evaluation Updates from the CWRC

Robert Frost in his poem "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening", wrote:

*But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

The message for April is that we all have some miles to go before and promises to keep before we end the waiver evaluation, and your help is needed. Specifically, the following activities are occurring and we need you to look for our e-mails and to respond promptly.

DATA CALLS WITH CHAPIN HALL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH. It's the time of the year that we review your administrative data files with you. Linda Connors sent an e-mail on April 3rd, and asked for a quick response in scheduling a date/time. If you are reading this and have not responded to schedule at time, please e-mail mar104@pitt.edu.

WE ARE PREPARING FOR THE FINAL REPORT and we will be in contact with counties with letters about what remaining data is needed. Again, your prompt response is needed.

WE WILL BE SCHEDULING PHONE INTERVIEWS WITH LEADERSHIP about sustainability. Please help us by responding when we contact you to schedule the interview.

Thank you again

In March, the evaluation team presented a poster at the University of South Florida Conference on the "Factors related to short-term outcomes of family engagement meetings in child welfare: Returning home, preventing a move and restriction of the living environment." The purpose was to explore which child, family, and conference-level factors contribute to the immediate impact of family engagement conferences on child placement. Utilizing data from Pennsylvania's Title IV-E Waiver project, three regression models were run for the following child outcomes: returning home, preventing a move to an out-of-home paid (OOH) placement, and moving to a less restrictive placement. Results indicated that child age and legal status were consistently predictive for all three outcomes.

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Results indicated that child age and legal status were consistently predictive for all three outcomes. Additionally, the size of an informal support network at the conference and prior level of placement restrictiveness were associated with some outcomes. The findings are that:

- Age and legal involvement with the courts (parents or juveniles) were the most consistent predictors for the three placement outcomes:
 - Involving and collaborating with legal partners is critical in preparing for conferences and in the facilitation of the conference;
 - Age is a factor, at both the very young age and adolescent. When age and court orders prohibit return or staying in the home, then the family conference could focus how everyone will work to keep parent/child bonds and connections with extended family strong during this out-of-home process;
- Coordination Practices should emphasize helping parents identify, locate and prepare family and friend supports for the conference;
- The level of restriction in the child's pre-conference living environment is a predictor of the level of restriction after conferencing. Assessment of what rules and structures are needed to keep children safe early in the trajectory of child welfare involvement may be important.

Annual Child Welfare Waiver Meeting

The 20th Annual Child Welfare Waiver Meeting is to be held July 16-17, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

Please note that this year's meeting will feature plenary sessions and tracks related to Program and Evaluation only.

As a reminder, there are often a limited number of slots for attendance, so if each county can submit one county representative to attend the conference by Friday, April 20, 2018 it would be appreciated.

More to Come!

- Details for the Executive Committee Meeting will be sent out soon.
- Semi-Annual Progress Reporting templates will be sent out soon.

Important Dates: Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- April
 - The deadline for submitting program monitoring forms for January-March 2018 was April 15th. If you have not already done so, please submit these forms to sshedlock@pcgus.com.
 - April 20th: Deadline for each county to submit their one representative for the Annual Child Welfare Waiver Meeting in Washington, DC. If you are unsure of whether or not your county has submitted its one representative, please contact Sandy Shedlock (sshedlock@pcgus.com).
 - April 25th-27th: Title IV-E Waiver Implementation and Sustainability Convening to be held in Chicago, IL.
- June
 - Executive Committee Meeting: Additional details to come!
- July
 - July 16th-17th: Annual Child Welfare Waiver Meeting to be held in Washington, DC.
 - Quarterly program monitoring and semi-annual reporting will be due.