

PENNSYLVANIA CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 21 December 10, 2013

An OCYF-County Partnership

HOLIDAY WISHES

With the exception of planning for our recent Shared Learning Collaborative, November was not the usual high meeting month for the project and contained no Federal deadlines. Starting in December, we have fiscal deadlines for Accounting of Investments, January has a Progress Report, and then we move into IDIR Component 3. For counties, implementation is always front and center! Take at least a little time over the holidays to reflect on what we have accomplished, the positive direction we are moving in, and the exciting challenges ahead!



Go Pitt!

EVALUATION UPDATE

The Organizational Readiness for Change Survey (ORC) has wrapped up in Dauphin County; in addition to Allegheny County, Lackawanna County, and Venango County completing the survey last month. The overall response rate for all participating counties was 63%. ORC Survey summaries were provided to each participating county, and in addition, the respective county data files will be supplied as well. Thank you to all of those individuals who participated for the valuable information that you shared!

While approaching the selection of evidence-based practices for the second phase of the Demonstration Project, data reports regarding the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® were provided to Demonstration Project counties. These reports were focused around children in the child welfare system under the age of five years old. Particularly, attention was brought to the number of these children with early developmental or social-emotional screening concerns across the Commonwealth, as well as within the respective Demonstration Project counties.

The Evaluation Team has begun the next phase of data collection for the process evaluation. Thus far, focus groups and document reviews have been scheduled for two of the Demonstration Project counties. The Evaluation Team is working to schedule dates with the other remaining counties after the beginning of the New Year. These data collecting processes focus in on the awareness and insight of stakeholders, regarding readiness to implement. The fiscal evaluation is continuing with the review of the first quarter's fiscal data, and the outcome evaluation is underway with most of the counties having signed the data sharing agreement with Chapin Hall.

Lastly, the Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2013 has been cancelled, and it is intended to be rescheduled for a new date in January. If anyone has additional questions regarding this meeting and/or it's rescheduling, please contact Alexis Pigott (alp159@pitt.edu).

DECEMBER 5-6: PENNSYLVANIA CASEY SHARED LEARNING COLLABORATIVE (ARTICLE BY KERRY BROWNING)

A big thanks to Fran Gutterman and Casey Family Programs for the convening on December 5-6 in Mechanicsburg. After introductions by Fran and Cathy Utz, Allison Metz set the stage for the next two days of information sharing. She spoke about Implementation Science and the importance of careful assessment and selection of Evidence Based Models (EBM). She discussed the Hexagon Model and she gave us some questions to think about as a group as we prepared to hear presentations about three models.



All of the presentations gave great detail as to how the model worked and used practical child welfare examples to illustrate the intervention. The presentation on Child-Parent Psychotherapy focused on trauma and really stressed the importance of reflective supervision due to the very difficult nature of the work. The Triple P presenters were able to highlight how their model might fit into a continuum with other EBM's and gave examples of how that might look. By the last presentation the participants already had questions formulated regarding PCIT based on discussions of the previous models. The presenters were able to quickly change their approach to be sure the participants' questions were answered.

Nadia Sexton's presentation on Maximizing Funding Streams was extremely beneficial in helping participants think about new approaches to funding and how important inclusion of stakeholders is to this process.

The lively panel from New York City walked us through their process of choosing EBM's which have led to a drastic decrease in out of home placements in the city. The Associate Commissioner spoke about the procurement process and how important the language in the RFP is. They all spoke about how important collaboration is in the beginning of the process with the county, providers and the managed care organization when looking for a model and the readiness of an entity to deliver the model. There was also a presentation on SafeCare, an EBM that is not based in mental health which is an important consideration for the project.

The five counties certainly took in a lot of information in our two days together. This led to many more questions and an agreement that we would meet together again in January to hear from some more Evidence Based Models.

FISCAL UPDATE

County fiscal staff recently received a template needed to complete the annual Accounting of Investments form. This form is due to ACF by December 31st of each year. The template is due by December 20, 2013 – please contact Bill if you have any questions about this template.

The Fiscal Workgroup reviewed the draft Evaluation Cost Claiming Form and Instructions. The finalized form and instructions will be mailed in the next two weeks. A Fiscal Workgroup meeting is being planned – stay tuned.

Please submit any fiscal related questions to the resource account.

WE NEED A NAME! - STILL

The first step in our branding efforts is the establishment of a name to replace our current use of the Child Welfare Demonstration Project. While we "technically" will always be the Child Welfare Demonstration Project (no need to redo every piece of paper and policy in our respective offices), it is unanimously agreed that we need a project name that is easy to remember and reflects the efforts underway in our counties to implement the exciting changes in our child welfare operations. We are asking each participating county to reach out to their staff and stakeholders in an effort to tap the creativity of our system and come up with options. All ideas should be submitted to Bill by **January 1, 2014**. There is

still time to get the creative juices flowing! So far we have received “Keystone Families” and “Paving Roads to Success – A GPS for Well-Being.” Please see the newest submission below:

REACH PA

Pennsylvania will **REACH** new levels of collaborative, integrated child welfare practice.

By **R**einvesting Title IV-E money to properly **E**ngage families and thoroughly **A**ssess their needs we can **C**onnect them to appropriate services so that children can remain safely in their **H**omes.

Submitted by: Rachel Winters, University of Pittsburgh

IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP UPDATE

The monitoring template will be sent to the Implementation Workgroup in the next two weeks. Counties will be contacted soon about the Semi-Annual Progress Report to see if there are any questions or needed support to accomplish this task.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – DUE DATE TRACKING

Post Implementation:

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|---------------------|--|
| • December 31, 2013 | Accounting of Investments form to ACF (county templates due 12/20) |
| • January 31, 2014 | Semi-Annual Progress Report (county drafts due 1/15 at the latest) |
| • March 31, 2014 | Revised IDIR Submission to ACF (county drafts due by 3/1) |

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • January 7, 2014 | Implementation Workgroup |
| • January 13, 2014 | Executive Committee |

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 (elves for the holidays):

Lackawanna – Kerry Browning

Allegheny – Robin Orlando

Philadelphia – Brian Clapier

Dauphin – Kiersten Johnson

Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel

