

CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 33

December 8, 2014

An OCYF-County Partnership

HOLIDAY MUSINGS

As I dangled off my ladder stringing up icicle lights on the roof one more year (I promised myself last year was it for my high-wire act but I was told I was wrong), I realized that most things worth doing have a degree of difficulty. I trusted in my ladder, my sense of balance, and years of experience to achieve a beautiful holiday scene. Tools, skills, experience, and faith in the value of the end product – the same qualities that our participating counties used to enter into this project. As we approach 2015 we have gained valuable experience in engagement and assessment and will be moving forward with our chosen interventions. From our smallest participants challenged with rural operations to the large scaling-up issues of our cities, nothing is easy. But, we have the tools, talent, and committed individuals to make this year our most successful year yet. We have come too far to fall off the ladder now! Happy holidays to all – thanks for your hard work in 2014.

EVALUATION UPDATE

The Evidence-Based Practice Questionnaire (EBPQ) pilot in Venango County has officially been completed and has ended. A big “Thank You!” goes out to all of those in Venango County that assisted the evaluation by participating in this online pilot. The Evaluation Team will make any necessary adjustments before deploying the EBPQ in the remaining Cohort One counties in January 2015. Keep in mind that the EBPQ helps to determine referral behavior as it pertains to PCIT and Triple P, and the numbers that are referred to these EBP’s. The remaining counties can expect to hear from the Evaluation Team with more info, and with a request to gather staff’s contact information regarding the deployment of this questionnaire.

Concurrently, as Cohort One counties are preparing to fully implement PCIT and Triple P, the Evaluation Team continues to speak with county providers to review measures and field questions pertaining to the EBP process. The Evaluation Team will continue these county provider conversations throughout the month of December.

Upon the New Year, the Evaluation Team will also begin working on the SPANS process in each of the Cohort One counties. The SPANS process assesses the level of fidelity in the CANS and FAST records that are completed within counties. The Evaluation Team plans to send information on the SPANS process very soon, outlining the details of this activity. Keep an eye out for this info!

Finally, Cohort Two continues to participate in the ORC survey, with a closing date of December 12, 2014. The Evaluation Team is still receiving responses, keeping

Cohort Two consistent with Cohort One response rates at this point in the life of the survey. One more email reminder is scheduled to be sent to those folks that have not yet completed the survey to ensure generalizable county results. In addition to the ORC survey, Cohort Two and the Evaluation Team will coordinate caseworker and supervisor focus groups to take place after the New Year (January – February / 2015).

CHILDREN'S BUREAU UPDATE (From Bethany Miller - ACF)

As you may be aware, the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) are engaged in an ongoing partnership to address complex, interpersonal trauma and improve social-emotional health among children known to child welfare systems. ACF is now collecting data in support of this effort, and it is expected that waiver demonstrations will be a key source of information that will be provided, as applicable to your demonstration, in your semi-annual reports.

We have revised the waiver demonstration semi-annual report template to enable collection of data on the use of trauma-focused screening, assessments, and evidence-based interventions (EBIs) for your use beginning with your next semi-annual report to the extent that you are able (i.e., to the extent that the data is available). For your next semi-annual report, data should be included beginning today through the end of the reporting period.

EDITOR NOTE: Revised county templates were sent out on November 28, 2014.

FISCAL WORKGROUP UPDATE

The Fiscal Workgroup had a phone meeting on November 10, 2014. During this call the status of current county invoices were discussed as well as preliminary plans for capped allocation spending for the upcoming year. Other issues discussed included the following:

- Title IV-D reporting requirements and the impact on county capped allocations. Participants were later sent information on the CB-496 federal invoicing forms and further clarification on Title IV-D. Revisions to the Act 148 invoicing package were also sent to all counties.
- Clarification from ACF was reviewed that documented the allowability of using demonstration project savings to pay for unallowable settings (as specified in the follow-up written materials). It was emphasized that this did not impact any requirements that youth must be involved in the child welfare system and that all expenses must be IV-B/IV-E allowable.
- Procedures were also discussed pertaining to how county children and youth agencies are to document using their JPO allocations when available for non-JPO expenses.

Any questions should be sent to the Child Welfare Demonstration Project resource account.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Executive Committee had a conference call on November 24, 2014. The group agreed on the benefits of holding a Pennsylvania Demonstration Project Casey Convening in February/2015. The convening will include several concurrent tracks to engage administrative, program and fiscal staff attendees. Volunteers were solicited for a planning committee for this event – an initial phone meeting will be scheduled soon.

The University of Pittsburgh reviewed a report pertaining to data submissions for Family Engagement and Assessment activities. Evaluation staff will continue to reach out to any counties experiencing any data related issues.

The group also discussed our current demonstration project committee structure. While our current structure of Executive, Implementation, and Fiscal groups have served us well in the planning and early implementation stages, it was suggested that the use of a Demonstration Project Steering Committee may be a natural evolution to guide us into the future. This type of model has been beneficial in other OCYF projects that are complex in nature. The role of the Demonstration Project Steering Committee would be to meet regularly and determine the meetings and agendas necessary to meet the identified needs of the project. While it may not replace the need to have additional committees, it will help focus on the critical issues, configuration of stakeholders needed to address those issues, and establish clear agendas that make the best use of everyone's time and efforts. We anticipate that the Steering Committee will result in focused, result-oriented meetings as we move forward with the project. Counties should submit their Steering Committee participants to wshutt@pcgus.com immediately. An initial Demonstration Project Steering Committee will be scheduled soon to kick off this structural adjustment.

UPCOMING PROJECT DUE DATES

Post Implementation:

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| • January 31, 2014 | Semi-Annual Progress Report (county templates 1/15) |
| • January 31, 2014 | Program Monitoring Form |

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

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| • January 3, 2015 | Implementation Workgroup |
| • TBD | Demonstration Project Steering Committee |
| • February/2015 – TBD | Pennsylvania Demonstration Project Casey Convening |

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 – Open

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 – make it a New Year's resolution to submit an article in January and the upcoming months!