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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

Evaluation Update

The EBP data collection process remains underway in each of the Demonstration Project counties. The Evaluation Team continues to provide support by connecting with providers and county liaisons on a regular basis to troubleshoot and address challenges. If you have any questions regarding the EBP data collection, please contact our EBP Evaluation Coordinator, Jenna Meister (jem275@pitt.edu).

The SPANS evaluation activity remains current and continues in each county. The Evaluation Team would like to thank all of the Demonstration Project counties for their continuous efforts in helping to schedule and complete the SPANS evaluation activity on an ongoing basis. Additionally, the second round of document reviews for Cohort One counties is wrapping up and we are expecting to have each county's materials by the end of December for review. Lastly, family engagement conference observations will continue to be coordinated and scheduled throughout 2016. Please continue to look for our email or phone call to arrange these observations.

As we head into the holiday, please keep in mind that we will begin coordinating EBP focus groups for county staff at the beginning of the New Year. These focus groups will help us gather data regarding the implementation of EBPs. Additional information regarding this evaluation activity will be sent out near the end of the month. If you have any questions regarding any the mentioned evaluation activities please contact Evaluation Coordinator, Justin Donofrio (jdd63@pitt.edu).

A Family Engagement Study Overview (PowerPoint) has been added to our website as a resource for counties. This resource can be used by new staff or as a useful guide for existing staff in the counties who work on family engagement efforts. This Family Engagement Study Overview is intended to help Demonstration Project Counties:

- Establish an understanding of the Child Welfare Demonstration Project and the Family Engagement Study (FES) component of the project
- Learn how to accurately complete all Family Engagement Forms to ensure they are included in the FES
- Establish a clear process for review and submission of forms

This resource is available at:

<http://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/ChildWelfareDemoProject.htm>.

Finally, the Evaluation Team is working hard to meet the tight deadlines on the Interim report, which is due January 2016. We have appreciated all of your quick responses and assistance throughout this process. Thank you!

Executive Committee Update

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is being rescheduled to early in the new year. If your agency was able to attend the Casey Convening and you are participating in the Executive Committee, please plan on a discussion of that event at the upcoming committee meeting.

Upcoming Project Due Dates

- **December 31, 2015**
 - Annual Accounting of Investments
- **January 31, 2016**
 - Semi-annual reporting
- **January 31, 2016**
 - Program Monitoring report

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Executive Committee: **January TBD**
- Implementation Workgroup: **January TBD**

EBP Implementation: Following Up on Last Month's *Reflections*

In the last issue, Jenna Meister's article discussed EBP implementation. While the focus was PCIT, several points on overcoming barriers to implementation could be applied to other EBPs as well. We would like to hear participant counties' thoughts on EBP implementation and share any responses in future newsletters. This could foster some interesting discussions and allow counties to benefit from each other's experiences. As the Demonstration Project progresses,

- *What is happening in your county to move EBP implementation forward?*
- *What barriers are you experiencing, and what efforts are underway to overcome barriers?*
- *Are there EBP "champions" in your county?*
- *What opportunities for teaming with managed care and providers exist in your county?*
- *What ideas and plans are taking shape as next steps?*

Please e-mail any comments on your experiences, plans, opportunities, successes, and barriers to epalmer@pcgus.com.

EBP Logic Model

No updates at this time

Casey Waiver Convening

The Casey Waiver Convening was held in Seattle, Washington on November 18th and 19th. There were over 40 counties in attendance representing seven jurisdictions, including California, Colorado, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. PA had five counties and twenty two participants attend. Unfortunately, OCYF was unable to attend because of the status of the budget. Participants had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions on a wide range of topics, including implementing evidence based interventions, data (in which counties received their own specific county data to measure progress on key outcomes), fiscal considerations, evaluation, engaging the courts, communications., and measuring well-being. There were lots of networking opportunities to learn about the work of other jurisdictions. There was also a strong turnout from the state representatives who learned from one another as to how they are supporting their respective counties in implementing their waiver interventions. Counties also had targeted team time to reflect on what they learned from the break-out sessions and to discuss the types of supports that would be helpful to them in 2016.

County-Specific Fiscal Discussions

In late November and early December, each of the CWDP participant counties had a session with Gloria Gilligan and Melanie Retherford (OCYF) to review their data. The discussions centered largely on updates to the Act 148 workbook (Title IV-E CWDP Summary), a CWDP RMTS Admin tool, and a revised version of the ITG Invoice. If you have any follow-up questions regarding your specific county's items, please reach out to Gloria Gilligan (ggilligan@pa.gov).