

CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 23 February 12, 2014

An OCYF-County Partnership

ANOTHER MILESTONE

On January 30, 2014 the Commonwealth submitted our first Semi-Annual Progress Report to ACF. This was a tremendous collaboration between all of our demonstration project counties, evaluation team, and state staff. The document was actually 7 different documents (5 county, 1 evaluator, and 1 state document) that were all tied together by the unifying scope of family engagement and assessment as critical to the success of the CWDP and most importantly to the children and families in the Commonwealth. Next up – IDIR Component 3!

EVALUATION UPDATE

The Evaluation Team continues with the process evaluation; conducting supervisor and caseworker focus groups throughout the Demonstration Project counties. Thus far, focus groups have either been completed, or are scheduled for completion soon. In addition, document reviews are scheduled to accompany the worker focus groups. All worker focus groups and document reviews will be completed by the end of March, and looking ahead, family and youth focus groups are planned to be scheduled between the months of March and May.

The ORC Survey has been implemented for CUA staff in Philadelphia County. The survey will wrap up near the end of February. Any questions regarding the ORC Survey can be directed to the Evaluation Coordinator, Justin Donofrio (jdd63@pitt.edu). Additionally, data collection for the outcome evaluation is underway with all of the counties having signed the data sharing agreement with Chapin Hall.

Finally, the next Evaluation Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 21st. A doodle poll has been sent out to confirm the attendance of participants, and an agenda will be delivered one week prior to this meeting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Evaluation Subcommittee meeting, please contact the Evaluation Specialist, Alexis Pigott (alp159@pitt.edu).

THE 2ND CASEY SHARED LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

A big thanks to Fran Gutterman and Casey Family Programs for arranging for another day of learning and EBP exploration.



The event was held on January 27, 2014. Please see the article on the next page for a description of the event (from one of the demonstration project county's perspective). This was our last shared learning collaborative on the topic of EBP exploration – by the next newsletter edition we should be ready to announce the selected



CASEY SHARED LEARNING COLLABORATIVE – A LACKAWANNA COUNTY PERSPECTIVE (SUBMITTED BY KERRY BROWNING)

Lackawanna County attended day two of the Evidence Based Practices Open House on January 27th sponsored by Casey Family programs. We heard a presentation by Diane DePanfilis on Family Connections. It was interesting to see how this intervention mirrored casework practice in our county. The in home intervention translates the outcome of the assessment to be the driver of the family plan. Participants at our table discussed how the county could blend our traditional caseworker training with this model.

Joanne Penman presented Multisystemic Therapy-Child Abuse and Neglect. While many of us are familiar with MST this was the first time we heard a presentation on the Child Abuse and Neglect Module. It will be very interesting to watch this practice grow beyond the NYC 8 team project and have additional data to analyze.

Finally, we heard a presentation on Brief Strategic Family Therapy. Joan Muir gave a very lively presentation on some of the techniques used in this intervention and explained the importance of understanding adolescent symptoms within the context they occur. We had some discussion surrounding our juvenile population facing drug and alcohol problems.

We were very pleased to have the opportunity to listen to presentations for our older youth as we need to consider interventions best suited to meet their needs as well. Fran continues to be a huge support for Lackawanna County. She arranged our conference call with Allison Metz on February 5th and has agreed to reach out to CAMBA SafeCare for more information. Lackawanna County is very interested in this model and had not really considered an intervention of this kind when we began this phase of the Demonstration Project. The three days spent with our team discussing Evidence Based Practices were very productive and provided even more opportunity to collaborate and strengthen our commitment to the Project.

FISCAL UPDATE

On January 28, 2014 the OCYF fiscal staff participated in an ACF webinar entitled “Revised Financial Reporting Form CB-496. ACF staff walked state participants through the process of federal claiming, including states participating in the waiver using a special section of the form.

Fiscal staff are reminded to contact the resource account with any waiver related questions.

IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP UPDATE

The Implementation Workgroup met on January 14, 2014 with the primary agenda item being the program monitoring form. Counties will be completing this form for the January – March quarter. The group discussed other key items such as their progress report submissions and the current status of implementation efforts.

Implementation Workgroup members are busy now preparing their IDIR Component Three template. County staff were reminded to contact their assigned support person if they have any questions or issues in completing this document or any other questions pertaining to implementation.

DAUPHIN COUNTY – ZIP CODE ANALYSIS (SUBMITTED BY KIRSTEN JOHNSON)

Dauphin County categorical agencies partnered with the Martin Luther King Baptist Church in a community based forum held on Friday February 7, 2014. The forum was held at the King Center in Allison Hill, a geographic catchment area determined to be a target population by Dauphin County Children and Youth in conjunction with the Child Welfare Demonstration Project. In review of organizational data, it was learned that a majority of referrals and children being placed in out of home care are coming from two adjacent zip codes within the city; 17103 and 17104. This forum was an effort to gather more data and understanding of the community factors contributing to the disproportionate representation in the child welfare system.

Present at the forum were Probation Services, Drug and Alcohol, Child Welfare, community provider agencies, health care organizations, invested community members and residents. Discussion was facilitated allowing themes to surface around trauma, poverty, drug use, and most notably, a lack of exposure to a life that is within the reach of residents that looks different. This information will be the catalyst of additional work within the community to develop and implement community based interventions. The King Center will focus its resources on the female population, as single parenthood, teen pregnancy, sexual activity, limited education, and additional challenges continue to place many of the females within the region at a significant disadvantage.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – DUE DATE TRACKING

Post Implementation:

- March 31, 2014 Revised IDIR Submission to ACF (county drafts due by 3/1)

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- February 18, 2014 Implementation Workgroup (Phone)
- February 21, 2014 Evaluation Workgroup (10-3, CWRC)
- March 4, 2014 Implementation Workgroup (Phone)
- March 7, 2014 Executive Committee (10-2, CWRC)

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

We are still looking for branding ideas for the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Demonstration Project. Send them in to Bill ASAP for consideration (wshutt@pcgus.com)