

Items in this Issue

- Executive Committee Update
- Casey Families Convening
 - 2015 Recap
 - 2016 PA Plans
- Logic Model Update
- Evaluation Update
- Fiscal Update
- Upcoming Project Due Dates
- Upcoming Meetings

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

Please send PCG representative Erin Palmer any county updates or changes in position/title and contact information for the various workgroups via e-mail: epalmer@pcgus.com

Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee meeting was held on January 6th, 2016. Attendees included representation from all six CWDP-participant counties, OCYF, Pitt-CWRC, and PCG. Topics addressed in this meeting are recapped in the following sections.

Casey Families - IV-E Waiver Convening

November 2015: Focus on County-admin. Systems

Counties shared their thoughts on the November event. Two major takeaways appeared in the accounts. First, Kerry Browning (Lackawanna) noted that other states that had been in the waiver for a longer period reaffirmed the notion that that the payoff (in outcomes and fiscal terms) can take a while to be realized and that PA is still in the early stages.

Second was the importance of messaging. Venango and Lackawanna both referenced California, which has a PR specialist whose responsibility it was to brand their CWDP with a name and push their messaging. There was a focus on the outcomes-oriented message of the preservation of the family environment, versus a focus on the clinical language of the basis for EBPs. Fran Gutterman (Casey) noted that it is never too late for branding and that Casey has communications staff who can assist PA in these efforts.

TBD 2016: Pennsylvania-specific Convening

Fran Gutterman discussed plans for a PA-specific convening to be held in the first or second quarter of calendar year 2016. There will be several tracks, including EBPs, finance, data, and communication. She foresees one to two calls for a workgroup that would help in designing this event. During the Executive Committee Meeting, she sought volunteers/nominations so that all parties could be represented in planning sessions: Shannon Fairchild and Denise Macarelli (Allegheny); Kelly Schwab (Crawford); Rick Vukmanic (Dauphin); Kerry Browning and Kathy Snyder (Lackawanna); Stacey Hirsch (Philadelphia); Diane Weckerly (Venango); Gloria Gilligan, TaWonda Jones-Williams, Cathy Utz, and Theresa Murphy (OCYF); Justin Donofrio and Jenna Meister (Pitt), and Katie Bright (PCG).

Logic Model Update

Draft logic models have been shared with the workgroup and are to be discussed in a phone call at a later date. These drafts were distributed by Fran Gutterman, who noted that they were developed based on the input from telephone conference calls that were conducted by Allison Metz and Leah Bartley with county child welfare and behavioral health leaders, model developers and/or service providers of PCIT and PPP, and other key stakeholders. The draft models show the path between the stated goals and actual outcomes through the intervention components and indicators of measurable progress. During the Executive Committee meeting earlier this month, Stacey Hirsch expressed an interest in further discussions of translating the ideas from the model on paper into day-to-day practice. The models show the value of PPP and PCIT, but additional ideas are needed to link the logic model to real-world implementation; this will be discussed in the PA convening.

Finance Update

At this time, OCYF executive staff are reviewing the 15-16 Act 148 workbook and bulletin.

Implementation Update

The date for the next implementation workgroup will soon be set. Those who are involved, please keep an eye out for the next poll to determine when it will be held.

Evaluation Update

The EBP data collection remains underway. Submission of referral and dosage data was due on January 8th as part of a semi-annual data submission protocol. A big thank you goes out to those counties that did submit this data. THANK YOU!

Additionally, PCIT and Triple P binders are submitted by providers on a rolling basis. The Evaluation Team continues to provide support by reaching out to counties and providers as needed. If you have any questions about the EBP data collection process, please contact EBP Evaluation Coordinator, Jenna Meister (jem275@pitt.edu).

Near the end of December, most counties submitted materials for the document review evaluation activity. Another big thank you goes out to those that submitted these materials to us before the New Year! Moving forward, the SPANS remains an ongoing evaluation activity. In addition to the SPANS, we are still working to complete family engagement conference observations in multiple demonstration counties.

Other upcoming evaluation activities for demonstration counties include EBP focus groups with caseworkers and supervisors. These focus groups will help to provide insight into the understanding and completion of the EBP referral process at the county level. Counties can expect to receive an email or phone call this month with additional details regarding these focus groups. If you have any questions regarding any the mentioned evaluation activities please contact Evaluation Coordinator, Justin Donofrio (jdd63@pitt.edu).

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

Fiscal Update

Upcoming Project Due Dates

- Program monitoring reports
 - January 19, 2016 – due to PCG
- Next Semi-Annual Progress Report
 - January 15, 2016 – due to PCG
 - January 22, 2016 – due to OCYF
 - January 31, 2016 – due to ACF
- Interim Evaluation Report
 - January 31, 2016 – due to OCYF

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Implementation Workgroup
 - Date to be determined – poll to follow