# CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 27 June 10, 2014

An OCYF-County Partnership

### **STAY TUNED**

On June 11, 2014 ACF will be traveling to the Child Welfare Resource Center to mainly discuss topics related to the evaluation component of the Demonstration Project. Two major issues under discussion that can impact counties is the proposed research design and issues related to data collection. As indicated in the June 2<sup>nd</sup> communication from **Acting Deputy Secretary** Cathy Utz, a phone call will be scheduled with all **Demonstration Project** counties following the June 11th meeting. The University of Pittsburgh evaluation team is thoroughly prepared for this meeting and is looking forward to the visit! Stay tuned for the update.

during this two day event. A *save the date* on behalf of the Evaluation Team with and information. All questions regarding be directed to the Evaluation Specialist, (alp159@pitt.edu).

#### **EVALUATION UPDATE**

Family and youth focus groups are occurring, or have occurred, within Demonstration Project counties. In addition to the focus groups, family engagement meeting observations are also taking place. The purpose of these observations is to measure the fidelity of conducting family engagement meetings within the counties (meeting type dependent upon county; FTC, FGC, FGDM, etc.).

An additional evaluation activity that is also underway highlights data capturing processes. Demonstration Project counties are collaborating with the Evaluation Team to outline each of their data capture processes for the CANS, FAST, ASQ and Family Engagement. This process will provide an overview that indicates how assessment and family engagement data are captured in each county, as well as documenting that best practices for data capture and entry are in place. Counties are being contacted one-by-one throughout this process.

The evaluation plan has completed and submitted to ACF. The Evaluation Team is working with ACF to finalize the plan. The final details of the evaluation plan will be communicated to all counties upon conclusion. The Evaluation Team thanks everyone that provided input and feedback throughout the development of the evaluation plan, and we thank you for your patience.

Lastly, mark your calendars for October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, as CWRC will host a training session on the SPANS data collection process. Robin Orlando will lead the training session



has been sent out additional details this training can Alexis Pigott

# CHILDREN'S BUREAU – PERMANENCY INITIATIVE (PII)

The Children's Bureau announced the release of new resources from the Permanency Initiative (PII), a 5-year, \$100 million Presidential Initiative. PII was designed to support six Grantees in developing and implementing innovative approaches to reduce long-term foster care stays and improve child and family outcomes. The coordinated framework of PII is intended to build or enhance the capacity of child welfare agencies to develop, implement, and evaluate research/evidence based interventions. The Children'e Bureau approach to the demonstration project has been influenced by PII. For more information: <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/pii-project-resources">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/pii-project-resources</a>

## **COUNTIES RALLY ONE MORE TIME**

ACF provided feedback to the five Demonstration Project counties on May 19, 2014 (the 20<sup>th</sup> for Crawford County), with a deadline of June 2<sup>nd</sup> for a response. While this may seem daunting to some people, our OCYF team once again rose to the occasion and produced high quality responses prior to our due date. Initial feedback from ACF is that any remaining questions they have are minor and there was no need to have a further formal meeting with the counties. It should be noted that Crawford County, our "new kid on the block", also submitted an extensive response to ACF based on their initial IDIR response, and ACF was very pleased with their response.

One topic at the upcoming June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with ACF will be the future formatting of the Semi-Annual Progress Report. The goal is to create a meaningful and consolidated report that will be easy for participating counties to manage in terms of required information. With a July 30<sup>th</sup> due date, counties can look forward to an information template in the near future to begin this process.

#### **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT - DUE DATE TRACKING**

Post Implementation:

• July 30, 2014 Semi-Annual Progress Report

#### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Update your calendar:

• June 4, 2014 Implementation Workgroup (1-3, Phone Meeting)

October 21-22, 2014
SPANS Data Collection (Robin Orlando –more information to come)

(Note: A phone meeting will be scheduled following the June 11<sup>th</sup> ACF meeting – at that time plans will also be made for our next Executive Committee Meeting)

**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

<u>wshutt@pcgus.com</u> or one of our county newsletter representatives:

Lackawanna – Kerry Browning

Allegheny – Robin Orlando

Philadelphia – Brian Clapier

Dauphin – Kirsten Johnson

Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel

Crawford – To be determined

This was a brief edition of our newsletter – it is a much more dynamic and useful newsletter when we get county contributions – please consider an article for next month!

Please make a commitment to a July article related to the Demonstration Project. Contact Bill ASAP to plan out a submission. The goal is to have two county-based articles in July. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!