

CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 24 March 10, 2014

An OCYF-County Partnership

IDIR – COMPONENT THREE

All five counties have submitted the initial drafts for the IDIR Component 3 (please see the next page for component details). At this point we are refining the drafts and meeting individually with counties to ensure we have the best possible documents ready to submit to ACF by our March 31, 2014 deadline. It is exciting to see the results of our Engagement and Assessment components as each county has selected project interventions that meet real county needs for defined populations of youth/families. The planning and work is paying off as we move forward into this new phase.



EVALUATION UPDATE

The Evaluation Team has completed supervisor and caseworker focus groups in each of the five participating Child Welfare Demonstration Project counties. Additionally, document reviews are scheduled to be completed in all counties by the end of March.

The Organizational Readiness for Change (ORC) survey has now concluded in all five Demonstration Project counties; with CUA staff in Philadelphia County finishing up in February. A big thank you goes out to all of those that participated in this survey!

The Evaluation Subcommittee meeting was held on February 21, 2014, with attendance of liaisons from all five counties; either in person or via WebEx. This meeting provided a forum for the Evaluation Team to check in with counties, and to give notice of upcoming evaluation activities; among other discussions. The next meeting is tentatively going to be scheduled in April, 2014. Stay tuned for more details. If there are any questions regarding the Evaluation Subcommittee meetings, please contact Evaluation Specialist, Alexis Pigott (alp159@pit.edu).

The next upcoming evaluation activities include conducting family and youth focus groups, as well as observing family engagement meetings. County liaisons will be contacted soon to schedule these activities. The Evaluation Team expects to have these focus groups and family engagement observations completed by the end of May. The Evaluation Team would like to thank the evaluation subcommittee liaisons for all of their hard work and efforts put forth regarding the Demonstration Project. It has been much appreciated. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S BUREAU: CHILD WELFARE EVALUATION VIRTUAL SUMMIT SERIES

The Children's Bureau recently announced the release of two videos – **Cost Analysis in Program Evaluation – Parts 1 and 2**. These videos are a companion piece to the **Cost Analysis in Program Evaluation: A Guide for Child Welfare Researchers and Service Providers** (sent to all counties). These are available on the CB website.

IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP – THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENTS!

On March 4, 2014 the Implementation Workgroup met with the primary purpose of discussing the Child Welfare Demonstration Project Component 3 interventions selected by each county. The counties described how their engagement/assessment efforts have led to the identification of target populations and interventions. It was clear that each county is making intervention decisions and system changes based on their internal evaluation strategies – all in the best interest of the children and families that we serve. After refining exactly what will be considered “demonstration projects” (as opposed to the many changes and programs that are part of their overall service array and service delivery strategies), the final demonstration project intervention list by county is as follows:

Allegheny County

Homebuilders
PCIT
Trauma Focused – CBT
(Cognitive Behavior Therapy)
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)

Venango County

PCIT
Nurse Home Partnership
PPP

Lackawanna County

PCIT
SafeCare

Philadelphia DHS

Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
PPP (Triple P – Positive Parenting Program)

Dauphin County

PCIT
PPP
Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

CWDP HIGHLIGHTS FROM PHILADELPHIA (SUBMITTED BY SUSAN KINNEVY, PHD)

Although our first year’s work on CWDP was spent identifying three Evidence-Based Practices that we will implement over the next four years, our work produced some ancillary benefits that are rewarding as well. First, the work on CWDP enhanced our already strong working relationship with Philadelphia’s Community Based Health Department (CBH) and aligned CWDP with our ongoing *DHS/CBH Information Sharing Initiative*. For that, we are grateful for the help we received from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) PolicyLab who facilitated our group meetings and for the contributions of Annie E. Casey (AEC) to this initiative.

Thinking through the implementation plan also assisted our work -- again with AEC -- on the *Congregate Care Realignment Initiative* which is designed to reduce the number of DHS youth in group homes or institutions. If we are successful in implementing the EBPs, we expect the results to play a significant role that reduction. Finally, working on CWDP strengthened our relationship with our Community Umbrella Agencies (CUAs) who will be instrumental in the use of EBPs and who remain at the heart of our Improving Outcomes for Children Initiative (IOC). The longer we work on CWDP, the more we realize how well it supports all of our current and future initiatives.



FISCAL UPDATE

As part of the Executive Committee meeting, OCYF fiscal staff reviewed recent clarifications sent to the county fiscal officers regarding claiming, invoicing, and other issues pertinent to the CWDP. One area highlighted was a recent clarification from ACF that our base allocation amount was determined using total computable costs (see our Terms & Conditions). This means that an increasing/decreasing FMAP rate does impact CWDP reimbursement. CWDP counties were also provided with a checklist for reviewing Act 148 invoices to assist with the changes involved in CWDP participation.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Executive Committee met on March 7, 2014 to review the current status of CWDP activities and discuss upcoming implementation plans for the Component 3 Intervention selections. Each county presented on how their assessment/engagement strategies led to the identification of interventions included in the project. It was noted that our five demonstration project counties will be implementing nine different interventions with one common intervention – Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT).

Other committee business included an update from the University of Pittsburgh on evaluation activities, and a discussion on potential counties joining our project over the next two years. The committee also reviewed final changes to the State-County Agreement and it is expected that this document will be sent out to all counties for execution in the near future.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – DUE DATE TRACKING

Post Implementation:


- March 31, 2014 Revised IDIR Submission to ACF

(Counties were reminded to contact their assigned reviewer for any questions/assistance needed to finalize the Component 3 draft.)

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- April 1, 2014 Implementation Workgroup (Phone)
- May 12, 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:

Lackawanna – Kerry Browning

Allegheny – Robin Orlando

Philadelphia – Brian Clapier

Dauphin – Kirsten Johnson

Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel

We are still looking for branding ideas for the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Demonstration Project. During the Executive Committee meeting we decided that a potentially useful concept to consider is that a symbol or logo may be more useful than an actual project name. Any ideas, please send them in to Bill ASAP for consideration (wshutt@pcgus.com)