

PENNSYLVANIA

CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 36

March 9, 2015

An OCYF-County Partnership

SPRING FORWARD

The PA CWDP IV-E Waiver Convening (see article for more details) held in February was a very worthwhile and energizing activity for both County and State staff. While the weather was still bitter cold (including a brief dinner time snow squall), it was clear that the participants are still hot on the promise that are project holds for our Commonwealth and the practice changes that are being implemented by our project counties.

While we all lost an hour of sleep this past weekend, it is an exciting indication that Spring is not that far away. What will the Spring hold for our project? Focused discussions on referral pathways and behavioral health collaborations to move our EBPs forward; the ability to programmatically and fiscally monitor our project beyond our initial implementation tasks and efforts; review of our communication strategies that are reflective of the fact that the project is not really just a project – it is how CWDP counties are now doing business.

Building on the momentum of the convening, we all need to Spring forward towards continued success.



Lastly, the Evaluation Team is in the process of hiring an EBP Coordinator to oversee the Evidence-Based Practice component of the evaluation. The position is not yet filled, but stay tuned for more information as it develops.

STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The first CWDP Steering Committee meeting was held on February 24, 2015. The first part of the meeting was spent discussing the recent CWDP convening. Participating counties were able to identify several tangible benefits from this meeting including insight into the capacity building and referral process issues from our New York City presenter; and a better understanding of fiscal monitoring and the concept of “savings.” Discussion regarding the convening also led to the identification of continued shared needs of our project counties in terms of better defining referral pathways, and strengthening child welfare and behavioral health linkages. Building on the work already being done in several counties, and from information about creating EBP child welfare service matrices similar to NYC, we discussed the need for the Implementation Workgroup to specifically look at these issues and develop recommendations for the Executive Committee (a meeting date has been set – see below). The Steering Committee also discussed the process for agenda development for future meetings and communication strategies.

If you have issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Steering Committee, please contact your county representative:

Kirsten Johnson	Dauphin
Lindsay and Diane Weckerley	Venango
Kim Ali, Susan Kinnevy, Jonah DeChants, and Chanell Hanns	Philadelphia
Marc Cherna and Shannon Fairchild	Allegheny
Bill and Kerry Browning	Lackawanna
Mark Weindorf	Crawford

PA CWDP IV-E WAIVER CONVENING

The CWDP Title IV-E Waiver Convening was held February 18-19th in Mechanicsburg at the Child Welfare Resource Center. Acting Deputy Secretary Cathy Utz and Fran Gutterman (Casey Family Programs) welcomed the group and set the stage for our value packed agenda. The opening session was led by Allison Metz (Co-Director, National Implementation Research Network) and David Collins (Assistance Commissioner, Program Innovation and Planning, Division of Policy, Planning and Measurement for NYC Administration for Children’s Services). David discussed the process of Evidence Based program expansion in NYC, emphasizing the importance of cross-sector collaboration, aligned policies and procedures, effective selection of interventions operating with fidelity, and a strong commitment to evaluation and continuous improvement. Allison supported this conversation, emphasizing the importance of “enabling contexts” that support interventions. Enabling contexts includes the funding, policy, and regulatory environment of the project. Significant positive outcomes comes from a formula of effective interventions, effective implementation methods, and a positive enabling context.

Don Winstead presented on “Fiscal Considerations Beyond the First Year of the Waiver.” The group benefited from Don’s ability to present information in easy to understand graphics and charts and his multiple examples of how waiver dollars can be monitored and represented. Don discussed our capped allocation and how maintenance and administrative costs can be broken out and tracked to identify both project and savings spending. The importance of this issue was emphasized to all participants and discussions on fiscal monitoring will continue as we move forward with the project.

Roseann Perry (OCYF) and Scott Talley (OHMSAS) facilitated a very informative conversation with the counties and multiple MCO representatives on how the CWDP is dependent on a positive linkage between each county’s child welfare and behavioral health system. The fact that so many of our MCOs were present at the convening was a positive step in strengthening this collaboration. While there were multiple positive examples shared by the counties, there was a shared understanding that improvements are still needed in areas such as referral pathways, policy development, and communication.

Mary Beth Rauktis (CWDP Principal Investigator) and Justin Donofrio (Evaluation Coordinator) from the University of Pittsburgh did a presentation on evaluation progress, and emerging themes from our project. The session highlighted the many accomplishments of the project as well as the remaining evaluation activities. One fact highlighted is that the CWDP is approaching the timeframe for submitting the Interim Report required by ACF at the half-way point of the project. The data cutoff point for this report is June 30, 2015!

William Shutt and Richard Whipple (Public Consulting Group) concluded the day with a discussion on county communication strategies and stakeholder engagement. The group was asked to evaluate their current strategies that were originally articulated during the early implementation stages of the project – the consensus of the group was that we need to move beyond talking about it as a “project” and emphasizing that Engagement-Assessment-Interventions is how we are operating our child welfare agencies.

Day two of the conference involved each county having one-on-one time with each of the presenters above to discuss county specific issues and planning related to the described topics. A big thanks to the Child Welfare Resource Center for the locale and to Fran Gutterman and Casey Family Programs for their support of this productive convening. Also, thanks to the State and County representatives that were part of the planning process.

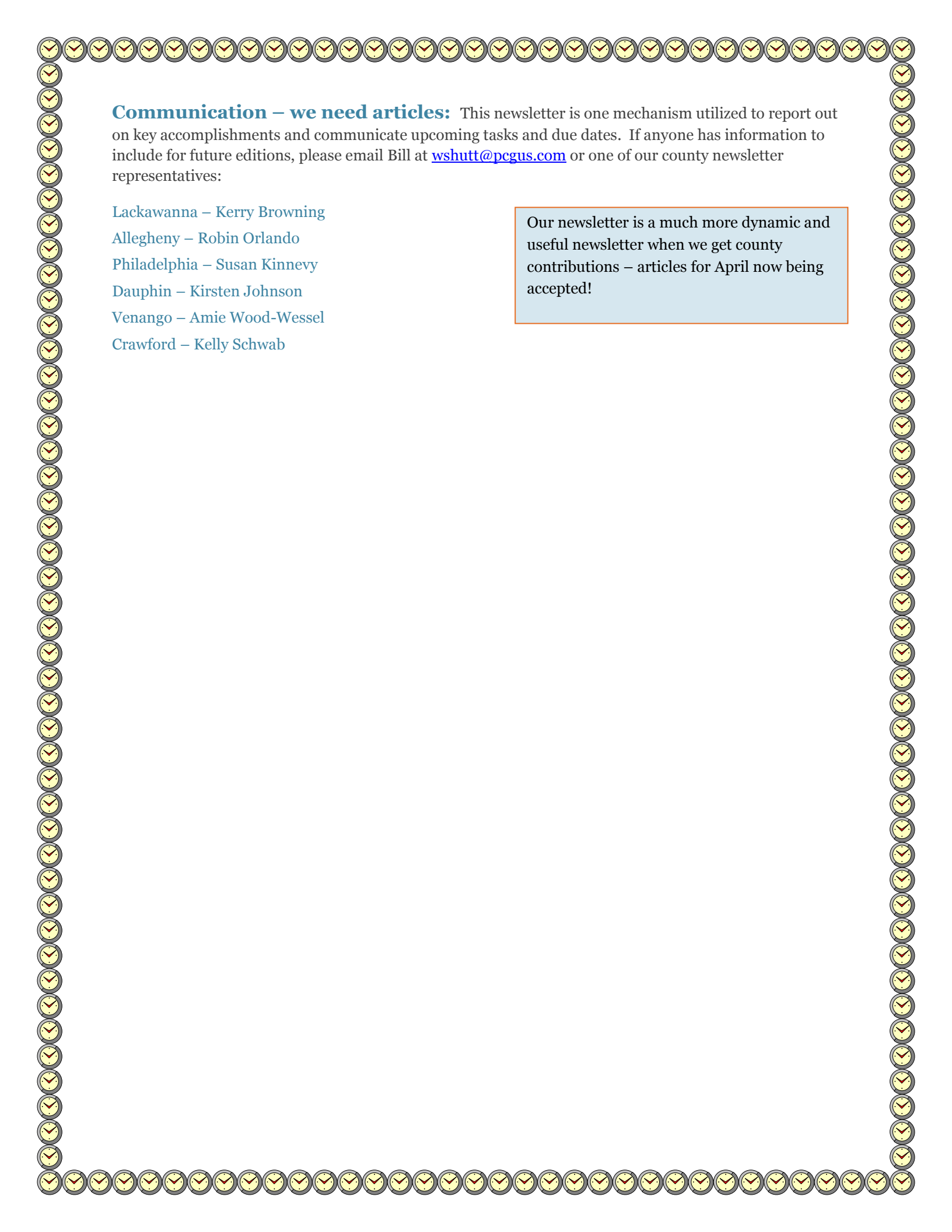
UPCOMING PROJECT DUE DATES

- March/2015 Crawford County IDIR – Component 3
- April 30, 2015 January – March Program Monitoring Report
- August/2015 Next Semi-Annual Progress Report

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- March 12, 2015 Implementation Workgroup – Phone Call: 2:00-4:00
- March 31, 2015 CWDP Steering Committee – Phone Call: 3:30-4:30



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 – Susan Kinnevy

Dauphin – Kirsten Johnson

Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel

Crawford – Kelly Schwab

Our newsletter is a much more dynamic and useful newsletter when we get county contributions – articles for April now being accepted!