



CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 26 May 5, 2014
An OCYF-County Partnership

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

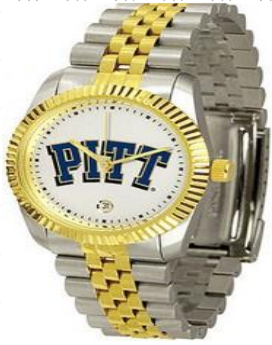
The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Demonstration Project team can sit back (a second) and reflect on the accomplishments of the last several months: Semi-Annual Progress Report (√); Component 3 IDIR (√); Final Evaluation Plan (√). At this point the only thing missing is ACF feedback. Based on the national waiver landscape with the multiple cohorts of states at various stages of their projects, this is very understandable. Take heart – the feedback is coming. Feedback will involve questions and required responses – based on the quality of the state and county teams, PA's implementation will remain on track!

EVALUATION UPDATE

Family and youth focus groups are scheduled to occur within the Demonstration Project counties over the next month. These groups will focus on family and youth experiences with assessment and engagement as it relates to the Demonstration Project. Additionally, the Evaluation Team will also observe family engagement meetings/conferences in conjunction with these focus groups to obtain more information centered on fidelity to the core elements of engagement. These observations are in the scheduling process for all counties.

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 collaboration consists of a series of phone calls to document the procedures by which information is obtained, who obtains it, where it is entered, how and who is included or not included. This process will provide a nice 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.

Finally, the evaluation plan has been completed and submitted to ACF for review. Any potential changes or updates regarding the evaluation plan will be communicated to all counties appropriately. The Evaluation Team thanks everyone that provided input and feedback throughout the development of the evaluation plan.



It's time to ramp up
our evaluation work!

FEDERAL GUIDANCE FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews

ACF will continue to conduct IV-E reviews in states implementing waiver demonstrations under a statewide capped allocation when only a portion of the state is part of the Demonstration Project. In Pennsylvania's IV-E review, the case sample will be drawn from those counties not participating in the demonstration project. The over 18 population for CWDP counties may also be sampled.

AFCARS

There is no change in how agencies are to report and code information on the sources of financial support to a child in foster care (element 59 in particular). If you are drawing down your Title IV-E capped allocation for Title IV-E eligible maintenance costs for children who reside in a Title IV-E eligible placement, agencies must use a "1" to indicate that Title IV-E foster care applies as a source of income at any time during the six-month AFCARS period. If the child and/or placement is not eligible for traditional Title IV-E reimbursement, or if you choose not to draw down Title IV-E capped allocation dollars for maintenance costs for an otherwise eligible child/placement during the six-month AFCARS period, agencies are to use a "0" for "does not apply" on element 59.

FRIENDS – ONLINE TRAINING RESOURCE

ACF recently distributed information regarding the FRIENDS Online Training Courses offered by the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention for the purpose of providing information to community-based child abuse prevention programs under the leadership of CBCAP state lead agencies. To access trainings go to the "Online Learning Center" tab on the FRIENDS website (www.friendsnrc.org).

FRIENDS currently has courses on Protective Factors, Logic Models, Data Management, Maximizing Federal Resources, Continuous Quality Improvement, Creating Effective Parent-Practitioner Leadership, CBCAP 101 and Engaging Tribes. Other courses are currently under development including EBP implementation.

CHILD WELFARE EVALUATION VIRTUAL SUMMIT: 2 NEW VIDEOS

In continuation of the Child Welfare Evaluation Virtual Summit Series, the Children's Bureau is pleased to announce the release of two new videos.



Measurement Matters: How Should My Program Measure Changes in Child Well-Being?

Child welfare leaders nationwide have invested significant resources in improving well-being outcomes for children and families, and stakeholders want to know whether these efforts are having an impact. National expert Dr. Heather Ringeisen presents guidance about issues to consider when attempting to measure changes in well-being outcomes over time.

The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW): Implications for Child Welfare Evaluations

The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) provides nationally representative, longitudinal data on children and families that have been involved with the child

welfare system. This resource can be a valuable asset to child welfare leaders and evaluators interested in studying well-being outcomes at the State and local levels. Dr. Heather Ringeisen illustrates ways that the NSCAW can provide a meaningful comparison group for those interested in assessing child and adolescent well-being outcomes in their jurisdictions.

The videos and guide are available [on the Children's Bureau website](#).

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – DUE DATE TRACKING

Post Implementation:

- July 30, 2014 Semi-Annual Progress Report

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- May 12, 2014 Executive Committee (10-2, CWRC)
- June 4, 2014 Implementation Workgroup (1-3, Phone 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 wshutt@pcgus.com or one of our county newsletter representatives:

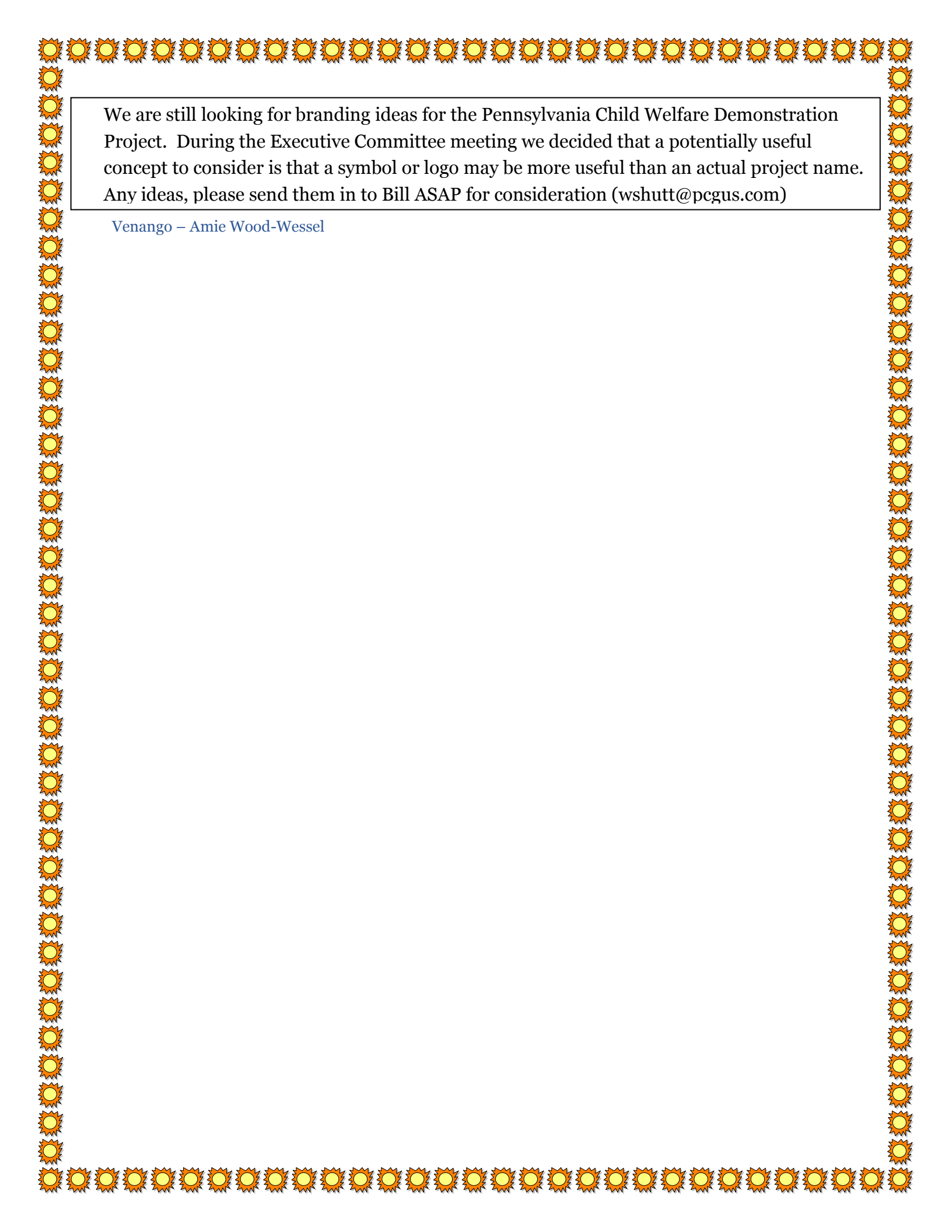
Lackawanna – Kerry Browning

Allegheny – Robin Orlando

Philadelphia – Brian Clapier

Dauphin – Kirsten Johnson

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!



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)

Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel