

PENNSYLVANIA CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 20 November 8, 2013

An OCYF-County Partnership

SEARCHING FOR A NAME – JANUARY DEADLINE

As implementation progresses and the counties and state work together to ensure our project's success, there is one area that we all agree needs work – WE NEED A PROJECT NAME! The Child Welfare Demonstration Project got us this far – but in our efforts to develop our project branding, we need a name. Two ideas have been suggested (Keystone Families; and Paving Roads to Success – a GPS for Well-Being). See the article in this edition called “We Need a Name” for more details on our naming efforts.

EVALUATION UPDATE

The Organizational Readiness for Change survey (ORC) was completed by Allegheny County, Lackawanna County, and Venango County in October, 2013. The three counties exceeded the goal of a 50% total response rate, by collectively reaching a 61% response rate for the survey. A solid response rate is related to the representation of staff, alongside the reliability of the results. Thus, congratulations to the participating counties on a job well done! In addition, the ORC survey was implemented in Dauphin County in October, 2013 with a scheduled end date of November 19, 2013.

Key informant interviews will officially end on Friday, November 8th. Once again, we would like to thank all of the participants, as well as the county liaisons, for the efforts put forth. Thank you!

The Evaluation Team is gearing up to begin the next phase of data collection in the process evaluation, focusing on obtaining the perceptions of stakeholders about readiness to implement. This information will be collected between the months of November to February. In addition, as Chapin Hall gathers data sharing agreements in each of the Demonstration Project counties, the outcome study will begin to get underway in order to assess family engagement strategies and structured assessment practices, such as the CANS and FAST.

The next evaluation subcommittee meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 from 1pm – 4pm. Most participants will call in for this meeting via WebEx. Please contact Alexis Pigott (alp159@pitt.edu) with any questions or additional information regarding this meeting.



Finally, the Evaluation Team officially welcomed the new Database Administrator for the Demonstration Project, Yaou Boukar, to the team. Yaou's first day was on October 14, 2013 and he is stationed in Mechanicsburg. Yaou has contacted the counties and their IT developers and IT staff. Please welcome Yaou when you see him!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

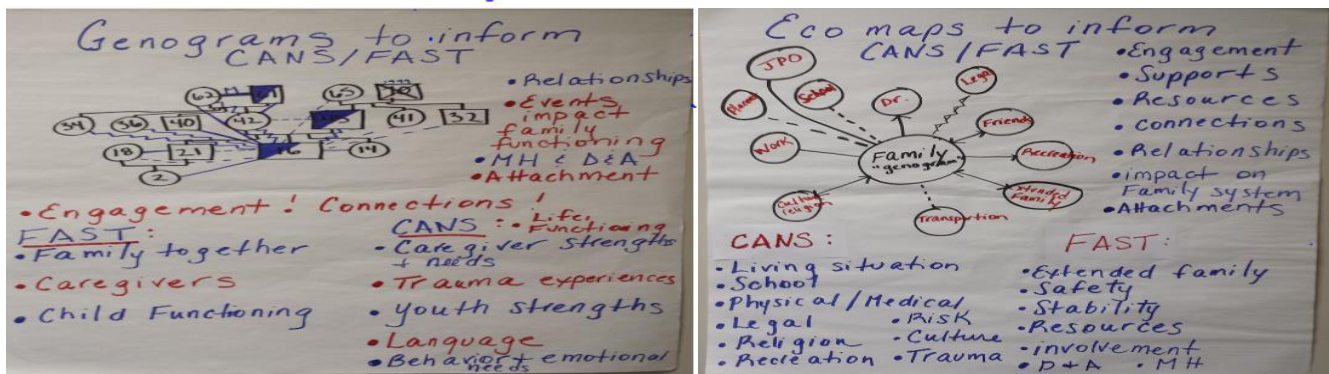
On November 4, 2013 the Executive Committee convened at the Child Welfare Resource Center in Mechanicsburg to review our current implementation efforts and plan for the future and long-term success of the Child Welfare Demonstration Project. Each of the five demonstration project counties provided an update on their specific implementation efforts and plans moving forward. While challenges exist with computer systems and affecting a culture change in the routine ways of doing business in some jurisdictions, each county reported that they are on schedule and are moving towards the implementation of Evidence-Based Programs/System Changes that make up the last component of our project. The committee reviewed the County-State Agreement changes proposed by county legal teams and efforts are underway to bring this topic to a resolution. The meeting also included discussions around our project structure and how new county agencies will be brought to the table as the project expands.

DAUPHIN COUNTY: SHARED CASE RESPONSIBILITY (ARTICLE BY KIRSTEN JOHNSON)

Dauphin County has implemented Shared Case Responsibility to a significant extent, providing a large population of youth in placement through the delinquency system access to services traditionally allocated for dependent youth. This population receives varying levels of service through the Children and Youth organization. All are assessed at the time of their detention for child welfare related issues. For those whom child welfare issues are not identified, a monitoring list exists to assure that throughout their time in placement, familial dynamics which contribute to the transition back into the community are assessed and addressed.

With the implementation of the Child Welfare Demonstration Project, we were challenged to develop the resources to provide FAST and CANS assessments to this group of youth and their families. The organization looked toward a student engaged in the Child Welfare for Leadership program as this resource. Mrs. Stacie Barrett was eager to fulfill this role and began doing so with year one implementation on July 1, 2013.

There has been a total of 32 JPO youth that have been interviewed along with their families, for a total of 64 completed assessments. These assessments are occurring at a first time meeting between the youth/family and the staff person, so engagement is critical to obtain the necessary information for the assessments. The use of Genograms and Eco maps have been found to be extremely successful gathering information with a youth/family to inform the ratings associated with FAST and CANS. The genogram focuses on the relationships, events, mental health, drug and alcohol, attachment within the family and how this impacts family functioning. The indicators in the assessments that are informed from this are: family together, caregivers, child functioning, life functioning, trauma, youth strengths, behavioral and emotional needs as well as others. The Eco map is used to focus on the family's outside supports, resources, connections, relationships, attachments that impact the family system. Eco mapping informs the following indicators: living situation, school, physical/medical, legal, religion, risk, culture, trauma, safety, stability, resources, drug/alcohol, and recreation. The county has seen great success in engaging the families in a conversation and providing a visual representation of their story. By using these tools, the family's voice can truly be heard, thereby enhancing the information obtained.



FISCAL UPDATE

On October 30, 2013 the Fiscal Workgroup was sent a draft of the Evaluation Cost Claiming Form and Instructions. Please submit any questions about the form or instructions by November 15, 2013. A Fiscal Workgroup meeting is being planned – stay tuned.

Please submit any fiscal related questions to the resource account.

WE NEED A NAME!

The first step in our branding efforts is the establishment of a name to replace our current use of the Child Welfare Demonstration Project. While we “technically” will always be the Child Welfare Demonstration Project (no need to redo every piece of paper and policy in our respective offices), it is unanimously agreed that we need a project name that is easy to remember and reflects the efforts underway in our counties to implement the exciting changes in our child welfare operations. We are asking each participating county to reach out to their staff and stakeholders in an effort to tap the creativity of our system and come up with options. All ideas should be submitted to Bill by January 1, 2014. It is time to get the creative juices flowing!

IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP

The Implementation Workgroup met on October 8, 2013 and November 6, 2013 to review and discuss implementation efforts in each of our demonstration project counties. As part of these sessions, participants reviewed the county templates for both the upcoming Semi-Annual Progress Report and the Component Three IDIR. In addition, the group discussed the need for ongoing program monitoring of the project, and agreed upon a basic set of quarterly measures pertaining to engagement and assessment. A monitoring template is under development and will be distributed to the counties by the end of November.

SHARED LEARNING COLLABORATIVE



As part of the November 6, 2013 Implementation Meeting, Fran Gutterman reviewed the agenda and plans for our December 5-6, 2013 Shared Learning Collaborative. As part of this event, several Evidence-Based Practices will be represented including Child-Parent Psychotherapy, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, and Triple-P. The event will also hold additional sessions with Allison Metz, Ph.D. (NIRN), and a funding stream session with Nadia

Sexton from Casey Family Programs. We will also be welcoming our colleagues from New York City for their perspective on selecting Evidence Based Programs. A big thanks to Fran Gutterman and Casey Family Programs for their sponsorship of this event.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – DUE DATE TRACKING

Post Implementation:

- January 31, 2014 Semi-Annual Progress Report (county drafts due 1/15 at the latest)
- March 31, 2014 Revised IDIR Submission to ACF (county drafts due by 3/1)

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- December 5-6, 2013 Casey Shared Learning Collaborative
- December 10, 2013 Evaluation Workgroup Web-Ex
- January 7, 2014 Implementation Workgroup

- January – TBD Executive Committee

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 – Kiersten Johnson

Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel