

Items in this Issue

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Call for 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 e-mail Sandy Shedlock at sshedlock@pcgus.com or one of our county newsletter representatives:

- **Allegheny:**
Robin Orlando
- **Crawford:**
Kelly Schwab
- **Dauphin:**
Rick Vukmanic
- **Lackawanna:**
Kerry Browning
- **Philadelphia:**
Kim Ali
- **Venango:**
Amie Wood-Wessel

Please contact epalmer@pcgus.com with any contact updates.

Evaluation Update from the CWRC

Data collection for the EBP sub-study and Family Engagement Study continues. If you have any questions about the EBP data collection process, please reach out to our EBP Evaluation Coordinator, Jenna Meister (jem275@pitt.edu). For questions regarding the FES data collection process, please reach out to our Evaluation Specialist, Alexis Pigott (alp159@pitt.edu).

The SPANS and family engagement conference observations continue to be completed in all counties. As we move into November, the Evaluation Team will reach out to schedule more of these activities. Additionally, EBP focus groups with supervisors and caseworkers are scheduled for Cohort Two for mid-November.

In July the Evaluation Team kicked off a discussion series called Flash Talks, which allowed county and project stakeholders to come together via webinar and discuss successes and challenges related to specific practice. The first topic of the Flash Talks series was the CANS, followed by the FAST and most recently the SPANS. These Flash Talks have provided project stakeholders with the opportunity to engage in discussion around experiences, successes and challenges related to the IVE Waiver. The Evaluation Team would like to take this time and thank all of those that have participated in these Flash Talks thus far and we encourage you to continue participating in future Flash Talks. Thank you!

If you have questions regarding the evaluation activities or the Flash Talk Series, please contact Evaluation Coordinator, Justin Donofrio (jdd63@pitt.edu).

Innovations in Family Engagement

Mary Beth Rauktis and Marlo Perry attended and presented at the 2016 International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement. Their presentation focused on some of the findings included in the Interim Evaluation. The conference was an opportunity to talk to other waiver evaluation teams who are also looking at the impact of facilitated family meetings. Some of the “take away points” are:

- There are many forms of facilitated family meetings! However, some of the “mature” waiver states (e.g., Ohio), after a period of time, have focused on a few specific models or a single model and have standardized the practices using manuals and guidelines.
- Practice adoption and instillation and maturation take approximately 2-3 years.
- Similar to what we have done in our evaluation, a fidelity index is often used to summarize how closely the facilitated family meetings follow the specified practice model.
- Capturing family and youth voice in multiple ways is difficult, but critical.

Important Dates

- **Accounting of Investments**
 - Templates will be sent out by **11/18/16**
 - Reporting Due to PCG: **12/15/16**
- **Semi-annual Progress Report**
 - Templates will be sent out by **11/28/16**
 - Reporting Due to PCG: **1/9/17**
- **FlashTalks!**
 - Coming soon in 2017: A FlashTalk on the family engagement study information