

PENNSYLVANIA CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 19 October 4, 2013

An OCYF-County Partnership

NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER NEEDS NEW NAME/BRANDING HELP!

We are in search of ideas for how we can “brand” the Child Welfare Demonstration Project in a way that is both catchy and meaningful.

Please turn your creative minds loose on the CWDP and think about names, slogans, pictures – something to set us apart and match the amazing creativity and energy of the project itself with how we are perceived by the public. **SEND ME YOUR IDEAS!!!!**

EVALUATION UPDATE

The Organizational Readiness for Change survey (ORC) has been implemented in Allegheny County, Lackawanna County, and Venango County. Reminders will be sent to individuals who have not responded: our goal is to have a 50% response rate from each county by October 21, 2013. That would allow us to say with some degree of certainty that the responses reflect the population. The evaluation team is working closely with Dauphin and Philadelphia on implementing the ORC in their respective counties.

We are completing the key informant interviews in each of the five counties and have over 75 completed at this point. The evaluation team would like to send a big thank you to those that have participated in these interviews, for the enthusiasm and valuable information that has been provided. The evaluation team would also like to thank the county liaisons for all of their hard work and willingness to assist throughout this project. We are very appreciative of the efforts put forth by all that have been involved. **THANK YOU!**

Britany Orlebeke from Chapin Hall has sent a data sharing agreement to each of the counties so that the outcome study can get underway. Please direct your time and attention to this, and if you are experiencing difficulties with your legal departments, please contact the evaluation team to discuss the issues being identified.

The subcommittee meeting was held on October 1, 2013 and we are in the process of scheduling another meeting. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for folks to meet in person to discuss evaluation activities surrounding the Demonstration Project.

The evaluation team is happy to announce that the Statistician position has been filled by Dr. Dou-Yan Yang. Dou-Yan is stationed in Pittsburgh. Please be sure to give her a hearty welcome when you see her. Dou-Yan’s responsibilities will be primarily directed to analyzing data and assisting with the next evaluation plan and statistical support for the project. She is a recent graduate from Carnegie Mellon’s Heinz College and her PhD is in Public Policy and Management. You can reach her at doy13@pitt.edu.

Finally, the evaluation team is excited to announce that the Database Administrator (DBA) position has been filled, by Yaou Boukar. Yaou will be stationed in Mechanicsburg, and is scheduled to start on October 14, 2013.





Allison Metz, Ph.D.

Be sure to give Yaou a big welcome as well, when you see him! Yaou's role as the DBA will be to work with the Mechanicsburg IT team as well as all of the county IT developers, and to manage the databases associated with the evaluation. Yaou comes to us from North Dakota State University and he is also pursuing a PhD in Healthcare Information Systems.

Finally, the evaluation team would like to remind counties that the family engagement tools, User's Guide, FAQ's, and instructional video are all on the Demonstration Project website. If you have any questions regarding these items, please contact Alexis Pigott (alp159@pitt.edu).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On September 30, 2013, Casey Family Programs (Fran) arranged for our Executive Committee (and an expanded group of state/county participants) to hear a presentation from Allison Metz, Ph.D., Co-Director of the National Implementation Research Network. The presentation, entitled "Setting the Stage for Effective Implementation", was very well received and very timely as we work toward implementing the third component of our CWDP. The morning was a combination of informative discussion and relevant questions and answers pertaining to implementation science and where we are in the process. During the session, Fran was already brainstorming how Allison can continue her assistance to specific counties and groups of counties moving forward. The NIRN website contains many useful tools for implementation including the "Hexagon" EBP Exploration Tool discussed during the session (Need, Fit, Resources, Evidence, Readiness, Capacity).

*What are the **needs** of children and families? What **interventions are available** to address those needs? What is the **strength of the evidence** of those interventions? Which interventions are a **good fit**?*
– Many good questions to work through as part of our process.

The afternoon session of the Executive Committee centered largely around a discussion of how our group needs to evolve to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible moving into the future. As we progress with implementation and the impending addition of county partners over the next two years, change is necessary. We need to define the purpose and role of our workgroups and develop a structure that best supports the diverse needs of our counties and other stakeholders. Other agenda items that were discussed and will continue into our next meeting include the need for an enhanced communication plan, marketing/branding discussions, and the need to follow through with the State-County Agreement (Allegheny/Philadelphia will push this through their legal departments and get it out to the other counties as soon as possible which will allow for this to be a major topic area of our next Executive Committee meeting).

FISCAL WORKGROUP

On September 26, 2013 there was a brief meeting of the CWDP Fiscal Workgroup. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the county NBPB excel workbooks that were submitted by the counties and discuss adjustments that needed to be made in regard to the CWDP. A follow-up document outlining the steps discussed at the meeting was prepared by OCYF and distributed to the entire workgroup.

We have received two Developmental Cost Claim forms at this point. Please submit your claim forms and/or any questions to the resource account.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – DUE DATE TRACKING

Post Implementation:

- January 31, 2014 Semi-Annual Progress Report
- March 31, 2014 Revised IDIR Submission to ACF (county drafts in February)

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- October 8, 2013 Implementation Workgroup
- November 4, 2013 Executive Committee
- December 5-6, 2013 Casey Shared Learning Collaborative

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@pegus.com or one of our county newsletter representatives:

Lackawanna – Kerry Browning

Allegheny – Robin Orlando

Philadelphia – Brian Clapier

Dauphin – Kiersten Johnson

Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel