

# CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 31

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An OCYF-County Partnership

## COLUMBUS DAY

Did Columbus discover our country? Was he the first? He obviously was trying to get somewhere else! I'm sure he had maps – regardless, many of us had a day off! The CWDP is a bit like the Columbus adventure. We have maps (our IDIR); we know where we want to go – but, chances are, there are going to be many unintended consequences and findings of interest as we keep on this journey. How we respond and adapt as a system will be the key to success. Our collaborative planning and structures are designed to identify, plan, and act on what we are experiencing in our project. As we look back in future years I expect our project will leave a lasting legacy (it would be nice if it turned into a holiday), but at least we won't look like frustrated travelers without a map or destination in mind.

expected leading up to the training. All questions regarding this training can be directed to the Evaluation Specialist, Alexis Pigott ([alp159@pitt.edu](mailto:alp159@pitt.edu)).

## EVALUATION UPDATE

Demonstration Project counties in Cohort One are close to wrapping up the focus groups/interviews and family engagement observation activities, and they will begin the Evidence-Based Practice Questionnaire (EBPQ) soon. The EBPQ evaluation activity will provide critical information to the evaluation around referral behavior and staff knowledge of EBPs. Cohort One counties can expect to receive more communication from the Evaluation Team in the coming weeks with additional detail, as well as a request to begin gathering the appropriate information pertaining to this activity.

Cohort Two continues in the Key Informant Interview (KII) process, and is currently in route to complete this activity by the end of October. While completing the KII activity this month, Cohort Two can expect to receive information regarding the Organizational Readiness for Change (ORC) survey. The ORC survey is intended to supply the evaluation with information pertaining to the organizations' readiness to implement assessment and engagement strategies, as well as evidence-based practices. Keep an eye out for more information on this evaluation activity.

Lastly, mark your calendars for October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, as CWRC will host a training session on the SPANS data collection process. Robin Orlando and company will lead the training session during this two day event. General information has been sent out to everyone, and more details can be





## INVESTING IN WHAT WORKS (From Bethany Miller - ACF)

ACF made an announcement that three issue briefs have been released as part of the [Investing in What Works](#) project:

- [Willing, Able → Ready: Basics and Policy Implications of Readiness as a Key Component For Implementation of Evidence-Based Interventions \(PDF-17 Pages\)](#)
- [Using Evidence-Based Constructs to Assess Extent of Implementation of Evidence-Based Interventions \(PDF-18 Pages\)](#)
- [The Importance of Contextual Fit when Implementing Evidence-Based Interventions \(PDF-16 Pages\)](#)

To learn more about the Investing in What Works project and find videos of related presentations, please visit [FindYouthInfo.gov](#).

## CWDP GOALS: BASELINE DISCUSSION UPDATE

The subset of our implementation workgroup developing baseline recommendations met on September 29, 2014. After addressing concerns about previous data pictures and the difficulty of using well-being measures, several identified steps were made towards developing a recommendation. County agencies are submitting data for multiple years on care day and congregate care day information. HZA is redoing their information to utilize actual numbers rather than percentages of change. A conversation is in the works for a discussion with the University of Pittsburgh and potentially Dr. Lyons about using CANS/FAST data to develop a well-being measure. The Executive Committee will be informed about these activities and results as final recommendations are developed.

## CANS/FAST COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE UPDATE (JUSTIN DONOFRIO/DEBRA MCHUGH)

The CANS/FAST Community of Practice meeting (call) was held on September 19, 2014. This meeting was assembled in an effort for counties to support one another's concerns and success stories pertaining to the implementation of the CANS and FAST. The eventual objective will be for counties to have an appropriate forum to share materials and collaborate for solutions when challenges arise regarding these assessment tools. Participants in this meeting included county supervisors and administration, as well as additional supportive contributors.

One of the areas of focus during this meeting was success stories with the CANS and FAST tools and supports that can be utilized to assist counties throughout implementation. One supportive reference that was highlighted is the Champions Group; a strategy used by Allegheny County that incorporates both CANS and FAST assessments. The Champions Group serves as a means to continue the process of ongoing education related to assessments. This particular strategy was offered as an option for other counties to explore as a support.

