

Items in this Issue

- Evaluation Update
- Reminders

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 send PCG representative Erin Palmer any county updates or changes in position/title and contact information for the various workgroups via e-mail: epalmer@pcgus.com

A tale of collaboration: Philadelphia’s Implementation Team, Data Analytic Unit and the Evaluation Team.

**Mark Hawkins, Social Science Research Statistician
Philadelphia DHS, Data Analytics Unit**

This example illustrates ways that the evaluation team can work with individual counties, using the FlashTalks as a jumping off point for further investigation into implementation issues.

In Philadelphia, a good deal of the front line consists of staff from Community Umbrella Agencies (CUAs) who are required to administer the FAST and CANS assessments. The recent FlashTalk on the FAST and the CANS provided useful information for the Philadelphia Department of Human Services as the FAST and CANS form the basis for much of the front line decision making. CANS informs the professionals on specialized Behavioral Health Resources and/or Home Placements; assists in evaluating children over 14 readiness for independence, and supports goal making for the safety and risk assessments as well as the single goal case plan.

After the first FlashTalk on the CANS, the Department team, headed by Deputy Commissioner Kimberly Ali, wondered if the FAST and CANS were being used correctly. The department had changed a policy to allow up to 60 days, instead of 30 days, upon initial opening of the case to fill out the CANS. The purpose of this change was to give front line staff more time to fill out the CANS as it was generally felt that the personnel have a lot to do and not enough time to fill out important paperwork like the FAST and CANS. But the analyses from the FlashTalk suggested that the scores didn’t reflect the target group – they were lower than expected on the CANS. However, would it look different when dividing the target group into “before the policy change” and “after”? The department, through its data analytic unit, obtained their data files from the evaluation team and then completed a review of the CANS before and after the policy change. To further assist the department, the data analytics unit plans to review the CANS of children who went into Behavioral Health placements, Foster Homes versus Treatment Foster Homes, to see if we can gain some understanding of our CANS use and effectiveness. Once we can determine where and if the tools are filled out correctly, we can put in place the appropriate policy change, training or whatever is needed to ensure a good quality assessment is taking place at the Front Lines for our Children.

Flash Talk Series: SPANS (Service Process Adherence to Needs and Strengths)

The CWDP Evaluation Team are preparing the next series, SPANS tool. Please remember, Flash Talks are a webinar discussion to view the data and discuss the practice. Please invite any providers or other representative that may benefit from the information being provided.

The dates and times for the SPANS Flash Talks are:

October 25, 1-2pm

October 26, 11am – 12pm

Important Dates:

- **10/31/2016: Program Monitoring forms for July-September are due to PCG.**
- **November 2, 2016 – Title IV-E Eligibility Training to be held at CCAP.**
- **Fiscals calls are on-going. Dates and times will be scheduled with individual county representatives.**