

CHILD-WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Issue 30

September 8, 2014

An OCYF-County Partnership

COLLABORATION

Implementation of the Child Welfare Demonstration Project continues to be a great example of statewide collaboration to achieve our project goals. Whether it be the leadership of Allegheny County staff in the FAST/CANS arena and their willingness to share resources; the sharing of IT information and resources in our CAPS counties; to the identification of shared training opportunities for EBPs being implemented – the project is bringing together the best in what we offer as a state. Crawford County is benefiting from the experience of our original counties, and now they will be part of the team that assists with any potential next counties. This collaborative effort is definitely a key ingredient in our recipe for demonstration project success!

EVALUATION UPDATE

Counties from Cohort One are wrapping up the family and youth focus group process, as well as the family engagement meeting observations. Both of these activities are expected to be completed by the end of September in each of these counties. Additionally, Cohort One counties will begin the Evidence-Based Practice Questionnaire (EBPQ) soon, and can expect to receive further information about this activity from the Evaluation Team in the coming weeks.

Cohort Two has begun 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 will also receive detailed information regarding the Organization Readiness for Change (ORC) Survey in order to keep them on schedule and prepared for this activity; which takes place in October.

Mark your calendars for October 21st and 22nd, 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 expected leading up to the training. All questions regarding this training can be directed to the Evaluation Specialist, Alexis Pigott (alp159@pitt.edu).



Lastly, a date has not yet been selected for the next Evaluation Subcommittee meeting. Keep an eye out for further information regarding suggested dates and agenda items throughout the month.

CWDP MENTIONED ON THE LISTENING TOUR (Submitted by Amanda Helring, Lackawanna County)

Lackawanna County OYFS had a unique opportunity to showcase our efforts in the Child Welfare Demonstration Project and other initiatives on August 25th when our director, Bill Browning, participated in a Listening Tour conducted by Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth Co-Chairs, U.S. Representatives Tom Marino and Karen Bass. Lycoming County graciously hosted the Listening Tour in Representative Marino's hometown of Williamsport and provided expert testimony about the needs of foster youth. Bill illustrated OYFS' intense efforts toward proactively engaging and assessing families with the goal of keeping children safely in their homes and limiting their time in placement if unsafe circumstances require that they are removed from their parents' care. Representatives Marino and Bass were especially interested in the Demonstration Project because it employs skilled and targeted shifting of existing funds toward preventative efforts.

Robin, a parent whose family Lackawanna County OYFS has served during the Demonstration Project, had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tell her story at the Listening Tour. Robin's family had never been involved with OYFS until a recent incident of abuse led to the family's first involvement and the temporary placement of the children. Robin and her children had experienced numerous severely traumatic events over a short period of time and had not known how to move forward successfully. Through the process of the FAST and CANS assessments, Robin was able to see how not dealing with her trauma was negatively impacting her parenting and she was able to enter services to help her heal. A Family Group Decision Making conference allowed the family to develop a plan that led to safe reunification with the children within six weeks.

Although Bill impressed upon Robin that this was her one chance to tell Congress the unfiltered positive and negative truth about how she was treated during the process of OYFS involvement so that we could continue to grow and improve, Robin was sure that she could not think of anything she would have wanted to happen differently. She felt that she had been engaged and respected from the beginning and that the processes she experienced helped her to get on the right path for her family. Robin's account of her experience was quite moving and no one in the room was untouched by her heartfelt narrative about the trauma she had experienced and the hope she now has for the future. OYFS strives every day to make this type of experience a reality for every family we serve.

To learn more about the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth or the Listening Tours being conducted around the country, see <http://tinyurl.com/omp22o7> or <http://tinyurl.com/q3nczl3>

CWDP GOALS: A NEED FOR COUNTY BASED WELL-BEING CONSIDERATIONS

One major area of discussion at the August 26, 2014 Executive Committee was the initial waiver goals and appropriate measures and starting baselines. There are still several issues being worked out by a sub-group of our Implementation Committee regarding congregate care and re-entry data. In addition, a methodology is being developed to capture days in care as of a determined date to measure change in care days over the waiver.

It was decided at the meeting that each county would review potential data sources to measure well-being over the course of the waiver. The limitations of the Quality Service Review data was recognized, but the group overwhelmingly agreed that well-being was still an important goal of our project. Each county will be meeting about this subject internally and come prepared for a group discussion as part of our goal/baseline sub-group. This meeting is currently scheduled for September 22, 2014.

WAIVER CONFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON-LINE

The Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration page on James Bell Associates' Website has been updated to include materials and presentations from the *16th Annual Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Projects Meeting* held on July 28–30, 2014, in Washington, DC.

The Annual Meeting materials may be viewed and downloaded from the following URL:
<http://www.jbassoc.com/reports-publications/child-welfare-waiver>

UPCOMING PROJECT DUE DATES

Post Implementation:

- December 31, 2014 Semi-Annual Progress Report
- October 31, 2014 Program Monitoring Form

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Update your calendar:

- September 19, 2014 CAN/FAST Community of Practice Call
- September 22, 2014 Sub-Group: Goal/Baseline Discussion
- September 23, 2014 SafeCare Meeting
- October 21-22, 2014 SPANS Training (Allegheny County)
- November 12-14, 2014 Praed Foundation CANS Conference

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 – Kirsten Johnson
Venango – Amie Wood-Wessel
Crawford – To Be Determined

Our newsletter is a much more dynamic and useful newsletter when we get county contributions – please consider an article for next month!

Crawford – To be determined