

Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting

9/18/14

In Attendance: Bryon Luke, Dr. Gordon Hodas, Dave Jeannerat, Gina Lutz, Lisa Caruso, Mark Durgin

Staff Support Attendance: Monica Walker Payne

Standing Meeting will be the 3rd Thursday of the month from 9:00 to 10:30.

Additional Materials:

- Learning Institute Feedback (.doc)
- PA Progress Assessment Slides from Learning Institute (PDF)
- State CPA Report 2014 (PDF)

Discussion Topics for Today's Meeting

- County Progress Assessment
 - Taken from a National Tool developed by Beth Stroul and the Georgetown Group.
 - PA added the 8 standards in section #2.
 - The assessment was given to counties in April 2014 to assess each County's readiness and actions for SOC.
 - The goal was to assess each County and give information related to what is going well, and what can be worked on.
 - Counties received their reports in June 2014.
 - The assessment is separated into 5 parts.
 - It was taken by Youth Partners, Family Partners, Policy and Decision Makers, Provider Organizations, MCO, Community Partners, and System Partners.
 - At a minimum five persons from each County had to take the assessment.
 - Monica explained there was a change in April from the initial 5 persons from the County Leadership Team taking the assessment to a larger assessment group of anyone in the county. This change had caused some confusion and frustration in some Counties.
 - For next Year how does this need to be changed and improved.
 - Make sure there is advanced warning to build up the knowledge of the assessment (use YFTI quarterly calls and SOC County Collaborative calls).
 - Advertise the benefits of participation and what it can be used for (how PA SOC can focus training and help for challenging areas).
 - Persons that take the assessment need to be independent in their thinking.
 - Ensure the same person takes the survey each year to get an accurate measurement of progress.
 - Can we ask that the County Leadership Team complete the assessment but also get opinions from others? (disparate scores help start conversation)
 - Make a check box that person is on the County Leadership Team and if they have taken the assessment before.
 - This past year persons were concerned about the anonymity of the survey – can we have a check box to allow person to identify themselves?
 - Length and Language of the survey
 - PA SOC Standards were used word for word on the survey and this made lengthy.
 - Is there a way to shorten the survey and make it easier to read?
 - There were many questions that have the “Don't Know” response at a higher rate. It is suspected that the reason could be due to not knowing or not understanding the question.

- Make every question two lines or under.
- Combine some questions and shorten others.
- Try to make the survey at a language level that is available for all persons taking the survey – 5th grade reading level?
- Erie county partners with a local University to get reading specialists to adapt their materials – can we do this?
- Develop a work group to work on the questions prior to sending it to a reading specialist. The work group can be made up of youth, family and system partners. (Gina volunteered to help with the revisions from a youth perspective)
- Suggested reading each question out loud and try to explain it. Or think about how you would explain it to someone over the phone to help get easier language.
- Formatting can make a big difference too – watch how much is on one page, font size, placement, etc.
- Can we move away from Web Data Express to Survey Monkey to make it easier to read?
- Make sure that questions are one thought. - Like in Youth Driven, question number 6 are two separate thoughts.
- Also make sure the intent of the question is clear, like in Question number 7 under Youth Driven, it refers to Peer Support, and depending on the county, this can mean many different things.
- Is it possible to send out in two parts or give the option to do it in two or one part.?
- There are five sections to the survey, and some of this is PA specific and other parts are from the National part of SOC.
 - There was discussion about moving Commitment to first part of the survey vs. Strategic Plan.
 - Could do one survey of PA Standards and Commitment and separate survey of National SOC perspective – infrastructure and other county services/supports.
 - Suggestion to do survey 3-6 months apart to not overwhelm.
 - Or decide if we really need to do the national perspective – what would we lose if we just did the PA Standards and Commitment?
- Try to really think about what are the crucial things that we need to know and streamline the assessment.
- Is there the ability to put a preamble on the survey to get better/higher response rates – why this is important and how it will be used (at the state level and at the county level).
- Evaluation and the Learning Institute
 - It was suggested about have a pre or post evaluation meeting around the learning institute.
 - What topics could be of interest to the group? – suggested picking 2-3 topics or sending out a survey to see what people are interested in.
 - There is the possibility to bring in a national presenter or the group from YFTI/SOC could do this?
 - The idea is to learn ways to get public and system data and related to learning more about collecting and using data.
 - Concerns with more time away from home.
 - Should do a survey to see what the interest level is before we plan.

- Having a national person may complicate the conversation and make it too complex for the group.
 - If connected to the Learning Institute, it should be before and not after or at the end of a day – topics are too complex to talk about when people are tired or want to travel a long way back home.
 - It was also mentioned that they could do a pre-institute for Youth, Family, and Evaluation. There was concern that a person could miss other valuable discussion while attending the Evaluation meeting.
 - Discussed subcommittee time at the next Learning Institute – valuable only to meet jointly if there is a clear agenda.
 - Don't schedule subcommittee time at the same time as other events or workshops to make people choose.
- At the next meeting there is hope that there will be information from the other subcommittee's for us to review.
 - At the October 1st YFTI HFW Meeting in State College there will be a Panel on Data and the current outcomes from the collected data.
 - In the future there may be one meeting that will be canceled
 - Reminder that there are stipends available to the youth and family who participate in these calls, and Monica can be contacted for assistance in completing this if needed.

Next Meeting: Thursday October 16, 2014 from 9:00 to 10:30