Essentials for Childhood
Evidence Based Programs Working Group
Meeting Notes | March 20, 2017

Meeting Purpose: Discuss next steps for alignment process.

ATTENDEES

Anne Foglia, NCIOM
Catherin Joyner, DHHS
Paul Lanier, UNC School of Social Work
Kristin O'Connor, DSS
Jeff Quinn, Durham Connects, Duke Center for Child and Family Policy
Phil Redmond, The Duke Endowment
Susan Robinson, DHHS
Meghan Shanahan, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
Kim McCombs-Thornton, Smart Start
Berkeley Yorkery, NCIOM
Jan Williams, Healthy Families

REVIEW OF EBP WORKING GROUP STRATEGY AND DISCUSSION

Consensus on Key Strategy: Increase support for aligning evaluation and RFP processes across agencies and organizations. This supports the Essentials goal of supported improvement in agency coordination and across-state alignment.

Strategic Outcomes:

- Private funders could help fund pre-work planning.
- Identify (develop?) and advocate for a framework for determining community readiness and capacity for EBP implementation.
- Create a map of which DHHS & DSS divisions are connected to EBPs and division capacity for additional implementation.

Update from February 24th Steering Committee Meeting: The steering committee is supportive of this strategic direction; in order to narrow the focus and be timely, the steering committee suggested doing a pilot of an aligned process to coordinate Home Visiting programs. What would a pilot look like? Questions to answer include the size of the pilot and identifying the programs, agencies, and funders included. Programs and partners discussed included NFP, Healthy Steps, Parents as teachers, Triple P, DSS, Head Start, and Smart Start.

The working group identified a few different ways to narrow the focus of a pilot program:

- Look at a particular model/program across funders and agencies. How are the reporting, funding, outcomes, and impact aligned/coordinated?
- Look at the infrastructure (partnerships & feedback loops) supporting array of services (screening, prenatal, postnatal, early childhood) for a particular community.
    - e.g., Jeff's work with NFP and Healthy Families is focused on recruiting families and pairing them with the right service (emphasis on capacity, communication, and outcomes)
- Kim McCombs-Thornton argued that there are limitations of common indicators when programs target different outcomes and communities.

In the course of conversation he working group identified several resources to identify and questions to answer to develop an informed pilot proposal:

- Current public and private funding landscape—processes & reporting requirements.
- Lessons learned—where attempts at alignment have already been made including MICHV and the Transformation Zones in eastern North Carolina, what works? What doesn't work?

ALIGNMENT SURVEY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Meghan Shanahan reviewed the highlights from the survey on alignment of RFP process conducted in October 2016 (n=46):

1. Only around 1 in 5 respondents reported that they have the following to support implementation.
    - Funding for adequate planning process 20.0%
    - Evaluation assistance 22.2%
    - Fit and feasibility assessments 20.0%

    These are all things the EBP group has identified as essential and would like to incorporate in the RFP alignment work.

2. Other elements which the group has identified as important for programs to have to support implementation and which received low responses:
    - Systems intervention (creating champions, etc.) 40.0%
    - Facilitation/administration 31.1%
    - Decision support/data system 31.1%

3. Most commonly identified barriers to implementation were:
    - Lack of funding to implement program: 45.7%
    - Agency does not have enough time to successfully implement the program: 45.7%
    - Lack of implementation support after training 37.0%

4. 76% of respondents answered “yes” to Q3: Do you think a more aligned RFP/RFA process is necessary to support evidence-based practices in NC?

5. 90.9% of respondents identified a common definition of EBP as helpful in creating an aligned RFP process.

6. 72.7% of respondents identified common measures required for reporting as helpful in creating an aligned RFP process.

7. Other comments on why an aligned process might NOT be necessary include:
   - Higher level systems are not integrated; there generally is not agreement and technical skills in high level management in many of the required areas.
   - The issue is not with the training or support during cohort. It is after the learning collaborative ends that fidelity slips. Also, the overall financial sustainability of these interventions aren't there. Medicaid does not pay a sustainable rate.
   - I worry sometimes that a standard application would miss unique characteristics of those agencies that do good but may not fit into a standard way of doing things.
   - There are many evaluations and descriptions of EBTs. Does not seem worthwhile to recreate

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM RESEARCH AND PROPOSAL

The working group agreed that the research proposal sounded like a potential good fit with the Pathways community focus groups.

NEXT STEPS

- Circulate a Doodle Poll to schedule the next few meetings (Anne).
- Draft a Timeline / Work Plan (Anne & Michelle with input from Jeff, Tony, Catherine, & Meghan).
- Follow up with Greer Cook about opportunities at the September 2017 Home Visiting Summit (Michelle, Anne, Sharon, & Tony).
- Reach out to Cindy Soder at Early Childhood Funders—28 philanthropic organizations funding birth through 8 programs. Arrange a phone call to discuss goals and potential for future partnership (Michelle & Anne with introduction from Jeff).
- Locate and circulate an evaluation report for the Race to the Top Transformation Zones (Meghan).
- Collect funders processes & reporting requirements to understand status quo.
    - Create a map of which DHHS & DSS divisions are connected to home visiting EBPs and division capacity for additional implementation (Catherine, Kristin).
        - What is the source of funding, where is it going? How are we maximizing resources in home visiting?

    - Pull together evaluation and data collection methods across home visiting EBPs (Kim).
- Identify MICHV Federal and State Benchmarks (19 core benchmarks) (Michelle & Anne to ask Robin Robbins).