

Rhode Island Early Learning Council
Early Child Assessment Sub-Committee Meeting

Friday, September 21, 2012 12:00-2:00 p.m.
William E. Powers Building
One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor Conference Room B
Providence, RI 02908

Meeting Summary

AGENDA SUMMARY

The Early Childhood Assessment Subcommittee agenda addressed the following topics:

- A review of the role of the Early Childhood Assessment Sub-Committee
- An overview of the major Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Early Childhood Assessment Project deliverables and timeline
- A review and discussion of draft child development outcome targets
- An opportunity for public comments

KEY POINTS

Key discussion points from the meeting are summarized below:

Role of the Early Childhood Assessment Sub-Committee

- None

Overview of Major Deliverables and Timeline

- This project has an immediate goal of developing plans for incentivizing the use of Teaching StrategiesGOLD in Head Start (TS GOLD), Title I, and private programs. The program standards alignment core team is also talking about adding TS GOLD into BrightStars similar to what Pennsylvania does with their TQRIS system which might be one way to incentivize its use. Both projects should be working together on this plan.
- There is a plan to work with Child Outreach to build within KIDSNET information about developmental screening results that child outreach providers can use, particularly for children who are dual language learners (DLL). We have worked to standardize the Child Outreach system to work with DLL students and have created a flowchart for training (which will be reviewed by NIEER before it is rolled out). We are piloting the system with Child Outreach providers in communities that have high screening rates and communities with low screening rates.
- Is there a directory of developmental screenings that providers can choose from as they send them out?
 - There are screenings that occur at 9, 18, and 30 months and there is a list of standardized screenings that can be used. However, the state is leaning towards having all providers use ASQ III and/or possibly PEDS.

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- Will the development screening survey ask for demographic information, like where providers are located?
 - The survey asks physicians to choose which screening they are using, if they use electronic medical records, but it does not ask for a lot demographic information. We will confirm that.
- We need to make a decision quickly about whether we are going to use electronic or paper screening tools.
- We will need to work on how we will motivate providers to do the screenings. We are not sure who is giving screenings at this point and as of right now, there is nothing that compels them to do it unless they are serving a Medicaid patient (Medicaid requires the screenings). For those providers we can get data on who is submitting claims for screening materials.
- We are looking into using TS GOLD for early intervention but we are logistically trying to figure out how to make it work. Early intervention practitioners are paid to be making visits at homes and are not paid for time in the office entering in information.
 - Margaret at Meeting Street came up with a plan for how to bill those hours.
 - We need to make sure programs bill in the same way for the administrative time.
 - We have funding in the grant to pay for the administrative time in the interim while we put together a sustainable plan that providers buy into.
- We need to look at a paper version of TS GOLD so that it is more usable for early interventionists who are working 1:1 with families in their homes.
- One of the overarching goals for TS GOLD is to make sure it can be implemented in a reliable way in a variety of settings. We are not going to just assume that TS GOLD is the right tool, we will evaluate it along the way to make sure. We plan to do time use studies with providers to see how they are using the tool and whether it is feasible.
- What do occupational and physical therapists do now?
 - We need to assess that through a time use survey. We know they are doing an initial assessment, using standardized tools and they are free to use the tool that will give them the best information for what they are concerned about.
- Nebraska is the only other state that has used TS GOLD with early intervention. We are going to reach out to them to find out more about how they use it.

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- We will be assessing professional development needs around assessment including looking at how people currently use assessment. Our goal is to raise everyone's assessment literacy.
- We will not be rolling out a Kindergarten Entry Assessment until 2014. As we talk to other states who are implementing kindergarten entry assessments, it is clear that we need to be thoughtful about how it is rolled-out and how it is used. Our intent is to use the kindergarten entry assessment to build a bridge between ECE and K-12.

Review of Child Development Outcome Targets

- The dates for the targets that are not directly related to RTT-ELC should be changed to 2016 because the Early Learning Council's strategic plan is for five years (2015 is when the Race to the Top Grant will end).
- We should change the name. These are more screening and development targets as opposed to child development outcomes targets.

Public Comment

Will programs who are already using TS GOLD be able to get the state rate? Yes.

How will TS GOLD be used in family child care settings?

- Family child care providers will have this tool as well.
- It will be very challenging for family child care providers to use this tool. We might need to make a connection to BrightStars. Perhaps family child care providers who are a 4 or 5 star level should be using TS GOLD.
- The state will be meeting with TS GOLD this month and we will stress that the tool needs to be made malleable for all types of providers. If this isn't the right tool, we'll have to look at that. For now, we are hoping that it is.