Family Support Leadership Group Meeting  
Friday, July 22nd, 2011  
Polk Co. Riverplace, Des Moines, Iowa  
9:30am-3pm


Introductions and Updates: Amber Russell with PCAI discussed the new requirements for outcomes, the common evaluation tool and protective factors survey. There will be a training for ICAP grantees on these items. She and Rhonda Boltz are also meeting with Janet to get the Outcomes Workgroup up and going again.

Connie Gronstal reported that there will be a Touch Points training in western Iowa coming up.

PJ West gave an update on the centralized intake pilot process. A centralized intake for family support programs provides one single point of entry for access, assessment and referral in a local area to family support services. The key to central intake is accessibility for consumers and the need for a central location in order to access services for themselves or family members. There are currently 4 areas piloting the centralized intake in rural Iowa. Page and Fremont Counties, Grundy County, Wapello County and the collaborative of Washington, Henry, Van Buren, Lee, Louise and Des Moines Counties. PJ is offering technical assistance to the areas and making note of the lessons learned in the areas, which will be incorporated into the Centralized Intake Best Practice Guide.

Barb Khal shared with the group the Help Me Grow (HMG) project. Help Me Grow began in Connecticut with federal dollars. States were then able to compete to become affiliates. There were 6 states and now Iowa is an affiliate. The project identifies children 0-6 who have developmental issues and then offers home visitation and health education, etc, whereas all programs come together to offer assistance and get them the help they need. Here in Iowa the grant is $20,000 with an Iowa match of an additional $20,000. This is a two year project. Some key points of the project are: 1. Central point of contact/intake – a single number to call. 2. Care Coordination. 3. Community outreach/Promotion. 4. Primary Care Healthcare 5. Data collection and Analysis.

Janet provided a power point update on the IDPH Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visitation Program.

Rhonda Boltz and Chris Rubino provided a power point presentation on the Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative.

Jen Stout with VNS/Project Launch gave an update. They are busy working on a Photo Voice Project with 12 moms that are involved in their program. Jen will give an update on this project at the October meeting.

Tim Fitzpatrick and Chris Rubino gave an update on the Family Support Professional Development workgroup that met on Thursday. The group is working on common definitions for items such as mentor, technical assistance and consultant. There is also working being done on a landscape survey and information being gathered on trainers and trainings available across the state.

The Outcomes workgroup will be reconvening soon.

Janet Horras provided a power point presentation update on the Iowa Family Support Credentialing program, and shared with the group the number of programs who have applied for, working towards, and completed the process.
Tamika Fisher and Elaine Fogdall provided a power point presentation on the Iowa Family Support Technical Assistance network, providing an overview of the IFSTAN website, etc.

There was a brief discussion on tools for family support workers to utilize in regards to substance abuse. We are not aware of any valid and reliable tools available in Iowa. Janet is working with the MIECHV regional contact on this topic and tools available in other states. She will share this information as she gets it.

Janet also shared information Project Connect. There is a free Future’s without Violence Conference, November 15 & 16 in the Des Moines area. More information will come out when it’s available. They are focusing on home visitation and tools for home visitors around domestic violence. Project Connect is also interested in getting 1-2 people from Iowa trained on tools for home visitors to utilize in regards to domestic violence, so Janet is working with them on that.

The group reviewed the Family Support Logo options and chose one that most folks seemed to like. Janet will have Heather at IDPH makes some changes and give some color options and have that at the October meeting.

Janet will be updating the Family Support Issue Brief #5 and sharing that.

Deb Scrowther shared information about the new ECI website and its redesign.

Chris Rubino talked about the Early Access Leadership, Birth – 3, Every Child Reads. Trainers are needed, and there will be a train the trainer on September 21st.

Janet reported that she’s been working with a group of folks on getting a unique student identifier for the MIECHV families. More information will come out soon on this.

**Future FSLG meeting dates:**
Friday, October 21, 2011
Friday, April 27, 2012
Friday, July 20, 2012