NCSI Networker - August 31, 2017

The National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) aims to help states transform their systems and support their districts and local early intervention service programs in improving educational results and functional outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, and children and youth with disabilities. Keep up to date with recent products, webinars, resources, and announcements at www.ncsi.wested.org or by following NCSI on Twitter at @TheNCSI.

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TA in Action

Pacific Entities, U.S. Territories, and Bureau of Indian Education Participated in a Technical Assistance Meeting Held After the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership Conference
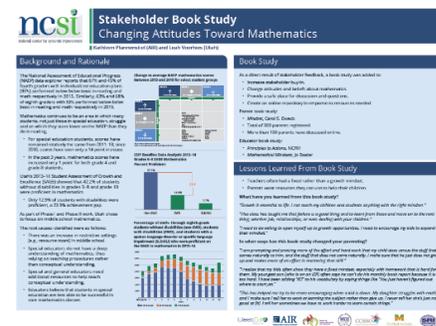

Arthur Albert from Federated States of Micronesia

As has become a tradition after national meetings, U.S. entities had the opportunity to get together with OSEP staff and their technical assistance providers following the OSEP Leadership Conference. The attendees included staff from the Bureau of Indian Education, the five U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the three Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau). The meeting was sponsored by the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy) Center and organized by TA providers from DaSy, the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA), the Center for the Integration of IDEA Data (CIID), IDEA Data Center (IDC), and NCSI. Other OSEP-sponsored centers such as Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting (CIFR) and National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) also attended the event. The umbrella theme for the meeting was "sharing is caring," an approach the entities use when they get together. Entities were invited to formally present their progress implementing the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), their success stories, challenges, and recommendations to their peers. Staff from three entities gave presentations: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Northern Mariana Islands; other entities contributed to the discussion. Learn

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Multiple NCSI Related Sessions Featured at OSEP Leadership Conference

The recent OSEP Leadership Conference included many sessions highlighting the work that states are doing to implement and evaluate their SSIPs. NCSI staff were well represented on seven presentations and three posters in collaboration with state colleagues representing Part B and Part C. Topics covered included systems alignment, creating coherence, monitoring progress toward the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR) attainment, significant disproportionality and stakeholder engagement, professional development evaluation strategies to maximize impact, and more. Slide presentations from sessions across the conference including those that NCSI was involved with are currently available on the conference mobile site and will be archived on the OSEP IDEAs That Work website

Do you have a TA question? Don't forget that you can submit a question to Ask the NCSI or your TA Facilitator, or contact NCSI at NCSI@wested.org or 866-664-8471.

NCSI Products and Tools

NCSI continues to develop resources and other supports to assist states during SSIP Phase III.

Wins and Hiccups: A Collaborative Implementation Problem-Solving Guide for SSIP Teams

NCSI has developed this guide to support state teams in implementing the SSIP to consider both their successes and challenges to inform continuous improvement. For example, it can be helpful to identify what elements of implementation are going well ("wins") in order to build upon those successes. It can be helpful to identify what elements of implementation are posing challenges or barriers ("hiccups") so that these issues can be addressed and avoided in the future. View the guide here. Need support to implement this tool? Contact your TA facilitator or submit a request to Ask the NCSI.

Coming Soon! Online Learning Modules Focused on Leading by Convening

Are you interested in learning more about Leading by Convening (LbC) or sharing it with others? NCSI is finishing up the final touches on the first in a series of online interactive training modules focused on LbC. These self-study modules introduce and explore the LbC habits of interaction that can help state leaders engage stakeholders as allies to reach shared goals. The first module will highlight three lessons that define authentic stakeholder engagement, its importance, and how to make it a reality in practice; describes two traditional approaches to leadership and offers a third approach, the Partnership Way; and provides an overview of the LbC framework. The modules will be available on the NCSI webiste, here.

Mark Your Calendars

- OSEP Symposium: Displaying Our Data—Conveying Our Stories, rescheduled to October 10, 2017, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET
- Division for Early Childhood's 33rd Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs and Their Families, October 4–6, 2017, Portland, OR
- NASDSE Annual Conference, October 14–16, 2017, Portland OR
- NCSI Part C Cross-State Learning Collaborative Convening, October 24-26, 2017, Chicago, IL

- [28th Annual CASE Fall Conference, November 1–3, 2017, Reno, NV](#)
- NCSI Part B Convening, November 7–8, 2017, Atlanta, GA
- Stakeholder Engagement Chats Sponsored by the NCSI Communication and Collaboration Team. The next chats will be held September 8 and 15, 2017, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to join.

State Spotlights

Many states have questions about data use, systems change, and stakeholder engagement. We are excited to share two new spotlights including one focused on Part C and one focused on systems alignment and stakeholder engagement.

Nevada Part B: How do we develop and use a communication protocol to connect stakeholders to the work to sustain and scale up initiatives?

Local and statewide systems change requires ongoing communication and evaluation. The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) used a communication protocol to support implementation of the Assess-Plan-Teach model. This state spotlight focuses on the development and implementation of a communication protocol that NDE used to connect stakeholders to the work as well as to sustain and scale up initiatives. [Learn more about how NDE is addressing this challenge](#).

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Arizona Part C: How do we leverage the state data system to maximize funds to sustain high-quality early intervention services?

Many states struggle with collecting reliable and valid state-level data that can be leveraged to maximize the use of funds. This task is particularly challenging when providing early intervention services in states where Medicaid uses clinic rates that are lower than the natural environment rates covered by state or Federal Part C funds. This state spotlight presents various strategies that the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) used to identify diverse program-level funding sources and to encourage providers' use of Medicaid funding by enhancing the state's data system and acquiring a Medicaid rate increase for speech–language services. [Learn more about how AzEIP is addressing this challenge](#).

Interested in more State Spotlights? [Check out the full series here](#).

Partner Resources to Support SSIP Implementation

ECTA Explores Coaching for Practice Change and Family Partnerships

The Learning Lab on Coaching for Practice Change hosted by ECTA provided a remote learning opportunity to explore how coaching can be supported by states and used within programs to improve implementation of EBPs. The Learning Lab, held between May and August 2017, covers information and knowledge development of the topic area and provides time for discussions. Topics addressed included innovations in the delivery of coaching, implications at the state and local level, data-based decision making and the implementation of coaching practices. [View the archived videos on the ECTA website](#). ECTA has also developed a series focused on family engagement. In partnership with DaSy, Ann and Rud Turnbull and additional invited guests facilitated an interactive four-part web broadcast series aimed at supporting early intervention and early childhood special education systems leaders with building capacity in personnel and families to develop trusting partnerships. [View the series here](#).

CIFR's Local Educational Agency Maintenance of Effort Calculator Assists with Data Reporting

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Calculator, developed by the CIFR, assists state educational agencies and LEAs in reporting MOE data. Personnel may use the tool to document local, or local and state, fiscal effort for the education of children with disabilities in an LEA across

a five-year period, plus up to five years of historical data. It assists users in determining whether an LEA's effort meets the IDEA's LEA MOE eligibility standard in 34 CFR §300.203(a) and compliance standard in 34 CFR §300.203(b). View the tool or learn more by viewing the one-page instruction overview (note, this downloads as a zip file).

Updates from the U.S. Department of Education

Comment Period Extended for U.S. Department of Education Regulatory Reform

On August 11, the Department of Education published a new Federal Register notice extending the public comment period to provide members of the public the opportunity to submit comments concerning regulations and policy guidance they recommend the Department repeal, replace, or modify for 30 additional days. The comment period will now close September 20, 2017. View the August 11, 2017 Federal Register Notice and find information about the regulation and policy documents for the Department and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) specifically in the most recent OSERS Blog.

New IDEA Website Released

The Department of Education has released its new IDEA website that includes information and resources for a range of audiences such as students, parents, educators, service providers, and grantees. The site highlights information on infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities from the Department and their grantees. The new website features:

- Updated design and interface
- Expanded search options and resource pages targeting specific audiences
- Increased access to OSEP memos, dear colleague letters, and policy letters
- Upgraded Section 508 accessibility and language assistance supports

The Department is looking for your feedback on the new site. View the website and share your thoughts by commenting on their blog post.

FFY 2015 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Reports Are Now Publicly Available

OSEP has released the most recent State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). To view the information, visit the Public APR Landing Page where you can select the year, part, and state or territory you would like to view. For each state, a PDF version of the SPP/APR can be generated, but the online platform provides an easy access interactive option. Click here to view the results.

Do you have suggestions for resources or topics that we can cover in the newsletter? Send them to us at NCSI@wested.org**.**