

FPG Child Development Institute



4/29/2016

The Transformation Zone evaluation team attended meetings in January and February 2016, many of which included intentional discussions around assisting counties with finalizing priorities for building capacity and sustainability and planning for technical assistance (TA) to align with counties' priorities. Transformation Zone County Leadership and Implementation Teams have worked diligently since the September 2015 retreats to purposefully engage additional stakeholders, determine top priorities and work with TA providers to develop feasible plans to sustain their work. This newsletter reports on technical assistance around communication and messaging, systems change, implementation science and sustainability by Transformation Zone TA providers: (1) North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC), (2) National Implementation Research Network (NIRN), and (3) ABLe Change.

During the 2016 no-cost extension period of the Transformation Zone (TZ) evaluation, evaluators continue attending county and state meetings in person and remotely to gather information about TZ processes. We continue to communicate with state partners (NIRN, NCPC, ABLe Change, and Grants Management) to provide developmental feedback related to implementation of evidence-based strategies and systems change processes at state and county levels. Evaluators continue to share findings about TZ progress via various delivery methods.

Communications Technical Assistance

Each TZ county had at least one priority related to effectively communicating the importance of early childhood education and increasing awareness of county-level TZ work being conducted in their communities. While some counties had similar priorities for broad communication across the county, others had more specific requests for TA regarding communication among county infrastructures.

For example, NCPC is assisting Beaufort County with their priority around needed communication and messaging support. To achieve this goal, TA is being provided to build a messaging framework regarding work led by the county leadership team.

In Bertie and Hyde Counties, priorities center on developing community champions of early childhood. NCPC is providing TA with presenting the First 2000 Days Campaign and hosting train-the-trainer sessions on the importance of early childhood. These counties expressed a desire to increase awareness among community members. Communications TA to Hyde County will also assist with hosting a retreat for county leaders to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood and recommend policy.

In Chowan County, communication efforts are focused on increasing community level awareness of school readiness and promoting local opportunities for families. NCPC is assisting these efforts by helping build awareness via social media outlets and providing materials for caregivers on ways to help prepare children for school.

Technical Assistance for Systems Change

The ABL e Change team is providing TA to Bertie and Hyde Counties that includes the development of a strategic plan around elements related to their top priorities. For example, ABL e Change staff are assisting county teams using a sustainability planning template to consider key outcomes related to priorities. Coaches and teams are supported to develop their plans through peer-to-peer teleconference calls and implementation sessions with ABL e Change staff.

Technical Assistance for Implementation Science and Sustainability

NIRN is providing concentrated TA around sustainability with Coaches to help strengthen county teams' infrastructure and collection and use of data. NIRN plans to conduct County Capacity Assessments (CCAs) which will inform the local work. In Beaufort and Hyde Counties, TA supports the County Coaches' efforts to enhance implementation capacity among teams and key stakeholders. In Beaufort County, NIRN is collaborating with *Rural Forward NC* to provide facilitation of various committees and groups which were established to strengthen their infrastructure around the work. In Hyde County, NIRN is working through the Coach to increase implementation science capacity and use.

In Bertie and Chowan Counties, NIRN will conduct CCAs and support the teams' creation of corresponding action plans. NIRN will work with the Bertie County Coach to develop a plan to implement a Child Find project. Using data from the CCAs and Child Find project, NIRN will assist Bertie County Implementation and Leadership Teams to use data to inform and guide their progress. In Chowan County, NIRN is providing assistance for their priority to increase alignment and coordination of services to enhance early childhood development and school readiness skills.

NCPC will also provide support to Beaufort and Chowan Counties around creating sustainability plans for the work.

We welcome opportunities and invitations to listen and observe how processes are emerging. Contact us at TZeval@unc.edu with questions and feedback.

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