National Evaluation of the State Maternal and Child Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (SECCS) Grant Program

Evaluation Webcast

Presented by
The Lewin Group
March 29, 2006
1:00-2:30pm Eastern

- Moderator:
  - Dena Green, MCHB

National Evaluation of the State Maternal and Child Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (SECCS) Grant Program

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Presented by:
Jennifer Kuo,

The Lewin Group
March 29th, 2006

Presentation Overview

- Purpose of National Evaluation
- Overview of Evaluation Activities and Timeline
- Review of Data Collection Activities and Tools
- Review of Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Purpose of National Evaluation

- The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) has contracted with The Lewin Group, a premier national health care and human services consulting firm, to conduct a two-year evaluation of MCHB's effectiveness in assisting states in the implementation phase of the SECCS program.
- The purpose of the evaluation is to:
  1) Assess the progress and effectiveness of the SECCS initiative in meeting its goal of fostering early childhood systems development at the state-level; and
  2) Assess the quality and effectiveness of the technical assistance provided to the grantees.

Overview of Evaluation Activities and Timeline

Year 1 of Evaluation

- Timeline: September 2005 – September 2006
- Involves an evaluation of grantees awarded implementation funds in 2005
- Evaluation activities include:
  - Development of Grantee Profiles (completed)
  - Development of Logic Models (completed)
  - Conduct of Telephone Interviews/Site Visits (June/July 2006)
  - Administration of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey (August/September 2006)
  - Coordination with TA providers (ongoing)
  - Development of an evaluation report on the 2005 implementation grantees (October 2006)

Year 2 of Evaluation

- Timeline: September 2006 – September 2007
- Will involve an evaluation of grantees awarded implementation funds in 2006
- Evaluation activities will include:
  - Development of Grantee Profiles (November/December 2006)
  - Development of Logic Models (November/December 2006)
  - Conduct of Telephone Interviews/Site Visits (May/June 2007)
  - Administration of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey (July/August 2007)
  - Coordination with TA providers (ongoing)
  - Development of an evaluation report on the 2005 and 2006 implementation grantees (September 2007)

Review of Data Collection Activities and Tools

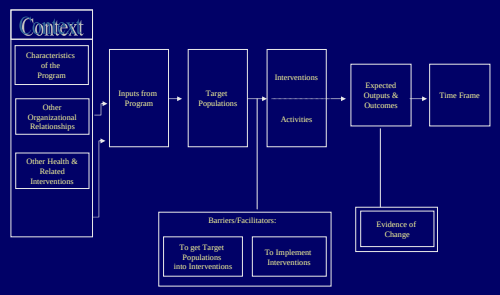
Overview of Grantee Profiles

- Grantee profiles were/will be developed to gain a baseline understanding of each grantee program.
- Each grantee profile contains/will contain the following information:
  - Background
  - Key Partner Organizations
  - Project Design
  - Summary of Implementation Activities/Strategies
  - Plans for Sustainability
  - Evaluation Plan

Overview of Logic Modeling

- A logic model is a graphic representation of the logical linkages between investments of resources in specific types of activities and the impacts of those activities. It links what a program does, to what it hopes to achieve, and how to measure that achievement.
- Logic models help programs specify clearly and concisely what they are trying to accomplish, for whom, with what resources, within what context, and facing what barriers. In addition, logic models help specify data needed to show whether the program is effective in meeting its goals.
- Logic models were/will be developed for each grantee program to help ensure that grantees' expected outcomes can be logically linked to planned activities and that grantees are collecting (or have identified) evidence of achieving outcomes

Overview of Logic Modeling



Overview of Telephone Interviews and Site Visits

- The telephone interviews and site visits will provide qualitative data on grantees' progress in achieving the requirements stated in the implementation grant application, as well as the quality and effectiveness of the TA provided to grantees.
- In both Years 1 and 2 of the evaluation, site visits will be conducted at two grantee sites, while the remainder of the grantees will be interviewed via telephone.
- The telephone interviews will last between 2-4 hours; the site visits will be conducted over one to one and a half days.

Overview of Telephone Interviews and Site Visits

- A variety of people will be interviewed including program staff, other lead agency representatives, partnership representatives, key community stakeholders, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Questions asked during the telephone interviews and site visits will cover the following topics:
  - Descriptive/Background Information
  - Service Integration
  - Partnerships
  - Community Involvement and Input
  - Sustainability
  - Quality and Effectiveness of Technical Assistance
  - Lessons Learned/Impact of Program

Review of Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

- The MDS Survey will provide quantitative data on grantees' progress in achieving the requirements stated in the implementation grant application, as well as the quality and effectiveness of the TA provided to grantees.
- The survey will be pilot tested with three grantees.
- Following the pilot test and OMB Clearance, the survey will be administered to all grantees either electronically or via hardcopy.
- The *draft* survey is composed of six sections:
  1) Service Integration
  2) Partnerships
  3) Community Involvement and Impact
  4) Development of Grantee's Local Evaluation Plan
  5) Development of Sustainability Plan
  6) Quality and Effectiveness of Technical Assistance

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Service Integration

- Strategies used to improve access to health insurance for children and parents
- Strategies used to improve access to medical homes for children
- Number of children with health insurance
- Number of parents with health insurance
- Number of children with a medical home
- Strategies used to address the mental health and social-emotional development needs of children

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Service Integration (continued)

- Number of children whose mental health and social-emotional developmental needs are addressed
- Strategies used to strengthen the quality of early care and education services
- Number of children whose early learning, health, and development of social competence have been supported
- Types of parenting education services provided
- Number of parents receiving parenting education services
- Types of family support services provided
- Number of families receiving family support services

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Partnerships

- Number of formal and informal partnerships developed
- Number of partners that were involved in the SECCS planning phase
- Number of partners with whom MOUs/MOAs have been established
- Number of partners external/internal to MCH
- Types of contributions the partners provide
- Types of sectors the partners represent

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Partnerships (continued)

- Level of community partnerships (i.e., co-existence, communication, cooperation, coordination, or collaboration)
- Strength and productivity of partnerships (e.g., partners are actively involved in the partnership and attend meetings regularly, partners have credibility with outside agencies and groups)
- Types of shared resources among the partners
- Impact of partnerships

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Community Involvement and Impact

- Evidence and extent to which the input of community groups has been taken into account in the implementation process
- Strategies used to engage and/or involve consumers, community groups and/or family members (e.g., public forums, community town meetings, free events)
- Types of roles consumers, community groups and/or family members play in the implementation process
- Evidence that the implementation process has had an impact on members of the community

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Development of Grantee's Local Evaluation Plan

- Number of grantees that have developed a local evaluation plan to evaluate their grant programs
- Number of grantees that have developed a core set of early childhood indicators that includes measures of service system performance
- Types of methods used to identify the core set of indicators
- Types of criteria used to identify the core set of indicators

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Development of Grantee's Local Evaluation Plan (continued)

- Challenges to identifying the core set of indicators
- Number of grantees that have developed the necessary data infrastructure or systems to collect, analyze, and evaluate data on each of the core indicators
- Evidence that the necessary data infrastructure or systems to collect, analyze, and evaluate data on each of the core indicators are in place

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Development of Sustainability Plan

- Number of grantees that have developed a sustainability plan to support the SECCS program beyond the funding period
- Types of financing strategies to be used in continuing implementation of the project (e.g., pursue policy changes, leverage or pursue new grants)
- Barriers/challenges to carrying out desired financing strategies and other sustainability methods
- Types of policy-related activities undertaken to help sustain the program
- Evidence that program-specific funds are available to support the SECCS program beyond the funding period

Minimum Data Set (MDS) Survey

Quality and Effectiveness of Technical Assistance

- Types of TA requests
- The quality and effectiveness of the TA in meeting grantees' needs
- Grantees' satisfaction with the TA received during the implementation phase of the SECCS initiative

Contact Information

Jennifer Kuo
The Lewin Group
703.269.5573
jennifer.kuo@lewin.com

Alicia Thomas
The Lewin Group
703.269.5758
alicia.thomas@lewin.com

Resources for Individual Grantee Evaluations

Christopher Botsko
Health Systems Research
March 2006

Overview

- To discuss the purpose of individual grantee evaluations
- To provide some resources that can be used in developing an evaluation plan
- To discuss possible TA on evaluation

Functions of the Grantee Evaluations

- Maintain or enhance support for the initiative
- Provide information to make mid-course corrections
- Sustainability

Developing an Evaluation Plan: Logic Models

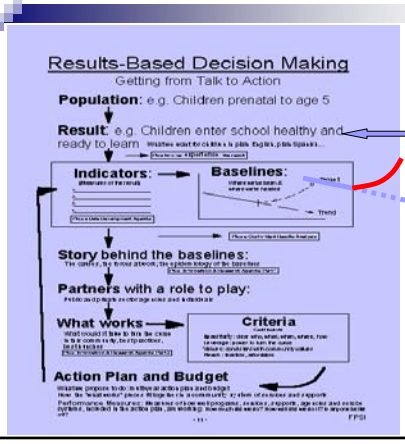
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide
  http://www.wkkf.org/Pubs/Tools/Evaluation/Pub3669.pdf
  - "Theory-of-Change" logic models
  - Using logic models to plan for evaluation

What You Might Want to Include in Your ECCS Evaluation Plan

- Indicators
- Measures of success at the community level
- Measures of systems change
- Evaluations of particular parts of your initiative

Mark Friedman's Approach to Presenting and Thinking About Indicators

http://www.raguide.org/



"We haven't
got the money, so we've
got
to think."

Lord Rutherford
1871 - 1937

Pathways Mapping Initiative Assessing Progress

Pathways was established in January 2000 as part of the Project on Effective Interventions at Harvard University and developed in partnership with the Technical Assistance Resource Center of The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Pathways Mapping Initiative Assessing Progress (continued)

http://www.pathwaystooutcomes.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=294 Point to "Assessing Progress"

- Using indicators
- Using community scans
- Working with evaluators

Measuring Systems Change

Evaluation of First Five California Systems Change Surveys

http://www.prop10evaluation.com/index.asp?pg=24

They have surveys targeting a number of different respondents including County Directors, programs funded by First Five, and program participants (i.e., parents or guardians of children)

Possible TA Needs

- Developing indicators or building support for indicators
- Presenting indicators
- Developing community scans
- Assessing the feasibility of evaluation strategies
- Assessing the usefulness of evaluation strategies.
  - What are we going to know when we are done that we don't know now?
  - What can we do with that information?

Sharing What Works

- Listserv
- Send to HSR and we can share when relevant questions come up

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