Evaluating Quality Investments: From Daunting to Doable

State and Territory Administrators Meeting
September 29, 2016
Alexandria, VA
Participants

• **Marty Elquist**, Nevada, Children’s Cabinet
• **Cindy Johnson**, Nevada Department of Education
• **Ericka Rupp**, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

• Facilitator: **Kathryn Tout**, Child Trends
Preview of Key Messages

• Evaluation planning
  – Begin small
  – Convene non-usual suspects
  – Start with a logic model
  – Identify high-priority questions
  – Match questions to where you are with implementation
Preview of Key Messages

• Evaluation options and costs
  – Identify existing data sources
  – Plan for additional data collection efforts to launch when resources are available
  – Consider a range of data collection options
Evaluation Planning
Logic Model of the Nevada Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Nevada Silver State Stats QRIS creates a culture of continuous improvement for Nevada’s child care programs. The Nevada QRIS partners with organizations and coalitions in the community to ensure that Nevada’s children are safe, healthy, and thriving during their early years to give every child the chance to reach their full potential.

**Legend**

- Support Programs
- Family Visiting, Library, Wrap Around
- Advocacy
- Strong Start, NICR, NewAYEC
- Support for Teachers
- NewAYEC, Teach
- QRIS Staff, Coaches, and Assessors
- Subsidy-LVUL/CC
- Nevada Registry
- NewAYEC/SN&R
- NewAYEC/CA&Locals
- P-20 Council

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**Occurring**
**IdahoSTARS Vision:** Idaho’s children have access to the highest quality child care and early education

**IdahoSTARS Mission:** Deliver a consumer-driven, statewide Child Care Resource and Referral system that educates and supports parents and child care providers. Provide a consistent structure that supports and promotes quality, inclusive child care and early education, and professional development.

**INPUTS (Resources)**
- Project Staff [10]
  - High quality, well-trained, culturally responsive Admin team
  - Program coordinators
  - Vendor specialists
  - Regional CCR&R Support staff
- Adjunct Professionals:
  - Trainers [8]
  - Mentors [5]
  - Assessors [4]
- Funding
  - Idaho Dept. Health Welfare
  - Private and business donors [11]
  - Grants/contacts
- Stakeholders
  - Collaborate, define best practice [15]
  - Child care providers
  - Parents
  - Head Start Assoc. & Collaboration EC3
  - IHE-Early Childhood Programs
  - Idaho businesses
  - Policy makers & city/county
  - Idaho Dep’t Labor
  - Health districts
  - Medicaid
  - School districts statewide
  - Public libraries
  - Idaho American Academy of Ped.
  - United Way
  - Idaho Children’s Trust Fund
  - Higher Education / Consortium
  - ICCP Advisory Committee
- Operational Structure
  - Efficient internal communication system among staff [10]
  - Technology
  - Statewide database [2]
  - Websites
  - NACCRAA

**OUTPUTS (What We Do)**
- Provide parents consistent statewide referrals & education for quality child care [1]
- Provide training, online resources, support to trainers, mentors, & assessors [4,5]
- Provide training (content, skills), information, online support, mentoring/coaching, assessments, onsite TA by qualified trainers and other staff to child care providers [3,4,6]
- Recruit child care providers into IdahoSTARS system [8 & 14]
- Promote inclusive child care through training, support, resource development, and systems changes [9 & 12]
- Operate Quality Rating Improvement System for all types of care [7]
- Promote active parent involvement in child care through the Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education a child abuse and neglect prevention program [1,7]
- Promote professional development in early childhood to include career pathway, recognition, incentives, and maintenance of a professional registry [6 & 8]
- Manage the ICCP provider eligibility system [14]
- Develop and implement a public awareness and marketing campaign [1,8, & 11]
- Implement resource development and capital campaign plan [11]
- Produce and distribute materials that are inclusive, culturally responsive & reflect regional diversity needs [12]
- Conduct program evaluation and research on quality child care outcomes, including ongoing collection of feedback from providers, parents, & professionals [13]

**ACTIVITIES (What We Do)**
- Stakeholders have increased awareness of IdahoSTARS activities
- Parents/guardians have increased awareness and knowledge about quality child care settings, services, resources, and their family strengths
- Parents/guardians have increased awareness and knowledge about the benefits of being involved in their child's care and education
- Stakeholders General public
- Parents and guardians of children interested in child care services
- Child care providers
- Trainers
- Mentors
- Assessors
- IDHW Children and Family Services

**PARTICIPANTS (Who We Reach)**
- Providers understand the importance of including parents/guardians in child care settings
- Providers have increased awareness of available resources and professional development opportunities to support quality, inclusive, culturally responsive child care, and child abuse and neglect prevention
- Providers have increased knowledge and skills to provide quality, inclusive, culturally responsive child care services, and child abuse and neglect prevention
- Providers have increased knowledge about ICCP

**SHORT-TERM (Learning)**
- Increased # of Providers enrolled and participating in IdahoSTARS
- Providers use available resources and apply knowledge/skills to provide quality, inclusive, & culturally responsive child care services, and child abuse and neglect prevention
- Providers identify individual child strengths and needs and provide resources and services based on identified needs
- Increased # of Providers participating in ICCP
- Increased Provider longevity in the child care field (retention)

**OUTCOMES (Medium) (Action)**
- Providers understand the importance of including parents/guardians in child care settings
- Providers have increased awareness of available resources and professional development opportunities to support quality, inclusive, culturally responsive child care, and child abuse and neglect prevention
- Providers have increased knowledge and skills to provide quality, inclusive, culturally responsive child care services, and child abuse and neglect prevention
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**IMPRESSION (Conditions) (Impact)**
- Child care is a valued profession in society
- Quality child care system impacts the economic health of local communities across the state
- Through quality child care, the unique needs of every child are supported to foster optimal growth and development
- Resilient children and families contribute to a positive economic environment in our state
- Public policy supports high quality child care
Evaluation Options
Use links to find resources for each session.
Technical Assistance Opportunities

• The National Center for Early Childhood Quality Assurance is available to provide support for the following evaluation activities:
  – Developing a logic model;
  – Specifying research questions;
  – Creating an evaluation plan;
  – Identifying data sources; and
  – Communicating results.
Thank You!