Northwest Cross Systems Collaboration

Project Partners:

- Early Learning Resource Centers 1 & 2
- NW PA Quality Supports: Professional Development, Technical Assistance, Mentoring and Early Childhood Mental Health
- PA Key and Pre-K Counts/HSSAP
- Bureau of Certification
- Bureau of Operations and Monitoring
- Bureau of Early Intervention (Infant/Toddler and Preschool) and Family Supports
- Early Intervention Technical Assistance.

Dec. 5, 2017
First Leadership Meeting of OCDEL Partners from the Northwest

At this meeting a Vision Statement & Mission Statement were developed. The group also decided upon a “Purpose for Our Partnership” which included the following:

- Promote OCDEL philosophy of local collaborations in the NW region
- Model partnership activities for local communities
- Use OCDEL guidelines to support consistent, unified messages:
  - OCDEL Announcements for Inclusion and Reduction in Suspension and Expulsion
  - Guidelines to Support Implementation for OCDEL Announcements on Suspension and Expulsion
  - Developing Suspension and Expulsion Policies

May 2018 – December 2018
Multiple, NW regional facilitated full-day trainings

The group sponsored and facilitated full-day training events, “Standing Together: Policy Development for Inclusion and Reduction in Suspension and Expulsion in EC Programs”.

- Clarion – Saturday, May 19, 2018 (55 Registrants)
- Edinboro – Saturday, June 23, 2018 (70 Registrants)
- Grove City – Saturday, December 8, 2018 (35 Registrants)

This training was designed around the OCDEL resource, Guidelines to Support Implementation for OCDEL Announcements on Suspension and Expulsion. The activities for the day were structured around the following categories:

- Align with Federal Policies
- Highly Skilled Workforce
Northwest Cross Systems Collaboration

- Strong Parent Partnerships
- Setting Goals and Tracking Data
- Universal Screenings
- Resources and Supports

After the training, all of work that was done by the participants in small groups was collected, organized and shared back to all of the attendees. This information could then be used by programs to create their own policy on suspension and expulsion.

July 25, 2018
Certification Staff Meeting

Partners attended Western Region Certification Staff Meeting and presented about the legal foundations of inclusion.

August 9, 2018
State ICC Meeting

The partners of the NW group presented as a team about the leadership efforts in the Northwest at an EI State Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting.

August 30, 2018
Informational Meeting with IU4

Representatives from the NW group were invited to share and discuss their efforts to address the OCDEL Announcements about inclusion and reduction in suspension and expulsion, with the Interagency Behavior Support Committee (IBSC) of Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties and Midwestern IU 4.

January 30, 2019
“Working Together: Collaboration for Inclusion” NW Leadership event

- 60 Participants attended. All counties within ELRC 1 & 2 were represented.
- **Pop-up Presentations** about: Early Intervention (Infant/Toddler and Preschool), Family Supports, Certification, Pre-K Counts, ELRC Quality Coaches, Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH), Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS), EITA and Stars Technical Assistance
- **Local Networking Group Activity** – “How do we collaborate to serve children and early learning programs to reduce suspension or expulsion?”
- Created and distributed electronic Inclusion Support Team contact lists for each county to expedite referrals
Northwest Cross Systems Collaboration

April 5, 2019

Debrief and Next Steps Planning Meeting

This group will be meeting after the OCDEL Leadership in April to begin to
debrief about the NW Leadership event and make plans for next steps. Some
topics on the agenda include:

- Updating the county contact lists
- Creating a feedback survey
- Coordination of local trainings and networking meetings
- Alignment of local policies to best practices
- Research review of inclusion strategies being implemented around the
  world.

What has contributed to the success in the Northwest?

- Strong, ongoing commitment from all of the leaders of the represented groups to
  ensure that collaboration would be supported and expanded at the local level.
- Save the Date flyers were developed and distributed early.
- Registration for all events were on the PD Registry.
- Trainings were free and lunch and door prizes were provided to EC programs.
- The OCDEL guidelines for policy development were used in each step of the
  process to inform, design and structure the training events.
- Presenters shared resources and content to support policy development.
- Feedback was solicited at each training and used to enhance future events.
- After the trainings, the participants’ work from the group activities was collected
  and shared back to all who attended.
- Regular meetings were scheduled with the leaders of this group to debrief from
  each event and plan for the next. This time was also used to continually assess
  and evaluate the local needs related to implementation of the announcements.