



## New Jersey Pyramid Model Partnership

### Minutes

6/11/2015

**Attendance:** Grace Boswell, Tonya Hall-Coston, Denise Bouyer, Keri Giordano, Ellen Samitt, Lizette Vazquez, Liz Vaughan, Andrea O’Neal, Ericka Williams, Nezzie DeFrank, Kaitlin Mulcahy, Amy Goerl, and Melanie Fleming.

#### Updates from the Field and the Interdepartmental Meeting:

- Programs for Parents is partnering with MSU and Early Head Start programs in Essex and Union County to provide trainings in Keeping Children and Babies in Mind and implementing The Infant/Toddler Credential.
- The next Infant-Toddler Mental Health Committee meeting is on June 24 at Mary Roebling Building, 20 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625, and Room 219-220.
- Project Launch – is providing 4 Strengthening Families session (2 days each) for parents, providers, and Early Head Start, who work with infants, which is being held at Rutgers. All sessions are currently filled.
- NJ Early Learning Training Academy will provide Strengthening Families – June and July and then the fall.
- SPAN conducted a 5 week interactive online training for Quality Improvement Specialists (QISs). The 5 weeks included inclusion awareness, videos, demonstrations, examples of red flags, observing and recording behavior, assessment tools, modifications and adaptations. Also, SPAN hosted 2 webinars on inclusion and a training for QIS.
- Federal Government is coming out with a position statement on early childhood inclusion; much of Barbara Smith’s research is included in the statement.

- New resources include Brief Summary: Fact Sheet of Research on Preschool Inclusion Preschool Toolkit for Administration Erin Barton and Barbara Smith. (Grace will send document to the committee).
- Keeping Babies and Children in Mind ends in August – endorsement waivers need to be applied before August 1.
- Department of Education staff has conducted a turnkey coaching training to the PIRT teams, and tomorrow an overview will be given to the Abbott Early Childhood Supervisors.
- The schools, which are part of the Preschool Expansion Grant, submitted their 4-year plan on June 1. Preschool Expansion Sites will have to be part of Grow NJ Kids and 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade guidelines. Two to three of the districts will partner with Head Starts or local providers.
- Master Cadre training is finished this June. Early fall there will be TPOT training for those who have not gone through the Pyramid Models trainings. After the summer, the Master Cadre and NJ ELTA will sign an MOU and work out what is needed of them. New DOE staff includes, Beth Gardner, who is leading the Preschool Expansion Grant and Jim DeSimone who is leading the Master Teacher training and ECERS 3 training.

**Report out from the New Jersey Team, who attended the National Training Institute Conference in Florida:**

- Keri, Ellen, Amy, Denise, and Loray shared what they learned at the National Training Institute Conference in Florida. There were four themes (“take aways”) from the conference:
  - Theme One – This coming year we need to work on having more members of the Pyramid Model Leadership Team attend the conference. Many states had their whole committee attend.
  - Theme Two – We should aim to be more connected to Early Intervention.
  - Theme Three – Coaching was the focus of the conference. Implementing the Pyramid Model is more successful if there is coaching. If we have training, we also need to provide coaching (95 percent success rate compared to 5 percent).
  - Theme Four – Demonstration sites are being phased out. The focus is now on community-based sites.
    - Step one, select community. However, we need to define “community” – depends where you are from – county, city, several cities. Community completes a comprehensive application.
    - Step two, the community will set up their own leadership team (duplicate pyramid model committee).

- Step three, then their leadership team selects a site based on a certain criteria. Designate one classroom as the demo.
- Step four, train the site and have one classroom with a coach, which will be the demo site.

1. Pyramid Model Committee
2. Community
3. Leadership Team
4. Site/Team
5. 1 classroom (demo site)

\* One year three sites...

- Project Launch and Essex will have a site and then we will replicate in Central and South Jersey.

### **Communications Workgroup Update:**

- Keri will share 2 to 3 communication's forms with the committee. Please send feedback.
- Keri and Grace will talk about adding communication items to the website.
- Sunday's Office said they would print the Communication's brochures.

### **Community-wide Implementation Workgroup Update:**

1. Finish Application – Committee will create a uniform rubric/criteria application.
2. Identify Sites (Centers have to be in GNJK). Eventually identify three classrooms in North, Central, and South Jersey.
3. Site assigns leadership team.
4. Entire staff get trained (Teachers/TA/Admin/parents)
  - a. Coaching will be provided for identified classroom. Coaching would come from Master Cadre and someone who already designated as a coach on site (i.e. Mental health disability person at head start). Master cadre would co-coach. The goal is to build infrastructure within that site. Coaching should occur 3 to 4 hours every 2-3 weeks in person.
  - b. Administer TPOT – fidelity instrument for Pyramid Model (2 hours plus teacher interview).
  - c. Provide Supplemental booster training.
  - d. One classroom will strive to get to fidelity. Eventually the site will work on getting all their classrooms to fidelity; however, the first year will be focused on the one demo classroom.

### **Next Steps:**

1. Update Pyramid Model Demo Site Application based on the documents received from NTI.
2. Discuss the Community-wide implementation plan and how Master Cadre will train at the Interdepartmental Meeting.

3. Need to reach out to Terry to connect the Pyramid work with Early Intervention.
4. Communications Workgroup will reach out to Grace to update the Pyramid Model Website.
5. Liz Vaughan and Barbara Tkatch will provide the numbers of those who received TPOT training through the NJ DOE.
6. Keri and those who attended the NTI Conference will follow-up with Suzanne about the new plan for the Pyramid demo sites.
7. June 18<sup>th</sup> phone call is canceled. Grace will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule an upcoming meeting.