

Nebraska's Results Driven Accountability Part C/EDN Virtual Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 30, 2020 – 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. – via zoom

Welcome & Introductions

Amy Rhone gave a welcome to both Part B and Part C meeting attendees and shared an announcement about the next OSEP cycle of State Level Differentiated Monitoring & Support. Nebraska will be included in Cohort 2, which begins in October of 2021.

The Part B and Part C groups split up to continue separate meetings via zoom.

Part C Welcome & Introductions

Following a welcome and some background information about the Stakeholder meeting process and vision for the next five years, Amy Bunnell introduced the Part C team. The Part C Stakeholders were invited to enter their names and roles into the zoom chat. Amy, Julie Docter, Cole Johnson, and Jessica Anthony introduced themselves. Cole provided some housekeeping information and reviewed the meeting agenda with the group, then turned things over to the RBEI State Coordinators, Sue Bainter, Cindy Hankey and Janice Lee.

RDA Overview & Stakeholder Recommendations for the next Five Year SSIP Cycle

The reality of COVID-19 required a need to regroup and make adjustments to RBEI (Routines-Based Early Intervention) programming. This included placement of resources on the EDN website to aid in transitioning away from face-to-face meetings to a virtual protocol. Sue pointed out videos that are specific to these revised efforts.

The end of the five-year cycle created an opportunity for reflection and subsequent changes to the RBI/Functional Outcome training. RBEI team members walked the group through specific findings for each of the three strategies:-Routines-Based Interview (RBI), Functional IFSP Outcomes, and Quality Routines-Based Home Visits. Take-aways for the RBI included how critical it is to determine the one routine felt to be the most impactful to the family, which help focus the entire team. The gathering of this important information is vital before leaving the RBI and writing outcomes. Virtual RBI Boot Camps were found to be very successful, with adjustments made to increase accessibility and lower stress for the families who participated in one of three Boot Camps from across 15 state regions. Family feedback from the evaluations was very positive; there was no difference between face-to-face and virtual Boot Camp evaluations. Changes to Outcomes trainings included the need to emphasize having an outcome for each priority, that outcomes be based on a family's concern, and that they include a routine. In addition, guidance for writing a child versus a family outcome will be shared during training. Routines-Based Home Visits had adjustments, as well, due to COVID-19. The Getting Ready Home Visiting strategy has been found to positively affect child outcomes, and work is currently underway to make trainings virtual for those occurring in December, 2020, and in January and February, 2021. A map detailed areas of completed and scheduled Home Visit trainings, as well as those yet to be done. A Getting Ready video library was also developed and includes a section with Home Visit samples. It can be found on the Professional Development page of Early Development Network website, at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7327983>.

A list of the participating Cohort Planning Region Teams (PRTs) was shared, along with three ways Nebraska is evaluating effectiveness: 1) Fidelity Checks are conducted annually by Coaches to observe and score providers and services coordinator for the RBI and the Getting Ready home visit approach; 2) IFSPs are provided annually by cohort regions in order to analyze the quantity and quality of outcomes; and 3) research studies are conducted by valued partners in higher education to evaluate the impact of the three improvement strategies, focusing first on the impact of the RBI and functional outcomes and,

later, on the third improvement strategy, the implementation of the Getting Ready Approach. Dr. Miriam Kuhn from UNO, conducted this research, along with Dr. Johanna Higgins from UNL, and subsequent key findings and recommendations were shared with the group.

A moment was taken for group feedback:

- Appreciation was given for co-visiting recommendations.
- A parent Stakeholder shared input about her experience with co-visits and having a challenge with writing meaningful goals. She echoed how helpful it would have been to know where best to focus their efforts as a family, and said the recommendations she was hearing sounded good.
- A question was asked about whether visits using the Getting Ready Approach would occur to non-home sites such as childcares. The answer was that this need has been in consideration for a little over a year, however, COVID-19 is making moving forward a challenge.
- A comment of interest was shared about hearing more about services coordinator perspectives, and agreement that the emphasis on communication between families and all EI services in-between visits was valuable.
- Compliments were shared by some of the higher education partners to all of the providers and services coordinators who have taken part in the Getting Ready study interviews. The RBEI Technical Assistants were introduced and kudos given for all of their work.

UNL Proposal and work being led by Dr. Lisa Knoche, UNL

Dr. Knoche shared information about a UNL proposal that was recently awarded by OSEP entitled: *Coaching in Early Intervention (CEI): Promoting Outcomes for Infants/Toddlers w/Disabilities through Evidence-Based Practices*. She will lead the project and made note of the team members and the communities interested, saying it is a timely project that will build on what Nebraska has already begun, focusing on outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and their families. The project will reinforce the three strategies already in use. Specifically, work will be done to further determine how to support local level coaches and providers. The four-year project will involve eight planning regions in both urban and rural settings, and have an emphasis on professional development, leadership in maintaining reporting, and building a model that is systematic yet individualized to meet the needs of each PRT. Lisa shared the six evidence-based coaching practices that will be included in the model. This is the only project of its kind, and Amy Bunnell gave words of gratitude to Dr. Knoche for applying for, and now leading, this effort to focus on infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Family Survey

Julie Docter discussed family outcomes and the Annual Family Survey, the means by which the Nebraska Co-Leads collect data around outcomes and how families perceive their experience with early intervention services. States are federally required to report annually on the percent of families participating in early intervention who report that they 1) know their rights; 2) effectively communicate their children's needs; and 3) help their children develop and learn. In response to input that the survey was too lengthy, coupled with a desire to better utilize the survey to measure the effectiveness of Nebraska's RDA strategies, the Co-Leads consulted with Dr. Batya Elbaum, a national technical assistant. The current survey, which alternated between 23 and 48 questions, was analyzed by Dr. Elbaum, who recommended reducing it to eight questions, and then adding five new questions specific to the RDA strategies. Julie shared the five proposed questions, which the Co-Leads and UNL partners have reviewed, and asked for Stakeholder consideration and feedback. Discussion was had and valuable input given, including:

- Be mindful of readability level.
- Consider defining "service provider".

- Consider revamping draft survey question intended to measure effectiveness of the RBI to be relevant every year a family is in EI services, rather than retrospective to the first year they received services.

The final questions will be shared out next year at the 2021 RDA meeting.

Wrap-Up & Next Steps

Today's feedback regarding the recommendations from Dr. Kuhn's study and additional questions in the family survey will be used to finalize the Co-Lead's decision-making process when reporting out to OSEP. A tentative agenda for the 2021 stakeholder meeting was shared, with the following:

- Setting of targets for the Annual Performance Report;
- Updates on Dr. Knoche's Coaching in Early Intervention grant award;
- RDA updates, including family survey preliminary results, more general RDA updates around innovations, and trainings. It was noted that COVID-19 is going to be a factor into the future, so Nebraska will continue to adjust.

The group was thanked and the meeting adjourned at 11:35a.m. CT.