



## **EXPLORING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN:**

**Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Children with Disabilities**

# **Stakeholder Focus Group**

# **Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program**

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**Prepared by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center  
in collaboration with the North Central Regional Resource Center**

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Arlene Russell, Mohammed Elmeski (NCRRC)

Carol Noddings Eichinger, UW-Madison

**June 3, 2014**

**Wausau, Wisconsin**

## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

On June 3, 2014, the Department of Health Services' Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program convened a focus group to have input on the next steps for the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program strategic plan. The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program had identified Child Outcomes as one of three focus areas for 2014. The other two focus areas include statewide implementation of the Primary Coach Approach to Teaming (PCATT) and Results Driven Accountability (RDA), which includes the newly required State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The purpose of the Focus Group was to ensure that Wisconsin's strategic plan will result in positive outcomes for children and families.

A planning committee consisting of staff from the Department of Health Services (DHS), UW-Madison Waisman Center Wisconsin Personnel Development Project (WPDP), and the CESA 5 RESource Training and Technical Assistance Project planned the event, with assistance from national facilitators Mary Peters and Abby Winer from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) and the IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems Center (DaSy). The planning committee identified the need to gain further insight from a group of stakeholders representing various agencies and perspectives to determine the best approaches to improve child and family outcomes as well as integrate related assessments, measurements into existing Birth to 3 systems and practices, and consider the use of data collected to advise Wisconsin's Birth to 3 Program.

Stakeholders with multiple role perspectives were invited to participate in the focus group process. Prior to the stakeholder day, participants were asked to review key background information. See Appendix A for a listing of participants. The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program staff appreciated the commitment and collaborative input of these community partners.

The successful stakeholder conversation included the DHS, RESource and WPDP staff and the representatives from a variety of community partners and systems. A summary document of the Stakeholder conversation was prepared by ECTA and NCRRC entitled *Exploring Outcomes for Children; Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Children with Disabilities*. The feedback garnered from this Stakeholder focus group and document will inform the next steps for a second stakeholder meeting to be held in September 2014, and provide information for the development of the SSIP.

Proposed actions from the full report include:

- In-depth analyses to better understand the patterns in the outcomes data;
- Identification of social and emotional development as an area in need of improvement;
- Ideas to incorporate child outcomes measurement into ongoing assessment, and
- Plans to share data with and support the use of child outcomes data with local programs.

### **Purpose of the stakeholder focus group**

The stakeholder process was intended to ‘widen the lens’ of Child Outcome measurement and to better understand the difference the Birth to 3 Program makes in the lives of children and families. The focus group also included:

- Consider the value of the Child Outcome process;
- Identification of the impact of services;
- Identification of areas for improvement.

### **Intended outcomes of the stakeholder focus group**

- Participants will have information from the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program specific to:
  - Results Driven Accountability and the State Systemic Improvement Plan; and
  - Child Outcomes assessment, reporting and data summaries.
- Participants will have the opportunity to provide specific input from their own perspectives to the Birth to 3 Program.
- Participants will provide recommendations to assist the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program staff regarding strategic priorities; and the focus of the State Systemic Improvement Plan.

The focus group evaluation process verified that all participants agreed they gained an overview of the SSIP and RDA. Nearly everyone agreed, or strongly agreed, with the following statements: gained an overview of the Child Outcomes data; had the opportunity to provide input based on their perspective; had the opportunity to provide recommendations to assist the Birth to 3 Program in the exploration phase of establishing priorities; and recommending the focus of the SSIP. All means were greater than, or equal, to 4.0 out of 5.0 scale.

The Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program team is grateful for the participation and recommendations offered by the stakeholders listed on the following page.

**JUNE 3, 2014 FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>		
Jen	Bailey	Southern Region: Headstart/Childcare
Ginny	Rusch	Northern Region: Lincoln/Marathon County Birth to 3 Program
Lori	Weaver	Northeastern Region: Brown County Birth to 3 Program Administrator
Etty	Wilberding	Southeastern Region: Walworth County Birth to 3 Program
Becky	Hoffman	IHE & Northeastern Region: Fond du Lac County Birth to 3 Program
Gwen	Westlund	Western Region: Physical Therapist and Primary Coach Mentor
Emilie	Braunel	Parent, Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)
Tracy	Swink (M.D.)	Physician
Ruth	Chvojicek	Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Outcomes
Autumn	Knudson	Department of Children and Families (DCF), Child Welfare Policy Program, Section Chief
Regena	Floyd-Sambou	DCF, Inclusion in Child Care
Ann	Ramminger	Race to the Top PDI/Waisman Center
Mary	McLean	UW-Milwaukee, and Higher Education
Nancy	Fuhrman	DPI, Part B/619

<b>BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM STATE TEAM</b>		
Terri	Enters	Department of Health Services (DHS), Birth to 3 Program Part C Coordinator
Lori	Wittemann	DHS Birth to 3 Program State Lead
Dana	Romary	DHS Birth to 3 Program State Lead
Kate	Johnson	DHS Birth to 3 Program State Lead
Lynne	Morgan	DHS Children's Services Data Analyst
Carol	Eichinger	Waisman Wisconsin Personnel Development Program (WPDP)
Michelle	Davies	RESource Director
Elizabeth	Wahl	RESource – Southern Region
Kathy	Boisvert	RESource – Western Region
Karen	Williams	RESource – Northern Region
Rene	Forsythe	RESource – Northeastern Region
Melissa	Velez	RESource – Southeastern Region

<b>FACILITATORS / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM</b>		
Mary	Peters	Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)
Abby	Winer	ECTA
Mohammed	Elmeski	North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC)
Arlene	Russell	NCRRC