



EXPLORING EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES:

Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Children with Disabilities

Stakeholder Focus Group Executive Summary Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program



**Prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center
In collaboration with the North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC)**

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The purpose of the stakeholder focus group convened by the Department of Health Services Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program:

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program identified statewide implementation of the Primary Coach Approach to Teaming (PCATT) to be one of three focus areas for 2014. The other two focus areas include Child Outcomes and Results Driven Accountability (RDA), which includes the newly required State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Indicator of the State Performance Plan (SPP). Participants were provided with the preceding documents, [P-00876](#) and [P-0087A](#), from the June 2014 Stakeholder Focus Group.

The DHS Birth to 3 Program facilitated a planning committee consisting of individuals from UW-Madison Waisman Center, Wisconsin Personnel Development Project (WPDP), and the Cooperative Education Service Agency (CESA) 5 Regional Enhancement Support (RESource) Training and Technical Assistance Project to plan the event, with assistance from facilitators from national centers: The Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center; The IDEA Center for Early Childhood Data Systems (The DaSy Center); and the North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC). The planning committee identified the need to gain further insight from a group of stakeholders representing various agencies and perspectives. The desired outcome of the stakeholder process is to explore how evidenced-based practices are being implemented within the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program to make a difference in the lives of children and families including:

- The history and context of evidence-based practices in the state.
- The conceptual framework of the Primary Coach Approach to Teaming (PCATT) in natural environments.
- A review in framing the messaging of ‘what we do’ in the Birth to 3 Program.
- Measurements of fidelity of practice.

Stakeholders were identified according to role (multiple perspectives) and invited to participate in the process. Prior to the stakeholder day, participants were asked to consider the influence evidence-based practices have in making a difference in the lives of young children, and to familiarize themselves with the Primary Coach Approach to Teaming in Natural Environments. The following two documents and several links were provided for additional information:

Documents:

- *Seven Key Principles: Looks Like / Doesn't Look Like*, by the Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments, Retrieved from the OSEP TA Community of Practice - Part C Settings. (2008, March).
http://www.ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/families/Principles_LooksLike_DoesntLookLike3_1_08.pdf
- *Common Misperceptions About Coaching in Early Intervention*, by Dathan D. Rush and M'Lisa L. Sheldon.
http://fipp.org/static/media/uploads/casecollections/caseinpoint_vol4_no1.pdf

Links:

- [Jacob's Story](http://www2.cde.state.co.us/media/ResultsMatter/RMSeries/JacobsStory.asp) (five minutes)
<http://www2.cde.state.co.us/media/ResultsMatter/RMSeries/JacobsStory.asp>

- Early Intervention: A Routines-Based Approach - Part 1: Traditional vs Routines (five minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpxGC6G0HMY&feature=youtu.be>
- Early Intervention: A Routines-based Approach - Part 2: What Intervention Can-and Should-Look Like (five minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL_WOCu3Ptg&feature=share&list=UUDNrV5XsIRCWWN9n7FqGfpA
- Early Intervention: A Routines-based Approach - Part 3: Changing The Mindset (4 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jA6IOF9A298&feature=share&list=UUDNrV5XsIRCWWN9n7FqGfpA>
- Early Intervention Home Visits (12 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fOJGmldj0c&list=PLCBE09BD900359C53>
- Wisconsin's on-line Captivate Learning Modules on Primary Coach Approach to Teaming within Natural Environments. Each module takes approximately an hour to view, but comes with rich video footage of Wisconsin practitioners and families. (optional) http://mediastreamer.doit.wisc.edu/Waisman_UCEDD/MPA/multiscreen.html

The intended outcomes of the stakeholder focus group

Participants will have received (overview level) information from the Birth to 3 Program specific to:

- Familiarity with, or understanding of, the **conceptual framework of the Primary Coach Approach to Teaming in Natural Environments**
- Participants will have had the opportunity to provide input specific to their own perspectives of the Birth to 3 Program (DHS state staff, Waisman Center-Wisconsin Personnel Development Project, Regional Enhancement Support [RESource]).
- Participants will have provided recommendations in order to assist the state team in:
 - 1) Informing the key messaging of the Birth to 3 Program;
 - 2) Establishing priorities; and
 - 3) Determining the focus of the State Systemic Improvement Plan and ultimately enhance outcomes.

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION AND INPUT

Two rounds of facilitated discussion involved stakeholders in small groups which were designed to allow ample time for input from the variety of perspectives represented. The full summary of the discussion can be found in the full report of the Exploring Evidence-Based Practices: Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Children with Disabilities Stakeholders Focus Group. (*NOTE: placeholder for hyperlink when posted*) . Please see full detail for the responses and comments on each question in Appendix 1 of that report. The entire transcript of the conversations can be found in the appendix, with detail about suggestions and recommendations shared within those discussions.

Round One Questions:

1. *From your perspective, what evidence do you use to determine early intervention for infants and toddlers and their families has been successful?*
 - *And how do you measure that?*
2. *What information would you want from the Birth to 3 Program to demonstrate intervention is making a difference?*
3. *From your perspective, how would families, other systems and providers, legislators and the general public know that early intervention is making a difference in the lives of children?*

Round Two Questions:

4. *Where might we focus our efforts and resources to support the necessary leadership and infrastructure to move our practice forward and to be able to sustain the practices over time, with fidelity?*
 - *Examples of infrastructure components: Professional development, accountability, governance, contracts*
5. *After your experience today, how might the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program share messages and common language about this program and what we do?*
6. *How might you inform your colleagues and families, and community partners?*
7. *What do our community partners need to know about early intervention?*
8. *What is your role in making sure all families have access to evidence-based early intervention?*

The final question was intended to allow the stakeholders to summarize and report on the most important ideas and issues from the 2 rounds of questions.

What are the most important issues and Big Ideas from the two rounds of discussion?
<p>Stakeholder groups were provided the opportunity to synthesize their discussions and give a report of the key points for Birth to 3 Program to consider as they move forward. These reflected much of what was provided in discussions around the specific questions and are listed below in major theme areas.</p>
<p>Supporting families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share with families what the Birth to 3 Program is about and encouraged the sharing of experiences with other families. Stories are powerful.• Describe the services in the context of what might be coming from the medical professionals to avoid families feeling conflicted about what their child needs.
<p>Effective Messaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Differentiating the information for various audiences.• Articulate connections across the early childhood agencies/initiatives and describe the system as a whole; not separate isolated parts.• Balance sharing all the good things going on with legislators with being asked to do more with no additional funds because of that success.
<p>Professional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan needs to be organized and available to all levels of the system.

- Support staff in feeling competent and confident when working with families.
- Support staff in the various stages of implementation; needs might differ at different times.
- Develop communities of practice for providers.

Outcomes

- Think about success in different ways (e.g., quality of life, support for families, community impact)
- Include family stories as part of picture of improvement and outcomes achieved.
- Consider longitudinal data strategies to measure success into the future.

The Stakeholder conversation were a success which included the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program team (DHS, RESource and WPDP) as well as selected representatives from a variety of community partners and systems (see listing below). A summary document was prepared by ECTA and NCRRC for dissemination, entitled Exploring Evidence-Based Practices: Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Children with Disabilities Stakeholders Focus Group. *(placeholder for hyperlink when posted)* The feedback garnered from this focus group and document will inform further direction towards creation of the SSIP.

The outcomes of the meeting include the following results:

- Nearly all stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed that they had gained an overview of the Birth to 3 Program with a focus on gaining familiarity with the Primary Coach Approach to Teaming in Natural Environments.
- Nearly all stakeholders felt agreement and strong agreement with contributing recommendations to the state team on key messaging of the Birth to 3 Program and the opportunity to participate in providing recommendations to the state team to determine the focus of the SSIP that will ultimately enhance outcomes.
- Most agreed or strongly agreed that they had the opportunity to participate in provided recommendations to the state team to set priorities for the implementation of evidence-based practice.

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

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Focus Group Participants

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Roles
Mary	Peters	ECTA Center	Facilitator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure all voices are heard To remind us of ground rules To be mindful of our time in activities and move us forward in the process today
Arlene	Russell	NCRRC	
Sandy	Schmitz	NCRRC	
Liz	Hecht	Waisman Center, UW-Madison	
Terri	Enters	Department of Health Services (DHS) Birth to 3 Program Part C Coordinator	State Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide additional information when needed Take notes, analyze small group discussions Provide clarifications when needed Listen to stakeholder's input
Kate	Johnson	DHS Birth to 3 Program	
Lynne	Morgan	DHS Birth to 3 Program	
Dana	Romary	DHS Birth to 3 Program	
Lori	Wittemann	DHS Birth to 3 Program	
Carol	Eichinger	Waisman Center, Wisconsin Personnel Development Program (WPDP)	
Elizabeth	Wahl	RESource Southern	
Michelle	Davies	RESource Director	
Kathy	Boisvert	RESource Western	
Rene	Forsythe	RESource Northeastern	
Melissa	Velez	RESource Southeastern	
Karen	Williams	RESource Northern	
Lilly	Irvin-Vitela	WI Head Start Association	
Cheryl	Ketelhut	Northern Region	
Anne	Bruss	Northeastern Region/Brown County Birth to 3 Program	
Laurice	Lincoln	Southeast Region/Milwaukee County ICC member	
Cheryl	Walker-Lloyd	Southeast Region	
Becca	Jarzynski	IHE	
Gwen	Westlund	PT from Western Region and Primary Coach Mentor	
Emilie	Braunel	Parent and Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)	
Kia	LaBracke	WI Pediatricians Association	
	Swink	Physician	

Tracy			<p>experienced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to avoid future difficulties <p>Identified areas for further exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve communication with families and community partners • To ensure a realistic plan for improvement
Amy	Fogarty	Physician	
Staci	Sontoski	Home Visiting and UW-Milwaukee School of Social Welfare	
Jonelle	Brom	Department of Children and Families (DCF) Foster Care	
Regena	Floyd-Sambou	DCF and Inclusion in Child Care	
Peg	Ryan	Southern Region/Grant-Iowa/Unified Community Services	
Bridgitte	Bodette	Southern Region/Sauk County	
Teresa	De Young	Parent and Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) - Western part of State	
Jenny	Giles	Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Part B/619	
Bonnie	Erickson	Former IMH Fellow and Southern Region	
Suzi	Wolf	Southeast Region/Kenosha County Birth to 3 Program	
Sharon	Fleischfresser	DHS/Division of Public Health/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)	
Heather	Jordan	Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC)	