**CSEFEL/TACSEI State Team Update: Wisconsin (Feb. 2010)**

A state leadership team representing various components of the early childhood field meets regularly with CSEFEL national TA support. The leadership team includes representatives from child care, special education, and Head Start. Additional representation is from family support, parent education, higher education and mental health among others. Details worked on include training schedule, marketing, application process and selection of demonstration sites.

**Highlights and Accomplishments**

**Trainers Pool**

We are in the process of recruiting and approving cross disciplinary state training and technical assistance providers as trainers and/or coaches through an application process. This application process also satisfies approval requirements for Wisconsin’s Professional Development Approval System (PDAS). We will use this web-based system to track trainings and training participants. We anticipate limiting the training cadre to 100 with representation from the Department of Public Instruction, Part B (619), Child Care Resource and Referral, Child Care, Family Resource Centers, Respite Providers, Head Start, Part C and Infant Mental Health. We anticipate holding a Faculty Institute for members of Higher Education. Higher Education is represented on our state leadership team.

**Building a Coaching Cadre**

Wisconsin combined the recruitment and approval system for trainers and coaches. At this time, we are planning to target 50 to 70 coaches who represent the infant, toddler and early childhood training and technical assistance system in the state. We are beginning to plan for on-going communication and connection with trainers and coaches, with the intent of embedding this into Wisconsin’s current regional collaboration structure.

**Work with Demonstration/Implementation Sites**

Wisconsin used an application and site visit process to select 3 demonstration sites. Work is ongoing to option other sites as implementation sites. The three demonstration sites will receive mini-grant funding to offset costs. Sites have leadership teams selected and will send a team to our August Program wide team implementation training. They will be assigned an external coach from the master cadre.

**Other Accomplishments**

* Secured ARRA funding to support staff time in providing leadership and off-set training costs. Funds are also supporting the required connection between demonstration sites and the local Part C program.
* Pending formal approval, participants in the trainer of trainer events may have the opportunity to earn up to 3 graduate credits.
* Great effort to embed the CSEFEL pyramid model into the overall professional development system by cross walking CSEFEL implementation with the WI Personnel Development Model.
* Approved trainers and coaches will be able to provide PDAS approved training for child care participants. Participants use PDAS to verify professional development experiences needed for certification purposes.
* Discussions are on-going to link CSEFEL training with Wisconsin’s proposed Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), Youngstar. This initiative is pending legislative approval, but has strong endorsement by key state officials.

**Supports that have helped to reach these accomplishments**

Our CSEFEL liaisons have assisted in leadership team agenda development, and information dissemination to the leadership team. Additionally, they have provided technical assistance to the facilitators of Wisconsin Leadership Team through email and phone support. The CSEFEL liaisons provided guidance on timeline and priorities for state implementation. All training material such as the modules was received from the liaisons. Timely feedback and brainstorming to overcome challenges have been particularly helpful.

**Issues or Barriers**

An ongoing debate at times sidelines action plan discussion at the state leadership team meetings. The conflict is how CSEFEL aligns with the previously developed Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standard initiative. Another challenge is balancing current training needs with the new CSEFEL training time commitment. At times the Leadership Team membership is too large for efficient decision making promoting ongoing progress.

**Sustaining the Initiative**

* Exploring data capabilities of PDAS
* Discussion on forming a data sub-committee
* Effort to connect CSEFEL work with the Positive Behavioral Support data collection system being developed for the K through 12 system. Linking CSEFEL competencies to Wisconsin’s QRIS system, Youngstar
* Work on faculty institute to embed content into pre-service
* Embed CSEFEL overview as part of the Early Learning Standards training
* The SEFEL implementation effort is embedded into the larger infrastructure overseeing and directing all early childhood efforts in Wisconsin called Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners, WECCP. The WECCP is a network of state, regional, and community, public and private, state departments, agencies, associations, and individuals working together to positively impact the lives of young children and their families encompassing the areas of early care and education, health, mental health, parent education and family support. The state departments have staff representing Head Start, child care, special education and child welfare on the WECCP State Action Team. Infant and early childhood mental health is represented by the private state wide non-profit Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health.
* Selecting master cadre to sustain trainer of trainer events
* Support demonstration sites to reach fidelity
* Provide ongoing support to approved external coaches and trainers
* Redesign of social emotional page of WECCP (collaboratingpartners.com) to include a section on CSEFEL
* Development of readiness checklist for programs to make informed decisions on program wide implementation
* Crosswalking and embedding overview content into Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and Strengthening Families initiative trainings
* Aligning CSEFEL content with the WPDM