



STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP) NEWSLETTER

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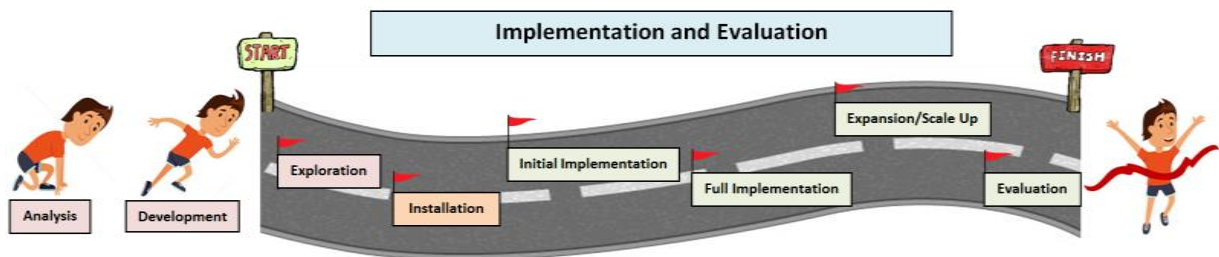
The SSIP project has been moving at lightning speed this year! Principle activities this year focused on improving the early childhood outcomes process, building a sustainable evidence-based practice system, and engaging in program infrastructure improvements through developing a defined Medicaid benefit for early intervention services.

The SSIP State Leadership Team is excited to report we have completed all installation activities related to building system capacity for statewide implementation of the SSIP. The project has now moved into the Initial Implementation stage. The goal of the Initial Implementation stage is to put new practices in place at selected demonstration sites so that we may learn from their successes and challenges.

Inside this issue you will find more information on Initial Implementation activities and plans to move to Full Implementation statewide. Additionally, we will provide information on progress towards our goal to increase the percentage of infants and toddlers exiting early intervention services who demonstrate improved positive social emotional skills.

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Project Highlights

- Developed 13 ECO tools and resources for demo sites
- Developed and delivered ECO training in demo sites
- Created action plans to guide ECO implementation
- Developed survey tool to capture demo site feedback
- Completed pilot of new ECO processes and resources
- Gathered staff and leadership feedback on implementation of pilot
- Developed a list of standard social emotional tools
- Created training plan for staff to reach EBP fidelity
- Developed a training plan for mentors
- Saw an increase of 2.3 % from previous year in infants and toddlers exiting early intervention services who demonstrate improved positive social emotional skills

Key Outcomes

This year, Idaho was able to measure and report data on four key outcomes related to our federally approved improvement strategies. Below, are the results of our outcome tracking in the areas of: ECO Statewide System, Staff Training, Personnel Development System and Evidence Based Practices.

Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Statewide System: The state has an approved system for ECO

- *Interim Measure Achieved: 62.5% of quality ratings have improved from baseline (60%target). Post Measure/progress data will be collected in the upcoming year.*

Staff Training: Staff and contractors are proficient in the ECO process including determining the ECO rating

- *Measure partially met: 90% of staff achieved proficiency following online training. 76% of staff achieved proficiency following in person training.*

Personnel Development System: A sustainable statewide system is in place to support high quality personnel development and technical assistance

- *Interim Measure Achieved: the quality rating improved by one point (target=1 point). Post measure/progress Will be collected in the upcoming year to ensure ongoing maintenance of the system.*

Evidence Based Practices: Demonstration Sites will have the team structure necessary to implement EBP

- *Baseline: 89% of demo sites had at least 8 of the 9 items on the coaching checklist in place. Data will be collected on an annual basis: target is 90% of demo sites have at least 8 of 9 items on the coaching checklist in place.*

EPSDT Update

As part of the SSIP, the Infant Toddler Program (ITP) improved our program infrastructure by developing a defined Medicaid benefit for Early Intervention services. In March 2017, a joint Early Intervention project team was developed with representation from the Division of Medicaid and Family and Community Services to create a defined Early Intervention benefit through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) authority.

Over the next 18 months, the project team worked with stakeholders, administration and program staff to make IDAPA rule changes, amend the Idaho State Plan and create an intra-agency agreement. This work allowed the state to move ITP services out of Medicaid Rehabilitation and Developmental Disabilities rules and add Early Intervention services as a defined benefit under the EPSDT authority.

On July 1, 2018, ITP implemented the new rules and began billing for the new Early Intervention benefits which include: Screening, Evaluation and Assessment, Early Intervention Services, Joint Visiting and Teaming. The project closed in September 2018. Over the upcoming year, ITP will monitor key project indicators that will assist us in tracking the results of the project, identifying areas of improvement and ensuring positive outcomes are achieved.

Who is Guiding this work?

SSIP activities are supported by 3 important teams. These teams are responsible to manage, guide and implement all tasks included in the state's improvement plan. These teams are responsible for the following:

- ✓ **State Leadership Team** – Managing activities and timelines, disseminating information, informing groups of opportunities to participate in SSIP activities. Membership includes Central Office Staff.
- ✓ **Demonstration Sites** – Implementing SSIP activities in Demonstration Sites. Membership includes Region 1, 2, 3 Supervisors/Specialists.
- ✓ **Infant Toddler Coordinating Committee** – Assisting the State Leadership Team in the evaluation of Improvement Strategy. Implementation and intended outcomes. Assisting in the identification of barriers and recommend actions to address those barriers. Membership includes Federal Accountability Committee members.

Next Steps

Now that ECO pilot is done, we are exploring statewide scale up of new ECO processes, resources and tools. Scale up exploration will include the evaluation of staff and leadership feedback and creation of Regional Action Plans with a focus on sustainability and fidelity. With assistance from the demonstration sites, the state leadership team will plan and provide an expanded infrastructure to support scale up for the remaining regions.

In addition to continued ongoing support to the demonstration sites, the statewide leadership team will support the practices of the new sites through training, coaching, feedback loops, and an organizational structure.

Upcoming SSIP activities include:

- ❖ Providing Social Emotional Training to staff/contractors in demonstration sites
- ❖ Finalizing Action Plans for full implementation of ECO processes and tools in demonstration sites
- ❖ Develop a plan for statewide scale up of ECO processes
- ❖ Implement fidelity checks for ECO processes and Evidence Based Practices
- ❖ Continue to measure progress: assessment of knowledge of social emotional training, Family Survey, self assessment/checklists and process fidelity checks

SSIP State Team Members

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For questions or additional information, contact Donna McNearney at McNearD@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-4965.

Additional Resources

AIM Early Idaho: www.aimearlyidaho.org

ECTA Center: [A Guide to the Implementation Process: Stages, Steps, and Activities](#)

The Family, Infant, and Preschool Program (FIPP): <http://fipp.org>

