

INTEGRATING FAMILY SERVICES

Newsletter

April 2015

Vol.1 Number 2



A Word from the Integrating Family Services Management Team

Spring has arrived and we hope you are enjoying it. Rather than hibernating during the exceptionally long and cold winter, we were very busy moving IFS forward. Many regions of the state are now in discussions about integration in their areas, we have work groups beginning in May to move the 15-month work plan forward, AND our first two Learning Community calls occurred in March and April with over 55 people participating on both calls. We appreciate the many discussions we are being invited to and we greatly value and appreciate the dedication and commitment to this effort that is in abundance around the state.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us with questions, concerns or to share successes!
Susan, Carol and Cheryle

Integrating Family Services Award!

This email message is from the Department of Human Resources Commissioner Spellman and arrived on Friday April 24:



I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the **2015 PSRW Cross-Agency Team new category award** is the **Integrating Family Services (IFS) Implementation Team**.

This award is in addition to the individual/team awards currently given to agencies/departments and recognizes great cooperation, program coordination and service delivery that enables greater success for our customers and enhances government efficiency as detailed in their nomination submission below:

Integrating Family Services (IFS) is perhaps the most ambitious system reform effort in AHS history. The AHS Secretary created an IFS infrastructure, the bedrock of which is the Implementation Team. The Implementation Team has been charged with translating the IFS goals into practice by guiding changes in state and local delivery systems and state

infrastructure. Meeting every other week for over two years, this dedicated team has demonstrated how to successfully integrate complex service systems in ways previously unimagined. This team has consistently displayed effective team work, a clear focus on children's and family's needs, and mutual accountability. This unprecedented effort has recently accomplished the consolidation of four separate departments' forms and processes into a single standardized approach.

Pilot projects implementing payment reform are operating in 2 areas (Franklin/Grand Isle and Addison Counties). Data is demonstrating success through providing more targeted and integrated services resulting in the avoidance of crisis services for children and families.



(IFS Implementation Team members, from left to right: Reba Porter, Jill Evans, Diane Bugbee, Alicia Hanrahan, Heather McLain, Carolynn Hatin, Barb Joyal, Lily Sojourner, Terri Edgerton, Cheryle Bilodeau, Laurel Omland & Susan Coburn)
(Missing members: Jennifer Garabedian, Amy Danielson, Tricia Tyo, Monica Ogelby & Renee Kievit-Kylar)

The **IFS Implementation Team** will join Vermont's celebration ceremony honoring our outstanding state employees and teams on Tuesday, May 5 at Capitol Plaza in Montpelier.

The IFS Website has been LAUNCHED!

Check it out - Click [here](#) to find:

- How you can describe IFS if you only have three floors in an elevator with someone,
- Information on accountability measures,
- Links to documents such as the strategic & work plan, the 8 Elements of IFS, PowerPoint presentations and much more!

Guiding Principles

After robust discussion and input from stakeholders across the state (we sent out a survey and over 100 people responded with their thoughts!) we have finalized the Guiding Principles for Integrating Family Services.

Please [click here](#) to read them in detail!

Practice Highlights from the Field

Addison - started IFS in their community on September 1, 2011 with IFS grants to CSAC (Counseling Service of Addison County) and the Parent Child Center of Addison County)

Franklin/Grand Isle - started IFS in their community April 1, 2014 with IFS grant to NCSS (Northwestern Counseling and Support Services) **Happy One Year Anniversary!!!!**

I. IFS Early Implementer Practice Highlight from Addison County - By Cheryl Huntley

A primary focus for Addison County in the last year has been the development of interagency/school training on family focused/strength-based care and effective teaming. Click [here](#) to read more!

II. IFS Early Implementer Practice Highlight from Franklin/Grand Isle - By Todd Bauman

The flexibility of Integrating Family Services funding is allowing Franklin and Grand Isle counties to develop capacity to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training to the community. Click [here](#) to read more!

Have you been wondering what it means for Children's Integrated Services (CIS) with IFS moving forward?

CIS plays an important role in the early childhood system of care, and CIS will continue to be one of the important foundational elements of IFS. The CIS framework and delivery structure will remain intact, and it will be enhanced with the development of integrated services for children up to age 22 and their families. Click [here](#) to read more!

What are the data telling us about early indicators for success for Integrating Family Services?

Click [here](#) to find out!

Learning Community Updates

(Next session)

*** May 26th, 12:00-1:00 - Topic is Payment Reform ***

Please contactCarolynn Hatin if you are interested in joining!

Carolynn.Hatin@state.vt.us

802-871-3101

IFS and the Legislature

During this legislative session we have been invited and presented to the House Human Service Committee, Senate Education Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee. We would like to express our special thanks to Charlie Biss (DMH), Cheryl Huntley (Addison) and Todd Bauman (Franklin/Grand Isle) for their testimony and involvement. It has been great to share with our legislators the work of IFS and the impact this is having on children, youth and families in Vermont. Both Senate committees seemed genuinely impressed with the work our community partners are doing to improve services and outcomes for children, youth and families.

IFS Milestones

Integrating Family Services has been busy since our last newsletter update. We have completed Quality Case Reviews in both of the IFS regions. This was the first integrated quality case review to occur with all of the AHS departments coordinating for the review AND using an integrated tool for the file reviews. The regions have received their reports from the review and we all learned a great deal from this process in how to view continuous quality improvement in a more integrated way!