

ExceleRate Subcommittee, Minutes of May 2019 meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 10:30 – 12:30

National-Louis University's Lisle campus, 850 Warrenville Road, and by conference phone

Present

Elysia Aufmuth, Cindy Berrey, Deborah Chalmers, Debrah Clark, Donna Emmons, Beth Girardier, Cornelia Grumman, Marsha Hawley, Carisa Hurley, Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Beth Knight, Tom Layman, Jenny Metcalf, Ashley Nazarak, Gail Nelson, Bethany Patten, Toni Porter, Emily Ropars, Teri Talan, Barb Volpe, Joyce Weiner, Pam Wicking

1. Welcome and Introductions. The co-chairs welcomed Carisa Hurley to her first meeting of this subcommittee.
2. Minutes and follow-up from previous meeting
Beth Knight moved to approve the minutes of the March 21 meeting. Donna Emmons seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously. In reference to the document "CQI Practices by Level," which this subcommittee created, the group noted its potential use in Communities of Practice. The group also noted the need to adapt its CQI documents for use in family child care, and discussed the potential for family child care Communities of Practice. Teri mentioned that she, Bela Mote, and Juliet Bromer are planning a family child care summit and will raise this need in the planning.

3. Background on hybrid model for QRIS standards

Tom reviewed the background documents that had been distributed in advance:

- *Few Powerful Standards, BUILD 2018*
- *The Few and The Powerful, Discussion Summary 2018*
- *QRIS Considerations for Structure*
- *CA QRIS Rating Matrix*

In discussion, the group affirmed the potential value of a hybrid approach. One member requested further discussion on how a program might choose what path it wanted to pursue, or what resources to use, if there are choices in a hybrid model. The group also noted the need for the state to have some consistent data on program quality, whether through ERS, CLASS and PAS scores or through data on implementation of the 8 components of CQI or other sources. (At a previous meeting, we also discussed potential analysis of annual improvement plans for information on support needs.)

4. Discussion of CQI vs. high stakes

ERS, CLASS, PAS, and other useful instruments were designed to guide program improvement, not to determine reimbursement rates or generate scores to advertise the program. Could ExceleRate require their use for the purpose intended, and require evidence of progress, but not count the scores in the ratings?

Put another way: Could standards be modified to incentivize cultures of learning rather than command and control ("quality for a day")?

The group discussed how our current block system encourages the checklist approach, because program staff teams have had no input into what they will work on, and often their felt needs for quality improvement are not addressed. Ashley described the experience of one site that

was making good progress in an area it had defined as important. In the middle of that work, the site began the Silver self-study process and actually lost the advances it had made, because it had to pay attention to prescribed activities in order to get through the assessment.

The group asked what it would look like to disconnect scores from ratings and measure progress instead. Gail described the new LearnERS program that Ann Hentschel has developed and is now being piloted in North Chicago. Administrators have online access to teams' progress. Recently, Tom asked some participants at a federal research conference whether progress could be measured rather than cut scores, and they affirmed that it is possible.

5. Next steps

Tom asked if, given the information and discussion at this meeting, the group wanted to keep developing a potential hybrid model. Participants answered yes, and generated some additional questions to ask our BUILD consultant (Debi Mathias) or for further discussion. They are:

- What are participation levels in the states in hybrid models vs. block models?
- What are typical required items vs. points items?
- Are any cross-sector state systems using hybrid (or is it just child care systems)?
- Have other states had experiences we should know about?

6. Next meeting Thursday, June 20. We will keep the new time slot, 10:30 – 12:30. Materials will be distributed before the meeting.