Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item

Welcome & Brief Overview of Objectives for the Meeting

First 5LA Strategic Plan and SRI

- Armando gave a brief update on the F5LA Strategic Plan and implications for the SR evaluation.
- There may be changes to the strategic plan because of what is currently happening with the state budget; this may affect the expected revenue of F5LA.
- Based on past learnings, F5LA developed result measures that were then presented to the Commission. The measures that F5LA has selected include:
  1. 3rd grade reading scores;
  2. low birth weight;
  3. the number of children, ages 3 – 5, who are overweight;
  4. and safety (as of now defined as the rate of substantiated cases).
- Armando stated that there is more work to be done in developing proximal measures related to these four measurements including 3rd grade reading scores.
- These result measures will help guide the types of programs that are funded in the future.
- F5LA will be focusing on a place based investment, such as Best Start, while still funding some universal approaches, such as 211 and policy work.
- Armando stated that F5LA has developed four fiscal models based on different revenue scenarios.
- Any fiscal impacts will begin on July 1st.

Evaluations of SRI

The summary of previous School Readiness Initiative evaluation efforts was reviewed.

Parent and Child Outcome Study

- To address the concerns raised about getting a true baseline and measuring the quantity of services participants received, participants suggested the following:
  - Get intensity and service type from program managers (not just parent reports).
  - Capture other services in which the parent may have participated.
- A suggestion was made that it would be interesting to explore whether there are different changes for different population segments.
- Another participant said that it would be interesting to explore whether there is a tipping point (in terms of program dosage). How much service do participants need to receive before seeing change?
Community Pathways Study

- One recommendation from this study was to implement a systems level evaluation.
  - One participant suggested using social network analysis/mapping to see the level of change in the relationship.
    - There was some discussion about social network analysis/mapping and the features of such programs.
    - One concern that was raised is that if we are hoping to measure change, standardized questions have not been asked to participants in previous years.

Collaboration Case Study

- One challenge with this case study was that there was a lot of variation within the seven agencies that were included. Some of this might have resulted from the fact that F5LA never defined for grantees what the nature of the collaboration should look like for the SRI.
- Bill stated that if this is an area that the committee is interested in pursuing, then there are some good tools that were developed for this study including a literature search.
- Bill also stated that some other initiatives have adopted tools for their grantees to use to measure collaboration.
- Some participants expressed that collaboration should look at funded vs. non-funded agencies. Others expressed that community resources should be examined and whether additional resources have been leveraged (i.e., cash match).

Criteria for Selecting Research Questions

- Multi-level with emphasis on certain levels.
- One participant commented that the measures that F5LA has selected focus on the child while research indicates that working with families and systems may be more effective.
- Research questions should consider F5LA’s strategic plan and their future direction, such as the place based approach and systems and policy change.
- Capture characteristics of mixed model approach, schools and CBO’s.
- Which packages of services or activities (i.e., cluster) are effective in creating change?
- Are the outcomes we are trying to achieve short-term or long-term?
- Build upon previous SRI evaluation efforts.
- Linking to other initiatives, funding, and community resources.
- Help support sustainability efforts.
- What characteristics were identified in previous evaluations that were associated with gains?
- What do we mean by school readiness? Readiness for K or Pre-K. One expressed that there has been a shift in focus--from a readiness for K to readiness for Pre-K
- Look at cumulative effect of SRI.

Review & Rank Research Questions

- One participant stated that many of the questions focus on school vs. CBO funded SRI programs. They thought that there were just as many differences within school-led and CBO-led agencies. It was suggested that it would be more interesting to look at characteristics or qualities of successful programs.
• It was suggested that a cluster design for the evaluation framework could address many of the research questions.
• Participants expressed that they did not want to rank the presented research questions but that they would rather first select evaluation design(s).
  o Therefore, the evaluation question ranking activity was not completed.

**Parent Survey Workgroup Update**

• Heather Malley and Bill Gould gave a brief update on the Parent Survey Workgroup.
• Heather stated that the responses she received from her survey were used to help select items for the survey.
• The next phase will be piloting of the parent survey.

**Preview of Next Session**

• Communication strategies will be reviewed next time.