



Transforming State Systems to
Improve Outcomes for Children
with Disabilities

We're Better Together

Harnessing Stakeholders to Help
Transform Systems to Improve Child and
Family Outcomes

Rorie Fitzpatrick, WestEd/NCSI Director | 08.07.2017



Agenda

- Set some context... NCSI in a nutshell
- Explore systems transformation considerations
- Think about associated opportunities for meaningful family and agency partnership



**NCSI
in a Nutshell**

NCSI is an OSEP-Funded
National Technical Assistance Center



Reach
National—50 states, 10 territories. Funded in 2014 for five year cooperative agreement

Clients
116 state agencies leading IDEA* (60 PreK-12 and 56 infant/toddler agencies)

Overarching Goal
Systems transformation that improves results for children with disabilities from birth – HS graduation

Configuration
WestEd + partners including all six Regional Parent TA Centers

*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

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Guiding Principles



- Shared leadership and authentic stakeholder engagement
- Customized and differentiated technical assistance
- Leveraging resources to maximize efficiency and effectiveness

How NCSI helps states transform systems



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Data Use



*Improvement begins with **seeing** your system*

- Information & Analysis
- Organization Performance Results

“It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data.”

— Sherlock Holmes

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Table Talk!

In your states, how are families engaged in:

- Analyzing data?
- Drawing conclusions?
- Informing priorities about results?

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Communication & Collaboration

Meaningful engagement needs real partnership

- Stakeholder Focus

“No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.”

— H.E. Luccock

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Table Talk!

In your states, how do families partner with state agencies to:

- Establish collaboration preferences, expectations, and needs?

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Knowledge Utilization

*Choose appropriate solutions;
ensure implementation capacity*

- **Workforce Capacity**

“Capacity building involves **developing the collective ability** — dispositions, skills, knowledge, motivation, and resources — **to act together to bring about positive change.**

— Michael Fullan, *Leadership and Sustainability: System Thinkers in Action*

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Table Talk!

In your states, how do families:

- Learn what research says is effective for increasing results for children with disabilities?
- Increase capacity to support developmental and educational success for their children?

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Systems Change

Policies must enable change, not hamper it

- Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Operations Management

“Are you really sure that a floor can’t also be a ceiling?”

— M.C. Escher

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Table Talk!

In your states, how do families:

- Partner with local and state agencies to jointly “own” implementation efforts?
- Support the development of policy improvements?
- Help agencies to improve systems alignment?

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**What can you do
to help your state
get better at being
better together?**

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More information:

ncsi.wested.org

ncsi@wested.org

@TheNCSI

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