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
Better Together: Family & Agency Partnership to Improve Results

8.7.2017

Fitzpatrick, WestEd/NCSI

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

Guiding Principles

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

*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
How NCSI helps states transform systems

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
Table Talk!

In your states, how are families engaged in:
- Analyzing data?
- Drawing conclusions?
- Informing priorities about results?

Communication & Collaboration

*Meaningful engagement needs real partnership*

- **Stakeholder Focus**

  “No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestrate to play it.”
  — H.E. Luccock
Table Talk!

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

– Establish collaboration preferences, expectations, and needs?

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
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?

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
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?

What can you do to help your state get better at being better together?
More information:
ncsi.wested.org
ncsi@wested.org
@TheNCSI