Leveraging Multiple Grant Funded Projects to Achieve Success
Experiences from Alaska, Indiana, and Wisconsin

HCBS Conference
Thursday, December 3, 2020
Agenda

- Administration on Disability Priority Areas
- Unique Grant Models in Alaska, Indiana, and Wisconsin
- Panel Discussion
- Closing & Questions
Welcome from the
Administration for Community Living

Jennifer Johnson
Deputy Commissioner, Administration on Disabilities
Director, Office of Disability Service Innovations

Administration for Community Living,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Importance of Community Living

• Nearly 57 million people with disabilities live in the community and increasingly people have the expectation that they lead full lives in the community.

• The number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in community settings and receiving home and community based services (HCBS) increased dramatically in the last two decades, resulting in:
  • Better outcomes, including choice and community integration.
  • Wide variation in the accessibility of quality HCBS across the country.

• Having meaningful access to community settings is important given the vital role social inclusion can play in decreasing the risk of abuse and neglect.
  • Research shows people living in the community have better quality-of-life outcomes related to their health, independence, privacy, and social engagement.
Administration on Disabilities (AoD)  
Creating Change, Improving Lives

• Equipping individuals with disabilities of all ages with opportunities, tools and supports to lead lives of their choice in their community.

• Moving from:
  • Institutionalization
  • Isolation
  • Poverty/joblessness
  • Dependency

• To:
  • Community living
  • Inclusion & participation
  • Financial well being
  • Independence & Self-Determination
AoD Priority Areas

- Achieving Healthy Equity
- Achieving Economic Security and mobility
- Protecting Rights and Preventing Abuse
- Empowering Individuals, Families and Communities
Health Equity

Women’s Heath/Maternal Morbidity (HHS)

NEW
Human Dignity and Health Equity Center

NEW
Community Based Transition Grants – Healthcare Transitions

NEW
Healthcare Workforce Training Grant

ID/DD Prevalence & Health Surveillance

National Training Center on Dual Diagnosis
Achieving Economic Security and Mobility

- Employment Longitudinal Study
- Employment Challenge Competition
- NEW AoD Employment TA Center
- Partnerships in Employment Systems Change (PIE)
  - 14 grants (in total)
  - Technical Assistance Center
  - Evaluation
- NEW Community Based Transition Grants - Employment
- Multi-agency Employment Task Force
Protecting Rights and Preventing Abuse

**Decisional Supports**
- NEW: Alternative to Guardianship Youth Resource Center
- Alternatives to Guardianship Planning Grants

**Protection & Advocacy systems**

**NEW**
- Direct Support Professional Prize Competition

**Living Well in the Community**
- 8 grants
- Technical Assistance Center
- Evaluation
Empowering Individuals, Families, and Communities

- National Limb Loss Resource Center
- National Paralysis Resource Center
- RAISE Committee
- Supporting Families COP Evaluation
- Self-advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center
- Coordinated Transportation Systems (CIP)
- Diversity Community of Practice
- Nat'l Long. Study – Medicaid $
Improving reporting practices will not, by itself, solve the problem of abuse and neglect – there are a lot of factors involved in the issue, including workforce shortages, a gap in adequate training, the need for increased community-based options, to name just a few.

ACL invested in *Living Well – Model Approaches for Enhancing the Quality, Effectiveness and Monitoring of Home and Community Based Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (Living Well)* to develop and test model approaches of a coordinated and comprehensive system that will support quality community living.
ACL Awarded Eight Living Well Grants

**Cohort 1**
- University of Georgia Institute on Human Development
- University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability
- Virginia Commonwealth University Partnership for People with Disabilities

**Cohort 2**
- Alaska Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education
- University of Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development
- Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
Each grantee designed a model approach that included two interrelated core components for enhancing and assuring the independence, integration, safety, health, and well-being of individuals living in the community:

1. **Community monitoring** – Develop and implement a coordinated system with the incorporation of partnerships to monitor the safety, health, and well-being of individuals with I/DD living in HCBS, and identifying and eliminating risk factors for abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

2. **Community capacity building** – Apply evidence-based practices and innovative strategies to support individuals with I/DD living in or moving to HCBS; improve access to and quality of community services; reduce and mitigate abuse and neglect; and support individuals’ empowerment, independence, and rights.
Partnerships in Employment Systems Change Grants

• The purpose of these grants is to prioritize employment as the first and preferred option for youth and young adults with I/DD.

• Grantees enhance collaboration across existing state systems, including programs administered by state developmental disabilities agencies, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, state educational agencies, and other entities to increase competitive employment outcomes for youth and young adults with I/DD.

• Grantees have:
  • Developed policies that support competitive integrated employment
  • Removed barriers to competitive integrated employment
  • Implemented strategies and best practices to improve employment outcomes for youth and young adults with I/DD
  • Enhanced statewide collaborations to facilitate the transition process from the school setting to the employment setting
Current PIE States

- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- South Carolina
- Utah

Previous PIE States

- Alaska
- California
- Iowa
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- New York
- Tennessee
- Wisconsin
Meet the Panelists

Kristin Vandagriff
Executive Director
Alaska Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Kim Opsahl
Associate Director
Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

Beth Swedeen
Executive Director
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Diana Caldwell
Managing Consultant
The Lewin Group
Alaska Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Kristin Vandagriff, Executive Director
Current/Recent (PNS) Grants:

- **Current PNS Grant - Alaska Living Well Project:**
  - The overarching goal of this project is to increase the community integration, health, safety, independence, and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities through realization of our DD vision:

- **Recent PNS Grant – Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (Partnerships in Employment Grant):**
  - Enhancing employment outcomes for Alaskan youth and young adults with developmental disabilities.
PNS Grant Priorities:

**Living Well:**
1. Improve health and safety as well as independence and employment
2. Improve workforce sustainability and training
3. Increase leadership opportunities for self-advocates
4. Improve rights

DD Shared Vision Website: [http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/ddsharedvision/default.aspx](http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/ddsharedvision/default.aspx)

**Partnerships in Employment:**

- Passage of Employment First law
- Repealed subminimum wage state regulation (only the 3rd state to do this)
- Repealed state high school graduation qualifying exam (retroactive provision)
- ABLE Act passage: [https://savewithable.com.ak/home.html](https://savewithable.com.ak/home.html)
- Alaska Disability Benefits 101 development/launch: [https://ak.db101.org/](https://ak.db101.org/)

**To learn more about Alaska’s outcomes for this 5-year grant, visit:** Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation 47 (2017 “Alaska Case Study: Pathway to Employment for All in the Last Frontier:” [http://content.iospress.com/articles/journal-of-vocational-rehabilitation/jvr903](http://content.iospress.com/articles/journal-of-vocational-rehabilitation/jvr903)
Model Overview - Living Well:

- Statewide Self Advocacy Summit
- Self-advocacy trainings (rights, voting, how to share your story, et al)
- Plan of Care enhancement trainings (relating to health/safety, emergency preparedness, and employment)
- Person Centered/Directed trainings
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency Trainings
  - ***Trainings are all co-led by a person with a DD***
- Home assessment/accessibility and environmental modification enhancement
- Supported Decision-Making Agreements – increasing awareness and utilization
  - SDMA website: [http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/projects/SDMA/default.aspx](http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/projects/SDMA/default.aspx)
  - SDMA Training Videos: [http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/projects/SDMA/care.aspx](http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/projects/SDMA/care.aspx)
- Improving accuracy of first person reporting through SDMA pilot
- Embedding Living Well staff in State DD agency to improve alignment of practices, policies, and procedures with the DD Shared Vision
- Community Relationship Builder pilot – building natural community supports
- DD Shared Vision Alignment survey
Model Overview - Living Well:

• 10 partners total: P&A, UCEDD, IL, State DD agency, self advocacy organizations, statewide DD service provider association, and the trust

• Alaska’s DD Council and the Alaska DD Systems Collaborative serve in an advisory role to the grant

• Quarterly project management meetings

• 10 small groups centered around topical areas:
  • Evaluation
  • Environmental Modification (EMOD)/HomeMap Assessment
  • Employment First
  • Challenging Behaviors
  • Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Integrated Settings Transition
  • Direct Service Professional/Provider (Person-Centered)
  • Plan of Care
  • Community Relationship Building (building natural supports)
  • Self-Advocacy
  • Supported Decision making Agreements (SDMA)
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

Kim Opsahl, Associate Director
Kimberly.Opsahl@fssa.in.gov
• How it Started - 2016

So, We Started Here

We Were Here
• How It’s Going
Setting a Trajectory Toward Transformation

- Comprehensive Community Monitoring and Oversight
- Quality Metrics / Defined Service Outcomes
- System Education on Achieving a “Good Life”
- Supporting Providers and Case Managers

A System that Supports the Individual as the Primary Driver of their Life and the System as a Whole

LifeCourse Nexus / CoP
Culture of Quality
Living Well
• Using CtLC Framework as a Model for Stakeholder Engagement

- Engage local and statewide stakeholders
- Shared vision, common language
- Pilot and scale practices and innovations
- Enhance personal and professional skills
- Enhance programmatic, organizational, or systematic procedures
• Capacity building to increase health and safety and improve quality of life of people with IDD receiving Home and Community Based Services

• Improve monitoring systems, including equipping people with disabilities and their families with tools to monitor health and safety and report concerns

• Project focuses on using a feedback loop with stakeholders to evaluate the usefulness of the tools created and improvement to the resources, services and supports in our state.
Maintaining Quality During COVID-19

- Wisconsin utilized a feedback loop with providers, self-advocates and funders on several projects
- Conducted a virtual services evaluation and developed resources help maintain quality and drive system change
COVID-19 Projects

• Home and Community Based Services virtual services evaluation

• Creation of a COVID-19 Toolkit in plain language

• Collaboration with Wisconsin Department of Health Services on plain language COVID-19 webpage
Living Well COVID-19 Toolkit

As recipients of multiple PNS grants, you have demonstrated how synergy across projects can promote more effective solutions. How are your grant projects intersecting? In what ways has this synergy benefitted your projects and your state?

Kim Opsahl
Beth Swedeen
Kristin Vandagriff
Panel Discussion: Question 2

Each of you has successfully engaged a coalition of stakeholders who are instrumental for your PNS grants and beyond. What is working well for you? What strategies have led to this success?
Panel Discussion: Question 3

What lessons or strategies have you learned that you will apply to future grant opportunities?

Kristin Vandagriff        Kim Opsahl        Beth Swedeen
Closing and Questions

Thank you for coming today.