

**Topic:** Learning Community Meeting – Evaluation

**Date:** November 3, 2022

**Grantee and Partner Participants:**

- Aspire: Kristen Woodbury, Abby Foley, Brynn Cooper
- Advocates: Ann Pryzysnki, Courney Balaco, Kimberly Duane
- BHN: Sarah Maneasu, Dawn King
- Elliot: Elizabeth Lineweaver
- Riverside: Manny Oppong
- NRI: Jennifer Bronson, Lance Washington
- MAMH: Joan Mikula, Danna Mauch, Jenifer Urff, Lina Stolyar

**Agenda:**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentation from NRI on Evaluation Overview and Discussion
- Topics for Future Learning Communities
- Logistics

**Welcome and Introductions:**

- Everyone introduced themselves.
- Danna announced that the Charles F. and Beatrice D. Adams Charitable Trust recently agreed to provide additional funding to ensure a robust, fully independent evaluation and a statewide meeting to expand the reach and effectiveness of the learning community. Some other foundations are considering an additional investment to expand the number of sites in the grant program.

**Evaluation Overview:**

- Jennifer Bronson presented the slides (see slides)

**Evaluation Discussion:**

- Several participants noted that tracking school absences related to BH issues may be challenging.
  - o This is because schools and organizations may not be able to get the full extent of the story. For example, a child may be absent for reasons related to homelessness, or they may have physical complaints such as a stomachache that may or may not be related to anxiety or depression. Depending on who is categorizing the absences, if they don't understand where behavioral health intersects with what they are being told, that information may not get to us or it may be hard to decipher.
- One participant observed that confidentiality issues within schools may also pose challenges.
  - o A school pointed out that if no names are attached in terms of what is going out, then it can still track it and put it out. NRI reminded everyone that the data will be de-identified and there is no need to have personal information for any student.
- Courtney noted that, beginning November 8, schools will be required to provide and document an intervention before any suspension. There is a specific definition of suspension that might be applicable for the evaluation (see language [here](#)).
- One organization mentioned that for the measure looking at student and family report on helpfulness, there is a need to think about what helpfulness means because we may get

different answers on that. For example, engagement in school may have increased but experience at home may not have changed so will need to clarify it here.

- Joan mentioned that it may be helpful to pull in a group of families to think through what this means.
- One participant mentioned that reporting on calls to mobile crisis teams may be challenging because, if there isn't one centralized place where all the calls go, it would be challenging to gather this information.

#### **Logistics and Topics for Future Learning Community Meetings:**

- Scheduled for every other week on Thursday from 1 – 2pm
  - November 17, December 1, and December 15.
- People are interested in learning more about the BRYT model for reintegrating students back into school after lengthy absences; we will invite Paul Hyry-Dermith from BRYT to a future meeting.
- Grantees would like to use learning communities to share their successes and challenges with implementation, but they agreed that it is too early in the process to do that. We will re-visit after implementation begins in 2023.