

Evaluation and Data Collection Workgroup Update

The Evaluation and Data Collection Workgroup met on May 16, 2017. The meeting focused on three main issues and the progress related to those issues:

1. **Outside Evaluation.** An early recommendation from this workgroup was to seek out an outside evaluator for the B2i program. In April, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation hosted a conference call connecting several entities evaluating the B2i population with the Jim Casey Foundation. Representatives from the DHHS, FCRO, and the Connected Youth Initiative discussed the different forms of evaluation currently applied to Nebraska's B2i population, discussed gaps in the current process, and wants and needs regarding assistance. There were two main takeaways from this meeting:
 - a. The B2i population participates in several different evaluations from several different entities. Before exploring an additional external evaluation process, it would be helpful for our current entities to receive technical assistance regarding how to best evaluate and integrate the different forms of data we already have.
 - i. This technical assistance can then help determine if an external evaluation is necessary to cover gaps or if the necessary information is already being collected.
 - b. One of the highest priority needs is making sure we appropriately identify what outcomes are for this population and that any evaluation correctly measures outcomes that demonstrate whether or not individual youth are making progress while in the program, as opposed to choosing a static goal that all youth are expected to reach upon exit from B2i.

The Jim Casey Foundation is looking into what technical assistance may look like. Additionally, they were exploring the possibility of connecting Nebraska B2i entities with Chapin Hall faculty with extensive experience evaluating young adults in extended foster care in order to discuss best measures for outcomes.

The Evaluation and Data Collection Workgroup discussed this meeting and stressed how important it is that this process move forward quickly and that the focus on outcomes be a priority. We also discussed how important it is that this committee be able to review and provide feedback on any products that may come out of these discussions.

2. **DHHS and FCRO Data Collection Update.** The Evaluation and Data Collection Workgroup was updated that the FCRO and DHHS B2i administration and staff have scheduled regular meetings to discuss data collection/evaluation and case review processes.
3. **FCRO Preliminary Data.** The Evaluation and Data Collection Workgroup reviewed preliminary data and discussed what is currently available from the FCRO B2i data. This discussion helped shape the FCRO B2i report to be distributed at this meeting.