South Carolina’s Child Care Data Bridge

Building a Data Infrastructure to Support Child Care Policy

Presentation to the Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium (CCPRC) – July 2008
## South Carolina’s Team Presenters

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- Diana Tester, S.C. Budget & Control Board’s Office of Research & Statistics

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Systems must be integrated & share information
Reduce the burden and repetition in the collection of information
Locate discrepancies in information
Alert staff to critical key information quickly
Opportunity knocks .......

Child Care Research Capacity Grant provided an opportunity to increase resources & move at a faster pace

- Vision – Create web-based tools that access information from your PC
- Build upon the work at ORS with the integrated data warehouse and cubes
- BUT, before we do that – need a strong foundation
**Working together ......**

**Objective:** Stay focused on goal of building data capacity, using project’s research question as guide:

*What is the impact of CCDF on improving the quality of care available to and utilized by low-income working parents and at risk families to support parental outcomes and child well-being?*
1. Make the questions manageable & measurable

*What is the relationship between CCDF quality enhancement funds/initiatives and the quality of care in ABC centers?*

**Dependent variables** – quality of care
- Performance level of center from ERS = AA, A, BB, B, C
- Incremental score on ERS
- Level of personnel professional development
- Personnel turnover

**Independent variables** – CCDF funds/initiatives
- Professional Development
- Technical Assistance
- New awards/bonuses in ABC Program

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**SC’s Other question:** Does the percentage of ABC voucher children in centers of higher levels of quality increase as the number of higher quality centers increases?

**Dependent variable**
- % of ABC children in each ABC level

**Independent variable**
- Performance level of center = AA, A, BB, B, C
2. Inventory databases

☐ What do we have?

☐ What do we need?

☐ To link databases, are there missing fields?

☐ How do we align/crosswalk fields?

Have
Regulatory
Need
ABC – building enhancements
ABC Client/Child – upgraded
TA – being built
TEACH – upgraded
Higher Ed – built
PITC – being built
Missing fields
FEIN, SSN
Align
Education level of caregivers
Databases: actual, partial, build

- State-regulated centers/providers
- ABC centers/providers
- ABC Voucher/client-child
- Professional development
  - TEACH & other CCDF funded higher education
  - Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC)
- Technical assistance (registry and reporting)
| BUILDING TOOLS ON THAT FOUNDATION |
## SC’s Integrated System

- Built using existing systems (legacy systems from state agencies and private sector)
- Create a Unique Tracking Number (not related to any other number)
- Identifiers are separated from the statistical data. Use only the statistical data
- Data always “owned” by the originating agency. Must have permissions to use and/or link any data
- Employ HIPPA Best practices and have extensive security measures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linking Data Sets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Records are linked for the same individual using a unique tracking number</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Tracking number is random so cannot be unencrypted to identify the individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ An individual is assigned the same number over time</td>
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<td>□ Rigorous security standards in place: policies, firewalls</td>
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Putting Data Into the Hands of the Users

Evaluation of interventions and programs by:
- Understanding interaction with other programs and providers
- Analyzing aggregate data
- Accessing analytic data cubes
- Managing client care
- Creating a research capacity
- Assessing outcomes
What Is an Analytic Cube?

- Secure Web-based system that allows users to access large databases from their desks
- A way to “slice and dice” through large amounts of data
- Define “slicers,” characteristics that are important to analyzing the subject population
- Pre-aggregate the linked data by all possible combinations of “slicers”
South Carolina’s Proposed Child Care Provider Cube

No. of ABC Voucher Children

No. of Private Pay Children

Staff Turnover

Professional Development

Provider Type

Provider Performance Level

Provider Scores (FRS or ARC)

Staff Qualifications
## Proposed Cubes for Child Care Services

- **Cubes based on Provider Data**
  - Licensing
  - ABC Quality Reviews
  - Information on ABC Voucher Providers

- **Cubes based on Child Level Data**
  - With agency permissions, use the Integrated Data Warehouse
  - ABC Voucher children, DSS TANF & Food Stamp children, Medicaid
  - Mental Health, Disabilities, & other issues
  - Eventually, would like to link to Education
<table>
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<th>Explore a bridge from Providers to Child</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Vision again!</td>
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<td>- In a test environment, explore development of a bridge from the provider to all children served by provider</td>
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