Findings from the QRIS Assessment Project

November 16, 2011

Presentation at the Joint Meeting of
the State and Territory CCDF Administrators and the Child Care
Policy Research Consortium
Project Overview
QRIS Assessment: Purpose

 To address states’ needs for information regarding both the implementation and evaluation of the various approaches to QRIS

 To gather information and develop resources that can build capacity for QRIS monitoring and evaluation
Compendium of QRIS:
- Catalog comprehensive and consistent information on QRIS key elements

QRIS Evaluation Toolkit:
- Produce resources for monitoring and evaluation

Two In-Depth Studies:
- Gather and synthesize in-depth information on quality measurement (5 QRIS) and systems-building (2 QRIS)

Secondary Data Analysis:
- Analyze data to aggregate findings about quality measurement across QRIS
Study Components & Participating QRISs

QUALITY MEASUREMENT STUDY
Miami-Dade (FL)
Indiana
Illinois
Pennsylvania
Tennessee

Study of QRIS Role in ECE Systems
Indiana
Pennsylvania

Secondary Data Analysis
Miami-Dade (FL)
Illinois
Tennessee
In-Depth Study of QRIS in ECE System Integration
Define the approaches in use by QRIS to connect with other ECE programs through eight system components

1. Governance and infrastructure
2. Provider and program engagement
3. Financing
4. Quality assurance
5. Early learning standards
6. Professional development
7. Dissemination of information
8. Accountability
Approaches to Integration

- Embed governance, administrative, and service structures:
  - QRIS as a “one-stop shop” for child care providers

- Cross-program accountability:
  - Develop or make use of common tools and resources that support PD and QI across programs

- Reciprocal responsibility:
  - Link funding sources and incentives to achieve multiple program goals
Administrative and Service Structure Integration: QRIS as “One-Stop Shop”

- **State-Level Integration**
  - Licensing, Subsidy, QRIS

- **Mixed-Level Integration**
  - Early Intervention, Early childhood mental health, Infant/toddler specialists, QRIS

- **Local-Level Integration**
  - Professional development, Technical assistance, QRIS

- **QRIS (Specialist)**

- **Child Care Providers and Programs**

  - Coordinated policies
  - Coordinated resources
  - Coordinated services
Approaches to Integration: Cross-Program Accountability

- Licensing
- QRIS
- Other ECE Programs

Quality Standards & Early Learning Guidelines
Professional Development Tools & Resources
Approaches to Integration: Reciprocal Responsibility

Participating Providers and Programs

Financial Supports and TA

Quality Improvement Results

QRIS and Other ECE Programs
Openness to change
- Interconnectedness means a change in one area or program requires change throughout the system.

Seek opportunities and continue to widen the circle
- Keep asking how a policy or initiative in one program can be incorporated into others.
Challenges to Integration

- No specific prescription
  - Differences in context necessitate differences in details

- Vision, planning, and patience
  - Adopting long-term strategy (and refine along the way)
  - Hard to estimate (and never enough) money, staff, or time needed
  - Timing when politics and/or personalities align
Practical Lessons

- **Jump in anywhere**
  - Incremental change is better than no change

- **Use efficiencies to make a case for integration**
  - Resources (tools and money)
  - Data collection

- **Use the eight system components as a planning and analytic tool**
  - Assess current stage of implementation, where you want to be, and how to get there