

Major Planning Area: Data, Research and Evaluation

Judging the success of this program will require some sophistication and diligence. A composite of key outcomes and indicators must be established and formal evaluations should be built into the design of the program. Also, to the extent data collection will be required from service providers, developing those requirements and determining the methods of collection and analysis will be necessary.

Key Activities

- Need to decide upon the outcome objectives for this initiative.
- Need to decide upon the evaluation framework and any formal contracting for evaluating implementation and program success.
- Need to set and implement the core data elements to be compiled.
- Assess and develop the means and systems to collect from providers, staff and consumers alike-internal and external.

Leadership

- 1) DCF DRS Internal Workgroup-in consultation with the Commissioner will review and pursue the development of this program component.
- 2) DRS Steering Committee will be utilized to make recommendations on a set of outcomes and indicators, as well as the overall system of evaluation of DRS.

Status

NRC has offered to serve as program evaluator. NRC has provided evaluations from three other jurisdictions for our consideration.

Reviewed existing evaluations and the candidates for outcomes, study components, and evaluation framework. Presented to Steering Committee at April Meeting and to Executive Management.

Met with NRC and Walter McDonald Associates to frame evaluation system--7/10. Secured final arrangements with NRC and Walter McDonald Associates for program evaluation.

DCF's Office of Research and Evaluation developed an evaluation strategy and matrix following the 7/10 meeting and input has recently been provided by NRC.

Next Steps

Finalize an evaluation strategy building off of the DRS logic model by 6/1.

DRS data collection needs are being coordinated as part of the data system development recently procured by DCF--DRS is a confirmed component of the new system being developed. Work is on-going.