

Office of Child Development and Early Learning


Fourth Friday Series A Series of Online Professional Development Opportunities for Technical Assistance Consultants

Using Communities of Practice to Inform Decision Making

Friday, March 28, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

LeAnne Lorenzo
Consultant/Project Manager
Early Intervention Technical Assistance

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Moderator for Today's Session


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Housekeeping Notes


- Question & Answer Segments**
Periodic question & answer segments will be offered during today's session. Additionally, a question & answer segment will be offered at the end of today's session.
- Online evaluation**
A brief online evaluation will be presented at the conclusion of today's session. Your feedback is important to us. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation.

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Using Communities of Practice to Inform Decision Making

Fourth Friday Series
Professional Development Seminars for Technical Assistance Consultants



Presenter:

LeAnne Lorenzo
Consultant
Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network



What Is a Community of Practice?

A community of people with diverse expertise who engage in shared inquiry and learning

(Palincsar, Magnusson, Marano, Ford, & Brown, 1995)

● ● ● | Theoretical/Conceptual Foundations

- Situated learning theory
- Evidence-based practice
- Reflective practice

● ● ● | Defining Features of CoPs


- Diverse expertise
- Shared purpose & goals
- Opportunities for observation of practice
- Reflection & discussion with others
- Inquiry
- Sharing ideas & findings with the broader community
- Regeneration of members and activities

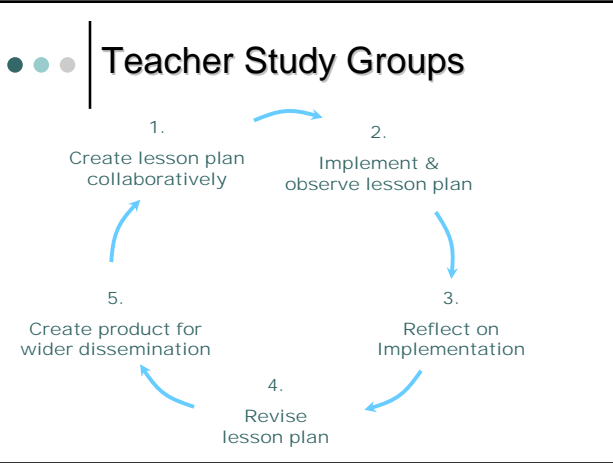
(Wesley & Buysse, 2006)

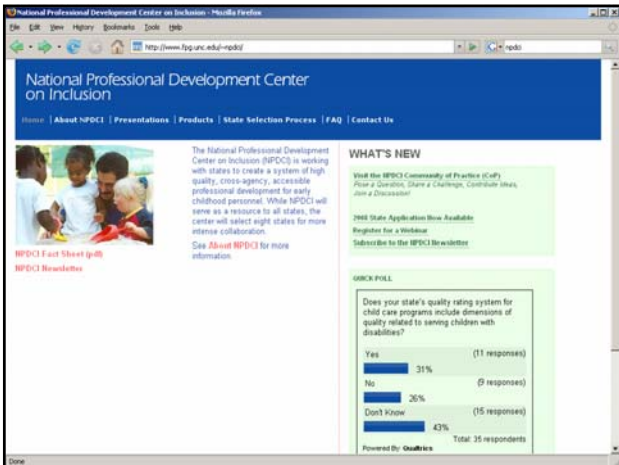
● ● ● | Goals of a CoP

- Opportunities for deeper, collaborative investigation
- Opportunities for colleagues to share similar goals or dilemmas
- Opportunities for individual presentations of dilemmas, successes, observations, experiences, etc.
- Method of refining, improving practice
- Method for individual and collective reflection
- Creation of shared knowledge of practice

Some examples of CoPs







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WHAT'S NEW

Visit the NPDC Community of Practice (CoP) [Practice Question, Share a Challenge, Contribute Ideas, Join a Discussion!](#)

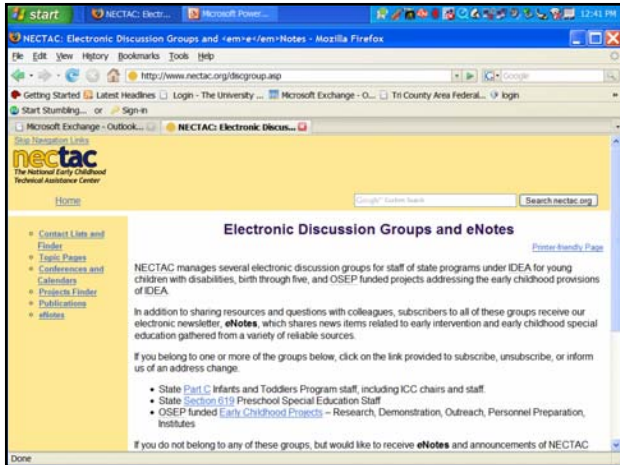
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QUICK POLL

Does your state's quality rating system for child care programs include dimensions of quality related to serving children with disabilities?

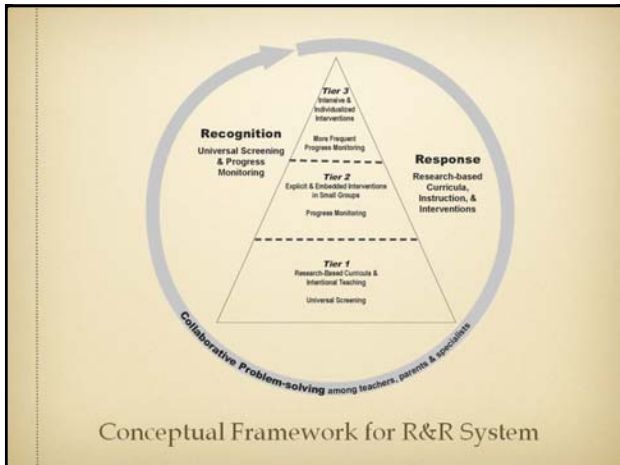
Yes	31%	(11 responses)
No	26%	(9 responses)
Don't Know	43%	(15 responses)
		Total: 35 respondents

Powered by [Qualtrics](#)



● ● ● | Product of a CoP

CoP can lead to the creation of visual graphics to depict the discussion or process created.



● ● ● | Communities of Practice

What are your questions or comments on CoP?

● ● ● | Building a CoP From the Ground Up

- Identify areas for inquiry
- Start with existing groups & activities
- Seek out diverse expertise
- Create opportunities for discussion & reflection
- Share new ideas with the broader community

● ● ● | Building a CoP From the Ground Up

- How can CoP be used to support Technical Assistance?
- Professional Development for TA providers?
- Used by TA providers with your clients?

● ● ● | **Goals of a CoP**

- Opportunities for deeper, collaborative investigation
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● ● ● | **How Can You Use CoP?**

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● ● ● | **Resources to Investigate**

- www.fpg.unc.edu/~npdci/
- www.beachcop.beachcenter.org/communitybrowser.aspx
- <http://www.nectac.org/discgroup.asp>
- <http://ecap.crc.uiuc.edu/projects.html>
- <http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>

● ● ● | **Resources to Investigate**

- *Evidence-Based Practice in the Early Childhood Field*
Edited by Virginia Buysse and Patricia W. Wesley
FPG Child Development Institute
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Published by Zero to Three Press.
- "Evidence-Based Practice: What does it really mean for the early childhood field?" Fall 2006 - *Young Exceptional Children*.
Virginia Buysse, Patricia W. Wesley, and Pamela Winton
from the FPG Child Development Institute and Patricia Snyder from Vanderbilt University.

● ● ● | **Communities of Practice**

Please complete your survey and give us feedback on today's session.

Thanks for your participation!

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