Program Integrity and Effectiveness through Data and Analysis for the Family First Prevention Services Act

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Highlights

- Program Integrity and Effectiveness through Data and Analysis (PIEDA) aims to enhance the capacity to share and link data between public child welfare and Medicaid agencies on issues at the nexus of the two systems.
- PIEDA intends to sustainably improve the data infrastructure of public agencies to increase their ability to analyze challenges experienced by families involved in child welfare systems.
- Enhancing data infrastructure may help public agencies improve their oversight of prevention services and health system interventions for children and families in, or at risk of being in, the foster care system.

Introduction

The 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA, P.L. 115-123) changed how states and tribes may use funding available through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. FFPSA permits states and tribes to provide evidence-based parenting skills and behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorder) services to families in which children are at risk of foster care while also requiring states and tribes to evaluate the effectiveness of such services. However, public agencies may lack adequate data infrastructure to ensure effective implementation of these services to prevent foster care in alignment with FFPSA.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) launched PIEDA to enhance the data infrastructure of public child welfare and Medicaid agencies. The initiative will work with agencies to link public child welfare and Medicaid data to:

- Increase their data and analytic capacity to understand services utilized by children and families involved in child welfare systems and Medicaid, and evaluate outcomes related to those services.
- Improve delivery and oversight of services for children and families, and the ability of public agencies to monitor program spending and use funding most efficiently.

Project Objectives

1) Conduct feasibility studies to determine state or tribes' readiness and infrastructure to develop data systems with linked records from Medicaid and public child welfare agencies, and detail steps to improve readiness.
2) Develop datasets and data systems with linked records from Medicaid and public child welfare agencies for children and parents/caregivers involved in both systems.
3) Use linked records to:
   a) Increase analytic opportunities to help better understand and improve child welfare operations, services, outcomes, and health services delivered to children and parents in the child welfare system.
   b) Develop, pilot, and implement models to support oversight of prevention and congregate care services.
4) Document lessons learned on linking data across the agencies and the project more generally.

Project Resources

By participating in the project, public agencies will receive technical assistance to develop linked datasets for operational, research, and evaluation purposes related to their FFPSA prevention services plans. Resources will also support public agencies in using analytic approaches to conduct oversight of prevention services. Public agencies will also be supported in identifying resources to ensure sustainability after project completion.

PIEDA Contacts

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