

**Data Integration Workgroup**  
**July 28, 2021 (9:00 am – 10:00 am)**  
**Facilitators: Tim Marshall & Jeff Vanderploeg**

Workgroup Goals:

1. Review existing state plans and activities in cross-agency data integration
2. Broaden state agency participation in OPM P20Win initiative and/or related data integration initiatives
3. Identify key indicators and metrics of children's behavioral health system functioning across systems/payers
4. Make recommendations to Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board and the 12 state Department Commissioners for further follow-up and implementation

Workgroup Meeting Cadence

Monthly; up to 6 meetings

Materials:

Presentation materials will be made available on the Workgroup website

Meeting Objectives:

1. Overview the 500 Familiar Faces Project
2. Consider how P20WIN project may address common data sharing barriers
3. Consider workgroup recommendation to join P20WIN project

Agenda & Minutes

**1. Welcome and Introductions (:2)**

Jeff Vanderploeg welcomed participants, asked them to introduce themselves via the Chat function, and notified participants that the meeting was being recorded

**2. Overview of Meeting Agenda and Objectives (:3)**

Tim Marshall provided a brief overview of the workgroup goals and the objectives for today's meeting.

**3. Overview of 500 Familiar Faces Initiative (:5)**

Bill Halsey from the Department of Social Services introduced the 500 Familiar Faces (500 FF) project. The initial intent of this initiative was to match data across multiple state agencies, get a better understanding of the complexities of data integration, identify high utilizers of services across agencies, and design tailored interventions for this population that would improve outcomes and reduce costs (that element of the project has not yet come to fruition).

**4. Key Findings and Lessons Learned from 500 Familiar Faces (:20)**

Bert Plant from Beacon Health Options presented on Beacon's work on the 500 FF project. He noted that a given state agency often looks at individuals and their needs from their particular perspective, and that one of the benefits of data integration is the ability to bring together multiple perspectives so that we can understand individuals more holistically. Although many agencies participated and submitted data for 500FF, early in the project, Medicaid and homelessness data were integrated first, and other agency-level data elements were subsequently merged in from there. The final sample included 10,420 people, in various combinations of adults only, as well as children with their family members. Over half of all individuals in the sample were involved with 5 or 6 agencies, underscoring that multi-system involvement was the norm among this sample. In addition,

almost the entire sample (95%) had a behavioral health diagnosis and BH service utilization. Beacon used the merged data to identify individuals with high needs that were involved with two or more agencies (8% of the total sample). Cluster analysis was used to identify characteristics among individuals that tended to occur together, which can be a beneficial approach for informing targeted interventions that address commonly co-occurring needs.

Bert noted several lessons learned from the 500 FF data integration project:

- a) data integration is do-able and valuable when there is shared vision and commitment;
- b) obtaining data sharing agreements across agencies is very arduous unless this is intentionally streamlined;
- c) some agencies lack secure file transfer capabilities;
- d) demographic characteristics are not consistently collected or defined across agencies;
- e) family-relationship indicators are not readily available in order to facilitate two-gen interventions.

Tim Marshall encouraged the group to consider each of the above lessons learned in making recommendations for data integration in the children's behavioral health system.

## **5. How P20WIN addresses common challenges and barriers to data integration (:20)**

Manisha Srivastava, Office of Policy & Management  
Fred Morton, DHMAS, 500 Familiar Faces Project  
Scott Gaul, Office of Policy & Management

Fred Morton talked about how the 500 FF initiative is being translated to piloting tailored interventions for the high-need individuals that were identified. However, this work was interrupted as a result of COVID-19. Manisha Srivastava then discussed how the focus is now on conducting an analysis to identify and improve service coordination processes across state agencies, identify best practices, and make recommendations for service enhancements that can be implemented in the future. A report will be available in one to two months summarizing the findings of their analysis.

Scott Gaul talked about how data integration is not done just for the sake of sharing data; rather, it is intended to improve service delivery and outcomes. Government efficiency and cross-agency collaborations are a mandate from the Governor in light of the need for better outcomes and the anticipated retirement of a significant portion of the state agency employee workforce. Gaul provided a brief review of the P20 WIN project (which was the main focus of the June workgroup meeting) including an overview of how to make requests to P20 WIN for a data integration need. He noted that there is a publicly available website for P20 WIN, along with resources, on the OPM website, and that P20 WIN has a governance structure and is planning to convene a resident advisory board to ensure transparency and consumer/community participation. Scott identified a number of challenges to data integration and the ways that these challenges are being addressed (see slides for more details). Challenges included: importance of cross-agency leadership, data sharing agreements, inconsistent technologies for agencies, inconsistent demographic definitions, need for standardized forms, and lack of family-level indicators.

A participant asked whether a regular "feed" or "dashboard" of data reports could be routinely repeated and reported as opposed to asking P20 WIN to run these data requests only once. Scott responded that when requests are made to P20 WIN, they can be phrased in such a way to request that the data integration and analysis be repeated on a regular basis. A participant asked what role contracted providers play in the P20 WIN process. Gaul noted that the agency that stewards the data is responsible for making the request on behalf of the provider because the state agency has statutory authority for data sharing. Furthermore, providers can advise the P20 WIN project by working with their state agency, or joining the resident advisory board. Another participant asked about the importance of incorporating family-level data to support two-gen approaches. Gaul indicated that was an important challenge that needs to be addressed.

**6. Structuring a Workgroup Recommendation relating to P20 WIN (:10)**

Tim Marshall suggested that this workgroup make a formal recommendation for data integration requests related to children’s behavioral health be routed to P20 WIN. He asked whether there were any participants in the workgroup that objected to such a recommendation going to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board and the 12 state agency commissioners. Although there were no objections to this recommendation, one participant noted that statutory and federal guidelines specific to substance use, particularly for adults, may need to be looked at very carefully. This participant indicated, however, that the suggested recommendation appeared to be highly advisable for the children’s behavioral health system. Additionally, there were a number of people who gave an affirmative response in the chat function.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting Dates

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month; 9:00 – 10:00 AM (November meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, due to Thanksgiving)

August 25, 2021      September 22, 2021      October 27, 2021      November 17, 2021