



WorkFirst Evaluation and Assessment Workgroup Update

BACKGROUND

The WorkFirst re-examination process was chartered by the Subcabinet and took place between July and November of 2010. A report entitled “Resetting Washington’s WorkFirst for the 21st Century.” The WorkFirst Subcabinet included **Strengthen the Assessment Process** one of recommendations to implement a more complete range of strategies designed to help child-only TANF families and WorkFirst participants succeed on a pathway out of poverty.

The foundation of a successful TANF program is an individualized assessment of the strengths and needs of each TANF family. This work group will focus on creating a single, progressive assessment process and tool to quickly address and identify barriers; evaluate the needs of the whole family; and identify the most appropriate service level to meet family needs and move them on the path to self-sufficiency.

Representatives from the Employment Security Department, Department of Early Learning, Department of Commerce, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Department of Social and Health Services (Research and Data Analysis, Economic Services Administration, Community Services Division, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Children’s Administration) began meeting to develop the new WorkFirst assessment tool and process on November 22, 2011. They are meeting every three weeks thereafter.

WORKGROUP SCOPE

- Review existing Comprehensive Evaluation and assessment process
- Develop, recommend and implement an evaluation and assessment process and content.
- Develop and recommend an evaluation and assessment tool.

MILESTONES TO DATE

- Draft Charter including timeline submitted to project sponsor Carla Reyes.
- Informational training for team members completed on: TANF PRISM Project, Adverse Childhood Experiences and Learning Disabilities, current process flow.

IN PROGRESS

- Team Leads are working with Health Care Authority, DSHS Division of Disability Determination and Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery to identify additional representatives.
- Participants are developing current inventories of:
 - Existing tools being used in Washington state
 - Existing tools identified as “best practices” in other states
- Administration for Children and Families “Online Work Readiness Assessment” tool demonstration scheduled for Wednesday February 15, 2012.
- Informational webinar on Adult Executive Function scheduled with Frontiers of Innovation for Friday February 17 2012.