



Evaluation Expectations of Sites for National Center Tier 2 Technical Assistance

The National Center for Adoption Competent Mental Health Services (The Center) is designed to build bridges to strengthen collaboration between child welfare and mental health systems to improve availability and accessibility of adoption competent mental health services. The Center will do this by delivering on-site tailored intensive technical assistance (TA) to six states, tribes, and territories (STTs) sites per year, provided by a team of subject matter experts, as well as a variety of peer-to-peer learning activities. The goal is to create sustainable systems change that benefits youth and families impacted by foster care, adoption, and guardianship. This Center is designed to build upon the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) by increasing the utilization of the NTI training within mental health systems and leveraging existing partnerships to increase the competency and capacity of mental health practitioners. To assess the effectiveness of our technical assistance and determine the extent to which the Center achieves its goals, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center on Children, Families and the Law (CCFL) is conducting an evaluation of the Center's work. CCFL will engage sites in a number of evaluation activities designed to answer the following questions:

- What on-site TA activities were implemented?
- What were the perceptions of people involved in on-site TA?
- To what extent were the intended short-, intermediate-, and long-term outcomes of on-site TA achieved?
- What activities were implemented to support peer-to-peer sharing between STTs? To what extent were peer-to-peer sharing goals achieved?
- What activities were implemented to support sustainability of site work at STTs? To what extent were sustainability goals achieved?
- Do STTs receive TA that is culturally and linguistically appropriate, and informed by the voice of lived expertise of youth and families?

What Data Will be Requested from STTs to Inform the Evaluation?

Sites that agree to participate in Tier 2 TA will be asked to commit to participating in the evaluation. For the purposes of the evaluation, "sites" refers to both the child welfare agency and the mental health practitioners/organizations that partner with it. CCFL will



participate in initial planning discussions with sites to establish a relationship with designated site data administrators and identify conditions that may support the site’s ability to meet these expectations. The goal will be to create a customized evaluation plan tailored to the site’s unique environment and to minimize burden for participants. The evaluation team will expect to meet regularly with the designated data administrator throughout the site’s TA participation. Anticipated evaluation activities involving sites will include surveys, interviews, or focus groups of leaders and those participating in the TA process; brief online surveys of a sample of direct service staff and supervisors; brief online or written surveys of families who receive child welfare and mental health services; and agency administrative data representing conditions both prior to and after the TA engagement with the Center. Details such as the timing of surveys or the precise number of individuals to be sampled will be determined in consultation with the site. An overview of the types of data to be requested are as follows.

Surveys, Interviews or Focus Groups

Who will be surveyed?	What will be the focus of the questions?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency leaders • Any individuals who participate on TA implementation team, workgroups, or other TA activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of the technical assistance that has been provided. Questions will include perceptions of the quality and effectiveness of the consultation and peer-to-peer learning experiences your site receives and perceptions of the Center’s technical assistance delivery team and the processes used with your site. • Perceptions of the level of collaboration, alignment, and coordination of services between the child welfare and mental health systems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child welfare workers and supervisors who provide child welfare services • Mental health providers who work with youth and families involved in the child welfare system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of mental health service availability, accessibility and proficiency, and the utilization of adoption competent, culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate services.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sample of families and youth who are currently or have recently received child welfare services from the agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of their experiences with child welfare and mental health services availability, accessibility, utilization, and adoption competence. For example, families will be asked about their ability to access adoption competent mental health services and their perceptions of the alignment and coordination of services between their child welfare and mental health providers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health practitioners and child welfare agency personnel who participate in the NTI training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who participate in the NTI online training will be asked to complete brief assessments of their knowledge, attitudes, and practice behaviors as part of the training modules

Agency Administrative Data

Subject	What data will be requested?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information for a sample of child welfare workers and supervisors who provide child welfare services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names and email contact information for a sample of workers and supervisors will be requested from the agency, for use in distributing the surveys described above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information for a sample of families who are currently or have recently received child welfare services from the agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names and email contact information for a sample of families will be requested from the agency. • <i>Alternatively, CCFL may provide the agency with a survey link and ask the agency to distribute the link directly to these families on behalf of the evaluators.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services to youth and families involved in child welfare system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of services available to youth and families involved with the child welfare system • List of the approved mental health providers currently utilized by the child welfare agency. • Data summarizing service availability, service referrals, service accessibility, and service delivery for each of the services. For example, how many children and families receive mental health assessment, diagnostic, and treatment services from these professionals?



Subject	What data will be requested?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency will be asked to track these numbers during and after the conclusion of the technical assistance engagement with the National Center.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer-led mental health related supports and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data to document and track the number of types of mental health-related supports and services available such as youth-led and family-led peer support approaches, as defined by needs elevated by youth and families in the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child and youth outcome measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures of placement stability, permanency, and well-being for children and youth served by the child welfare and mental health systems, for both open and closed cases. These may include measures the agency already compiles and submits for the purposes of federal agency compliance monitoring, or they may be site-specific measures the agency has developed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of funding streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data summarizing utilization of funding streams to support and sustain adoption competent MH services

What Information Will Be Provided to the STT From the Evaluation?

The TA team, including the CCFL evaluators, will support STTs as they develop ongoing CQI processes to examine the impact of their continuing efforts to improve child welfare and mental health service collaboration. The TA team will support STTs using agency data for decision-making and to track progress towards STTs’ goals. STTs whose staff participate in NTI will receive reports regarding NTI evaluation outcomes (enrollment and completion rates, knowledge and competency growth, impact on behaviors, and participant reactions).