

## **Meeting notes for Oklahoma & NC Liaison Meeting (08/12/2024)**

### **Next steps**

- Michelle to ask Johanna to email out the draft work plan for review and feedback prior to the next meeting
  - Tim to continue outreach efforts to mental health partners and organizations
  - National Center team to develop baselines and targets for trained providers in each of the 6 regions
  - Michelle Seymour to organize impact groups with lived experience individuals in late August
  - David to secure breakout rooms for the September 19th in-person meeting
  - National Center team to finalize agenda and send out registrations for September 19th meeting
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### **Summary**

Michelle introduced and welcomed new attendees, including Leslie Wright, Shamele, Michelle, and Heather Moeller, and outlined the meeting's agenda.

### **Nti, Tac Training, and Tech Curriculum**

Michelle invited Leslie and Shamele to share insights about the differences between NTI and TAC trainings. Leslie then provided an overview of TAC, a 72-hour curriculum developed in 2014 by C.A.S.E. with input from national advisors and lived experience experts. TAC is designed for licensed mental health professionals to better meet the needs of adoptive families. Leslie emphasized that this training helps understand the needs of adoptive families for licensed mental health professionals.

### **TAC Trainers' Academy Overview**

Leslie explained the structure and content of the TAC Trainers' Academy. TAC is a 72-hour training program for clinicians. The program includes one module that is self-paced, online and instructor-led modules, with a consultation component and a final assessment. It was further clarified that TAC builds upon the foundational knowledge acquired in the NTI (National Training Institute) and is designed for more advanced clinicians. Leslie also shared that TAC can be structured in different ways, with some

sites opting for full-day sessions while others, including her own, prefer half-day sessions held weekly.

### **Mental Health Clinician and Tech Trainers Discussion**

Michelle, Leslie, Shamele, and Bonni discussed the number of trained mental health clinicians and TAC trainers in Oklahoma. They confirmed that there are 3 TAC trainers and around 35 trained therapists in Oklahoma, with 25 of them listed on the National Directory for NTI. Michelle suggested that the NC will consider this information as we set benchmarks for the TA workplan. Falon raised questions about the most efficient way for agencies to get staff trained, and Leslie clarified that a TAC-trained staff member could act as a consultant but couldn't train others without becoming a certified trainer.

### **TAC Program and Implementation Support**

Leslie highlighted the evidence-based TAC program and its effectiveness in differentiating between Tac-trained and non-Tac-trained therapists when working with adoptive families. Tim suggested that there are different ways of developing implementation teams. One idea is to consider an implementation team at the organizational level to provide support and check-ins, which could be beneficial for organizations not wanting to undertake the intensive TAC training. Michelle suggested offering coaching to support the NTI learning and implementation.

Leslie clarified that the Tac train-the-trainer program is a five to six-day virtual training followed by a continued partnership with C.A.S.E. Bonni confirmed that she and Family Hope House have been providing statewide virtual training for TAC.

### **Nti Evaluation and Tech Training Expansion**

Falon asked about the evidence base for NTI, and Dawn Davis from UNL confirmed that NTI has an evaluation component, providing data on satisfaction, knowledge, growth, relevance of the training, and impact. She also mentioned that a technical report summarizing the evaluation findings would be available soon. Michelle then suggested that there was a possibility of utilizing flex funds through TA to expand TAC training, indicating that further discussions could be held if needed. Leslie was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting.

### **Community Engagement and Impact Groups Planning**

Michelle introduced Michelle Seymore from the National Adoption Association, who will lead community engagement efforts in Oklahoma. Seymore, outlined the plan for

increasing the voice of lived experience in the child welfare system, which includes organizing impact groups and affinity groups. The impact groups will gather information from individuals who have experienced the child welfare system as youth or parents, while the affinity groups will provide ongoing support and discussion. Seymore, asked for assistance in recruiting participants and coordinating these groups and that they community partner organizations had already begun to identify people through their network organization. The impact groups in Oklahoma are scheduled for the last week of August, with the lived experience youth groups on August 27th and 29th.

### **Preparing Meeting and NTI Focus Areas**

Seymore announced that everyone participating in the upcoming meeting would receive \$50, with an additional \$25 for those who referred others. Michelle shared that the meeting was intended to provide information for the second meeting and that the discussed topics would inform their work plan. She asked for initial thoughts on potential focus areas, such as NTI, accessibility, and rural communities.

### **Nti Credentialing System and Mental Health**

Michelle, Bonni, and Shamele discussed the possibility of offering a credentialing system for NTI, similar to what is available for TAC. Shamele mentioned that this idea had already been explored by the NTI team, but they wanted to further investigate how it could be implemented and managed. Additionally, Sean brought up the importance of mental health in their scope, specifically the need for quick connection to a provider and appropriate referrals. He also mentioned other ongoing initiatives. The discussion was then handed over to Tim to elaborate on mental health partners and related information.

Bonni expressed suggested a handout or website resource to explain its benefits and commitments. She also raised the point of professional gains when completing NTI.

### **Outreach Updates**

Tim shared updates on outreach efforts made to various groups, including the 15 CBHCs, Aetna Behavioral Health, and Humana Healthy Horizon. He also mentioned plans to engage with the Shelter Directors through the Trade Association.

### **Improving Training and Staff Engagement Strategies**

Michelle proposed setting baselines and targets for training and increasing the number of adoption competent staff in each region as a strategy to improve the workforce. Bonni agreed with the plan and recalled previous steering committee meetings had voted for strategies focused on getting the message out. Sean was tasked with reviewing these previous votes. The team discussed strategies to improve training and messaging efforts,

with a focus on developing internal goals, quantifying goals, and cross-system collaboration. Tim shared updates about conversations with Kendall Kelly regarding local family meetings and the need for increased engagement from child welfare representatives. The discussion also highlighted the importance of establishing a baseline and determining the percentage increase of mental health practitioners in each region, with a measurement component to track progress.

### **September Visit Agenda and Strategies**

Michelle presented a full-day meeting agenda for the September visit, which was approved by David with potential use of breakout rooms. The team emphasized the importance of developing strategies and operationalizing goals. Mary proposed a plan to increase the number of clinicians in underserved areas of Oklahoma by utilizing the treatment locator to identify current clinician distribution. This strategy was agreed upon for further exploration in future discussions.