Child Development Services - Partnering for Improvement through Survey Data Collection

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The Story
This leadership placement began as a discussion about CDS Part C's current needs and where they wished to see improvement. A common theme in conversation was their current fidelity check database. Fidelity checks are performed on providers to assess the fidelity they are implementing the Routines Based Intervention System (created by Robin McWilliams) in their work with families. Regional CDS sites arrange for local services that include early intervention and special education and related services for eligible child from birth to age five and their families.

Survey Questions
- What components should be included in the training portion of the database?
- What should be included in the fidelity check portion of the database?
- How often are you completing fidelity checks for each person you supervise?
- How is the data collected from the fidelity checks meaningful? How are you utilizing the data that is currently available to you in this system? How is the data collected from the fidelity checks being used by site directors?
- What is the barrier to completing fidelity checks more often?
- What is working with the current fidelity database? What is not working with the current fidelity database?
- If you could recommend improvements to the data system what would they be?

Common Themes Found
- The system is outdated and not effective. (Crashes, doesn't save, doesn't open, doesn't link to training, low character limit counts).
- Desire to have both a connected system and a confidential system
- Currently seen as storage

Recommendations
- Work with IT department, or appropriate IT support to create simple, user-friendly, useful tracking system.
- Develop a system that can support:
  - Identifying overall patterns of components that are going well and things that are challenging, whether for an individual, the site, or the state.
  - Searching by basic info in such as name, site, score and then possibly select common missed areas or needs (that could be sortable) to see if they get addressed or improve after training.
  - Analyze if the data collected is helpful, are there additions, subtractions (excluding what is required federally).
  - Research and consider building tech tools where you can complete the fidelity check within the database itself.

Reference
https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/cds

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