



QRIS Field Test Design Committee:

July 21, 2011

Updates

- BETA testing:
 - High Scope has signed agreement to conduct Beta Testing 10 accredited sites have agreed to participate in the Beta Testing of Standards and Points (5 centers, 3 groups, 2 families)
 - Adjusted timeline included a preliminary report of data by August 12 followed by a final and full report by August 31.
 - Standards sub-committee followed by the full Field Test Design Committee to review HighScope results and make recommendations for modifications in September.
 - Parameters of Beta Test include:
 - Assessment of point structure at all levels of recommended Standards
 - Assessment of anticipated Standard and PQA rating accredited
 - Refinement and/or proposed additions to clarifying questions used with Standards checklist.
 - Raters should assess all of the classrooms, if there is a disparity or consistency between classrooms then we can better determine how many classrooms to assess during the field test
 - Utilize field testing to further support results from beta testing and determine statewide implementation recommendation
- Data Platform
 - Request for Proposal will be posted this week toward the development of Michigan's Quality Rating and Improvement System – Quality Development Continuum web0based technology platform.
- Workstreams
 - Community Readiness
 - Erin Oldham LaChance, independent researcher has been asked to review the Community Readiness Criteria and offer recommendations toward final.
 - Question raised as to whether Letters of Support from local governing entity as well as ISD become a part of the "readiness" criteria/application as an indicator of support to bring system to scale. Respondents felt that this might be too much during Field Test, however, could become a requirement prior to statewide implementation. As an alternative, will request a letter of recognition signed by our governor be issued to the ready community as public notice and acknowledgement.
 - Quality Development Continuum (QDC)
 - A sub-committee has met to review the areas of duplication across powerpoint, First Aid/CPR video and manual to provide guidance for workstreams recommendation.
 - The full workstream has met to adjust powerpoint presentation.
 - Full workstream is now working on alignment of the binder with the presentation and meaningful additional resources.
 - Final recommendations will be formulated at its August 4 meeting.

- Incentives
 - Guidance toward determination of incentives is the identification of items that are sustainable, that improve levels of quality and that are motivators to QRIS participation by providers.
 - Workstream targeted for further development the most highly rank incentives as identified by providers via Survey Monkey conducted in May 2011. Note: Shared Services was not reported as most attractive incentive by providers outside of group discounts for merchandise as opposed to the following:
 - MI T.E.A.C.H.
 - Previous recommendation was submitted to North Carolina for approval. Response was that the recommendation would be a logistical hardship and offered instead that the allowances by credential remain as standard with the added bonus for QRIS participation to occur in the bonus to the student with **decreasing** variation as the “Star” Level **increased**.
 - Growth Fund
 - First Children’s Finance (FCF) has been awarded funds to sponsor a class of five providers in Wayne County. The Growth Fund allows providers to receive a business development grant to include business plan development and on-site technical support with infrastructure changes and plan implementation.

FCF’s plan to expand mini growth funds into other communities is currently under development. After the first year of the Children’s Chamber launch, FCF will have developed a more concrete plan regarding replication in other regions (by July 2012). FCF will plan to align with designated QRIS locations.

The mini growth fund will cost approximately \$21,000 per center to operate. This includes quarterly trainings (tailored to the needs of the class), unlimited technical assistance/consulting, business plan development, \$5-7k for implementation of the business plan, networking opportunities with peers and other community business leaders, and volunteer help from community business leaders.

- Business Development Workshops
 - FCF will work with each Regional Resource Center in “ready” communities to schedule up to 8 workshops per year by Star Level business menu offering as previously submitted.
- Conference Scholarship
 - The workstream recommendation is to identify conferences that span across a year and that are a combination of local and national venues. Then to develop a contact list for same for approaches requesting the addition of QRIS Rating to criteria point scale for selection of registration scholarships. These conference sponsors would also be asked for the list of vendors who typically attend in order to solicit direct support from them to

cover a stipend to be dispersed at registration and that could be used at the discretion of the recipient to cover hotel, food, etc.

Conference participation and knowledge learned would be confirmed and/or supported via site's/participant's work with assigned Quality Improvement Specialist.

- After lengthy discussion, the Field Test Design committee determined that this incentive is held and, as an option and during the Field Test, providers be polled to determine the actual motivators for provider's ranking of a Conference Scholarship as an incentive that would improve levels of quality and that would encourage their participation in a QRIS. Suggested conceivable motivators are:
 - Conference content
 - Networking with peers
 - Keynote or workshop speakers
 - Location and setting

The question was also raised as to whether less costly options could be developed to substitute national conferences while achieving the same benefit. Finally, depending on the analysis of data collected during the Field Test if this incentive held true, funds should be indentified to support it prior to statewide implementation.

- The FTD committee further advises that selection of conferences undergo the same approval process as that of workshops by the Curriculum Advisory Committee.
- Survey to center to providers, especially, will include a question asking if the value of conference scholarships is offset by the need for substitutes.
- Scholarships to Families
 - The workstream determined that best approach would be to support system building by encouraging current scholarship administrators to use *quality* as its central criteria for this provision to provider via scholarship offering to families. Scholarships to families are deemed as an incentive to providers due to the ability it offers sites to fill vacant slots. The workstream or ECIC would then devise a letter of approach requesting that the administrator/funding source add QRIS Rating/Participation to its selection of sites where scholarships are offered to families. Additional requests would be made for consideration of income, family size and the parent's working and/or school status.
 - FTD committee offered no changes to this recommendation.
- Additional FTD Committee Recommendation
 - Final recommendation to ELAC regarding incentives should also include a statement to identify incentives that the state would also like to offer if finances were available such as grants, rewards or

periodic entry to drawings for bulk merchandise from distributors like Kaplan, Lakeshore.

- Add to this iteration of recommendations Recognition Incentive Plan
 - Banners, parent guide highlighting “star” provider
 - Priority placement in CONNECT listings for parent searches
 - Letter from the Governor
 - Participating Field Test Site
 - ? Star Rated Site
- Also add access to specialists
 - QI Specialists
 - Health Consultant, etc.

Old Business

- Administrative Procedures
 - No further developments to date. The offered plan is to approach other states with the assistance of State Administrator to request their guidance and samples of administrative forms and processes. This information will then be carried back to the FTD committee for review and development of Michigan’s own.

New Business

QDC Quality Improvement Support

- Committee agreed that QDC Level Three support will be conducted by same group of Quality Improvement Specialists approved for QRIS. These unlicensed caregivers will become a part of the QI Specialist’s caseload of 12 – 15 providers each.

How to treat sites that currently undergo other assessment processes? Should we run a concurrent yet separate Field Test of these sites to determine exception and score for same?

- Head Start
 - Criteria for exemption should include a high score of site’s triennial review and CLASS assessment
 - If determined that CLASS will be added to QRIS Assessment tools, need to negotiate agreements to utilize current Head Start CLASS assessors for statewide implementation.
 - At which level of grantee/delegate/site will the rating be applied?
 - How will blended Head Start/private owner sites be rated? Will they automatically be afforded Head Start exception rating?
 - Anticipate possibility and formulate a reply to possible query from sites that might eventually be required to pay for a PQA assessment (Levels 4 and 5) as to why they have to pay for rating and Head Start is granted exception rating at same levels?
 - J. Reuter to request data for last Michigan group that underwent triennial review for FTD committee review and guidance to developing exception criteria.
 - Need to determine exception score.
- Accredited Sites
 - Analyze results from beta test to determine position for exception.
 - Need to determine exception score and break point on PQA.

- GSRP Sites
 - Look to align Block Grants for GSRP to make funding contingent upon participation in QRIS.
 - After three years in the QI system, the site should score at a predetermined level i.e. 4 Star in order to retain funding. This would apply to both school based and competitive sites.
 - Need to determine exception score.
- Timeline for QRIS activity from August 2011 thru September 2012 was presented to the committee for approval. No changes recommended. (See attached).

Next Steps

August Meeting Dates

It is recognized that both the impending Office of Great Start and Michigan's application for the Early Learning Challenge - Race for the Top (ELC-RTT) grant may dually impact actual timing and scale of QRIS/QDC through September, 2012. It is further anticipated that a final version of the ELC-RTT will be published mid-August 2011.

In preparation for the impact that the grant may have on the Field Test timing and delivery, the Field Test Design Committee has agreed to meet soon after the ELC-RTT publication. Potential meeting dates will be established and communicated to the group from mid thru end of August for reconvening and possible adjustments to the recommendations based on the final version of ELC-RTT grant application guidelines.