

# Supporting Families Community of Practice Evaluation

## Oklahoma State Data Brief

### Evaluation Overview

In 2012, the Administration for Community Living (ACL), through the Administration on Disabilities (AoD)<sup>1</sup>, awarded the five-year National Supporting Families Community of Practice (CoP) grant to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), which partnered with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute on Human Development (UMKC-IHD). In the first year of the grant, 15 states applied and five were selected to participate, including Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Washington, with Missouri serving as the mentor state. Given growing interest in the work of the CoP, NASDDDS and UMKC-IHD decided to expand and sustain the CoP outside of the initial grant. A second cohort, known as the expansion states, joined in 2016, including Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. With interest continuing to grow around the nation, the CoP welcomed five new states—Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, and New Jersey—in 2019 and created opportunities for participating states to adjust their level of participation.

Three project outcomes guide the work of the National Supporting Families CoP:

- State and national consensus on a national framework and agenda for improving supports for families with children with I/DD
- Enhanced state policies, practices, and sustainable systems that result in improved supports to families
- Enhanced capacity of states to replicate and sustain exemplary practices to support families and systems

To examine progress toward federal project outcomes and identify which activities are leading to success, ACL funded the National Supporting Families CoP evaluation. The evaluation team gathered data that align with the three project outcomes to determine how the CoP is producing outcomes of interest to ACL, which reflect the five AoD priority areas (Exhibit 1). Findings will provide ACL with outcomes data and recommendations to improve supports to families of individuals with I/DD. They will also provide information on how the CoP and CtLC framework improve support and systems delivery of services to families and individuals with I/DD.

### Exhibit 1. AoD Priority Areas

The Five AoD Priority Areas
■ Ensure the continued protection of rights of individuals with I/DD and prevent their abuse, neglect, and exploitation
■ Improve and maintain effective and responsive management of responsibilities under Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (the DD Act)
■ Promote Employment First as a key strategy for individuals with I/DD to be contributing and productive members of society participating in the competitive integrated workforce
■ Empower individuals with I/DD and their families to access home and community based (HCBS) and supports that are self-directed and ensure opportunity for community participation
■ Support advocacy efforts of individuals with I/DD in order to ensure their participation in system and service delivery design

<sup>1</sup> The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) initiated the evaluation in 2017. The Administration on Disabilities (AoD) now oversees the evaluation.

The evaluation includes all 16 states that participated in the National Supporting Families CoP for at least two years between 2012 and 2018. For evaluation purposes, evaluators stratified states into three groups based on their stage of development, as described in Exhibit 2.

### Exhibit 2. Evaluation Participants

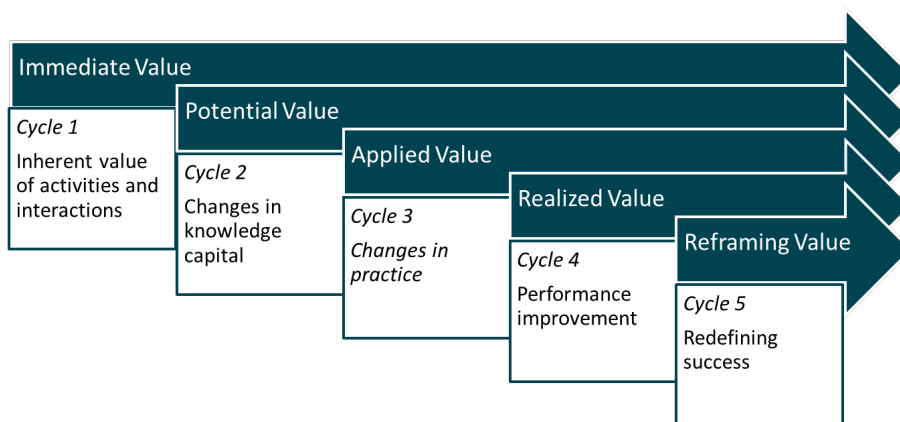
Group One	Group Two	Group Three
<p><b>The six original CoP states:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Connecticut</li> <li>▪ District of Columbia</li> <li>▪ Missouri (mentor state)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oklahoma</li> <li>▪ Tennessee</li> <li>▪ Washington</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>States with previous exposure to the CoP and CtLC framework before joining the expansion state cohort:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maryland</li> <li>▪ Ohio</li> <li>▪ Pennsylvania</li> <li>▪ South Dakota</li> </ul>	<p><b>States with little or no exposure to the CoP and CtLC framework before joining the expansion state cohort:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alabama</li> <li>▪ Delaware</li> <li>▪ Hawaii</li> <li>▪ Indiana</li> <li>▪ Kansas</li> <li>▪ Oregon</li> </ul>

Evaluators collected data from states using four tools:

- *Reporting tools* (one for each state grouping) gathered descriptive data about CoP structure, activities, and impact.
- *Telephone interviews* (informed by the reporting tools) collected contextual data about CoP activities and accomplishments specific to each state.
- *Site visits* (to select states) with CoP leadership and other stakeholders provided data on the relationship between CoP activities, outputs, and outcomes.
- *Materials review* (on an ad-hoc basis) collected needed data on areas of interest.

Evaluators analyzed the collected data using a conceptual framework developed by Wenger, Trayner, and de Laat<sup>2</sup> (Exhibit 3), which assesses value creation in communities. Adapted for evaluation purposes, the framework considers five different cycles of value creation to capture the richness of value created by communities of practice. The following page describes the value generated from CoP activities and the CtLC framework within the Oklahoma CoP.

### Exhibit 3. Value Cycle Framework

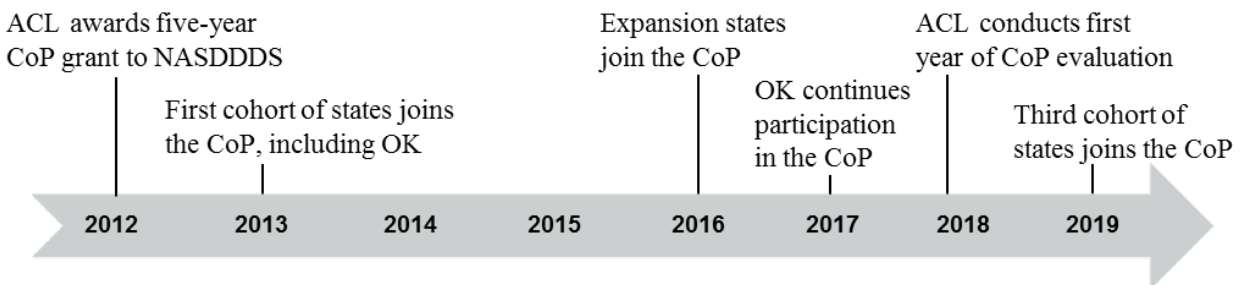


<sup>2</sup> Wenger, E., Trayner, B., and de Laat, M. (2011). Promoting and Assessing Value Creation in Communities and Networks: A Conceptual Framework. Rapport 18, Ruud de Moor Centrum, Open University of the Netherlands.

## A Look into Oklahoma's Community of Practice

Oklahoma (OK) is one of the six original states to join the National Supporting Families CoP in 2013. The OK CoP is a collaboration between the University of Oklahoma Center for Learning and Leadership (a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)) and the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council. The timeline below (Exhibit 4) provides detailed information about OK's participation in the CoP over time.

**Exhibit 4. Timeline of Oklahoma's CoP Participation**



Using data from the most recent Residential Information Systems Project Report developed by the University of Minnesota, the number of people with I/DD known to or served by the OK Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) in 2016 was 14,279. Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) recipients include people with I/DD who receive Medicaid or State-funded supports and services. In 2016, 28% of 6,822 LTSS recipients in OK lived at home with a family member. The report also shows annual Medicaid Waiver expenditures for recipients with I/DD, which amounted to \$55,226 per recipient in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

Understanding the current state of I/DD services and supports in OK is important in better understanding how CoP activities and the CtLC framework impact families and individuals with I/DD. The evaluation team gathered valuable data from OK through administration of the reporting tool, telephone interview, and materials review. After careful analysis of the data using the value cycle framework, the evaluation team noted the following key achievements by Connecticut's CoP during evaluation year one:

- OK CoP leaders convened a Legislative Caucus on the waiting list for their HCBS waivers. This caucus assured \$2 million in new money went toward Medicaid services for people on the waiting list.
- DDS received funding to create an additional waiver, the Star Waiver, as a result of parent advocacy. The waiver assists individuals and families waiting for services and incorporates the CtLC framework and tools.

OK's continued participation in the National Supporting Families CoP shows their commitment to the CtLC framework and advancing supports for families of individuals with I/DD. The following tables includes a more comprehensive list of OK's achievements from evaluation year one.

<sup>3</sup> Larson, S.A., Eschenbacher, H.J., Anderson, L.L., Taylor, B., Pettingell, S., Hewitt, A., Sowers, M., & Bourne, M.L. (in press, 2018). In-home and residential long-term supports and services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities: Status and trends through 2016. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Research and Training Center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration.

### Exhibit 5. Oklahoma's Achievements in Evaluation Year One, 2018-2019

Value Cycle	CoP Activities and Achievements
<b>Cycle 1: Immediate Value</b> <i>Value of Activities and Interactions Themselves</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early on, the three DD partners (DD Council, UCCEDD, and P&amp;A) trained legislators on the CoP and CtLC framework. Now, the biggest networks, advocacy agencies, service providers, and legislators (on the state-level) are believers and users of the CoP and CtLC framework.</li> </ul>
<b>Cycle 2: Potential Value</b> <i>Changes in Knowledge Capital</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The CtLC framework and tools are included in all CoP presentation materials to guide individuals with I/DD and their family members in developing a trajectory toward a "good life."</li> <li>▪ Partners in Policymaking and the Youth Leadership Forum incorporate the CtLC framework and tools into their training programs. This is changing the way people think about available supports.</li> <li>▪ The Oklahoma Self-Advocacy Network (OKSAN), funded by the DD Council, conducted a training that brought self-advocates together to help train one another.</li> </ul>
<b>Cycle 3: Applied Value</b> <i>Changes in Practice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The DD Council employed a full-time CoP facilitator to monitor CoP activities and outcomes. They also fund a staff person who collects data that informs sustainability across systems and agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>Cycle 4: Realized Value</b> <i>Performance Improvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As a result of the Legislative Caucus, hundreds of people are now receiving community-based services in OK.</li> </ul>
<b>Cycle 5: Reframed Value</b> <i>Redefining Success</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As a result of the CoP, the DD council now develops its state plan each year using the CtLC framework.</li> </ul>