

**Family Planning Evaluators  
Conference Call  
May 8, 2006, 1.00-2.00 pm EDT**

**Participants**

**Evaluators:** Mario Ariet, Janet Bronstein, Kim Dauner, Dave Murday, Mike Resnick, Jeff Roth  
**State Staff:** Kay Aloï, Mel Chang, Joe Holliday, Susan McNamara, Janet Sheridan, Lori Williams,  
Betsy Wood  
**Sheps Center Staff:** Priscilla Guild  
**Guest:** Adam Sonfield

**Not on the Call**

**Evaluators:** Paul Buescher, Lynne Cossman  
**State Staff:** Bonnie Cox, Bernie Operario, Cindy Thames  
**Sheps Center Staff:** Ellen Shanahan

The meeting started by discussing the following two new items suggested by Dave Murday.

**Working with CMS:**

Dave was on a call with CMS staff last week and mentioned to them that our group held monthly calls to work out questions concerning the FP Waivers. He asked if they would be interested in hearing our thoughts about how to resolve some of the tough questions concerning how to measure the effectiveness of the waivers and Meredith Robertson said that they would be. After some discussion, the participants on the call thought this was a good idea. Joe Holliday suggested that we have semi-annual calls with CMS. In between these calls we could have calls about specific issues if needed. The group agreed this was a good idea, especially if the participant from CMS was at a high enough level to effect change. To this end, with Dave's help, we will try to have the June call with CMS. This will be a general call to investigate what issues are of greatest concern to them and in what areas they would most like our input.

**ListServe Being Developed by California:**

Prior to the call Dave shared with the group a copy of an e-mail he received from Carrie Lewis, M.P.H., Sr. Evaluation Manager, UCSF Family PACT Program Support and Evaluation on a ListServe they are developing to facilitate discussion among Medicaid Family Planning Waiver states and their evaluators. The ListServ will be a closed group, open only to individuals directly involved in an 1115 family planning waiver as a STATE employee or contractor. It is intended that this be a safe place to share information among the states about all kinds of issues related to waiver implementation, renewal, administration, and other items of mutual interest. This idea was well received by the participants on the call but no one else had received an e-mail about it. Dave suggested all interested should contact Carrie directly at clewis2@dhs.ca.gov, tell her they heard about this from Dave, and give her the following information:

Name,  
Address,  
Phone#,  
Waiver Program Name & State,  
Title,  
Role in the waiver program, and  
Email address.

The discussion then moved on to a continuation the discussion last month on **birth intervals** (# 8 on the grid). Prior to the call Pris circulated the attached table that summarizes the discussion in April on how states were defining birth interval, the work in Rhode Island, and the JAMA meta-analysis article and editorial. The JAMA article recommended that a birth to conception interval less than 18 months or more

that 59 months was high risk for poor birth outcomes, including low birth weight, preterm birth, and small for gestational age as well as fetal and early neonatal death. Rhode Island also found an impact of their waiver on a birth to conception interval within 18 months of last live birth. Given this, the group decided that the definition that should be used in waiver evaluation is a birth to conception interval less than 18 months. This would require linking a Medicaid file with the live birth file. States were also encouraged to look at the information for a comparison group like Rhode Island did.

**Next Call:** June 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 until 2 PM EDT. The phone number for all the calls will be 919-962-2740. Calls will continue the second Monday of the month at this time as long as participants find them useful. The group will be kept informed about CMS's participation in the June call.