

**Family Planning Evaluators
Conference Call**
November 14, 2005, 1.00-2.00 pm EST

Participants

Evaluators: Janet Bronstein, Lynne Cossman, Cathy Melvin, Dave Murday, Jeff Roth,
State Staff: Joe Holliday, Lorie Williams
Sheps Center Staff: Priscilla Guild, Ellen Shanahan
Guest: Holly Felix (AR evaluator)

Not on the Call

Evaluators: Paul Buescher, Ruth Petersen, Nancy Ross,
State Staff: Bonnie Cox, Bernie Operario, Janet Sheridan, Cindy Thames
Sheps Center Staff: No one

The topic for this conference call was a discussion of item 9 (Outcome Measures) in the grid that Ellen prepared for the last call. Bernie Operario volunteered to lead this discussion with input from Paul Buescher but he was sick and not on the call. Janet Bronstein sent an e-mail last Friday with her outcome measures defined to go along with the information sent from North and South Carolina sent for the October meeting. Jeff Roth will send the Florida information very soon. Since Mississippi is just in the beginning phases of working out their evaluation, they will send in definitions as they have them.

The first issue that was discussed was the difference between birth, fertility, and pregnancy rates. Although this is in a little more detail than given on the call, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) defines them as follows:

- **Crude Birth Rate:** Number of live births per 1,000 total population (males and females) in a particular time period (usually one year).
- **Fertility Rate:** Number of live births per 1,000 women in their child-bearing years. The overall rate usually uses women age 15-44 years as the denominator. They also report age-specific rates annually for the following age groups: 10-14, 15-17, 18-19, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49 (numerator is births to women up to age 54).
- **Pregnancy Rate:** Number of live births plus estimates of induced abortions plus estimates of fetal losses per 1,000 women in a particular age-group. The age groups that NCHS reports on are <15, 15-17, 18-19, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44 (numerator is births to women up to age 40 or older).

There was then open discussion of various issues, such as: birth-spacing; which populations to use for the outcome measures (i.e., eligible population, enrollees, participants); budget neutrality; and Title X cost-shifting. It was clear that states are measuring many different things and that there is not much commonality. This will probably continue but the evaluators still would like to try to come up with some things that they measure in-common, even if these are not measures that are used for their statewide evaluations. In an effort to move this along it was decided that on the calls we should take a few terms to define for discussion.

On the December 12th call we will look at items 2 and 3 on the grid and define the following terms: 2) eligible population, including the criteria for a) eligibility and b) loss of eligibility; 3a) enrollee; 3b) participant; 3c) user/client; and 3d) the criteria for making a previous user a new user again. An example of this is in SC a person who has not been seen within the past 3 years is considered a new user when they come back for services. The information already supplied by AL, NC, and SC is included on the attached table. Please feel free to send any changes to Ellen Shanahan (ellen_shanahan@unc.edu). When the FL definitions are received the table will be updated and sent out before the call.

The next call will be on December 12th from 1 until 2 p.m. EST. Ellen will send out a reminder with the number to call.