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Building Capacity for High-Quality *IDEA* Data

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Evaluating Infrastructure Changes

Kansas City, MO – May 10-11, 2016
Tamara Nimkoff, IDC

Savannah, GA – June 1-2, 2016
Tamara Nimkoff, IDC

Session Objectives

- Participants will

    - Recognize current improvement strategies that are infrastructure development

    - Understand the value of evaluating infrastructure and how to put the evaluation of infrastructure to practical use

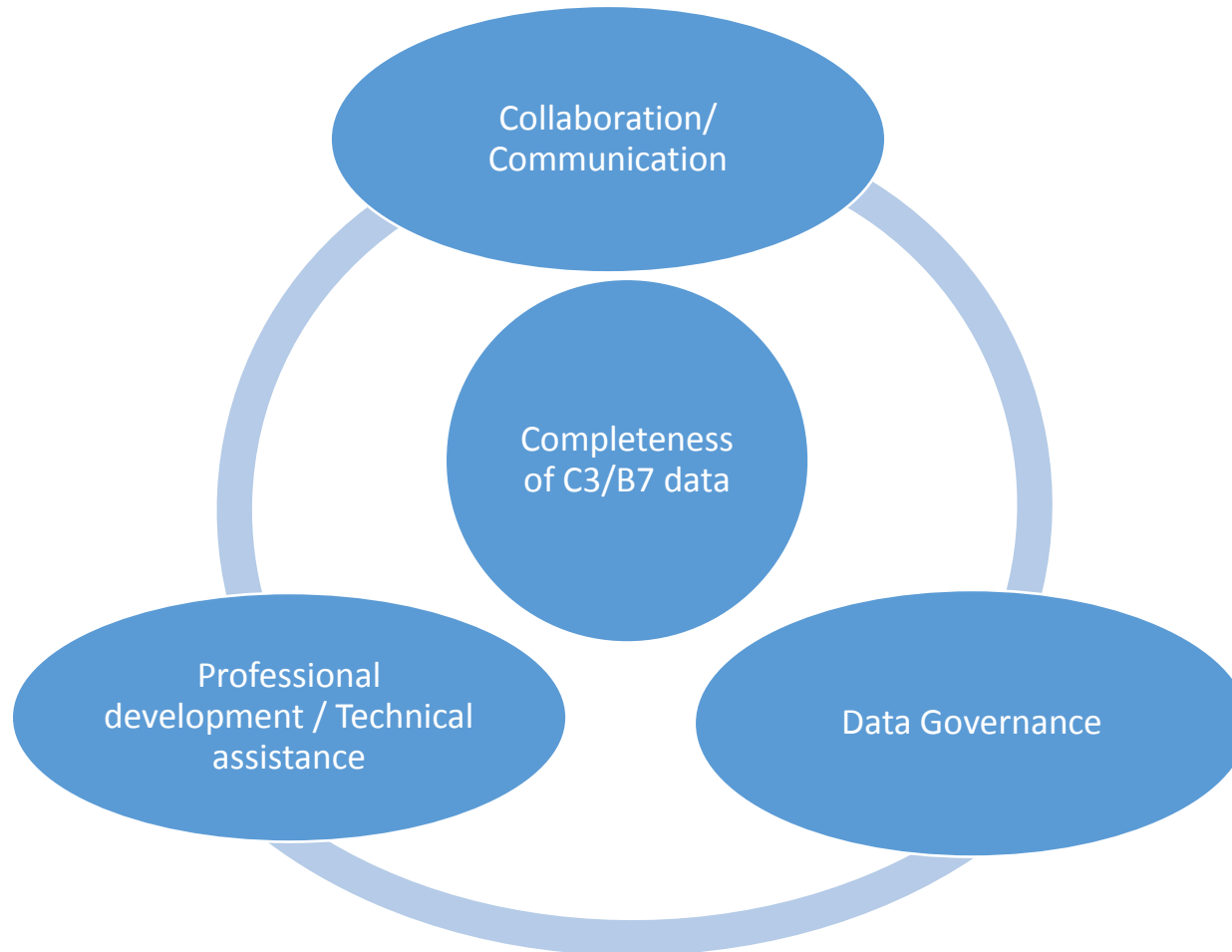   - Gain new ideas for evaluating infrastructure changes

Defining Infrastructure

- System that is needed to support improvement and build capacity at state and local levels

- Interconnected components (governance, accountability, data, fiscal management, standards, collaboration, alignment, etc.)

Identifying Infrastructure Strategies

- Across improvement efforts, for example,
  - Developing shared data systems, promoting system-wide use of data
  - Providing cross-system training, leveraging partner agencies to assist with implementation of PD

- In relation to SSIP, for example,
  - Phase I analysis of infrastructure strengths and challenges
  - Phase II plan to improve infrastructure and align initiatives

Infrastructure as Foundational to Improvement

Kasprzak, C., D'Agord, C, Mullins, J., and Mueller, P. (2009). *Evaluating SPP/APR Improvement Activities*

Why Evaluate Infrastructure Changes?

- Understand

  - The type and extent of change that has occurred

  - The impact of these changes on outcomes for children with disabilities

- Improve

  - Respond and adapt systems initiative

What to Evaluate

- **Track Progress**: How is implementation of infrastructure improvement going?

  - Are we successfully accomplishing infrastructure development activities?

  - Are things moving along appropriately so that we can achieve our goals/stages of implementation?

- **Track Outcomes**: What changes are we seeing? What good is it doing?

  - How have state and local infrastructure improved as a result of implementation of the infrastructure improvement strategies?

  - Has the infrastructure needed to create student/family improvement been built?

  - Has the infrastructure necessary to sustain improvement been maintained and institutionalized?

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How to Evaluate

- Broad: Self-assessment of progress on indicators of infrastructure

  - Specify what it will look like when you've achieved the infrastructure success

- Specific: Data that are collected and analyzed as evidence of progress

  - Identify ways to measure specific changes

  - Consider levels of evidence

Build on What You Already Do

- Leverage existing data collection and infrastructure activities

  - Ongoing benchmarking

  - Strategic use of data

An example: Increase completeness of child outcomes data

- Why
  - Understand what has worked and improve effectiveness

- What
  - How is it going? What good has it done?

- How
  - Broad and Specific

For More Information

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