

CEELO ECTA Formative Assessment PLC

August 19, 2014

Today's Topic:

Future of the PLC

Attendees:

Connie Casha
Fiona Helsel
Holly Cavender-Wood
Ivy Starns
Jim Squires
Joyce Johnson
Kara Sammet
Kenley Branscome
Phyllis Mondak
Sharon Trolio-Moloney

Key takeaways:

- People enjoy both formats, webinar and deeper discussion
- May need to experiment with platforms/spaces for sharing resources, documents online, etc.
- Length of calls and timing seems okay for most

Deeper dive notes:

Slides. Various formats presented through the year; presentations, problems of practice, some variations in between.

Stages of development in PLC. Some states have stepped up during the process to discuss their processes, issues etc. and problems of practice. Next stop is generally participants stepping up to identify topics, agendas etc.

Poll: Level of activity (Check as many as apply)

- 25% new
- 75% listeners
- 38% asked questions
- 25% active discussants

In survey, respondents expressed an interest in focusing on using data for continuous improvement in states and districts.

Interest in various topics for webinars and for PLC topics (see [slides](#) for details).

Questions: What will format and topic be for Webinars, who will decide?

Questions: Why PLC OR Webinar? (like the combination of both)

- Equal at 86% on webinar AND PLC; both formats. What aspects are most beneficial on these? Alternating months with presentation then problem of practice, or how would you like to see this play out?
- Participants on this call have generally been very active, so we would value your opinion.

Responses:

- I like the idea of both things, can we coordinate it so that one month is a webinar, then next month problem or issue related to issue can join. Can then prioritize which month you would join for. I really want the opportunity to learn from others who are trying to do the same things too. Would like to tie things together so that topics can flow. Follow-up questions for next convening to have some states discussing issues and topics.

Question (Kathi): Like the combination idea: what are your suggestions for soliciting participation from members of the group? Emails have not been very helpful. How to get people to share their problems of practice?

These formats online and on the phone as well; talkative groups may lose their voices online and on the webinar, but there's really no other way to do it when you're talking nationally. Lots in the survey about data usage and how you help people use the data generated for teaching practice or continuing improvement. Maybe talk to people with expertise in those areas on best practices and findings. THEN include a poll in webinar about follow-up conversation—here are 3 or 4 things—which do you want to focus on for next event.

Response

If we had a webinar and then asked one person to be a co-designer, not to present necessarily, but in turning from a webinar to a PLC would like to have more active engagement in PLC and practice-based and reviewing documents or something online, generally helping each other improve policy or practice. Want to know how to use a PLC as a state leader with your districts or teams—that element of having it be really grounded in the day-to-day activities and practices. Want to have maximum impact as a TA center: How can we as CEELO create more venues where we can have a greater impact or co-constructing addressing the policy challenges we're facing? Figure out a way to solicit one or two people to be co-designers, which may not mean presenters.

Definitely people responding who are willing to participate in a leadership role; **Kathi and Kirsty will follow up on what kinds of roles are available and what people would like to do.**

Kathi's other PLC experience:

- Meant to be led by the group eventually; facilitators provide the forum around which people can connect specifically in the PLC. In Kathi's other group they are looking at tools that allow you to look at tools that focus on low-cost and no-cost. Once we presented, lots of people within the states willing to share their experiences with different tools. Smallish group, wanted people in group to have the potential to organize in the way people within the group could focus. Surveyed people and asked what roles they wanted to play; Asked if they were willing to share materials and to stick with us for about a year to learn, engage. Also asked whether they were specifically willing to take the roles of co-presenter etc.

As follow-up to this we can reach out and find out who might be interested in taking specific roles later in the process, so we can lay out an agenda.

Would we have a different platform in which we could share screens and faces and share and edit documents together: helps build sense of community.

Would people want a private space to share photos and emails and resources, especially if there is an extended time between calls? Would that help people share unfinished resources, or guidance one state might be interested in sharing with peers virtually, for example, for feedback.

- Technology should not guide the message. We have the capacity to share screens and share webcam. Can create greater sense of community.

Question for state people: More discussion on the phone if we do things between calls? Like the idea of the webinar, then related problem of practice. But people who want to share; could you share them ahead of time to let us prepare for responding to you, so we can have a rich discussion in the one hour. Is that something people would be willing to do?

In future emails we will ask about leadership, generating ideas, next steps.