

## Implementing Program-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports in Pennsylvania

*A national conference was the venue to share the work happening in Pennsylvania.*

The *National Training Institute (NTI) of Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior* conference was held in St. Petersburg, Florida, April 19-22, 2016. This annual conference provides an in-depth learning experience built around the [Pyramid Model](#). The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children is a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices developed by two national, federally-funded research and training centers: The Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) and the Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI).

Three sessions during the conference were conducted by members of the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support (PAPBS) Network.

- **Susan Zeiders**, EITA Project Manager, presented a workshop during State Day. At NTI, State Day is an opportunity for teams who are leading statewide initiatives to implement Program-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PWPBIS), or the Pyramid Model, to share strategies and make networking connections that support shared work. Zeiders, representing Pennsylvania, presented a session on how the use of computer badges has strengthened processes for training PAPBS program-wide facilitators. The questions from the attendees led to greater discussion about the structure of the PAPBS network, the recognition process, and other aspects of fidelity implementation of PWPBIS within Pennsylvania. In this discussion, it was extremely evident that the PAPBS network has provided essential infrastructure to strengthen Pennsylvania's PWPBIS efforts and that this network continues to help in the support local programs.
- **Brandy Fox**, Young Child Wellness Expert for PA [Project LAUNCH](#), co-presented the session *Project LAUNCH: Using the Pyramid Model Framework to Link Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health*. She and her colleague from New Hampshire provided information about how their states have integrated the Pyramid Model into their prevention and promotion work through cross-sector collaboration and the leveraging of resources. Information was shared regarding various planning and implementation approaches used to support the social-emotional development of young children, with an emphasis upon cross-sector collaboration and engagement in prevention and promotion activities.
- Early Intervention Technical Assistant Consultants, **Julia Slater** and **Aimee Newswanger**, along with PAPBS Network Independent Facilitators, **Gia Ostroff Welsh**, **Meghan von der Embse**, and **Judy Witmer**, presented at a third session, *Supporting Agency-Wide PBIS through the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Network Across Geographically Diverse Settings*, which

featured the use of implementation science to promote fidelity implementation of PWPBIS. The stages of implementation were discussed, as were the implementation drivers important for successful implementation. Real-life experiences regarding implementation within a community childcare center, a specialized program for children with identified needs, and a company with 43 childcare sites were shared as a means of illustrating those factors that are so important in the successful implementation of PWPBIS.

Pennsylvania's large presence in the NTI training sessions provided valuable opportunities to share the important work being done in Pennsylvania with regard to supporting the implementation of PWPBIS in early childhood settings throughout the state. This results in focusing effectively on preventing challenging behaviors, and fostering the social-emotional development of young children.

For more information about PBIS in Pennsylvania, please visit [www.papbs.org](http://www.papbs.org).

- By Gia Ostroff Welsh