INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF MAINE'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Project Status Report: March 2020

Project Status

Overall Status this Period:	At Risk (See Risk Table below)
Overall Status last Period:	**Green**
Schedule Status Notes:	• Proposed schedule and delivery change due to initial data discovery and risk
Change Request Status Notes:	• Proposed contract amendment to adjust schedule, delivery, and scope
Budget Status Notes (if project not fixed price):	• Deliverable based/ Fixed Price. Proposed scope and budget changes to address identified risks

RAIDAC Under Review

#	Name	Status	Due Date	Responsible
Issues				
1	Proposed contract amendment to adjust schedule, delivery, and scope	Proposed 3/17		

#	Name	Status	Due Date	Responsible
Risks				
1	After conducting a week of on-site focus groups (March 2-6) across the state (Portland, Augusta, and Bangor) our team recognized significant system-wide issues which must be addressed before any efforts for re-organization could be thoughtfully considered. No single state agency is currently prepared to take on the leadership for Part C and Part B services since there are no reliable cost or service structures in place with which to build recommendations. Making any recommendations on re-structure would only further weaken the system with unaddressed systemic issues that would further fracture the service delivery and cost reimbursement structures. To this end, PCG recommends suspending current project activities until a full cost study can be conducted. This cost study will consider the costs associated with specific activities, including eligibility determination, travel time to deliver direct services, and other federally required program components. Not only will this cost study gather provider fiscal information, it will also help to identify data to inform those performance indicators that are currently unclear and possibly mis-represented in the state's APR. This approach will provide reliable information to determine the average cost per child for services. Collecting these data would be done in a consistent manner across programs that would allow more detailed statewide analysis as well as creating tools and tactics for future use- including, managing costs so costs to the system are known, consistent, and equitable across the provider network. *Completing this step would delay Phase 1 report until 10/30/2020. The rest of the contract would remain on schedule. PCG estimates an additional cost of $100,000 to perform a statewide cost study.*			

Key Accomplishments

#	Accomplishment	Responsible
1.	Scheduled and Conducted the following Stakeholder Interviews: • Feb. 5 Review of Qualitative Data/ Reports with Roy Fowler • Feb. 21 Demo of Maine EI Data System • Feb. 21 Interview with Roy Fowler • Feb. 24 Interview with Sue Mackey-Andrews • Feb. 25 Interview with MaineCare Representatives • Feb. 26 Interview with Medical Providers	PCG
2.	Drafted Focus Group Protocols for the following Focus Groups: • Part B Providers/ School System (SAUs) • Part C Providers • Parents • Medical Providers • State Partner Agencies • MaineCare • Part B Staff • Part C Staff • Key Informant Interviews • System Advocates	PCG

#	Accomplishment	Responsible
	• Special Purpose Providers	
3.	Scheduled Focus Groups, securing venues, coordinating meeting invites, distributing interview questions for all Focus Groups detailed in Item #2 above. Focus Groups to be held the week of March 2 in Portland, Augusta, and Bangor.	PCG
4.	Ongoing review of Data/ Reports	PCG
5.	Updated project tracking tools (Stakeholder Registry, Data Request Matrix)	PCG
6.	Finalized contract/ agreement with ECTA for project support	PCG

Project Schedule

#	Task Name	Start Date	Finish Date	Responsible
Task2/s Finished Last Week				
Overdue Tasks				
Tasks Starting Next Week / Continuations				
Major Ongoing Tasks				
1	Review of data and research	1/21/2020	Ongoing	PCG
Tasks Four Week Horizon				

Deliverables Status

#	Deliverable	Status
1.	On hold, pending review of current project risk and acceptance of proposed timeline adjustments	
2.		
3.		