Hi,

I did calls today with county departments of behavioral health and managed care plans. It is part of the wrap up of the collaborative. The ideas below came from Fresno County DBH - really interesting ways to support work force development via learning collaboratives:

a) Direct organizations running learning collaboratives to use part of the funding for the participating county and health plan teams to fund infrastructure needed to be successful in a learning collaborative (for instance offer funding to support Teams to hire data analyst who focuses solely on infrastructure development or a peer provider who focuses solely on program and staff development of peers)

b) Offer grant opportunities to counties/health plans that can demonstrate success in systems changes that support behavioral health integration so they can spread beyond the pilots initiated in learning collaborative (this is aligned with the idea that Julie had of a grant funding for accountable care communities where the funding is eligible only to those entities that have begun BHI infrastructure development

Finally, the teams said a major area of need related to work force development is the building of skills needed in county departments to use data. I think we had thought of data infrastructure more so as the tool development or strategies for data sharing and integrated data analysis. We had not recognized that this part of the workforce would also need to be developed as it does not currently exist.