

**William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund
Discovery Data Collection Methods Workshop**

July 14, 2005

Breakout Session Assignment: Measuring Outcomes

Sheffield, Connecticut: Sheffield, Connecticut is a diverse community of 40,000 people. According to the 2000 Census there were 2500 children ages 0 to 5. It is estimated that the population size and age demographics have not changed much in the past 5 years. Three languages are spoken in Sheffield in addition to English, including Spanish, Chinese and Polish.

The Sheffield Discovery Collaborative is focused on expanding the supply and improving the quality of early education opportunities in the community. Sheffield is a severe needs district, with a low rate of students attending preschool.

Anecdotal information suggests that early care and education opportunities in Sheffield vary greatly in terms of quality, with most of the higher quality programs being too expensive for many parents to access.

One of the strategies of the Sheffield Discovery Collaborative is to improve the quality of center-based and in-home care in the community. The activities for this strategy include increasing awareness among providers of the benefits and opportunities for quality improvement, increasing their awareness about NAEYC licensing standards and offering training, subsidized by the town, to center-based and in-home providers to meet NAEYC licensing standards. Desired outcomes include: 1) Increasing provider awareness of the benefits of quality care; and 2) Increasing the quality of in-home and center-based care.

Consider the strategies, activities and outcomes as you undertake the following tasks:

1. Determine the reasonableness of the outcomes
 - a. What are the assumptions about how these activities can lead to these outcomes?
 - b. Is the Sheffield Discovery Collaborative providing the activities/interventions to make the outcomes possible?
 - c. Does the Sheffield Discovery Collaborative have the capacity to make these outcomes happen?
 - d. Are there challenges beyond their control that make achieving these outcomes doubtful?
2. Develop two measures for measuring one of the above outcomes.
3. Determine options of how the Sheffield Collaborative could collect the data for the two measures.