Foster Care Community of Practice (CoP): Learning Cycle 1

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September 19, 2019

State Support Network

Partnering for School Improvement

Objectives for today's webinar

1. Identify the mission, goals, and structure of the CoP.
2. Identify topics and discussion priorities for learning cycles 2-5.
3. Share examples and resources or questions and needs regarding the education of students experiencing foster care.

Meet the team

Kristin Kelly

CoP subject matter expert

State Support Network

Kathleen McNaught

CoP subject matter expert

State Support Network

Fanny Lee

CoP facilitator

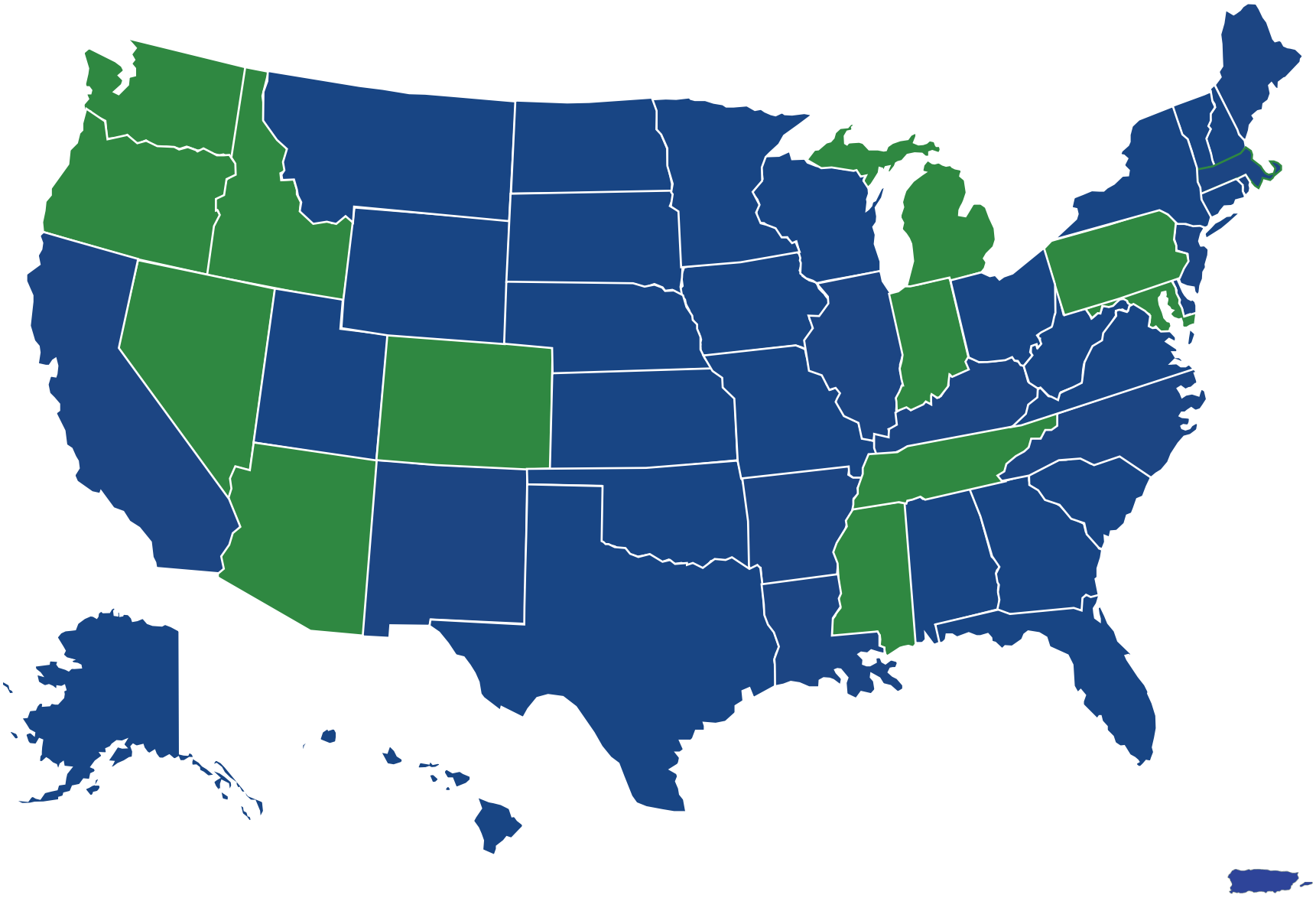
State Support Network

Sneha Barve

CoP support staff

State Support Network

Welcome to the CoP!



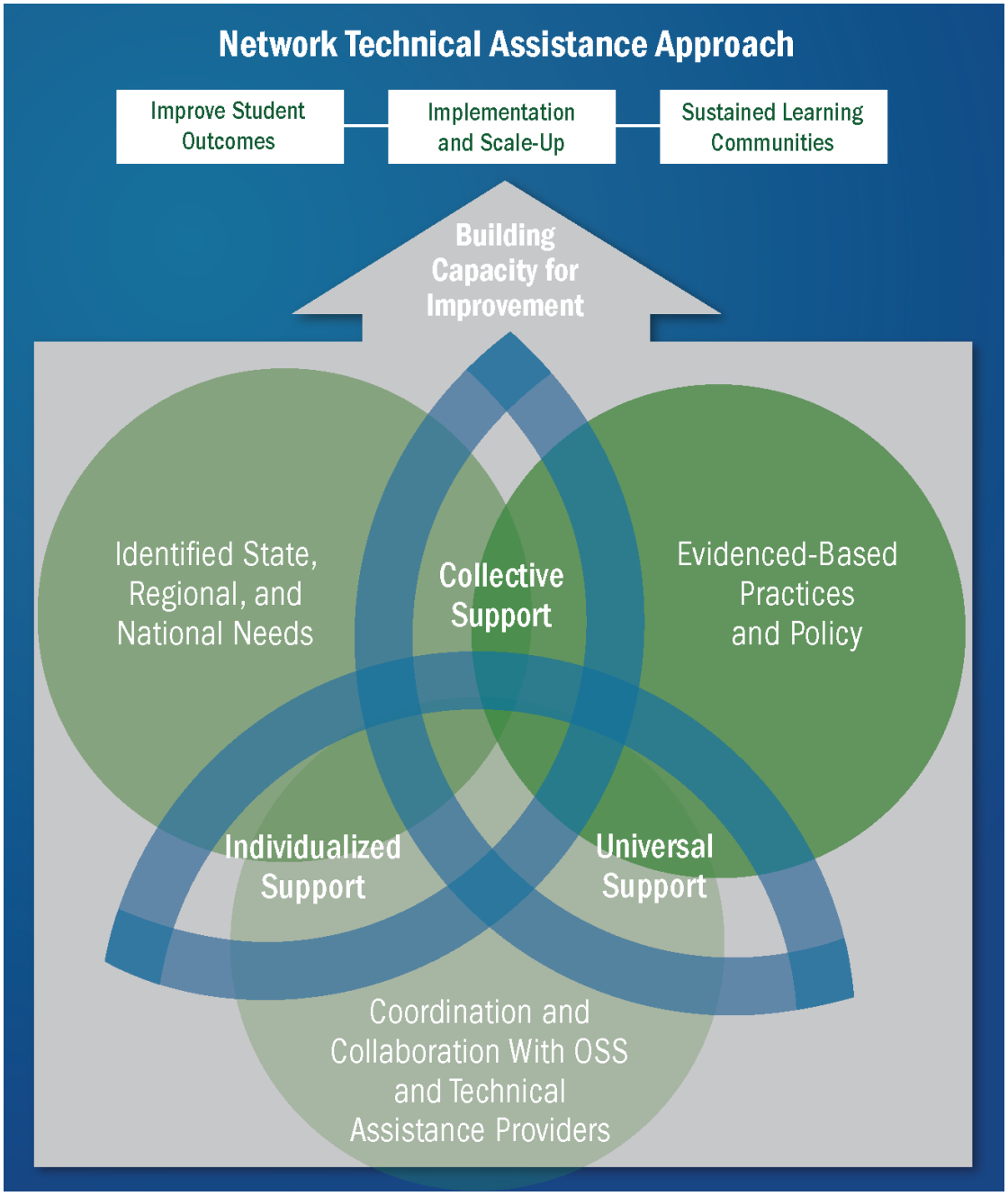
State Support Network

Purpose and approach

We are…

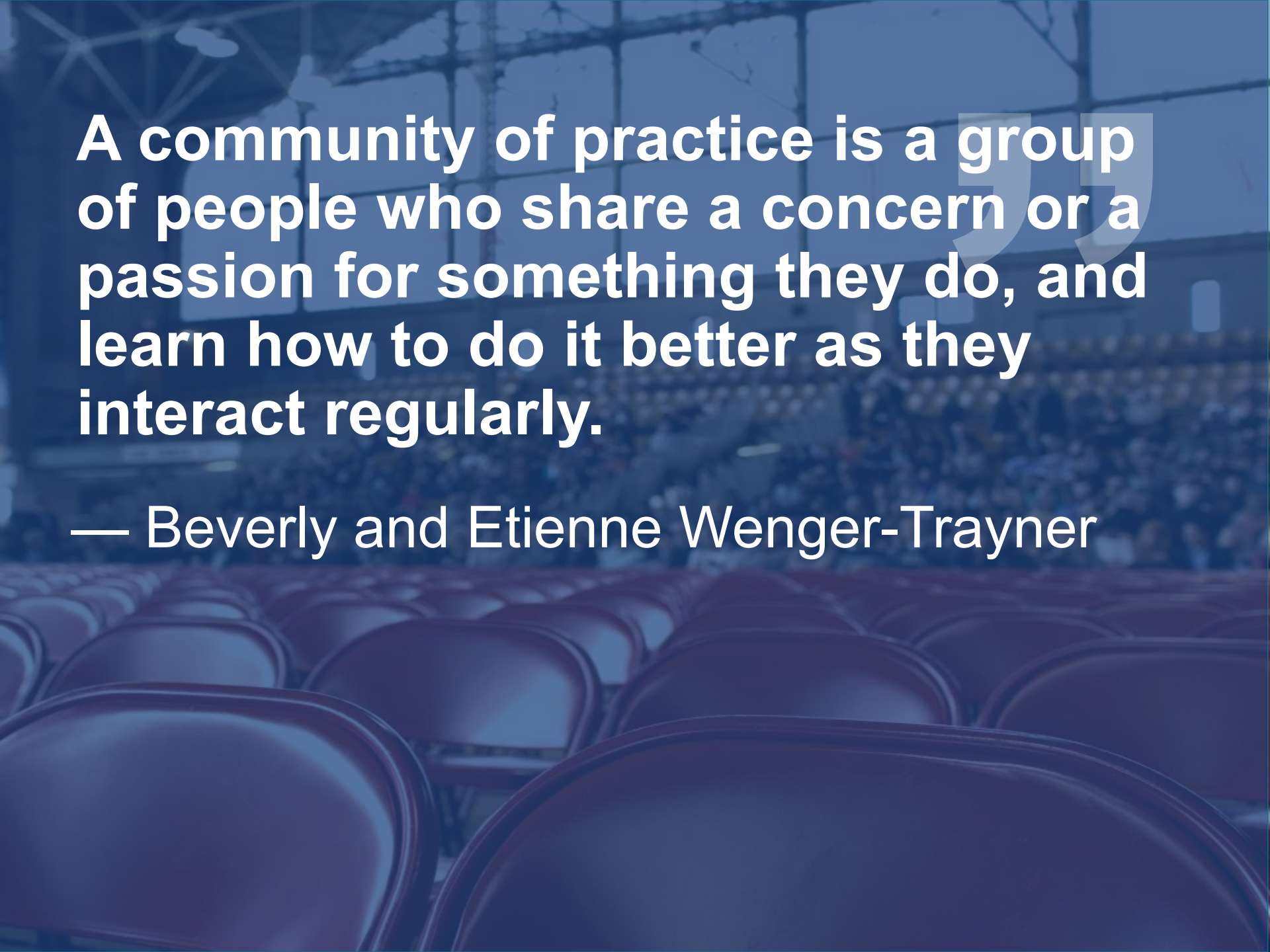
a technical assistance initiative designed to support

state and district school improvement efforts.


Network Technical Assistance Approach
Improve Student Outcomes
Implementation and Scale-Up
Sustained Learning Communities
Building Capacity for Improvement
Identified State, Regional, and National Needs
Collective Support
Evidenced-Based Practices and Policy
Individualized Support
Universal Support
Coordination and Collaboration With OSS and Technical Assistance Providers

Our CoP

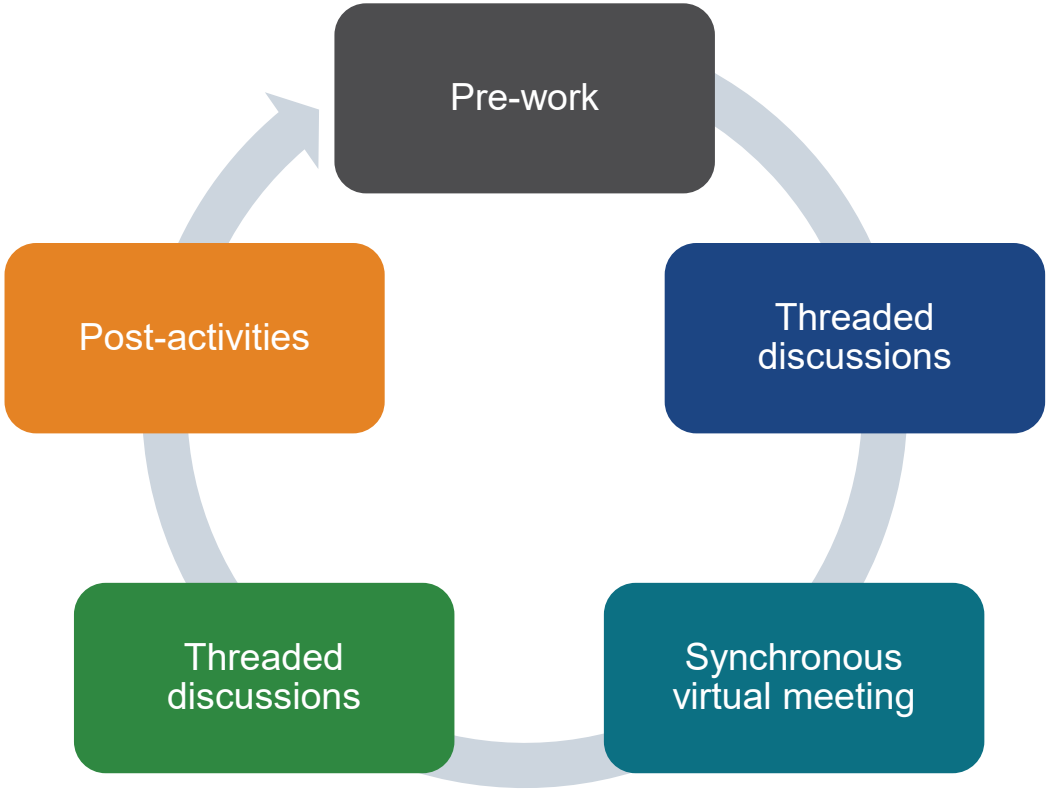
Structure and objectives


A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.
— Beverly and Etienne Wenger-Trayner

Expectations for CoP participation

- Attend all meetings or review the archived session recording as soon as possible.
- Be present.
- Listen to understand.
- Actively contribute.
- Share ideas and resources.
- Check in regularly.
- Respect diversity of opinion and perspective.

Learning cycles



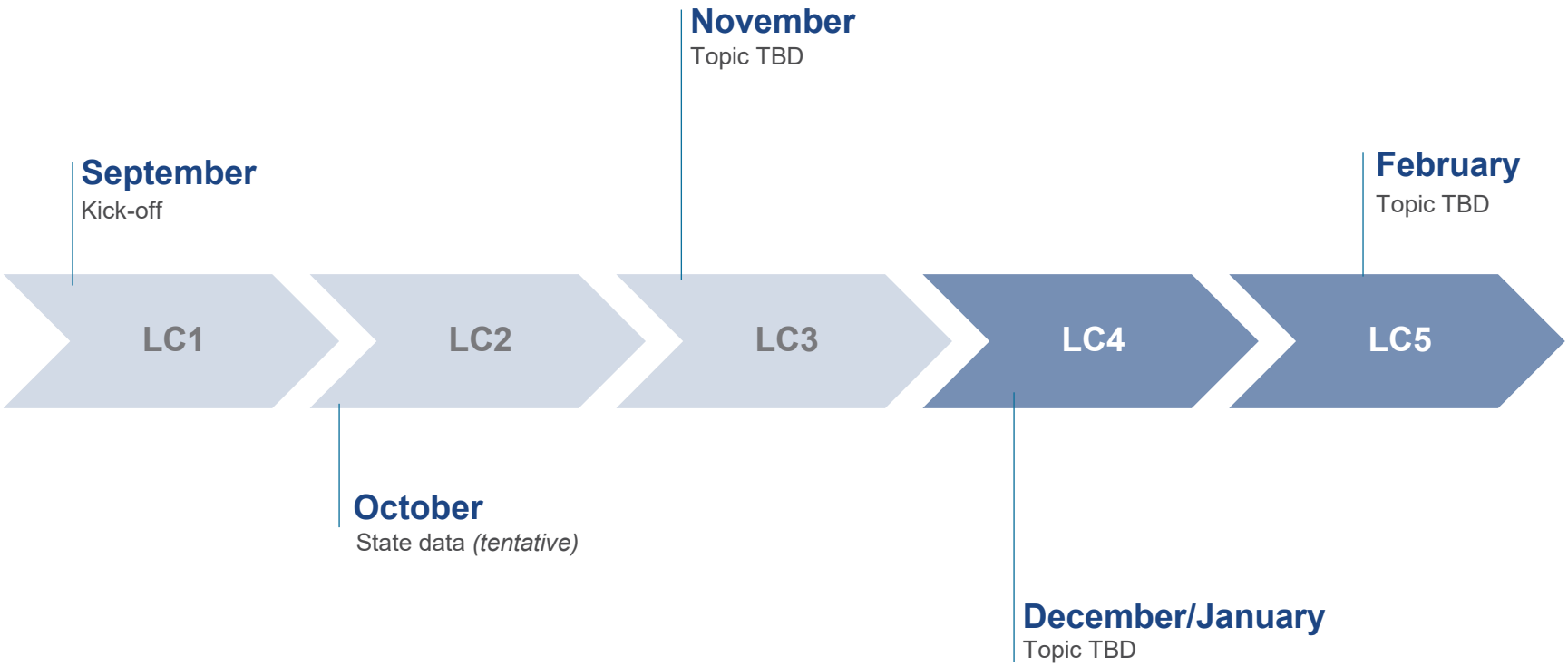
Asynchronous + synchronous =

full CoP experience

Overall CoP objectives

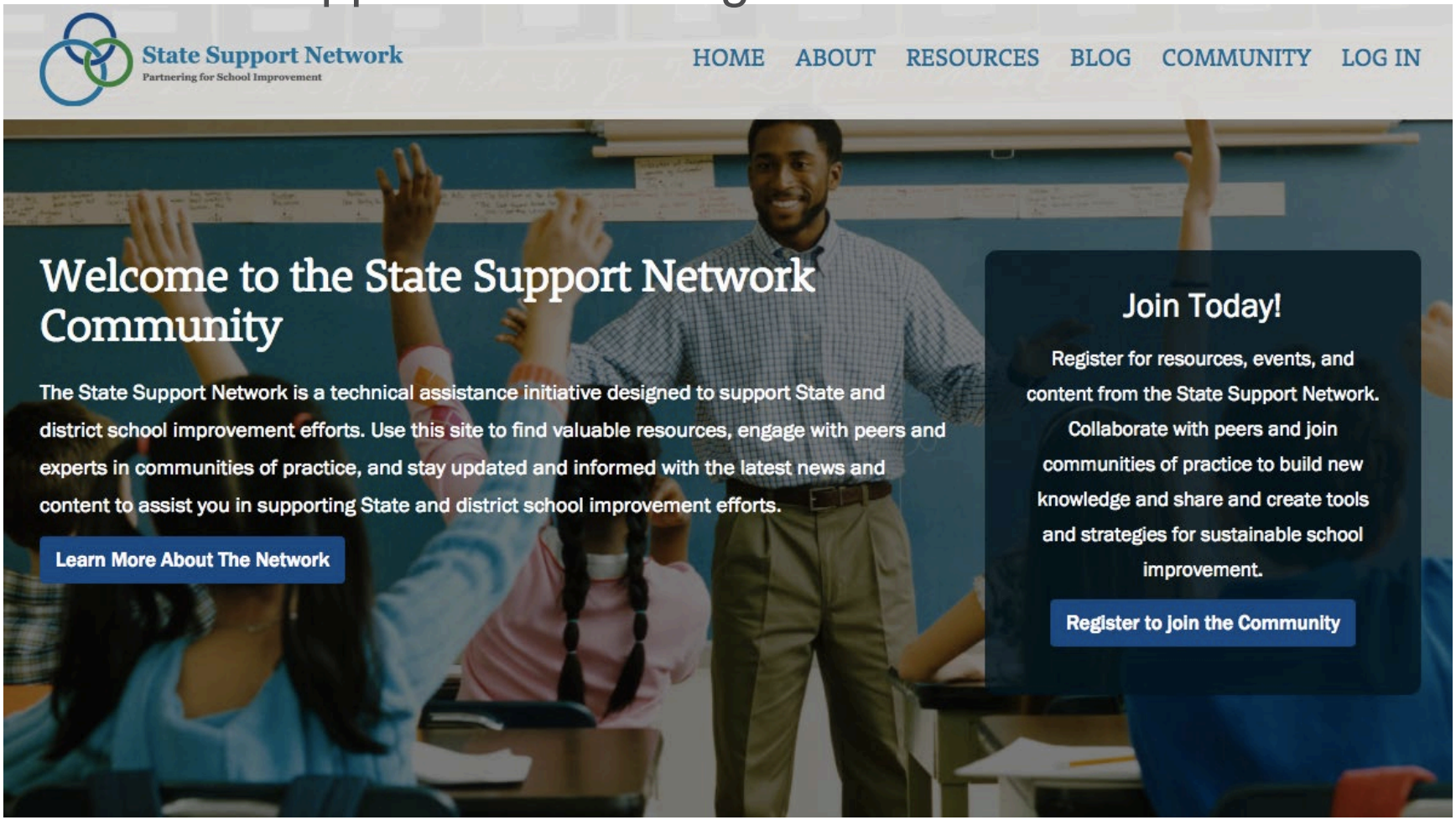
- Facilitate networking and partnerships among similarly experienced SEA points of contact (POCs) to establish a community that can support and enhance the complex role of supporting students in foster care.
- Identify and share effective practices and tools with one another, and eventually with a larger SEA community, to spread good practice and provide models for replication.
- Identify common implementation challenges experienced across the SEA POC CoP and identify additional resources needed to effectively address these challenges.

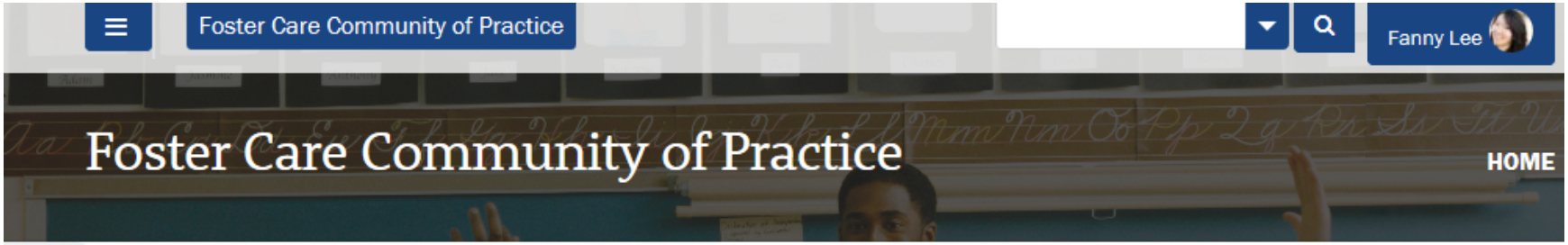
Timeline of learning cycle (LC) activities



Visit the online space

www.statesupportnetwork.ed.gov





Unsubscribe from space
Discussion Board
Events Calendar
Resource Library

Children in foster care constitute a vulnerable population who have historically experienced consistently poor education outcomes relative to their peers with more stable family situations. Additionally, they also tend to experience a higher frequency of unscheduled school changes compared to their peers. As a group, children in foster care have significantly lower academic achievement and high school graduation rates, and significantly higher rates of absenteeism, grade retention, and exclusionary discipline.

This CoP will address the following topics:

- Overview of requirements of Fostering Connections and ESEA pertinent to improving educational stability for students in foster care
- Opportunities to learn from SEAs and state child welfare partners who have developed shared understanding, mutual commitments, clear collaborative processes, and common metrics for monitoring progress, improving methods, and demonstrating impact on significant student outcomes
- Examination of exemplary state laws and policies
- Sharing of state plans, policies, and protocols to receive feedback from other CoP participants, including activities that identify common issues across participants and sharing of practices/solutions peer participants have used to address those issues
- Opportunities to refine systems to support LEAs and community child welfare partners with their implementation

Click on 'Resource Library' and go to "Member Tips and Tricks." We'll show you how to update your user

Discussion

Purpose to practice

What is our *purpose*?

Using the Purpose to Practice model, consider what we, as a CoP, can accomplish together.

- Unmute to share or type in the chat box your ideas about the purpose/goals of this group.

What is our *practice*?

Using the Purpose to Practice model, consider what you, as a member of the CoP, can do to help realize the goals.

- We will separate into three breakout groups of four members each.
- Briefly introduce yourself and answer these questions:
  - What can I individually contribute to this group?
  - What are some of the best ways I can help?
  - What will I commit to doing as a member of this group?

Discussion

Topics for the CoP

Proposed topics for the CoP

- Collaboration
- Transportation
- State data
- Local data
- Roles of POCs/monitoring

Are there any other topics you are interested in?

Whiteboard activity

Under each topic, share what you know or would like to know related to the following questions:

- What are the biggest challenges or issues you have related to this topic?
- What is some of your best advice or strategies on this topic?
- Are there any places you know of doing good work, or any examples of tools or resources to share with others?

Poll

What are the top four topics you would like to work on together?

Looking ahead

Plans for Learning Cycle 2 and beyond

Order the topics for future CoPs

- State data (LC 2)
- Collaboration
- Transportation
- Local data
- Roles of POCs/monitoring

Closing activities

Expectations and next steps

Polling: Meeting objectives

Did this meeting help you to:

- Identify the mission, goals, and structure of the CoP?
- Identify topics and discussion priorities for Learning Cycles 2-5?
- Share examples and resources or questions and needs regarding the education of students experiencing foster care?

Next steps

- You will receive an email invitation to join the online space in the next 24 hours. Please do not delete!
- Network staff will disseminate a brief reading from the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education, “Fostering Success in Education.”
- Post your response to the online space:

  Please share the portion of your ESEA state report card related to students in foster care. Were you involved in this process?

Next learning cycle meeting – LC 2 will be October 24.

Thank you for joining us!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us:

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