

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Longitudinal/Outcome Study

### Q. Why evaluate RIPEP?

A. DCYF and its partners believe it is important to understand how RIPEP is working for RI. Also, the Center for Mental Health Services of SAMHSA (i.e., the provider of the Federal grant) requires an evaluation to determine:

- If money being spent on services are working for children and families;
- Whether improvements experienced last over time; and
- How to develop services that are respectful of families' wishes and desires for their children and cultural backgrounds and that are based in the communities where children live.

### Q. What types of questions are asked of me?

A. Questions include:

- How satisfied are you with the services you are receiving?
- How do you feel your child is doing at home, school/early care and education setting, and community?
- How well is he/she getting along with the family?

Children age 11 years old or older are asked similar questions in a separate interview.

### Q. Who will have access to this information?

A. Only the Evaluation Team from Yale will have access to the information that you provide. If you want information shared with your provider to plan services and supports for your child and family, let your interviewer know.

### Q. What are the benefits of participating in this evaluation of RIPEP's effectiveness?

A. Information that families provide can be used to:

- Improve services to better meet the needs of children and their families;
- Inform policy makers of the benefits of this kind of service/system; and
- Obtain resources to continue RIPEP.

## Rhode Island Positive Educational Partnership (RIPEP)

RIPEP is a cooperative endeavor of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Education, Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College, and Rhode Island early childhood systems.



POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

### For questions about the RIPEP evaluation, contact:

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## RHODE ISLAND POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP (RIPEP)



### Cross-Sectional Descriptive and Longitudinal/Outcome Studies

## INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Positive Educational Partnership (RIPEP) is developing a system of services and supports that will better support children birth to 11 years old that have emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges. RIPEP offers care, support, and service coordination in partnership with families and children. In order to participate, children must attend a RIPEP school or an early care and education setting.

RIPEP is committed to understanding how it is working for the community and wants to hear the voices and perspectives of children and youth and their families in a couple of ways:

### CROSS-SECTIONAL DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

The **Cross-Sectional Descriptive Study** collects the same information from all participating children and their families, such as children's age, gender, and challenges they may be experiencing. This descriptive information is routinely collected by your Family Service Coordinator or other RIPEP personnel when you first make contact with RIPEP.

The information obtained will help determine who is accessing and receiving RIPEP services. In addition, the information will help us reach out to those who are not accessing RIPEP but who may benefit from services.

## LONGITUDINAL/OUTCOME STUDY

The second study invites families to participate in a **Longitudinal/Outcome Study**. This study will determine how the system of care affects you and your child, how satisfied you are with the services you receive, and how much services cost in the new system.

This study collects information from families when they first enter RIPEP and then families are contacted at later dates for interviews.



### HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE LONGITUDINAL/OUTCOME STUDY?

Your Family Service Coordinator will give you an overview of the Longitudinal/Outcome Study and then a member of the evaluation team from The Consultation Center at Yale University will contact you and provide more details.

When you agree to participate in this study, you will take part in an interview with a member of the evaluation team. Children/Youth age 11 years old and older will participate in separate interviews. Interviews can take place in your home or at another community location.

We want to learn more about your child and family and how you feel about the services your child is receiving, such as how well the services are helping your child and family reach the goals that you have established.

**Your and your child's participation in the Longitudinal/Outcome Study is voluntary and all the information that we obtain will be kept completely confidential, unless you tell us that you want us to share it with your service provider. Your name will not be placed on any of the materials, nor will any information that could identify you ever be used in any summaries of these interviews.**

### DO I GET A REWARD FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE LONGITUDINAL/OUTCOME STUDY?

Yes, we recognize that your time is valuable so we wish to compensate you for the time that you and your child provide to complete the interviews. Each parent/caregiver interview will take about 90 minutes to complete and for each completed interview, you will be given a gift certificate. Children/Youth 11 years old or older complete separate interviews. Each child/youth interview will take about 60 minutes to complete, and they will receive a gift certificate for each one completed.

**For more information about the RIPEP evaluation studies described above, contact:**

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