Let us start with the question, “What is the Onda?” The Onda is part of continuous quality improvement that benefits programs and is a parallel process to establishing goals and developing a family plan in partnership with the family during home visits. Continuous quality improvement is part of our everyday work. We are always thinking about, developing, and implementing better ways to provide quality services to our families. This is an individualized process for every Home Visiting Program, valuing the differences of each Home Visiting community.

There are several parts to the Onda process that give consideration to all of the different components that go into your program. Reflective practice is used to discuss all the steps involved from recruitment to transitioning children and families out of the home visiting program with your staff/colleagues. This is an opportunity to acknowledge mutual competence of all of the Program’s team members so they feel valued, understood, and successful. As the story continues, does it flow or are there bumps? What processes or pieces are working well? Is there coherence in the work? Which ones could be improved? Using a variety of tools, such as Infant Mental Health Competencies, the Recruitment and Retention Plan, CYFD HV Standards, and any other tools the program may consider useful, programs identify and record their responses on “What’s Working and Areas for Growth (Program Needs)”.

Second, the facilitated Onda planning session will be an opportunity to further explore what programs have identified as their strengths and reflect on what has contributed to these strengths. Afterwards, any current goals are discussed and the program determines if these goals have been met, remembering that a met goal means that the goal is now part of the Program’s regular practice, or part of the Program’s culture.
Finally, the areas for growth are explored and new goals can be developed or incorporated into current goals. By the end of the session, the Onda form will be completed. Activities to address goals will be developed, the CDD Consultant will write up a formal copy of the plan that is then sent to the program and shared with the CYFD Manager Monitors, and the ECSC Database team. The Onda plan is revisited at every Consultation visit to recognize progress toward goals and provide support to meet those goals, just as Home Visitors do with families and their goals.

Questions to encourage discussion and reflection...

- What feelings are generated when you think of the Onda process?
- Are you feeling excited about the opportunity to identify program strengths?
- Are you feeling anxiety about the Onda?
- Does this process feel ominous or supportive?

References/Additional Resources

New Mexico Home Visiting Program Standards
Infant Mental Health Competencies