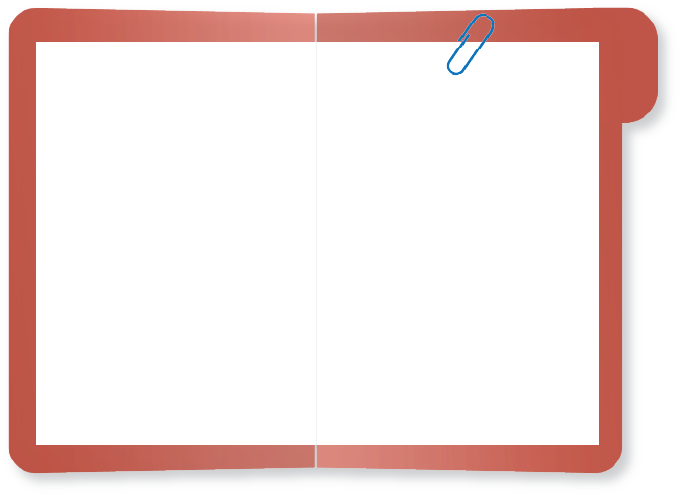
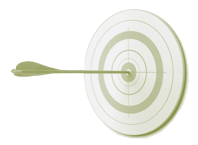
|  |
| --- |
| **4.6 – Identifying the Problem(s) of Practice** |



*To identify a problem of practice relative to the likely cause of the learner-centered problem.*

The data team will collaboratively gain a deeper understanding of the practices that are related to the likely cause.

About 30 minutes



**Directions:**

**Part 1: Reviewing an Example**

1. Review the example of a completed *Problem of Practice Template*[[1]](#footnote-1) on page 38.

**Part 2: Identifying the Problem(s) of Practice**

1. When using the *Problem of Practice Template* (page 39), start by writing the final root cause statement in the first row.

Then, brainstorm district or school-based practices that could be associated with the most likely cause to the learner-centered problem. For example: “Content related to the cause is not included in the course.” Record your responses on chart paper.

As a team, reach consensus on the practices that are most likely related to the cause. Record these practices on the *Problem of Practice Template*.

From these practices, reach consensus on the practice that is most likely to have the greatest impact on the cause. Record multiple practices if they are related and can be addressed through one initiative.

**Problem of Practice Template Example**

|  |
| --- |
| **Final cause statement:** |
| Students who have been retained one or more times in previous grades (K–7) are overage for grade 8 and, in fact, many have reached the legal age to leave school. These students see leaving school and entering the work force as a viable alternative to completing high school. |
| **Practices that could result in the cause of the problem:** |
| Retention in the primary and intermediate grades.  At-risk students aren’t identified in elementary school.  No academic support is provided for at-risk students.  No targeted counseling is provided for students who have been retained.  There is no career education in grades 7 and 8 that supports the need for high school completion. |
| **Final problem(s) of practice (those that could be addressed through one initiative):** |
| Retention with lack of academic support and counseling. |

**Problem of Practice Template**

|  |
| --- |
| **Final cause statement:** |
|  |
| **Practices that could result in the cause of the problem:** |
|  |
| **Final problem(s) of practice (those that could be addressed through one initiative):** |
|  |

1. Portions of this protocol were developed within the DATAUSE project (Using Data for Improving School and Student Performance) by the consortium of partners including: Public Consulting Group, University of Twente (the Netherlands), Institute of Information Management Bremen GmbH (Germany), Modern Didactics Center (Lithuania) and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (UK). For more information on the project please visit: [www.datauseproject.eu](http://www.datauseproject.eu) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)