

NH Children's Trust Fund's Evidence-Based Practice Workshop
November 19, 2007
Casey Family Services
Concord, NH

Meeting Notes

National Resources

FRIENDS National Resource Center
www.friendsnrc.org

National Implementation Research Network (NIRN)
<http://nirn.fmhi.usf.edu>

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
<http://www.samhsa.gov/ebpWebguide/index.asp>

Local Resources

Michelle Ricco, at Prevention Bureau, State Substance Abuse Needs Assessment 603.271.2676

Shannon Swett, Concord (Capital Region) For SA Needs Assessment 603.223.2023

Easter Seals Veteran's Reintegration Project

Daisy Wojewoda, Project Director
603.621.3579

Discussion Outputs

Strengths

- There is an enthusiasm and a willingness to collaborate with partner agencies to serve the needs of families
- Family support programs help to normalize family challenges and problems
- For some agencies, their longevity in the community has established trust with families in the community – this facilitates many word of mouth referrals
- Family support programs help to form social groups for families outside of the program
- NH family support programs are already working with NHCTF to facilitate a statewide outcomes evaluation
- NH family support programs have demonstrated a commitment to continuous quality improvement
- Currently, all NH family support programs are “in the house” and implementing programs that are evidence-informed and evidence-based

Challenges

- There is a tension between money for direct service and money for documentation/evaluation/administration. Both are necessary to make a program run, but there is always more money for direct services

- Programs are seeing rising needs from families and communities, but not rising resources to meet those needs
- When agencies have a small staff it can be very challenging to do everything (direct service, paperwork, research on emerging practices, etc.)
- Resources are needed for cross-systems training
- We need to better utilize higher education institutions for evaluation purposes, but it can be hard to make the connections
- Volunteers need similar supports as staff, but there are not always resources for supports for them
- There is not enough time to review relevant research relating to best practices for family support
- What do we do when the funders are the ones imposing outcomes on grantees and the programs don't show evidence that they can deliver on those outcomes?

Needs

- One of the issues with evidence-based practice is maintaining fidelity while you are trying to be flexible/responsive to community needs
- Clarification is needed about the “active” or “core” ingredients of programs and those aspects of the programs that can be flexible and change while maintaining fidelity
- Need effective means (research-based) of getting engagement from families
- Need more improvement in data gathering for evidence-based practices
- System interventions are needed
- To properly implement evidence-based programs, agencies need increased staff training, coaching, and evaluation. Hiring is also crucial to the success of programs
- Need to work on overarching systems because systems often trump programs

Ideas

- Spending more money for training and at the college level to prepare the workforce fully to meet family needs
- If funders offered multi-year funding it could minimize paperwork and make planning easier for programs
- Funders should agree on universal reporting requirements from grantees
- Coordinate meetings in Concord better; think about utilizing technology such as teleconferences, webinars, etc.
- Altarum Institute – a think tank that is working to reduce federal funding silos and cross systems around early childhood on the national level. Could we replicate this in NH?
- There should be a combined Commission on Men, Women, and Children.
- There are emerging needs that agencies respond to and it would be great if there were some legislative money to fund research of those community needs so families can be served most effectively
- Could we legislate/enact a children's entity with dedicated money?
- Have a Parenting Institute (like substance abuse prevention) with required continuing education for family support staff. Maybe this could be run by the Cooperative Extension?

- Find legislative money that is dedicated to family support/prevention
- Share resources with each other and have regional meetings to share local resources and develop solutions to local problems. Ex: Seacoast agencies recently had a meeting and it was very successful
- More collaboration between family support programs and early care and education programs – especially those who can provide afterschool care and respite
- Continue to talk about protective factors with families and staff
- Rotate assignments to staff on a monthly basis to present a research article on relevant research or a new programming idea