

Children's Evaluation: Outcomes and Fidelity

Full Service Partnerships

November 15-16, 2006



Topics

- ✿ Fidelity monitoring-outcome evaluation model
- ✿ Measuring fidelity
- ✿ Measuring practice-level outcomes
- ✿ Measuring community-level outcomes
- ✿ Target population characteristics
- ✿ **Evaluating your FSP program**



Optimal Service System

- ✿ Full (easy) access to comprehensive (any and all) individualized,
- ✿ Effective services,
- ✿ Provided with high quality

Levels of Responsibility

- ✿ Agency is responsible for delivery of high quality service (e.g. hiring, training, supervision)
- ✿ Practice is responsible for promoting early stages of positive outcomes (e.g. engagement, skills development, positive attributions, improved mood)
- ✿ Public service system is responsible for promoting access to comprehensive, coordinated services and supports

Accountability

- ✿ Fidelity is closely related to the capabilities of the provider agency
- ✿ Practice specific outcomes are closely related to the effectiveness of the practice (*assumes that it is provided with strong fidelity*)
- ✿ Community level outcomes are closely related to the responsiveness of the system (*assumes that individual practices are effective*)



Critical Evaluation Questions

- ✿ Are programs/practices provided with model adherence (*fidelity*)?
- ✿ Does each individual program/practice result in the level of expected child and family improvement (*practice specific outcomes*)?
- ✿ Does the system insure access to needed services and supports (*community level outcomes*)?

Interpretation

✿ Low fidelity

- ✿ The agency has not provided the level of expected quality

✿ Low practice outcomes

- ✿ If fidelity is high, then the practice has not been effective
- ✿ If fidelity is low, the effectiveness of the practice cannot be determined

✿ Low community-level outcomes

- ✿ If practices are effective, then the system has failed to identify needs and make services accessible
- ✿ If practice outcomes are low, the effectiveness of the system cannot be determined

Measures

- ✿ Fidelity tools are unique to each practice. No two practices use the same measure of fidelity
- ✿ Practice specific outcome measures need to be sensitive to change that is realistically expected to occur concurrent with or immediately after a course of treatment
 - ✿ Practices that promote achievement of the same goals can be evaluated using the same measures
- ✿ Community level outcome measures need to be sensitive to long term functional achievement, and could consist of one set of measures system-wide

Measures

- ✿ Fidelity measures are collected on an ongoing or periodic basis (fidelity can wax and wane)
- ✿ Practice specific outcomes are collected pre and post
- ✿ Community level outcomes are collected when an individual first receives any service from the service system (baseline) and then collected on a fixed interval (e.g. annually) while they are receiving one or more services (and afterwards for a follow-up evaluation)

Fidelity Measures

- ✿ Adherence to key structural components
 - ✿ Staff hiring, roles and responsibilities
 - ✿ Completion of specific training
- ✿ Demonstration of key (delineated) processes
 - ✿ Live observation
 - ✿ **Video or audio observation**
 - ✿ Self rating
 - ✿ **Youth/caregiver interviews**
- ✿ Achievement of key milestones
 - ✿ Retention rates
 - ✿ Attainment of treatment phases or goals
 - ✿ Graduation rates

Practice Specific Measures

✿ Age

- ✿ 0-5
- ✿ Elementary School
- ✿ Junior & High School

✿ Disorder

- ✿ Externalizing
- ✿ Depression
- ✿ Trauma
- ✿ Early psychosis

✿ Youth rating

✿ Caregiver rating

✿ Practitioner rating

✿ Behavioral indicator

Community Level Measures

- ✿ Physically health/access to health care
- ✿ Safe and nurturing family/home
- ✿ Pro-social friendships
- ✿ Happy
- ✿ Success in school
- ✿ Law abiding

Target Population Characteristics

- ✿ Youth or family attributes or historical events, for example--
 - ✿ Age
 - ✿ Gender
 - ✿ Ethnicity
 - ✿ History of neglect, abuse, placement or law violations
- ✿ Population characteristics can be mediating factors
 - ✿ Does access to care, completion of services, or outcomes vary as a function of these characteristics?

Evaluating Your FSP

- ✿ Simply start simply
- ✿ List one of your FSP programs
 - ✿ Describe its distinguishing features?
 - ✿ What is the target population?
 - ✿ What outcomes are you trying to achieve?
- ✿ Pick 4 target population characteristics
- ✿ Select a single fidelity monitoring method
- ✿ Select 2 practice level outcomes (1 age-disorder rating measure, 1 behavioral indicator)

Evaluating Your FSP

- ✿ Do something soon
- ✿ Involve/orient practitioners to the fidelity monitoring and outcome evaluation protocol--why and how
- ✿ What data is already being collected?
- ✿ Add new measures to intake procedure
- ✿ Use a simple Excel database
- ✿ Have all completed measures sent to a designated individual for entry
- ✿ Create simple graphs for reporting

Evaluating Your FSP

- ✿ Simple reports soon
- ✿ Characteristics of youth
- ✿ Average fidelity ratings
- ✿ Average pre- post- changes
- ✿ Relationships between youth characteristics and changes
 - ✿ Age, gender, or ethnicity and outcomes
- ✿ Relationships between fidelity ratings and changes