Development of an Individualized Family Report from National Evaluation Data

Challenges and Solutions

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STARS for Children’s Mental Health

- System of Care site funded in 2005
- Transformation of Areas
- Resources and Services
- One hour northwest of Minneapolis
- Rural/Suburban Demographic
- Four primary system of care entry points

STARS for Children’s Mental Health

- 3,500 square mile service delivery area

The Longitudinal Outcome Study of The National Evaluation – Phase V

- Prescribed study measuring child and family outcomes for systems of care
- Each family completes a 2-3 hour interview when services begin
- Repeated every 6 months for 3 years
- Aggregate data used locally and nationally to drive decision-making for CMH programs
- Largest children’s mental health dataset in existence

Instrumentation Categories

1. Child and Family Status at Intake
2. Living Situation
3. Education
4. Juvenile Justice Involvement
5. Substance Abuse
6. Clinical Measures
7. Caregiver and Family Measures
8. Service Experience

SAMHSA System of Care Values

- Culturally & Linguistically Competent
- Youth-Guided
- Individualized
- Evidence Based
- Parent-Driven
Should Evaluation be Parent Driven? - How Do We Make That Happen?

- Parents on STARS’ Evaluation Advisory Board were loud and clear
- They were willing to participate to improve programming for children’s mental health
- They thought receiving stipends as a token of appreciation was a good thing
- They were interested in receiving feedback from their responses to the questionnaires
- They wanted to know how their child and family were doing

Questions and Challenges

- What information would be most relevant and useful to families?
- Which instruments should be used?
- What information can be shared without clinical interpretation?
- Who should receive the information?

Questions and Challenges (cont.)

- How would we protect confidentiality?
- How can the information be provided in a parent-friendly manner?
- How should this information be presented to families?
- Who should deliver this information to families?

The Solution: Parent Driven Evaluation

- STARS Evaluation Advisory Committee
- Parent participants involved in every step of the development process
- Stakeholder Input
  - Clinical Director
  - Evaluation Team/Field Evaluators
  - Project Director
  - Service Providers

What Did Parents Want from the Evaluation?

- Tell us our STRENGTHS, not just challenges
- Don’t compare our child to the normative group or to other children in the study
- Tell us how our responses have changed over time
- Give us a report that is easy to understand - No Jargon!
- DO NOT share our responses with our provider; give us an extra copy we can share if we choose
- Don’t include our child’s responses. That would violate their trust/confidentiality

Other Considerations

- Clinical Instrumentation
- How often to provide feedback
- Developing a report template
- Up-front investment of resources
- Automating the process of report creation
- Explanation of report parameters
The Individualized Family Report (IFR)

- Strength-based Instruments
  - Family Life Questionnaire
- Other Measures Reported
  - Caregiver Strain Questionnaire
  - Columbia Impairment Scale

Indicators

Upward trend = Less Concern

Downward trend = More Concern

Overall Level of Difficulty

The Columbia Impairment Scale provides an overall measure of John's level of difficulty based on questions you answered. Scores range from 0 (no difficulty) to 52 (very high level of difficulty).

The scores represent your view of John's OVERALL level of difficulty in relationships with others, problems at home, work, school, and emotions such as happiness, sadness, and anxiety.

Examples:
- You answered questions such as:
  - In general, how much of a problem do you think your child has with...?
  - getting along with others?
  - getting along with friends?
  - relating to others?
  - finding stuff to do?
  - his/her schoolwork?

Change: Your responses indicate that John's overall level of difficulty has decreased since when services first began.
Parent Feedback
Individualized Family Report

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