Bringing it into Focus:
Using Logic Models as the Lens for SOC Implementation & Evaluation

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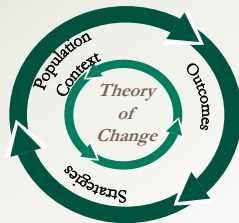LuAnn McCormick, Center for Human Services Research, University at Albany, NY

Presentation at the Children's Mental Health Research & Policy Conference – March 9, 2010

What Is A Theory Of Change?

- The underlying assumptions and strategies that guide local system of care development and are believed by local planners/builders to be critical to producing changes in available service/supports that are expected to lead to improvements for children and their families.

Theory Of Change

- A clearly expressed relationship between three core elements

Logic Model Definition

- A logic model is a systematic and visual way to present and share your understanding of the relationships among the resources you have to operate your program, the activities you plan to do, and the changes or results you hope to achieve.
- The most basic logic model is a picture of how you believe your program will work.
- It uses words and/or pictures to describe the sequence of activities thought to bring about change and how these activities are linked to the results the program is expected to achieve.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (2000).

Logic Model Purpose

- The purpose of a logic model is to provide stakeholders with a road map describing the sequence of related events connecting the need for the planned program with the program's desired results.
- Mapping a proposed program helps you visualize and understand how human and financial investments can contribute to achieving your intended program goals and can lead to program improvements.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (2000).

Questions Along the Way

From the Project Director's Perspective

- Year One Deliverables

LOGIC MODEL

- Became more than an assignment
- Tied into community introduction materials
- Kick off planning – 1st draft 3/30/09

Project Director's toolbox

- We have a plan…and Technical Assistance!
- Site Readiness Plan => TA Call 3/9/09
- Mario, Jody and a magician named Victor
- Assignments all around

Draft 4-8-09 — Tapestry of Chautauqua County, New York — Logic Model

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Building a logical model

- *Tapestry United*
- Building our Elevator Speech
- Strategic Plan comes naturally in line

Final 11.19.2009 — Chautauqua Tapestry, Chautauqua County, NY — Logic Model

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From the Evaluator's Perspective

- Dual Purposes
  - For the community: Logic Model clearly links strategies with expected outcomes.
    - If we do this, what do we expect to accomplish?
  - For the evaluation team: Logic Model is a roadmap to research design.
    - If they hope to achieve these outcomes, what data do we need to collect and how?

Evaluator's Ongoing Role with the Community: Early Phases

- Connect the dots between goals, strategies, and outcomes.
  - Reality checks
  - Feet to the fire
  - Early Message = Importance of evaluation in helping articulate outcomes and monitoring progress; integral part of whole initiative; constructive continuous feedback

Evaluator's Ongoing Role with the Community: Midcourse & Beyond

- Monitoring progress
  - Are strategies being implemented as planned?
  - Is progress being made towards outcomes?
  - Continuous constructive feedback for discussion
    - Goal is to assist community to identify barriers and problems for midcourse corrections
  - Tie in with DPR and CQI

Using the Logic Model for Research Design

- Hard work in the beginning makes data collection plan easier, more straightforward.
- If community understands logic model, it's an easy next step to explain the details of the data collection plan and why we're doing what we're doing.
  - Partnerships, collaboration, buy-in

Data Collection Plan
Principle: Individualized and Strengths-Based
Goal: Everyone works together to plan for one child and family at a time
Strategy: Use the Child and Family Team (CFT) Planning Process to work together as a team to create a plan for each individual youth and family.
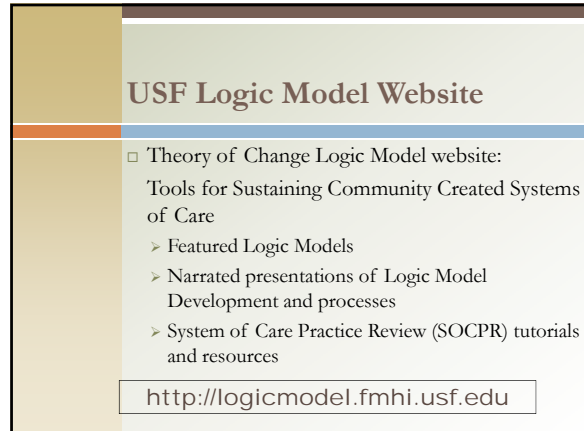
Desired Outcomes	Data Collection Method(s)	Instruments/Source
1.1 Services are individualized and strength-based.	1.1 Wraparound Fidelity Index; Clinical review	1.1 WFI-4; CFT Satisfaction Survey; Local chart review
1.2 Youth experience improvements in social-emotional functioning.	1.2 Longitudinal Outcome Study	1.2 LOS – BERS, CBCL, EQ, RCMAS,RADS-2, CIS, SUS, GAIN, DS
1.3 Families are less stressed and function better.	1.3 Longitudinal Outcome Study	1.3 CGSQ, PSI
1.4 Families and youth are satisfied with the level of involvement in the planning process and development of their service plans.	1.4 Wraparound Fidelity Index; Longitudinal Outcome Study	1.4 WFI-4; CFT Satisfaction Survey; LOS – CIQ, YIQ
1.5 Youth are more likely to follow through with their treatment plan.	1.5 Longitudinal Outcome Study	1.5 LOS – CIQ, YIQ

Discussion questions…

- How have you or might you use the Theory of Change/Logic Model process as a useful tool?
- What are the roles of the project staff and evaluators in developing your Theory of Change and Logic Model?
- What are people's thoughts on who the key players are when developing your Theory of Change and Logic Model?
- After you develop your Theory of Change and Logic Model, then what?

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USF Logic Model Website

☐ Theory of Change Logic Model website:

Tools for Sustaining Community Created Systems of Care

➢ Featured Logic Models

➢ Narrated presentations of Logic Model Development and processes

➢ System of Care Practice Review (SOCPR) tutorials and resources

http://logicmodel.fmhi.usf.edu