Revising the Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale (ROLES): Re-conceptualizing the Restrictiveness of Living Environments

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Original ROLES
- Designed for program evaluation use
  - Measure of program restrictiveness
- Recognized at the time that ROLES didn’t identify the restrictiveness of a specific program
- A lot has changed in child care since 1992
- Environmental restrictiveness has become a critical outcome in determining effectiveness of care

ROLES
- Jail
- State mental Hospital
- County detention center
- Youth correctional center
- Intensive treatment unit
- Drug-alcohol rehabilitation center (inpatient)
- Medical hospital (inpatient)
- Wilderness camp (24-hour, year-round)
- Residential treatment center
- Group emergency shelter
- Residential Job Corps center
- Group home
- Foster-family-based group home
- Individual-home emergency shelter
- Specialized foster care
- Regular foster care
- Supervised independent living
- Home of a family friend
- Adoptive home
- Home of a relative
- School dormitory
- Home of natural parents (for a child)
- Home of natural parents (18+)
- Independent living with friend
- Independent living by self

If it’s not broken, don’t fix it!
- Easy to use
- Widely accepted
- Fairly intuitive

Trouble in Paradise
- Not exhaustive
- Not as flexible as it needs to be
  - New Programs
  - Individualized treatment
- Based more on theory than practice
- Overlapping distributions

Overlapping Distributions
ROLES Revision Goals

- Update ROLES based on actual practice
- Start with the program perspective
- Uses
  - Provide an updated/simplified restrictiveness scale for program evaluation
  - Create a measure which can identify the restrictiveness of a particular program

ROLES Revision Conceptual Definition

- Restrictiveness is the ways in which adults in a child’s life have anticipated that limits need to be made for the child’s safety, developmental and therapeutic needs.

Steps

1. Create Restrictiveness Evaluation Measure
2. Pilot Study: Cognitive Interviewing Practitioners Evaluate Their Programs
3. Taxonomy of General Environmental Types
4. Create Secondary Restrictiveness Scales

Potential Updated Scale

***not the final categories, for illustrative purposes only***

- Independent
- Living with Family
- Out of home, family setting
- Out of home, group setting
- Institutionalization
- Out of home, group setting

REM-Y Exercise

- Ignore Section I
- Read through REM-Y thinking about your core program.
- Answer one or two items in each area for your program.

Project Discussion Questions

For the ROLES Revision Project

- General approach
- Conceptual definition
- Use of practitioner informants
- Utility of proposed General Environment Types
- Secondary Restrictiveness Scales
REM-Y Discussion Questions

As you went through the measure

• Were there any areas that need to be added or deleted?
  – Movement
  – Activities
  – Social
  – Treatment

• Anchored rating scale

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