A Collaborative Effort to Disseminate Evidenced-Based Research on Children Who Witness Domestic Violence

Lori E. Crosby, Psy.D.
Alisha Nichols, M.P.A.
Olivia Davis, B.A.
Krisin Smith Shrimplin, M.N.O.

Overview

- Implementing Evidenced Based Practice (EBP)
- Train-The-Trainer Approach
- Training Evaluation – Strengths & Limitations
- Example: CWWDV Initiative

Evidence-Based Research/Practice (EBP)

- Integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise, and individual's values and preferences to facilitate clinical decision making

Evidence-Based Practice – National Level

- The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is engaged in an ongoing effort to bridge mental health services research and real-world practice.

Evidenced-Based Practice – National Level

- “There is a need to disseminate information about the implementation of EBPs and to identify the gaps in research about implementation”
Implementation of Evidenced-Based Practice – Local Level

- Local mental health agencies are striving to implement evidenced-based practices.

Train-The-Trainer Approach - Benefits

- A train-the-trainer approach is a viable option for disseminating evidence-based practices.

Evaluation of Train-The-Trainer Program

- Evaluation is essential to determining the impact of EBP on the community.

Kirkpatrick’s Model

- Level 1: Reactions
- Level 2: Learning
- Level 3: Transfer
- Level 4: Results

Training Evaluation - Strengths

- Gain insight into trainers’ engagement, biases, the successes & limitations of the train-the-trainer program
- Obtain information that can be used to improve the curriculum
- Training evaluations can provide evidence that change has occurred at individual & agency level – this can motivate trainers to conduct future trainings
- Training evaluations can provide evidence of change at the agency level by demonstrating that participants implemented EBP

Training Evaluation - Limitations

- Evaluations usually occur right at the end of the program thus participants may not have had time to reflect on training & use it in the real world.
- Evaluating whether trainers have mastered the curriculum & are effectively training others can be time consuming.
- Measuring systems impact can be time consuming & may require significant expertise to implement.

Using Evaluation Data to Demonstrate Change at the Individual and Agency Level: Children Who Witness Domestic Violence Initiative (CWWDV)

Introduction

- The Hamilton County Family Violence Prevention Project (FVPP) is a collaborative effort (of more than 40 agencies), which convened in 2001, that aims to prevent and eliminate family violence in Hamilton County.
- The plan addresses the following forms of abuse: People with Disabilities, Child Abuse, Elder Abuse, and Intimate Partner Abuse.

Introduction

- The FVPP discovered that while Children Who Witness Domestic Violence (CWWDV) experts existed throughout the community, there were not enough qualified trainers to fill the demand for training on CWWDV.
- Many professionals and advocates who interact with children on a regular basis were unaware of the scope of the problem of witnessing domestic violence and how it impacts children.
- The FVPP chose a train-the-trainer approach for their CWWDV Initiative.

Proposed Outcome

- Proposed Outcome:
  - Community-based trainers can effectively disseminate information across the county; become model for other states to address children who witness domestic violence in their communities.
Method

- 35 Trainers representing 16 mental health, school-based, or social service agencies were trained in March 2004.
- Trainers completed applications reviewed by CWWDV board.

Method

- Participants had to meet following criteria:
  - Conducted educational presentations and trainings as part of their job
  - Sound understanding of domestic violence
  - Committed to conducting 5 trainings each over the course of 1.5 years

Evaluation Designed to Answer the Following Questions:

- Were trainers effective?
- Did they use the curriculum?
- Did participants change?
- Did participants use information?
- Formative - inform next steps in implementation

Evaluation Plan for CWWDV

Goal: evaluate program outcomes using multiple measurements from multiple perspectives
- Trainers:
  - Report of Progress (Trainer Feedback Forms)
  - Trainer Success (Workshop Evaluation)
- Participants:
  - Knowledge, Skills & Attitudes (Pre/Post Test)
  - Intent to Use Knowledge (Workshop Evaluation)
  - How Used Knowledge (Follow-up Survey)
  - Demographics (Workshop Evaluations)
  - Agency Representation (Attendance Forms)
- Data:
  - Trainer Observation Form

Results

- Data analyzed independently by a team of psychologists and staff members using SPSS 12.0 (Norusis, 2004)
- Trainer effectiveness evaluated utilizing a workshop evaluation
- Participant knowledge, attitudes, skills were assessed utilizing a pre-post test evaluation
Proposed Outcomes

- Proposed Outcome #1
  - 1000 total target audience members reached by October 2005
  - (evaluated using sign-in sheets)

- Proposed Outcome #2
  - 85% of target audience members experience increased change in awareness and understanding of signs and symptoms, best practices in responding to witnessing DV, and protective factors (e.g. resources)
  - (evaluated using pre and post test data)

Actual Outcome #1

**2004 Totals**

- Female: 160 (61.3%)
- Male: 57 (21.8%)
- Missing: 44 (16.9%)

**2005 Totals**

- Female: 288 (76.2%)
- Male: 44 (11.6%)
- Missing: 46 (12.2%)

** crap old Native American/ Eskimo**

- Caucasian: 156 (77.9%)
- Native American/ Eskimo: 4 (1.5%)
- Biracial: 1 (0.4%)
- African-American: 55 (27.1%)
- Asian-American: 1 (0.4%)
- Hispanic-American: 2 (0.8%)
- Other: 3 (1.1%)
- Missing: 45 (17.2%)

***1034 total audience members trained as of October 2005***

Actual Outcome #2

**Awareness of Three Local Resources**

- Pre-Test: 54.7% agree; Post-Test: 94.6% agree

**Signs and Symptoms Children May Experience**

- Pre-test: 72.1% agree; Post-test: 98% agree

**Knowledge of Reaction If Someone Discloses Abuse**

- Pre-test: 85.3% agree; Post-test: 97.1% agree
Actual Outcome #2

Ways to Intervene with Children and Families

- Pre-test: 61.5% agree, Post-test: 95% agree

2005 Totals

Proposed Outcomes

- Proposed Outcome #3
  - 90% of target audience members report that the CWWDV training was in the good or excellent range

  (evaluated using workshop evaluation data)
  - Objectives met
  - Trainer effective
  - Learned something

Actual Outcome #3

Extent of Objectives Met

- 88.4% of participants reported the objectives were somewhat clear and clearly stated.

2005 Totals

Actual Outcome #3

- Trainer Effectiveness
  - 99.2% reported that the presenters were knowledgeable
  - 89.2% - 92.2% reported that the presenters were effective

(N= 261)

Proposed Outcomes

- Proposed Outcome #4
  - 85% of trainers report positive impact of attending Feedback Forum

  (evaluated using Feedback Forum sheets)
Actual Outcome #4:

- Provide Relevant Info
  - 60% Strongly Agree
  - 20% Neutral
  - 10% Strongly Disagree

90% reported that the Forum provided relevant information to conducting training sessions

Actual Outcome #5

- Workshop Evaluation
  - 48% Make a referral
  - 15% Recommend a Policy
  - 11% Start a Program
  - 15% Advocate for a Policy

(N = 334)

Outcomes For 2004-2005

- Proposed Outcome #6
  - At least one organization reports creating an enhanced or “spin-off” CWWDV program

Proposed Outcomes

- Proposed Outcome #5
  - At least 50% of individuals report an increase in making appropriate referrals and/or seeking/creating better service delivery to deal with issue of CWWDV because they understand the predicament of CWWDV better

  (evaluated using Workshop Evaluations and Follow-up Survey)

Actual Outcome #6

- Two agencies have instituted a policy that all new employees receive training in CWWDV
  - ProKids - nonprofit organization that operates Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
  - Hamilton County Job and Family Services: Child Protective Services

(N = 22)
Limitations to Evaluation

- Varying lengths of workshop sessions
- Incomplete workshop evaluations
- Inconsistent use of workshop evaluation forms (old vs. new)
- Inability to always match pre and post test evaluations

Summary & Public Policy Implications

- Data from this project can be used to raise public awareness, and help local government & public agencies develop a vision of how the problem of DV & children can be addressed in the community.
- Train-the-trainer approach maybe implemented collaboratively across agencies to disseminate EBP.

Summary & Public Policy Implications

- CWWDV data indicate trainers are effectively disseminating the information.
- Participants gained knowledge & skills to help them identify & refer children who witness domestic violence.
- Change has been assessed at the individual & agency levels, and program has raised community awareness.
- Increased access to resources within the community & promoted community engagement around this issue.

Next Steps

- CWWDV plans to establish network for providers, trainers, and participants
- Public awareness campaign
- Subset of trainers to begin training home visitors for Every Child Succeeds Program
- Subset also includes Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Website: www.embracehope.org

Thank You & Grazie

Hvala

Merois

& Gracias