The Relationship Between Fidelity to Wraparound and Outcomes

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Purpose of Study

- Previous research has found an association between greater Wraparound fidelity and better child and family outcomes (Bruns, 2004), but the relationship has not been clearly understood.
- This study sought to further understand the relationship between fidelity to the 11 core elements of Wraparound and treatment outcomes.

Fidelity to Wraparound

- EMQ Sacramento has collected the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) since 2001.
- Measures fidelity to Wraparound principles.
- Administered to Youth, Caregiver, & Resource Facilitator.
- Higher Score = Greater Fidelity.
- Implementation Measures:
  - Wraparound Fidelity Index = 3.0 (WFI-3.0; Suter et al., 2002)
  - Collection since 2003.
- Sample included the following:
  - 146 WFI’s collected from Youth
  - 124 WFI’s collected from Caregivers
  - 183 WFI’s collected from Resource Facilitators.

EMQ Children & Family Services

Our Mission

To work with children and their families to transform their lives, build emotional, social and familial well-being, and to transform the systems that serve them.

Our Philosophy

- Family Voice
- Collaborative/Integrative
- Culturally Competent
- Strength-Based
- Persistence
- Team Based
- Community-Based
- Individualized
- Natural Supports
- Outcomes Based

Demographics

- Average Age at Admission: 14 years
- 63% Male; 37% Female
- 62% Caucasian; 26% African-American; 8% Latino; 2% Asian/Pacific Islander; 1% Native-American; 1% Other
- Average Length of Stay: 15 months

Outcome Measures at Discharge

- Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS; Hodges, 2000)
  - Measures youth’s level of functioning; completed by Resource Facilitator
  - Lower Score = Greater Functioning
  - Exit Total CAFAS Score
- Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL; Achenbach, 2001)
  - Measures youth’s level of behavior problems; administered to Caregiver
  - Lower Score = Lower Behavior Problems
  - Exit Total, Externalizing, & Internalizing CBCL Scores
- Living Arrangement at Discharge: Community or Facility
Correlations Among WFI Scores and Outcomes at Discharge

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Note: *p < .05, **p < .01

Results

- Greater fidelity to the provision of Community Services/Supports in Wraparound is related to positive outcomes
- No other elements had as significant correlations to outcomes as Community Services/Supports
- No significant relationship found between Total Fidelity Scores and outcomes at discharge

Implications

- Implications for teams to support a youth’s school attendance and involvement in work, training, and other community activities (e.g., church, sports, art, etc.) as well as support community-based living situations for youth (as an alternative to residential or institutional care) in order to improve outcomes.

Future Directions

- EMQ Sacramento recently began collecting data on the Child and Family Team process
- Further examination on the relationship between fidelity and performance outcomes

Questions?
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