



Implementing Evidence-Based Programs in the Real World

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A Little Known Fact

- ✦ Selecting an evidence-based program or practice is one thing;
- ✦ Implementing that evidence-based program/practice is quite another thing.



Research Question(s)

- ✦ What are the roles of program developers and purveyors in the implementation of their evidence based-programs and practices at new sites?
- ✦ What is the capacity of program developers to help others adopt and implement their evidence-based program at new sites?



Sampling Strategy

Compiled a cumulative database of evidence based programs and practices.

Randomly selected program developers whose EBPs were listed on:

- ✦ The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP),
- ✦ Or on other national registries of evidence-based programs/practices which had criteria for inclusion



Research Design and Methods

Development of Interview Guide

- ✦ Research advisory panel
- ✦ Implementation advisory panel

Telephone Interviews



Data Analysis

- ✦ Interviews transcribed; entered into Atlas.ti
- ✦ A priori, Open, and Axial Coding
 - ✦ Coding Team
 - ✦ Inter-rater reliability

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Preliminary Results

- ▶ Program Developer/Purveyor Group
- ▶ Dissemination Strategy
- ▶ Roles and Responsibility
- ▶ Current and Future Capacity

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Program Developer / Purveyors

- ▶ All program developers are not “equal”
- ▶ Researchers, Program developers, and Purveyors are not necessarily the same
- ▶ Active purveying is an evolutionary process.

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When Program Developers become Purveyors...

“I went to the University, I know it was a very interesting path because they really at first didn’t know what to do with me because most of the things like they are much more hard science like, that can get patented and just put out there, so I worked really hard with a number of people at the University.....so we spun out and formed a company, which is in partnership with the University, so I left the University and managed the company and managed the growth of the program...It took a lot to make that happen and it would have been very easy to have just left it and gone on to some other project but we didn’t want to do that because in my heart and soul I really think we have something going there and we are making a difference”.

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Implementation Strategies

- ▶ Provision of materials
- ▶ Training and Technical Assistance
- ▶ Turn over to publishing companies
- ▶ Develop a ‘purveyor’ group

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Roles and Responsibilities

When it comes to implementation, how do program developers perceive the roles and responsibilities of:

- ▶ Program developers/ purveyors?
- ▶ Adopting agency?
- ▶ Communities?

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Degree of Responsibility

This next question concerns the degree to which you/your group helps others make use of your program. I will read four options then you can tell me which option best describes what your group does.

A) You/We do what we can by telephone and email but it is up to the users of our program to contact us to help solve problems as they try to put the program/practice in place.

B) You/We do what we can by telephone and email and when problems arise we will make a site visit and help connect the users of our program with resources that might help them.

C) You/We spend a lot of time with the users of our program to coach them on-site and actively help solve implementation problems.

D) You/We will do whatever it takes to help them be successful. Their success is our success; their failures are our failures.

nirm **Degree of Responsibility**

Degree Characterization:

A's-Reactive

"so it is pretty much up to the individual agencies to contact us for help"

D's-Proactive

Many described their intent as D, but their practice falling somewhere between A and C.

nirm **Degree of Responsibility cont'd**

Overdependence

"It is probably B, we certainly will try to give them minimally sufficient assistance so that they don't become dependent on us but they are able to solve the problems, so really D sounds like to me, do whatever you can, that can create an overdependence, it is the same thing when we work with parents, you could be available every time an issue comes up with their child or you can teach them skills that they can then generalize so that they don't have to constantly be seeking help. So we tend to try to keep the dependence down even with organizations."

nirm **Primary Responsibilities**

Researchers and program developers responsibilities limited to:

- ▶ material dissemination,
- ▶ presentations and publications,
- ▶ and training.

Purveyor and active purveyor responsibilities ranged from:

- ▶ program development,
- ▶ training,
- ▶ technical assistance,
- ▶ evaluation, (fidelity and/or outcome)
- ▶ development of data systems,
- ▶ certification of staff,
- ▶ and establishment of communities of practice.

nirm **Capacity Assessment**

Assessment procedures:

- ▶ Informal telephone conversations
- ▶ Application/Readiness Checklist

Lack of a formal assessment process in many cases.

"we leave it up to the organizations themselves... to make an assessment of the utility and viability and replicability of the program".

nirm **Current Capacity**

What it would take for them to triple the number of sites or practitioners they work with?

- ▶ Non-profits: greater awareness and marketing, better funding for implementation sites.
- ▶ For profits: greater funding for implementation sites, more trainers, TOT's, increased capacity building and infrastructure development, regional set-ups, and overhaul of internal processes/systems.

nirm **Future Capacity**

Would you develop ten times more implementation sites and practitioners if the resources were available?

- ▶ Willing, but cautious
- ▶ Current demand greater than supply

"the current penetration rate of even the most successful interventions rarely exceeds 1% of the target population".

Ginexi & Hilton, 2006

Possible Implications

- ▶ Communities and agencies need to understand:
 - ▶ the purveyor's view of their roles and responsibilities
 - ▶ and therefore what providers and communities will need to do to "fill in the blanks"
 - ▶ need to 'interview' purveyors
- ▶ Currently structural and funding mechanisms for the work of purveyors is "catch as catch can".
- ▶ The transition of program developers to purveyors is grounded in "the school of hard knocks"
- ▶ Demand generally exceed supply, yet EBPs are being mandated by states, and by the Federal Gov't. Who will help?

For More Information

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