


### Strategies for Rapid Development of a Transition to Adulthood Program Information System (TAPIS)

Mason G. Haber & Hewitt B. "Rusty" Clark

Presentation for 2008 Research and Training Center  
On Children's Mental Health Conference  
Tampa, FL.

### Objectives


- Programs are increasingly available for supporting transition of youth with SED
- However, measurement methods tailored to their distinctive challenges are lacking
- Objectives of today's presentation include
  - Describing the measurement challenges of transition support programs
  - Describing plans for automation of the TAPIS
  - Describing a proposed project for rapid refinement and validation of the instrument



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### New Service Paradigms Offer New Challenges & Opportunity


- Research has shown that innovation diffusion and adoption is difficult
- With emerging innovations, these challenges are even more complex
- Emerging innovations are a "moving target"
- Traditional, "linear" development of measurement and quality improvement is not adequate to this task
- In order to guide QI as services emerge, "real-time" strategies must be used.
- Evolving models of services for transition youth with SED in the mental health sector provide such an opportunity



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### Problems of Youth in Transition


- Youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED) entering adulthood are increasingly recognized as a priority population
- These youth face a "transition cliff" as they age into adulthood. Problems include:
  - High risk for continued mental health problems
  - High rates of substance use problems
  - Criminal activities and frequent, serious arrests
  - Struggles with basic aspects of adult self-care
  - Most do not finish high school or pursue post-secondary education and training



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### Gaps in Services


- Only a minority of youth w/SED receive services in the mental health (MH) sector
- At the outset of young adulthood, utilization rates in the MH sector drop further
- Research suggests this is due to a lack of developmentally-appropriate service
- Innovative MH programs across the country have sought to address this gap
- These programs have distinctive measurement needs. Somewhat paradoxically, these are both pressing and not well described



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### Measurement Challenges for Transition Programs


- To track both individuals and programs
- To measure and apply data *efficiently*
- Assessing literature-based objective indicators
- Measurement of individualized goals to promote youth self-determination
- Efficiently capture which specific services are delivered from comprehensive array
- To efficient capture youth satisfaction
- Measurement of fidelity is *more* important for emerging programs



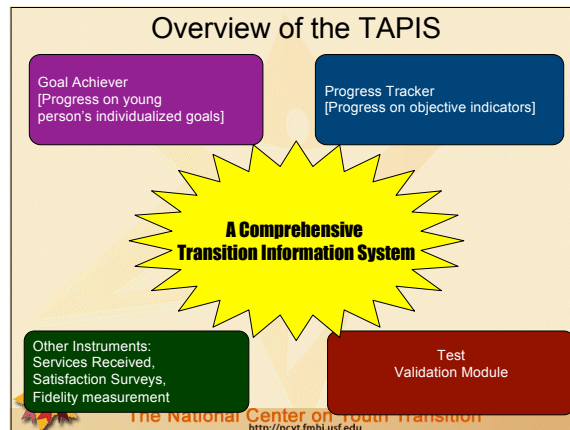
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### Transition to Adulthood Program Information System (TAPIS)

- The TAPIS is being developed by NCYT in partnership with Mosaic Network to meet these challenges. Its objectives:
  - To help programs *efficiently* track progress on both the youth and program level
  - To provide easily interpretable feedback on objective indicators & individualized goals
  - To provide a means for integration of service utilization, youth satisfaction, and fidelity data
  - To provide a means for *real-time validation* of measurement strategies for #1 through #3




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### Phases of TAPIS Development


- Phase I [Complete]:
  - Development of paper versions of Progress Tracker and Goal Achiever instruments
    - Methods included literature review, focus group consultation, initial field testing
- Phase II [Ongoing]:
  - Automation of PT and GA TAPIS elements
  - Site recruitment for formal piloting and validation



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### Phases of Development (cont.)


- Phase III [Planned]:
  - Application of multi-tiered framework for collaboration involving NCYT, Mosaic, and community partners
  - Validate initial versions of measures, pilot refinements, and provide mechanism for multi-trait/multi-method studies
  - Develop remaining components of TAPIS with Lead Research Sites



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### "Paper-Based" Features of Measures: Progress Tracker & Goal Achiever


- Progress Tracker:
  - Multi-domain assessment corresponding to key domains of transition progress:
    - Employment, Education, Living Situation (housing), Community/Social Responsibility, Emotional/Behavioral Well-being, Physical Health, Parenting
    - Assessment of these can be every 90 days or rotated
  - Each domain consists of objective indicators and an overall, subjective (i.e., "transition facilitator" [TF]) rating of the domain.
  - TFs use multiple data sources to rate (e.g., youth self-report, collaterals, observation, records)



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### "Paper-Based" Features of Measures: Progress Tracker & Goal Achiever


- Goal Achiever:
  - Simple treatment plan format
  - Simplicity is sought to encourage *collaborative generation and frequent revision* of plans
  - Goals are organized by *Progress Tracker domain*
  - By domain organization encourages alignment of individualized goals with "objective" domains of transition



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### Features of Progress Tracker (cont.)

- What GEMS automation can add:
  - A carry-over system
  - Automated methods of quality control
    - e.g., automated skip rules, item “red-flagging”, formal mechanisms for supervisor review and “sealing”
  - Methods for matching progress in “objective domains” with individual goals (Goal Achiever).
  - Automated reporting to help providers appreciate change over time and across domains
  - Web-based training



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### Goal Achiever Format


Young Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Transition Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Plan Developed: \_\_\_\_\_ Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Priority Transition Domain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Young Person's Vision Related to this Domain: \_\_\_\_\_

Teams may have to establish several short-term goals to address priority work-related to the Transition Domain Vision Statement. Number each goal. Use additional forms as necessary. (Status of task or goal: c=completed, p=progressing well, r=reviewed to be more effective)

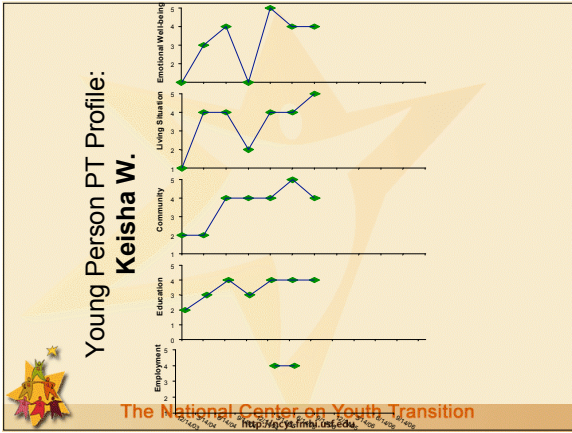
Person Created Goals (Enter Client's Name Here Goals)	Steps (Tasks) to Reach Each Goal (Identify Clients' Strengths for each step). Also, compose persons responsible and involved in each step.	Responsible Person	Target Date	Status

Minimum Indicators for Each Goal (Include how progress will be measured). (Use same person for above goals)

Responsible Person	Target Date	Status



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### Goal Status and Progress

Goals	Domain	Date Created	Date Updated	Status
4. Assist Keisha to interact appropriately with customers	Emp.	4/28/05	6/02/05	➔
3. Help Keisha to interview for job	Emp.	12/24/04	3/22/05	➔
1. Assist Keisha to search for a job	Emp.	12/8/04	4/23/05	➔
2. Assist Keisha to prepare a resume	Emp.	12/4/04	1/28/05	➔
3. Social Skills training for following teacher's instructions	Edu.	10/26/04	6/04/05	➔
2. Assist Keisha in learning test taking strategies to help overcome her anxiety and difficulty with taking test	Edu.	2/18/04	3/11/05	➔
1. Assist Keisha in getting an Algebra tutor	Edu.	1/4/04	3/8/04	➔


(For detailed information on Goal and Individual Task Status See the Goal Achiever Report)

### Young Person Progress Summary 3/15/05 - 6/14/05

This section will consist of a 300 - 500 words summary note upon the indicators of progress and/or difficulty of the young person's transition to adult roles. This output is from the field that is provided in the very end of the progress tracker.

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### YP Transition Domain - Detailed Report 3/15/05 - 6/14/05


#### A. Employment

Currently has a **paid job or paid -work experience** in competitive employment  
 Type of work: **Food Service**  
 Part-time: **19** or less hours per week on average  
 Paid job: **minimum wage**  
 No employment benefits  
 Employer acknowledgements - **DK**  
**Officially reprimanded**  
 Got along well with employer/supervisor - **Good**  
 Got along well with coworkers - **Poor**  
 Got along well with customers - **Poor**  
 Percent days worked - **81%**  
 Work-events in the last 90 days - **Laid off**  
 Level of functioning - **GOOD**

Employment Note:

#### B. Education


Is currently **attending/enrolled** in school or a vocational/technical training  
**Was attending/enrolled** during this period  
 Type of education setting - **Secondary school serving a wide variety of students - Public.**  
 Current enrollment - **Part-time**  
 High-school diploma track - **Special Diploma**  
**No changes** in school during this period  
 Out-of-school suspensions - **2 days**  
 No administrative referrals  
 Not drop out/withdrawn  
 Not expelled from a school during this assessment period  
 Current progress in academic or training curricula - **Good**  
 Current levels of functioning related to social norms in educational settings - **Good**  
 Percent of school attendance - **78%**  
 Diploma type - **Not applicable**



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### GEMS-TAPIS Validation Project

- Using the GEMS, NCYT and Mosaic can easily combine data across sites
- A “validation module” is planned containing fields for:
  - Entry of ratings from multiple raters per subject;
  - Linking of GEMS-TAPIS data with other data sources for concurrent validation
- GEMS contains a “survey builder” tool to rapidly automate new data elements
  - This will allow sites to pilot their own items and share these with other participating sites



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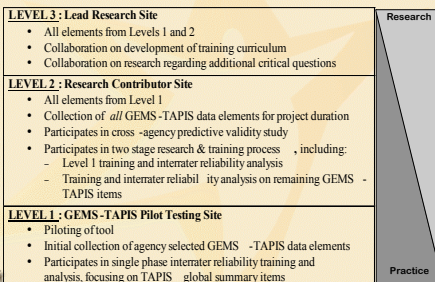
### A Proposed Research-Practice Framework

- Earlier, it was proposed that a “linear” R to P model does not meet the needs of emerging service models
- NCYT has proposed a “hierarchical and simultaneous” framework for R to P
  - Depending on their interests and resources, sites can participate at multiple levels
  - Sites with few resources still use early versions of the instrument and generate data
  - Sites with greater resources collaborate more fully, and enjoy benefits of helping to shape the instrument and its evaluation design



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### Proposed Research to Practice Framework



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### GEMS Demonstration



### GEMS Overview

Grant Evaluation & Project Management for Human Service Initiatives

- Designed for complex multi-site initiatives
- Data you can trust
- Answers that are real time
- Information that supports decision making
- Technology that meets custom needs of each "individual" project & user

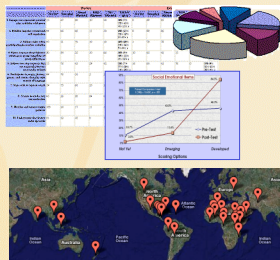


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### Reporting and Data Analysis

Real-Time Access to Results Through a Variety of Report and Exports

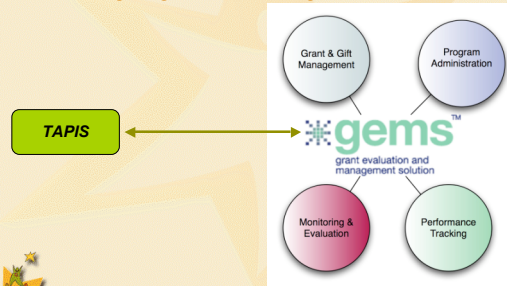
- Predefined Report
- GIS Report
- Periodic Project Progress Reports
- End of Project Reports
- Advanced Custom Reporting and Export



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### GEMS TAPIS

Integrating TAPIS Vision along with GEMS Vision



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