

Appendix B: Community-Based Theories of Change Descriptive Materials

The following documents are included:

- Study Overview
- Data Collection Model
- Concept Mapping Information

The Research & Training Center for Children's Mental Health

Community-Based Theories of Change

A Five-Year Study of Local Policy Implementation

Study Assumption: A clearly articulated, widely held theory of change facilitates local policy implementation.

PURPOSE:

- To identify organizational processes that support successful local policy implementation
- To understand how an organization carries out its mission and goals

Goals:

- To gather information on how organizations conceptualize, operationalize and implement community-based service policies
- To gather information about how organizations transfer policy agendas across stakeholders in local organizations
- To learn more about how organizations sustain their local service strategies over time

METHODS:

This research will be conducted as a multi-site case study that will include concept mapping, document review, direct observation and semi-structured stakeholder interviews.

- Phase I: Sites will be selected based upon their ability to successfully implement their local service-related policy. Data related to theory of change and processes and structures that support policy implementation will be collected.
- Phase II: Additional organizations will be investigated to confirm the patterns of successful local policy implementation identified in Phase I.
- Phase III: Results of the study will be shared with professional and family audiences through workshops, presentations, and consultations, and a published monograph. Technical assistance will be available to organizations requesting assistance. Logic models will be developed for each site in order to identify site specific themes and contrasting findings across sites, and as a tool for technical assistance.



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Concept Mapping Project

<Name of Site>

The <name of site> is participating in a Concept Mapping Project with the University of South Florida's Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health. We think the results will give us a better understanding of how we do our work.

Concept Mapping is a process that allows a group of stakeholders to express their ideas on a certain topic and then look at all of these ideas as they relate to one another. The result of this process is a visual map that illustrates:

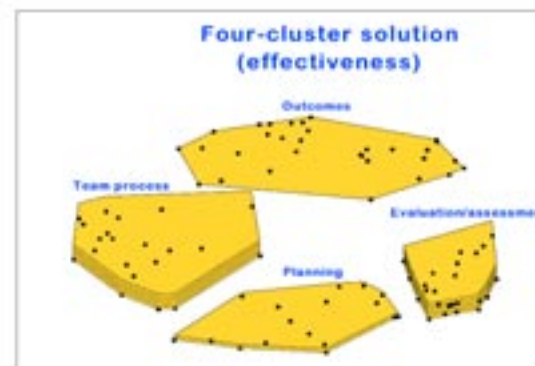
- ⬇ what the group's ideas are
- ⬇ how the ideas are related to one another
- ⬇ how they can be organized or clustered into general concepts
- ⬇ how ideas are rated by the group in terms of importance and effectiveness

In a concept mapping session, the group does a brainstorming exercise together around a particular topic of interest. During this exercise, the participants generate a list of ideas or statements about this topic. When the group's brainstorming is complete, each individual participant gets a list of all the statements that were generated during the session and sorts them together into piles or groups in a way that makes sense to them. Then they take a list of the statements and rate them with regard to importance and effectiveness.

Brainstorming → Sorting → Rating → Map

When all of the participants have sorted and rated their statements, this information is collected and processed using a statistical method called multi-dimensional scaling. This method takes the items in each participant's piles and compares them to one another. The result is a concept map for the ideas generated during the brainstorming session.

Concept maps can be a useful way to look at all of the ideas that a group has on a single topic at one time. The map itself shows how the ideas are grouped together and how the group thinks the ideas relate to one another.



This Concept Mapping Project is being conducted as part of the University of South Florida's study of Community-Based Theories of Change. If you have any questions call: Give local contact number

Community-Based Theories of Change

A Five-year Study of Local Policy Implementation

Purpose: To identify processes that support successful local policy implementation (related to children with serious emotional disturbances and their families)

Assumption: A clearly articulated, widely held theory of change facilitates local policy implementation.

Local Policy

