The Interactive Systems Framework

Webinar presented by
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Implementing What Works

- We have strategies that “work”
- Little research to understand adoption & effective use
- Poor use of resources & scientific discoveries
- Result: more death, disability, and injury
The Research-Practice Link

1. Define the Problem
2. Identify Risk & Protective Factors
3. Develop & Test Prevention Strategies
4. Assure Widespread Adoption

RESEARCH → PRACTICE
The Dissemination/Implementation Process

Develop & Test Prevention Strategies  

Assure Widespread Adoption

RESEARCH  ↔  PRACTICE
Why the black box?

• Training
• Reward Structures
• R&D Bias in Funding
CLOSE THE GAP
If You Build It...

• They may not find it
• They may not feel invited
• They may find it irrelevant
• They may think they already have it
• They may rebuild it into something else
• They may love it & want 10 more

• Excerpts from Emshoff (2008)
What Happens If They DO Find It?

• If evidence-based programs are not implemented with quality, they are not likely to result in the same outcomes that were observed in efficacy and effectiveness studies (e.g., Dubois et al. 2002; Durlak and DuPre 2008; Gottfredson and Gottfredson 2002; Smith et al. 2004)
Evidence based substance abuse and crime prevention programs in schools

The 2011 study found that, “while schools reported implementing a large number of prevention programs during the 2004–05 school year, only a small proportion reported implementing programs (approximately 7.8 percent) supported by research evidence.”
Evidence based substance abuse and crime prevention programs in schools

• Approximately 44.3 percent of the estimated 7.8 percent of research-based programs met minimal standards for fidelity of implementation....

• Therefore, 3.5% of the programs were research-based and well-implemented

Implementation Science

Implementation science = the science of putting ideas into action
Implementation Science

• Field has progressed rapidly in recent years
  – development of a journal “Implementation Science”
  – conferences on implementation such as the National Institutes of Health Conferences on the Science of Implementation and Dissemination, and the Global Implementation Conference.
The Interactive Systems Framework

Developed by Wandersman et al. (2008)

CDC’s Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) noted gap applying available knowledge to prevention of child maltreatment
Synthesis & Translation System: Distilling the Process & the Science
What are we trying to ‘translate’?
ISF Systems: Prevention Synthesis and Translation System

- **Primary functions**
  - To distill research information
  - To prepare the information for implementation by *end users* (e.g., practitioners)

- **Primary activities**
  - Synthesize existing research and translate it for use by practitioners
    - **Synthesis methods**
    - **Goal of synthesis**: identify key characteristics and core elements of programs, processes, principles, or policies
ISF Systems: Prevention Support System

- Primary functions
  
  - **Innovation-specific capacity-building**: assistance related to using a specific innovation
  
  - **General capacity-building**: intended to enhance infrastructure, skills, and motivation of an organization
Prevention Delivery System:
Local Partners Implementing Prevention—

General Capacity Use

SBA-specific Capacity Use
ISF Systems: Prevention Delivery System

• Primary function: carry out the activities necessary for implementation

• Activities
  • Application or use of general and innovation-specific capacities to aid in implementation
    • General capacity
    • Innovation-specific capacity
Important T/TA Implications

Implementing Prevention—Prevention Delivery System
- Organizational Platform (e.g., CBOs vs Coalitions)
- Programs Policies Processes Principles

Supporting the Work—Prevention Support System
- General Capacity Building
- Innovation-Specific Capacity Building

Funding

Macro Policy

Climate
Supporting the Work – Support System

General Capacity Use
Innovation-Specific Capacity Use

Implementing Innovations – Delivery System

General Capacity Use
Innovation-Specific Capacity Use

Distilling the Information – Synthesis & Translation System

Synthesis
Translation

Macro Policy

Climate

Funding

Outcomes

Existing Research and Theory
Strengths of ISF

- Includes activities and functions carried out by people in multiple types of roles

- Highlights need for communication among different stakeholders in the system (funders, practitioners, trainers, researchers)
  - Illustrates potential for important collaboration and communication among stakeholders
Strengths of ISF

• Details structures and functions that work bi-directionally to bridge science and practice.

• Highlights the importance of capacity within the systems involved in the dissemination and implementation of innovations in new settings.
Conclusions

- ISF provides heuristic for understanding key systems, functions, and relationships relevant to dissemination and implementation process
  - Identifies key stakeholders
  - Determines how key stakeholders can interact
- Provides useful way of organizing existing dissemination and implementation theories from different disciplines
Conclusions

- Suggests important areas for new research on dissemination and implementation

- Suggests activities that could improve dissemination and implementation
Resources


• *American Journal of Community Psychology, Volume 50, 2012 – new applications*

• http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/isf.html
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Thank you!