Supporting MST & FFT Implementation with CQI & Evaluation in Maryland

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Overview

- Our Partnership with Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
- Overview of the Multisystemic Therapy (MST) & Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Implementation Project
- Our Approach
- CQI Efforts
- Evaluation Efforts
- Takeaways
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
Process Flowchart

Key:
- Inner circle: Process for regular intake referral
- Diamond: Decision point
- Risk & Needs Assessment
- Dispositional Hearing
- Detained Pending Next Court Hearing

1. Youth Offense or Behavior Requiring System Involvement
   - Regular Referral
   - Intake Interview using Risk Screen
   - Service Referrals

2. Detention Risk Assessment Instrument
   - Presumptive Sentence
   - Detain until Court Appearance
   - Release to Community
   - Alternative to Detention

3. Detention
   - Court Appearance
   - Release Pending Next Court Hearing
   - Detention Pending Next Court Hearing
   - Dispositional Hearing

4. Exit System
   - Case Closed
   - Petition
   - Deny
   - Exit System
   - Treatment Service Plan (TSP)

5. Court Appearance (Detain Incarceration Day)
   - Court Process
   - Court Process for All Youth
   - Return to community

6. Aftercare
   - State’s Attorney’s Office
   - Petition
   - Deny
   - Successful
   - Unsuccessful

7. Adjudicatory Hearing
   - Found Delinquent
   - Social History Investigation
   - Risk & Needs Assessment
   - Dispositional Hearing
   - Detained Pending Next Court Hearing

8. Found Not Delinquent
   - Dispositional Hearing
   - Community Supervision
   - Probation/Affirmative Placement
   - Treatment Service Plan (TSP)

9. Dispositional Hearing
   - Treatment Service Plan (TSP)
   - Supervisory Case Review
   - Need Reassessment
   - Every Six Months
   - Out-of-Home Placement

10. Treatment Service Plan (TSP)
    - TSP Update & Supervisory Case Review
    - Need Reassessment
    - Every Six Months
    - Out-of-Home Placement

11. Dispositional Hearing
    - Treatment Service Plan (TSP)
    - Supervisory Case Review
    - Need Reassessment
    - Every Six Months
    - Out-of-Home Placement

12. Community Supervision
    - Probation/Affirmative Placement
    - Treatment Service Plan (TSP)
    - Supervisory Case Review
    - Need Reassessment
    - Every Six Months
    - Out-of-Home Placement

13. Dispositional Hearing
    - Treatment Service Plan (TSP)
    - Supervisory Case Review
    - Need Reassessment
    - Every Six Months
    - Out-of-Home Placement

14. Dispositional Hearing
    - Treatment Service Plan (TSP)
    - Supervisory Case Review
    - Need Reassessment
    - Every Six Months
    - Out-of-Home Placement

Data Source: DJS Data Resource Guide
## Our Partnership with DJS

### How We Work with DJS
- Research/evaluation
- Implementation TA/coordination
- Information technology system planning/development
- Training
- Grant writing
- Strategic planning
- Events

### Example Areas of Work

**Case Management Practices**
- Detention Risk Assessment
- Maryland Comprehensive Assessment & Service Planning Initiative (MCASP)
- Behavioral Health Diversion Initiative (BHDI)
- Accountability & Incentives Management (AIM)

**Evidence-Based Programs/Service Array**
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Family Centered Treatment (FCT)
MST & FFT Implementation

Starting in 2007, Maryland DJS worked collaboratively with local partners to increase the availability of MST and FFT.

MST & FFT are intensive in-home, family-based therapeutic models; EBPs.

**Goals:** Improving outcomes for youth and families and serving youth in their homes, thereby reducing out-of-home placements.

**Our role:** Implementation/CQI support and evaluation.
Grounding Our Approach: Implementation Science & Frameworks

- Valuable for continuous quality improvement & evaluation
- Example → National Implementation Research Network (NIRN)

**Formula for Success**

Source: The National Implementation Research Network
Must align program expectations in terms of outputs/outcomes with stages.
Data Collection Steps

1. Develop logic model
2. Create data dictionary
   ◦ Reviewed by all stakeholders, consensus on definitions
3. Establish data collection/access
   ◦ At least monthly “cleaning”
4. Establish reporting template(s)
5. Establish MOUs and consent forms, if needed
Using Logic Models to Improve Data Collection

Logic Model for [Program X] CQI

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<tr>
<th>Program Description:</th>
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| Primary Program Goal(s): |

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<tr>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Why we did it: short-term (immediate, weeks-months)</th>
<th>Why we did it: intermediate (months-years)</th>
<th>Why we did it: long-term (impact, years-decades)</th>
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<tr>
<td>What we invest</td>
<td>What we do (activities)</td>
<td>Who we reach (participation)</td>
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<th>Data/Measures</th>
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<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>External Factors</th>
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Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): Systematic Reporting

- Weekly/Monthly – utilization
- Quarterly – utilization, fidelity, discharge outcomes
- Annual – summary of all data; linked longitudinal outcomes
- Stakeholder-specific reports
- Data should drive the use of strategies to improve implementation!
Continuous Quality Improvement Cycle

Source: Derrick-Mills et al., 2014
CQI Conceptual Framework

Source: Derrick-Mills et al., 2014
Evaluation: Going Deeper

Questions:
- Raised by program staff and stakeholders
- Informed by implementation frameworks (e.g., RE-AIM), gaps in the literature
- “What works for whom?”

Considerations:
- Availability of data, sample size and necessary measures
- Appropriate method
- Applicability, the findings can inform something that can be changed and there is a plan/forum where the change can happen
- Effort/resources needed
Evaluation: What Works for Whom?

**Question:** Is MST/FFT effective in reducing reoffending among youth on pre-court, probation, and/or aftercare supervision?

**Sample:** Over 10,000 youth have been referred to MST/FFT since 2008.

**Data:** All collected for administrative purposes
- DJS – prior system involvement, risk/needs, placements, offending
- MST/FFT treatment data

**Method:** Propensity Score Matching, survival analysis

**Generalizability:** Although the aims of this question seek to inform MST/FFT implementation in Maryland, the findings will likely be informative to those grappling with similar decisions, where to invest in these services.
What It Takes (Researchers)

- Relevant skills, expertise, and capacity
- Good management – staff, work priorities, data, etc.
- Good communication
  - Regular meetings/connections with research and program staff/implmenters
- Solid relationships/trust with program partners
- Deep understanding of the system/program
- Deep understanding of the data/data structures
- Knowledge/use of implementation frameworks/science (e.g., NIRN)
- Commitment to evolve and get better
  - Keeping up with technological and methodological advances
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