ASSESSING FIDELITY TO A LOGIC MODEL: THE NATIONAL CROSS-SITE EVALUATION OF JUVENILE DRUG COURTS (JDC) AND RECLAIMING FUTURES (RF) EXPERIENCE

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National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference, Washington, DC
July 27-30, 2015
Presentation Overview

- Logic Models and How to Develop Them
- The JDC/RF Logic Model
- Using Logic Models to Assess Program Implementation Fidelity
- Linking Program Fidelity to Outcomes
- Lessons Learned
Who Are You?

Our Collective Experience & Expertise
Logic Models
The Purpose of Logic Models

- A crosscutting, conceptual thesis for your program
- Relate what you WANT to do/change to what you WILL do, what you’ll ACCOMPLISH by doing it, and how you’ll MEASURE what you did
- Known & understood by entire team: If you don’t know your mission, you don’t have one
- Descriptive AND predictive/aspirational
- Accountability—Link activities to something you can measure
- Assess new program components
What’s in a Logic Model

- **Problem, Sub-Problem**: What you’re trying to address with your drug court
  - Example: “Drug-involved youth in the juvenile justice system”

- **Vision/Mission/Goals/Objectives**: What you want to do with your drug court
  - Example: “Increase the number of drug-free offenders”

- **Activities**: What you’re doing to attain your goals & objectives
  - Example: “Evidence-based treatment to 25 clients with A-CRA”

- **Outputs/Outcomes/“Impacts”**: The measurable effects of the program
  - Example: Graduation % or the # of enrollees remaining drug free at time X
SAMPLE LOGIC MODEL PROGRESSION

PROBLEM

VISION

MISSION

GOALS

OBJECTIVES

KEY ACTIVITIES

OUTPUT MEASURES

OUTCOME MEASURES

SUB-PROBLEM(S)
How to Make and Use a Logic Model

- Stakeholders, Stakeholders, Stakeholders!
- The journey is the destination (or at least part of it)
- More impactful when crafted and utilized as a group
- A living document: Revisit to keep it “fresh”
- Once you’ve made your model, use it to…
  - Look across systems at the IMPACT of your court and the CHANGE caused
  - Determine how you will measure the effect of any change
  - Remind the team of your common goals
  - Monitor “conceptual alignment”
The JDC/RF Logic Model
Background

- National Cross-Site Evaluation of JDC/RF
- Assessing efficacy and effectiveness of combining JDC and RF
- Need a model or representation of the integration
- Developed Integrated JDC/RF Logic Model
  - Training tool for JDC/RF initiative
  - Strategic planning and implementation tool for sites
  - Research tool for national evaluation
The Models

Reclaiming Futures

1) Initial Screening
2) Initial Assessment
3) Service Coordination
4) Initiation
5) Engagement
6) Transition

Juvenile Drug Court: Strategies in Practice

1) Collaborative Planning
2) Teamwork
3) Clearly Defined Target Population & Eligibility Criteria
4) Judicial Involvement and Supervision
5) Monitoring & Evaluation
6) Community Partnerships
7) Comprehensive Treatment Planning
8) Developmentally Appropriate Services
9) Gender-Appropriate Services
10) Cultural Competence
11) Focus on Strengths
12) Family Engagement
13) Educational Linkages
14) Drug Testing
15) Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions
16) Confidentiality
The Integrated JDC/RF Model

- JDC and RF are complementary models
  - Both focus on the juvenile population
  - Both contain evidence-based components necessary for successful outcomes
- Many similarities, but how do the models differ?
  - JDC details program components while RF addresses elements in system approach
- What is gained by combining the two models?

An integrated model embedding JDC’s components with RF’s system approach
Creating a Unified JDC/RF Model

- Modification of typical logic model format
- Combined list of JDC/RF activities
- Incorporated site-specific process data and JDC/RF initiative RFP
- Logic model as a tool for discussion
**PROBLEM**

Youth with substance use disorders and criminal behavior

**OBJECTIVES**

- Enhance capacity of drug court to increase youth and family functioning
- Improve systems to treat and support youth with substance use disorders and criminal behavior
- Build community partnerships to ensure a robust referral network and program sustainability
- Increase the number of youth who are both drug-free and crime-free
- Promote a healthy transition to adulthood

**SUB-PROBLEMS**

- Mental health conditions
- Trauma exposure
- Low self-esteem
- Poor life skills
- Educational challenges
- Family challenges
- Environmental risk
- Financial challenges

**KEY ACTIVITIES**

- Community engagement and collaborative partnerships
- Judicial leadership aligned with JDC and RF concepts
- Collaborative leadership and structured teamwork
- Defined eligibility criteria
- Balance confidentiality procedures and collaboration
- Comprehensive screening and ongoing assessment
- Strength-based care coordination
- Individualized evidence-based treatment services
- Services appropriate to youths' gender, culture, and development
- Engage family in all program components
- Regular, random drug testing
- Strength-based incentives and sanctions
- Program monitoring and evaluation
- Educational linkages
- Successful initiation, engagement and completion of treatment
- Implement community transition plan

**OUTPUT MEASURES**

- #/% Community partnerships formed and active
- #/% JDC staff trained in JDC/RF processes and procedures
- #/% Staff certified in conducting full biopsychosocial clinical assessments
- % Participation of judge in RF judicial activities
- Data are/are not shared between involved partners
- #/% Screenings, by screening tool
- #/% Assessments, by assessment tool
- Staffing meeting composition
- #/% Youth with individualized treatment service plans
- Average length of time from referral to initiation/engagement
- #/% Treatment plans with family involvement
- # Urinalysis screenings and % negative
- # Youth referred to and enrolled in JDC/RF
- #/% Youth initiating and engaging in treatment
- #/% Youth in detention and days in detention
- #/% Youth referred to and involved in community programs

**OUTCOME MEASURES**

**Short-Term**

- #/% Youth successfully completing treatment
- #/% Youth graduating from JDC/RF
- #/% Youth remaining crime- and arrest-free during and at completion of the program
- #/% Youth retained in JDC/RF for the minimum amount of time designated by the program
- #/% Youth exhibiting a reduction in drug use during and at completion of the program
- #/% Youth in educational programs during and at completion of the program
- #/% Youth engaged in a drug-free pro-social activity during and at completion of the program
- #/% Youth employed during and at completion of the program

**Long-Term**

- #/% Youth who remaining drug-free
- #/% Youth remaining crime- and arrest-free
- #/% Youth without probation violations
- #/% Drug-involved youth in the JJ system
- #/% Youth graduating from high-school/receiving GEDs
- #/% Youth in stable living conditions
- #/% Youth engaged in a drug-free pro-social activity
- #/% Youth employed

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*Six months after program completion*
Step 1: Define the Evaluation Focus

- What component of the logic model will contain the information necessary to answer your specific questions?

- Consider what needs to be measured, what type of data are needed, and how the data are collected

- JDC/RF Evaluation Illustration: we were measuring implementation, so key activities became the focus
PROBLEM: #/% Drug-involved youth in the juvenile justice (JJ) system for law violations

Youth with substance use disorders and criminal behavior

SUB-PROBLEMS
Mental health conditions
Trauma exposure
Low self-esteem
Poor life skills
Educational challenges
Family challenges
Environmental risk
Financial challenges

OBJECTIVES
Work across systems to provide coordinated care and reduce the #/% of drug-involved youth in the JJ system
Implement evidence-based adolescent substance abuse treatment modality or modalities
Utilize community resources for successful youth transition
Increase youth and family efficacy in making healthy lifestyle choices
Cultivate continuous program and individual accountability

GOALS
Enhance capacity of drug court to increase youth and family functioning
Improve systems to treat and support youth with substance use disorders and criminal behavior
Build community partnerships to ensure a robust referral network and program sustainability
Increase the number of youth who are both drug-free and crime-free
Promote a healthy transition to adulthood

KEY ACTIVITIES
Community engagement and collaborative partnerships
Judicial leadership aligned with JDC and RF concepts
Collaborative leadership and structured teamwork
Defined eligibility criteria
Balance confidentiality procedures and collaboration
Comprehensive screening and ongoing assessment
Strength-based care coordination
Individualized evidence-based treatment services
Services appropriate to youths’ gender, culture, and development
Engage family in all program components
Regular, random drug testing
Strength-based incentives and sanctions
Program monitoring and evaluation
Educational linkages
Successful initiation, engagement and completion of treatment
Implement community transition plan

OUTPUT MEASURES
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Staffing meeting composition
#/% Youth with individualized treatment service plans
Average length of time from referral to initiation/engagement
#/% Treatment plans with family involvement
# Urinalysis screenings and % negative
# Youth referred to and enrolled in JDC/RF
#/% Youth initiating and engaging in treatment
#/% Youths in detention and days in detention
#/% Youth referred to and involved in community programs
# Pro-social activities provided to youth, parents, caregivers, and families

OUTCOME MEASURES
Short-Term

#/% Youth successfully completing treatment
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Long-Term

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#/% Youth employed

ⁱSix months after program completion
Step 2: Develop Performance Indicators

- Select indicators that are direct, specific, useful, practical, and relevant
- Also consider the data you have or will have available
- Indicators are often quantitative, such as amounts and percentages, but qualitative indicators can work too
- The development process takes time to do correctly, with indicators often needing to be refined several times.
- *JDC/RF Evaluation Illustration*: indicator development process
### Example: Performance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Site 1</th>
<th>Site 2</th>
<th>Site 3</th>
<th>Site 4</th>
<th>Site 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Judicial Leadership</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B.1 Is the Judicial Fellow the JDC/RF presiding official?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B.2 Does the JDC/RF presiding official participate in Change Team Meetings?</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.3 What is the frequency of the JDC/RF presiding official's participation in Change Team Meetings?</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.4 Does the JDC/RF Team view the JDC/RF presiding official as a leader?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Presiding official refers to a judge, magistrate, or other designee.*
Step 3: Collect Data

- Choose data elements with coding and analysis in mind
  - Items that can be coded easily for analysis
- Data collected should be responsive to evaluation questions
- Conduct quality assurance (QA) of data
- JDC/RF Evaluation Illustration: qualitative and quantitative data sources; item/response types; QA
Step 4: Scoring

- Develop a scale that can be compared within each (and possibly across all) dimension
- Convert all data to coded value system
- Discuss and further refine indicators for consistent coding, as needed

**JDC/RF Evaluation Illustration:**
- Single site: value system of 0-1 to score each key activity; scores were averaged to generate subscale implementation scores for each key activity
- Cross-site: present in consistent format for ease of comparison
## Example: Scoring

### Judicial Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B.1 Is the Judicial Fellow the JDC/RF presiding official?</th>
<th>B.2 Does the JDC/RF presiding official participate in Change Team Meetings?</th>
<th>B.3 What is the frequency of the JDC/RF presiding official's participation in Change Team Meetings?</th>
<th>B.4 Does the JDC/RF Team view the JDC/RF presiding official as a leader?</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site 1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site 3</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site 5</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Presiding official refers to a judge, magistrate, or other designee.
Step 5: Assess Fidelity Based on Score

- Utilize subscale scores to assess implementation fidelity
- Cross-site comparisons can also be conducted

**JDC/RF Evaluation Illustration:**

- Single site: assessed key activity implementation fidelity using subscale scores
- Cross-site: presented in consistent format for cross-site comparisons
# Example: Assessing Fidelity

## Successful Initiation, Engagement, and Tx Completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>O.1</th>
<th>O.2</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Implement Community Transition</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>0.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site 4</td>
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<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.45</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Metrics:

**O.1** What percentage of youth have at least one service contact within 14 days of assessment? *(Percentage)*; **Source: GAIN; Process Data*

**O.2** What percentage of youth have 3 or more sessions within 30 days of admission? *(Percentage)*; **Source: GAIN; Process Data*

**P.1** Is a transition plan developed for each participant? *(1=Y / 0=N)*; **Source: Process Data**
Step 6: Linking Program Fidelity to Outcomes

- Utilize implementation fidelity scores to monitor fidelity and change over time.
- Utilize implementation fidelity scores to assist in interpreting participant outcomes.
- Create feedback loops and share results across the team for input on interpretation, identification of strengths, efforts for sustaining success, and potential areas for continuous improvement.

JDC/RF Evaluation Illustration:
- Cross-site: assess whether fidelity corresponds to differences in outcomes.
Summary and Conclusions
Lessons Learned

- Make your logic model, then keep using it!
- Process takes time... more time than you expect
- However, there are manageable ways to incorporate regular fidelity checks to inform work
- Contextual factors are key when interpreting results
- Process is consistent with team approach
- Results provide evidence valuable to funders, stakeholders, and program sustainability
Questions? Contact Alison Greene, 520-295-9339 x206, greene@email.arizona.edu

Disclaimer: The development of this presentation is funded in part by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress-contract number LCFRD11C0007 and is supported by Grant Number 2013-DC-BX-0081 awarded by OJJDP, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policies of the Department of Justice or the Library of Congress; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Acknowledgements: SIROW wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the evaluation sites and the evaluation partners, Chestnut Health Systems (CHS) and Carnevale Associates, LLC (CALLC) to this National Cross-Site Evaluation. In addition, SIROW is appreciative of support from the Library of Congress - Federal Research Division, OJJDP, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Reclaiming Futures National Program Office.