


Implementation Science Research Initiatives at TCU

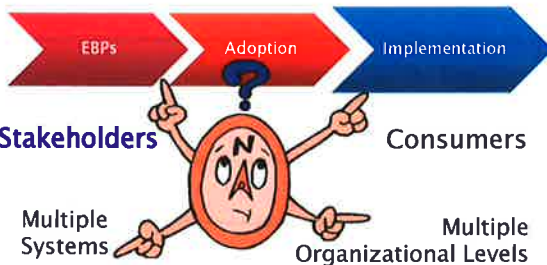
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Presentation to Tarrant County Reentry Coalition Feb. 27, 2014

Implementation Science is a field of research that seeks to understand and improve the ways in which evidence-based practices are implemented in real-world settings. It is a multidisciplinary field that draws on research from psychology, sociology, anthropology, and other disciplines. The field is concerned with the barriers and facilitators to implementation and with the development of strategies to overcome these barriers and enhance implementation. The field is also concerned with the evaluation of implementation strategies and with the development of implementation science research programs.


Why do we study implementation?



EBPs → Adoption → Implementation


Stakeholders Consumers

Multiple Systems Multiple Organizational Levels



CJDATS is funded by NIDA in collaboration with SAMHSA and BJA


Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies CJDATS 2



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What is CJDATS 2?


- ▶ 5-year national initiative by NIDA to fund research on drug treatment service delivery in CJ settings (2009-2014)
- ▶ Focus is on improving *implementation of best practices* in three areas:
 - Assessment and case planning
 - HIV services
 - Medication-assisted treatment (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine)
- ▶ Goal is to develop and test models of planned organizational change strategies



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MAT in Community Correctional Environments

Organizational Level Study




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What is MAT?



- ▶ Use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to the treatment of substance use disorders



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Intervention


- ▶ Test: Interorganizational change team strategy + training (EXP arm) vs. training (Control arm)
- ▶ Change teams
 - Review policy & procedures
 - Identify barriers & facilitators
 - Propose changes aimed at increasing referrals to MAT for clients in need
 - Implement changes
- ▶ Data collection
 - Interviews
 - Assessments
 - Aggregate agency records



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Papers in the Works...

Topic
• <i>CJDATS 2 MATICCE Protocol (Health and Justice Journal, 2013)</i>
• Effectiveness of intervention in improving IOR service coordination
• Effectiveness of the intervention on referrals to MAT
• Effectiveness of training intervention in improving staff perceptions of MAT
• Fidelity of the intervention in relation to outcomes
• CJ staff opinions about MAT and the effect on willingness or ability to increase referrals

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Implementation Research Challenges



- ▶ Study design
 - Research in differing systems
- ▶ Implementation timeline
 - Adequacy for real world setting
- ▶ Demand on staff time
 - Meetings
 - Surveys and interviews
- ▶ Coordination
 - Scheduling meetings
 - Competing priorities
- ▶ Staff turnover

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CJDATS 2 Client Study

Study Design

- Enrollment criteria: substance abuse disorder, parolee or probationer, participating in counseling and behavioral therapy-based substance abuse treatment, "MAT eligible" (opiates or alcohol = primary substance of abuse).
- Novel data collection method: Participants make daily telephone calls to an interactive voice response (IVR) survey system over a 2-week period during MAT treatment. They answer questions about previous day events including stressors, psychological functioning, substance use, problems attending treatment, and MAT adherence.

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Preliminary Findings

Scheduled MAT Clinic Visit & Use of Illegal Drugs to Cope w/Stress

"did you take illegal drugs because of stress"

	Did not use illegal drugs because of stress		Used illegal drugs because of stress (today, or both)	
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
Missed Scheduled MAT Clinic Visit	12 (13%)	18 (20%)		
Kept Scheduled MAT Clinic Visit	42 (46%)	10 (21%)		

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Preliminary Findings

Type of MAT

90-day treatment adherence	Suboxone [n = 60]	Vivitrol [n = 36]
	26 (43.3)	32 (88.9)



Closing thoughts...

- ✓ Predicting *no shows* - use of illegal drugs to cope with stress prior to the MAT clinic visit was associated with missing the scheduled MAT clinic visit
- ✓ Given the favorable retention findings - current study supports efforts to use Vivitrol® to address alcohol and/or opiate abuse with offenders in outpatient substance abuse treatment
- ✓ Further research into the factors that influence the effectiveness of MAT is needed



Presenter Bios...



Jennifer Pankow relocated to Fort Worth in 2007, entering the TCU Psychology Graduate Program after completing a Masters degree in Psychology

at Northern Illinois University. In her role as an IBR research assistant, Jennifer collaborated on CJDATS and DRR Projects, while pursuing her research with correctional populations – examining the relationship between asocial functioning and substance abuse treatment engagement in a therapeutic group context. These topics are the foundation of her interest in risk assessment and treatment responsibility for offender populations. Dr. Pankow maintains a license as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) and brings her clinical experience in prison-based adult substance abuse treatment and case management to her research activities at the IBR. In 2011, Jennifer accepted a position as an Associate Research Scientist and currently serves as Project Director for CJDATS.



Julie Gray joined the Institute of Behavioral Research (IBR) at TCU in 2003. Her background includes education, training, and computer science.

She has combined her interests and skills to address practical problems to meet large scale data collection needs by adapting computer-based applications to fit the needs of the addiction treatment field. Julie designed and tested the TCU Core Forms for IBR research projects and developed “user-friendly” TCU reporting tools for use by treatment professionals. She has conducted over 50 trainings in the use of these TCU assessment tools nation-wide. Currently, Dr. Gray manages a study supplement to CJDATS that examines client-level outcomes among probationers and parolees receiving medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

