Implementation Science and Active Implementation Frameworks

Getting Past the Lingo

Implementation Science: A process for moving from research to practice, based on studies and evaluation of the most effective way to change/refine practices and systems.

Success in Implementing New Practices:

- Using implementation science – 80% success in 3 years
- Without implementation science – 14% success in 17 years

Active Implementation Frameworks: Key components that build the capacity and support necessary to implement and sustain the use of evidence-based practices in real-world settings. There are five of these frameworks or components:

Implementation Science Terminology	In Real Words	Description	Examples
1. Usable Interventions	Defined practices (WHAT)	The practice/intervention is clearly defined so you know what it looks like and how to implement it consistently and with fidelity (as intended). The practice or intervention can be taught and coached.	The training, materials and book by Dathan Rush and M'Lisa Shelden clearly define what coaching looks like, the activities involved, characteristics of effective coaches, etc.
2. Implementation Teams	Implementation teams (WHO)	A structure for organized implementation assistance. There is shared responsibility and accountability for planning and implementing the new practice and for communication.	Local/regional teams that have formed around coaching to plan, oversee, problem-solve; State Leadership Teams forming for the SSIP
3. Implementation Drivers	Capacity and infrastructure (HOW)	The components (competency, organization, and leadership) and activities necessary for successful implementation.	Regional coaching trainings; improvements to ITOTS to collect and report comprehensive child outcome data; local system manager communicates expectations about use of coaching to all providers
4. Implementation Stages	Implementation process (HOW)	A purposeful approach to managing change, building capacity and sustaining the new practice. Stages are exploration, installation, initial implementation, full	With coaching, some local systems are in the installation stage, still in the process of training staff. Some are in the initial implementation phase, with staff just starting to use

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		implementation.	their new coaching skills.
5. Improvement Cycles	Evaluation plan	The routine review of data to support purposeful process of change. Uses the Plan, Do, Study, Act process and ensures feedback loops between practitioners and policy makers.	As providers begin using coaching practices, they report to the State Office that the Activity Note does not prompt documentation of the joint plan. State Office revises the Activity Note to support providers in implementing coaching practices.

Learn More at the Active Implementation Hub:

- Implementation Quick Start (takes about 5 minutes) – Find it under the AI Lessons column at http://implementation.fpg.unc.edu/modules-and-lessons
- Module 1 – An Overview of Active Implementation (takes 45 – 60 minutes) – Find it under the AI Modules column at http://implementation.fpg.unc.edu/modules-and-lessons