

Building for Success: Mental Health Research and Knowledge Exchange in Ontario



Heather Bullock, MSc., Manager, Knowledge Exchange, HSRCU, CAMH

Aimee Watson, MSW, (during study period) Senior Policy Analyst, Mental Health and Addictions Unit, MOHLTC



Presentation Overview

Constructing a successful research-government project is like building a house

1. **Project Overview**
 - Background & Research
2. **The SEEI Experience**
 - How SEEI was built from beginning to end
3. **What it means for your work**
 - Learnings & Discussion




Background – Context

- Significant entry of new funds into community mental health system 2004-2007 (50% increase in 4 years)
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) committed to assess impact of funds on capacity through routine accountability reporting and evaluation research
- MOHLTC requested a proposal from the Health Systems Research and Consulting Unit (HSRCU), Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)




Background - Project Overview



System Enhancement Evaluation Initiative (SEEI)

Phase I Research Studies


- Impact Study
- Matryoshka Study

Phase II Research Studies

- Court outreach – Ottawa
- Fidelity and Recovery ACT study – Hamilton
- Police mobile crisis services: review of three models-London
- Crisis system network-Waterloo/Wellington
- Integrated crisis-case management-Kingston
- Service match (CCAR)-Kingston
- Community-based discharge planning – Sarnia

Devising a Plan




To build a sound structure, it's important to get it right from the start

Architects (HSRCU and MOHLTC) envisioned evaluation project

Vision of significant participation and collaboration

- Integrated knowledge translation approach
- Partnership with community agencies on all research teams
- Opportunities for Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) and Partner Organizations to provide and feedback throughout
- Lasting provincial knowledge exchange function would be built; the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Knowledge Exchange Network (OMHAKEN)



Finding the Right People to do the Work

Partners enhance the quality of research produced & help generate interest across the system

Subcontractors/Trades:

- Researchers – 12 principal investigators, 17 community partners
- Ontario Mental Health Foundation
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Provincial organizations (OFCMHAP, CMHA, ON, OPDI, CAMH)
- Community mental health providers
- Consumer/survivors
- Families, and
- Local Health Integration Networks

General Contractors:

- Knowledge Brokers oversaw general operations




Architectural Plans & Laying the Foundation

Project planning & design can become a catalyst for collaboration & engagement

— Reporting Relationship
 - - - Communication/Coordination link
 Funding Relationship

7

Framing, Plumbing & Electrical

Communication throughout project helped build & sustain the structure & processes

a) Key documents outlining roles and responsibilities:

- Memorandum of Understanding between HSRCU, OMHF and MOHLTC
- Terms of Reference for Executive Advisory Committee (EAC)

b) Meetings:

- MOHLTC and CC met quarterly
- EAC met monthly (YR 1) and then quarterly
- CC met monthly
- Meetings with OMHF on as needed basis

c) Reporting

- Quarterly and annual reports
- Interim report (Spring 2007), supplemental reports
- Final report (March 2009)

8

Drywall & Finishes

SEEI is complete, but in some ways the work is just beginning to share the findings and build on the relationships formed

Ontario Mental Health & Addictions Knowledge Exchange Network

- Lasting structure that fosters interactions between stakeholders and researchers to promote the understanding & application of evidence for program & system improvement

Dissemination activities:

- KT events
- Release of Final report
- Tailored short supplemental reports on specific topics of interest
- Academic (conferences, journal articles)
- Further exploration of what makes this kind of collaborative research project work
- Researcher/provider/consumer connection list

9

Main Messages

1. Things took longer than planned
2. Process was facilitated by clear and consistent communication
3. Informal process help guide formal structures, flexible structure
4. Understand the reality of working across different environments
5. Do not be afraid of negative findings (importance of evaluation)
6. There is value in working in partnership

10

Key Messages

- Researchers – time investment is worth it
- Consumers – can push the research agenda and contribute to research by offering expertise and insight
- Providers – unique perspective on system change
- Funders/policy makers – collaborative research and multi-year evaluation yields useful results

11

Visit us! www.ehealthontario.ca

SEEI Partners

- Centre for Addition and Mental Health
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs
- Ontario Mental Health Foundation

A community mental health research initiative funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in partnership with the Centre for Addition and Mental Health, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario, Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs and the Ontario Mental Health Foundation.

8466666
8466666
8466666
8466666
8466666