

The sustainability and long-term outcomes of knowledge translation projects: A 3-year follow-up of the GAIN Collaborative Network Project

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Outline

- Background
- Research Questions
- Methods
- Findings

Background

- Recent focus on program sustainability and long-term effects of projects aimed to implement new practices.
- Need for an unifying framework for the study of sustainability.
- Lack of studies which focus on community-based interventions on mental health
- Need to focus on sustainability of community capacity.

Research questions

- ⌘ What study components and benefits were maintained in the participating agencies following the end of the project?
- ⌘ How did the project affect the collaboration between agencies and impacted their future activities?
- ⌘ What are the innovation, organizational and community factors that impacted the continuation of project components beyond the end of the project?

GAIN-Collaborating Network Project

∞ Participating agencies

- 10 community and hospital agencies from the Mental Health and Addiction Youth Network (MAYN)

∞ Objectives

- Identify the rate of concurrent substance use and mental health concerns among youth aged 12-25 presenting for service to cross sectoral youth-serving agencies
- Identify gaps in youth services
- Build capacity in front line service providers
- Strengthen a community based cross-sectoral network

∞ Timeline

- Late 2008 - Development and staff training
- January - July 2009 data collection
- September 2009 – Data presented back to the network

∞ Results

- Identified high rates of concurrent disorders for youth
- Positive changes in the attitudes, knowledge and practices of service providers

Sustainability framework

Sustainability

1. Continuing the benefits of the original program for clients.
2. Continuing the original program components and activities.
3. Maintaining the community-level partnerships
4. Continuing new organizational practices, procedures, and policies started during the program .
5. Sustaining attention to the issue.
6. Program diffusion and replication in other sites.

Factors

- ∞ Innovation
 - Adaptability
 - Cost
 - Support from evidence
- ∞ Organization
 - Fit with organizational priorities and operating procedures
 - Presence of a champion
 - Leadership and agency resources
 - Key stakeholders believe it to be beneficial
- ∞ Community factors
 - External funding
 - Partnerships and resources

Methods

☞ Mixed methods case study

- Case selection – all participating agencies from the GAIN-CN
- Timing – 3 years following the end of the project

☞ Data gathering methods:

- Semi-structured key informant telephone interviews (30-60 min)
- Document review

☞ Purposeful and snowball sampling

- Identified agency leads of the GAIN-CN project
- Asked to recommend another person from agency for interview

Data Analysis

- ∞ Deductive coding / directed content analysis
 - Coding scheme was developed from the Scheirer & Dearing (2011) framework and the sustainability and implementation literature
 - Data was categorized and organized into themes.

- ∞ Credibility

- Triangulation with document review
- Peer review

Who responded

- ✎ 8 key informants from 6 agencies that participated in GAIN-CN
 - 2 executive directors
 - 3 program manager or clinical supervisors
 - 3 clinicians

- ✎ GAIN-CN involvement
 - 5 Agency leads
 - 1 service provider originally involved with the project
 - 2 program managers who joined after the project

- ✎ Gender: 7 women, 1 man

Sustainability 1

1. CONTINUING BENEFITS FOR CLIENTS

- *“Being able to flag patients who might actually endorse some of the disordered eating symptoms that our counsellors might not otherwise be screening for right away.”*

2 CONTINUING ORIGINAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OR COMPONENTS.

- *“I think it continued in that we took that knowledge and expertise, and we continued to use the tool just as I described earlier, and we now applied that knowledge and expertise to use in the OCAN.”*
- *“Sort of the theoretical concerns that were expressed earlier in the project really haven’t been borne out, so I think that’s been useful, because in actual fact, people have seen that it doesn’t seem to be a deterrent.”*

Sustainability 2

3 MAINTAINING COMMUNITY-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

- *“Based on two studies, where the same thing panned out with transitional age youth, the MAYN network has gotten a formal working group on specifically to do work around transitional age youth and how to address the barriers faced by young people trying to make the jump from children’s mental health to adult mental health services.”*

4. MAINTAINING NEW ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES THAT WERE STARTED DURING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.

- *“Then after that study ended, we actually made the decision to buy our own license....”*
- *“Yeah. So, we’ve kind of changed our whole program. Was it about the GAIN screener? No, but it was a piece in that process.”*

Sustainability 3

5. SUSTAINING ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM.

- *“We wanted to share our experiences and actually we wanted to focus on using the GAIN and being able to look up the information that used and how it could be used within a program to kind of help with both the benefits of the GAIN itself in that particular setting, because we were presenting at a meeting that was talking about how to actually identify high risk use, so we wanted to present it as a feasible and acceptable screening tool. ”*

6. PROGRAM DIFFUSION AND REPLICATION IN OTHER SITES.

- *“So it’s currently actually part of a project that we’re moving forward to actually have it be a cross hospital screener for teenagers who come to [agency name]. So we are looking at perhaps rolling it out more broadly within the organization in the context of a research project at this point in time.”*

Factors	Positive	Negative
Innovation		
Adaptability		
Cost		
Support from evidence (tool effectiveness)		
Organization		
Fit with organizational priorities Gain-SS Collaboration	4 3	1 lack of fit with priorities
Presence of a champion *	1	1 Lack of champion
Leadership and agency resources Staff turn over Leadership	3 (no turnover) 2 leadership support	2 turnover impact 2
Key stakeholders believe it to be beneficial Lack of communication		2
Community		
External funding Service mandates		1 lack of funding 5
Partnerships and resources	5	

* Was not captured well through the interview process

Conclusions

- ☞ Identified sustained components and outcomes, which may have been missed without the use of the framework
- ☞ Projects components were sustained independently
- ☞ Agencies reported improve collaboration and engagement in new collaborative projects

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Thank you !

Any Questions ?

