Fidelity: Data Collection and Use
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Here are a few things to think about:
- Programs implementing evidence-based practices have a record of increasing successful outcomes
- All our best research shows that programs with a demonstrated evidence base are more effective when they are implemented with fidelity
- Without measuring fidelity of implementation, it is impossible to determine what's working or whether disappointing results are due to (a) **faulty program theory** or (b) **faulty program implementation**
  - Program theory = planned link between program activities and outcomes (logic model, theory of action/change)
  - Program implementation = implementation of the program plan
- Most programs are complex, multi-faceted, multi-site, and are composed of multiple components
- Too often, not enough data is collected on the program components to identify what steps must be taken for continuous improvement clearly

Example - Head Start Statewide Scale-Up

1st –Identify Program Components

Structure		Processes	
Logic Model or Theory of Change	**Knowledge Needed to Implement the Program with Fidelity**	**Expected Implementation Steps**	**Participant Actions and Reactions**
Who, What, When, Where, and How Long?	EBPs, Professional Development, Training, Coaching	Behaviors, Actions, and Responses the Implementer is Expected to Use	Behaviors, Actions, and Responses the Participant is Expected to Use

2nd – Determine What Measures Are Needed to Assess all Components
(e.g., fidelity checklists, observations, rating forms, activity logs, surveys, interviews, focus groups)

3rd – Measure and Report
Determine the fidelity standard for each component, collect data, and create a fidelity report
Head Start's Example Format:

Components	Actions Needed	Data Needed	Fidelity Standard	Quarterly Report Data
Link family to the services that will benefit their child	Referrals to appropriate services based on intake screening assessment	# of children referred # of families referred	90% referred when needed	# referred Site 1_____ Site 2_____ Site 3_____

4th – Data Use
- Determine where performance falls short of the fidelity standard and investigate why
- Determine where the model needs to improve and how
  - Does fidelity need to improve? How do we improve fidelity?
  - Are evidence-based practices that are implemented with fidelity failing? Are new components needed? Does the context need to change?

Prompts for Discussion

1. What do the data tell you, and how do you use them?

2. How do you share with people on the local level?

3. How do you celebrate your data?

4. How do you use your data to make future decisions?