

Trial of a program specific implementation framework

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Abstract

The understanding that an evidence-based program doesn't translate its potential benefits into practice just by itself has led to growing research in implementation science and the development of the Triple P Implementation Framework. This framework has been trialed in a German county and has proven helpful for the implementation process.

Background

Prevention programs that are ready for dissemination still have a barrier to take: An effective and sustainable implementation. Despite the growing development and dissemination of EBP, these programs are often not used as intended. Working toward a solution to this challenge, Triple P International (TPI), the purveyor of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® (Triple P), developed a collaborative consultation framework to enhance the effective implementation of the program. This framework is based on Implementation Science (specifically NIRN and RE-AIM) as well as experience in the field.

The Framework

The Triple P Implementation Framework is flexible and follows the key principles of Triple P – self-regulation and minimal sufficiency. The five phases correspond to key decision-making and concurrent activity sequences that reflect the flow of effective implementation of Triple P. Each phase contains a set of critical activities, guiding questions, discussion areas, tools and resources. Implementation consultants work with the community to ensure successful implementation. The level of support offered depends on the capacity and needs of the community.

Trial of the Framework

A German county uses Triple P in one of its social districts as a pilot for a population rollout throughout the county. The DFK foundation (Deutsches Forum für Kriminalprävention) funded the implementation support in this pilot region in order to test the applicability and usefulness of a program-specific implementation framework. An implementation consultant (IC) supports the implementing organizations in the implementation process with guiding questions, tools, knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, a set of workshops has been offered to the practitioners in addition to the Triple P training they received. To share the experience, the IC reports regularly on the process, challenges and solutions in an online blog (url below).

Outcomes

The presence of a dedicated implementation consultant throughout the process and the use of structured tools and guidelines have proven helpful for the implementation process. The merge of the expertise of the implementing organization with the IC's knowledge has ensured foresightful and definite planning and has enhanced the finding of solutions for challenges and barriers. These have been especially valuable:

- The roles and functions of local coordinators and implementation consultants have been discussed and clarified early in the process. The relationship is being nurtured by respect and empowerment. The IC supports the coordinator, but he is never taking over his responsibilities.
- A structured briefing and recruitment process for the workforce has been developed and implemented in order to make sure that professionals are well informed, able to select the appropriate training course and prepared for implementing the program at their workplace.
- Leaders and Supervisors have been explicitly involved in this process.
- A decision has been made that every participating agency needs to train at least two professionals in order to enable peer support and facilitate the introduction of the new program to the workplace.
- Pre-accreditation workshops have been delivered as an option for professionals between training and accreditation. They have been perceived as a very helpful opportunity to practice, refine and deepen Triple P understanding and skills. In addition, clinical workshops will take place after some months of delivery of the program.
- Planning for a sustainable implementation and maintenance of the program has been initiated very early.



Conclusions and Future Directions

The development and trial of the Triple P Implementation Framework illustrates the value of integrating science with experience and the unique contribution purveyor organizations can have on the implementation of EBPs.

While the present trial was limited to qualitative methods, future research aims to examine the effectiveness of the framework in a large-scale rollout of Triple P, based on a research agenda exploring identified factors and processes associated with effective implementation and outcomes for organizations and families



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