

The Building Bridges Initiative: Data-Informed Practices and Tools

This workshop will provide an overview of a measurement framework being developed by the National Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) Outcomes Workgroup, able to assess: process indicators related to family driven, youth guided, culturally competent, community linked and trauma informed care; point in time status indicators related to functional outcome; and readiness factors for entering into post-discharge outcomes measurement. The presenters, including a family member, were all involved in the development of the framework. This abstract provides contextual information and further details.

BBI has been working for over ten years to transform residential interventions through integration of system of care principles and practices, including family-driven, youth-guided, culturally and linguistically competent, trauma-informed, and community partnership approaches. Since its inception, the BBI Outcomes Workgroup (OW) has convened researchers, providers, policy makers, family members and youth to develop measurement instruments for assessing implementation of BBI best practices and create methodology for measuring post-discharge outcomes. These include:

- The BBI Self-Assessment Tool (SAT), an instrument assessing practice-level indicators of the BBI principles measured using a Likert scale survey format. The specific indicators were thoroughly vetted, including family members and youth; they identify a set of unique practices that individually and collectively involve youth and family perspectives in all aspects of a residential intervention.
- The Post Residential Discharge Outcomes Survey was designed in partnership with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work, for use in a study of the feasibility of measuring post-discharge outcomes. Recently published (Weiner, Lieberman, Heufner, Thompson, Blau, 2018), it found that it is definitely feasible to collect these data without any additional resources. The survey is a phone-administered point in time functional status assessment that can be used to correlate with the SAT or other practice measures for quality improvement purposes.
- The Residential Provider Post Discharge Outcomes Monitoring Readiness Assessment is a tool that residential programs and partners can use to assess capacity and readiness for post-discharge measurement.

These tools provide a rich opportunity for residential programs to work with family members, youth, and community partners to identify quality improvement opportunities and enhance measurement capacity. They afford a platform for meaningfully engaging youth and family members in the treatment process on the individual, organizational, and system levels, generate data-driven identification of practice improvement opportunities, identify organizational measurement infrastructure needs, and aggregated over time can yield important information regarding the results of residential interventions.

The next step for BBI is to expand the use of these tools and to develop a more robust, longitudinal approach to measuring outcomes. The goal of this step will be to establish a research paradigm that can assist in the evaluation of long-term residential impact and mediators of change.

Participants will learn about the tools and options for how to use them, engage in dialogue about the challenges of they face related to measuring residential outcomes, and explore how to use BBI measurement tools and processes to engage family and youth as partners in residential interventions.

REFERENCE

Feasibility of Long-Term Outcomes Measurement by Residential Providers”, Residential Treatment for Children and Youth, with Weiner, Dana; Heufner, J.C.; Thompson, R.; McCrae, J.; and Blau, G. 35:3, 175-191, 2018

Presenters:



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Robert E. (Bob) Lieberman has over four decades working with young people and families facing serious challenges, in a variety of capacities, including 28 years as CEO of Kairos Northwest. He has written extensively and is lead or co- author, and editor, of ACRC’s “Redefining Residential” papers, as well as co-editor of two books on transforming residential interventions. He chairs the Outcomes Workgroup of the Building Bridges Initiative, is certified by Massachusetts General Hospital as a trainer in Collaborative Problem Solving and is a certified Master Trainer in the NEAR sciences. He is currently President of Lieberman Group, Inc. and trains and consults across the country.



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Like a lot of parents, Nancy started her “career” learning to navigate the child serving systems for her children. Little did she realize that her personal experiences would lead her on professional quest to ensure every family, no matter the challenges have access to a family peer helping to teach, coach and mentor parents as they journey towards their personal strength and empowerment.

Nancy has worked with Families Together for almost 20 years. First as a Regional Parent Advisor and currently as the Director of Community and System Engagement, leading a team of 10 Regional Parent Advisors engaging and advising the child serving systems on the value of family driven and youth guided practices, data collection and especially outcomes!

Nancy works closely with Family Peer Advocates in delivering the Family Needs & Strengths outcome measure for Family Peer Support to use to quantify their excellent work.

In her spare time and in true advocacy fashion Nancy worked with other FPA’s to create a very low cost summer camp experience for the whole family to come together for three nights -four days in a safe supported environment to build those memories as a family, not an illness.



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Gary Blau is Executive Director of The Hackett Center for Mental Health, following years of service as Chief of the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch for the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). He is widely recognized for his national leadership for child, adolescent and young adult mental health, creating “systems of care” across the United States, initiating the Building Bridges Initiative, “fathering” YouthMOVE National, partnering with residential organizations (including ACRC), and over seventy publications and eight edited books. Dr. Blau is co-editor of two books on transforming residential interventions and recipient of numerous awards and honors.