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The Family Networks Implementation Study

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Building Research Partnerships

The partnership between MA/DSS and UMass is the foundation of the Family Networks Implementation Study, which has the benefits of active stakeholder involvement are numerous, including increased buy-in to the study process, assistance in identifying key outcomes, and the proliferation of study results (Kaufman et al., 2006).

- Shared Project Management – The study is co-managed by MA/DSS and UMass project leads.
- Creation of a Study Design Team (SDT) – The SDT includes representatives from MA/DSS and UMass working together to determine the study framework, sampling, research methods, measures, and analyses.
- Creation of a Study Advisory Team (SAT) – The SAT includes representatives from MA/DSS, family advocates, providers, and UMass who assist in framing research questions, providing input into data collection strategies, interpreting findings, designing feedback loops, and reviewing products, and
- Design of Feedback Loops – The SAT is creating strategies for feeding back study findings and products to relevant stakeholders.

WHAT IS IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH?

Implementation research is the study of strategies to promote the translation and adoption of research findings into routine practices (Stokes & Mittman, 2004). Purposes of innovations acknowledge the difficulty overcoming barriers to implementation. Implementation research is used to promote the use of interventions, programs, or policies by those who will implement, manage, or deliver the interventions, programs, or policies and the proliferation of study results (Kaufman et al., 2006).

STUDY OVERVIEW

The Family Networks Implementation Study

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STUDY IMPLICATIONS

Findings from the Family Networks Implementation Study will inform MA/DSS strategic planning, system refinements, and the Family Networks outcomes evaluation. Continuous quality improvement strategies, drawn from these findings, will be relevant and useful to other Massachusetts EOHHS agencies with similar service delivery systems and agendas. Project activities and products will contribute to the Building Research Partnerships participant in the national dialogue regarding systems transformation in child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice.

The Family Networks Implementation Study: Questions & Methods

What structures, processes, and conditions influence the implementation of Family Networks?

- What needs to happen over the next 6 to 12 months?
- Has what worked so far, in the past 6 to 12 months?
- How do we keep our eye on what’s happening?

What needs to happen over the next 6 to 12 months?

- Participants sort & rate statements re: “key ingredients” for change
- Participants interpret findings, design feedback loops, and review products

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- Participants interpret findings, design feedback loops, and review products

The research questions:

- What is happening now?
- What is happening next?

- Question: What are the implications of this research for practice?
- Question: How do we keep our eye on what’s happening?
- Question: What are the implications of this research for policy?
- Question: What are the implications of this research for research?