Linking wraparound theory, principles, and outcomes

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Existing Theory

• Wraparound is “consistent with” social-ecological (Bronfenbrenner) and systems (Munger) theories

• Also consistent with theories of family-centered (Allen and Petr) and strengths-based approaches
However, to date....

- Connections between these theories and wraparound outcomes have not been explored in detail.
- Little work focused on integrating available research into the theory.
Additional Challenges

- Principles not “fixed” or mandatory
- Expected outcomes not specified
- Theory development is post-hoc
Build consensus for...

- A set of principles for wraparound practice at the team level
- A set of supporting conditions that are necessary at the agency/organization and system levels if the principles are to be realized in teamwork

Describe a theory of change that reflects this consensus as well as available evidence.
First delphi task (pilot)

Rate each principle as
1. Fine as is
2. Could support with minor changes
3. Could not support without major changes

If rated as 2 or 3, list “what it would take” to gain your support

Feedback on the task
Delphi so far...

What we are finding out

- Response rate- not so great so far
- Task structure- people mostly like it
- Content of responses
  - Average distribution is about 71% “fine”, 21% minor changes, 7% unacceptable
  - Suggested changes mirror discussions of the coordinating group.
Delphi: Questions/challenges

• What to do with “outliers”?  
  - All but one of the “unacceptables” provided by the same person

• What is an acceptable response rate, and do we need to change something?  
  - Changes to the pool of respondents?

• Future tasks– make sure people feel included at the right stage
Team - Organizations (lead and partner agencies)

System (Policy and Funding Context)

Hospitable System

Supportive Organizations (lead and partner agencies)

Effective Team
Future tasks..

- Specify how this would play out at the different levels
Practice  ->  Process  ->  Outcome
What individual team members DO  
How the team functions  
What happens as a result

Plan: We know ...
• What we are trying to accomplish
• How we are going to do that
• Whether our strategy is working, and if not....

Value based practice:
Techniques, procedures, and structures promote values

Cohesiveness = We
• We have shared goals that we can accomplish
• We respect each other
• We collaborate

Outcomes
A patchwork of relevant evidence

• Some evidence within children’s mental health (family voice, collaboration)
• Some evidence from closely allied human service contexts (family, youth voice, natural supports)
• Some (stronger) evidence from farther afield (team, collaboration)
More than the sum of its parts?

- Expresses a philosophical commitment, but does nevertheless need a “technology” for realizing the philosophy in practice
Website

Website for the NWI planned soon at: www.rtc.pdx.edu. Planned to include:

• Resources on the research base for and the practice of wraparound
• Information about the NWI
• Password-protected access to the current tasks of the NWI