TTC Evaluators Special Interest Group

**Meeting Agenda: November 18, 2020**

**Attendance: 28 participants**

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| ***Topic*** | ***Presenter*** | ***Notes*** |
| ***Welcome and agenda review*** | *Kim/Liz* |  |
| ***SIG participant updates on upcoming: evaluation conferences, listservs, events, presentations, webinars, etc.*** | *Group* | * No updates to share at this time. |
| ***Update from National TTC Evaluators*** | Kaitlyn Reho and Dr. Ruth Gassman from Prevention Insights | Kaitlyn Reho, Project Manager, and Dr. Ruth Gassman, Executive Director, are leading the SAMHSA-funded TTC national evaluation project. They are present today to provide an update on the TTC national evaluation project. While they are unable to share specific data with the TTCs until the final evaluation report is complete, they will share a brief summary of their work thus far with the group.   * Conducted a TTC document review. Reviewed 189 documents and from that pool, prioritized 139 documents to analyze. Coded the documents with 2-3 coders and are currently in the process of summarizing the findings from that review. * Conducted interviews with TTCs and Regional Administrators to discuss some of the challenges faced by TTCs. Currently in the process of summarizing the findings from those interviews. * Conducted a TTC product review. 25 products developed between January 2019 to January 2020 were randomly selected from each network (total of 75 products) and reviewed by two coders. Currently in the process of summarizing the findings from that analysis. * Conducted 8 semi-structured interviews with the TTCs focused on how TTCs use/conduct technology transfer. Did not do a qualitative analysis of these interviews, but used the information gathered to develop two surveys. One of the surveys (determinants of technology transfer) was already disseminated to the TTCs. The other survey will be disseminated in 2021. * Completed an analysis on how the TTCs work with each other. * They are now reviewing the TTCs’ GPRA data, follow up data, and exploring how to evaluate work that is not captured through GPRA. * In the future, they plan to do some GIS mapping, collect data on barriers and how TTCs conduct continuous quality improvement. This information will inform their recommendations for how to optimize the work of the TTCs. * It should also be noted that they will continue to work with NCOs to pretest instruments.   Group Discussion:   * The national evaluation team will use heat maps to capture GPRA data, distribution of events, and location of participants’ work. * To clarify, the national evaluation team is doing a qualitative analysis of GPRA follow up data from Sept 2019-Sept 2020. * COVID-19, specifically its impact on increased virtual trainings and telemedicine resources, came up in the key informant interviews. * The group noted that the pandemic could have affected the number of training events that qualified for a follow up GPRA. * The upcoming time allocation survey will ask centers to estimate the time their team spends on different categories of TTC tasks such as grants management, evaluation, and training activities. This survey will allow the national evaluation team to see the whole picture of what goes into the TTC. * Last, the aspects of technology transfer used by TTCs are being reviewed by the national evaluation team. |
| ***Breakout rooms***  *Participants will be randomly assigned to breakout groups to answer the following:*   * *Introduction to your peers and one self-care tactic you’ve personally adopted.* * *How has your center innovated during COVID?* * *What challenges have you faced?* * *How have you handled these challenges?* * *One thing you want to get out of the TTC evaluators group before the end of the grant year.* | *Megan/ Liz/ Kim/ Heather* | The larger group was divided into smaller groups of about 5-6 participants for networking and a short discussion of how the pandemic has impacted their work. Below are the highlights of those conversations as submitted by the smaller groups.  Group 1  *How has your center innovated during COVID? What challenges have you faced? How have you handled these challenges?*   * Center already did a lot of online training, so continuing to do evaluations using web-based methods. Have link available at end of training, follow-up with emails to increase responses. * With move to virtual -have staff person who excels in Zoom, so added polls and other evaluation strategies. * hard time getting GPRA in person, harder online. Don’t save GPRA until the end, so people have chance to complete before the very end of the session. * near end of session, add QR code for GPRA – significant increase in percent of GPRA evaluations; how can we keep that number where it is? * others haven’t had luck with QR codes. * Have Zoom webinar take participants to GPRA when they close the session.   *One thing you want to get out of the TTC evaluators group before the end of the grant year.*   * understand from more experienced TTCs – where should we put our energy in evaluation efforts? * Make evaluations most productive * implementation evaluation using RE-AIM * anything beyond GPRA that we’re evaluating. * implementation template – knowing how others are evaluating implementation using implementation science arena * telehealth survey results * text messaging as learning extenders results * instruments others are using for evaluation – qual and quant * aligned registration for event with GPRA demog questions   Group 2   * Regions are offering more self-help and more trainings to cope with COVID 19. Up tick in offerings, which gets reinforced because of the demand. Last year was half as much demand. All regions increasing capacity of trainings. * Adding open-ended questions for GRPAs – What do you want to learn about in the future, ways to improve this training, and one other. * GPRA response rates around 40-55%. Most people aren’t doing extra data collection because response rates are so low.   Group 3  *How has your center innovated during COVID?*   * Impact on marginalized communities * Enhanced use of technology; but make more engaging * Ex/ turning a conference virtual and creating ways for people to still connect like they are at the conference with Virtual World Café * Ex/ Adding innovative tools to workshops/sessions – like mentimeter * Adding informal needs assessments – addressing timely topics * New strategies – targeting families and caregivers to assist youth   *What challenges have you faced?*   * Staying ahead of the COIVD – so much uncertainty about where it is heading; knowing the pulse of the network and workforce * Face to face training that have moved to virtual such as SBIRT – more work toward developing skills and not just giving training * Burn out * Growing divide with marginalized communities * Response rates for GPRAs have plummeted compared to when we could do paper and pencil   *How have you handled these challenges?*   * Primarily addressed in innovations above * Would like more programming and information especially around increasing GPRA completion   *One thing you want to get out of the TTC evaluators group before the end of the grant year.*   * Look at the reports from the National Evaluation in groups so we can learn across the networks; what does quality look like in products and how can we improve; what topics had more traction what work is left to be done * Communication maps; where are the places we can improve * How are TTCs using their center’s evaluation reports; how are they disseminated; to who; what infographics have been created * Data visualization – who is doing it well and what can you share * How has the network evolved and what strengths have been developed; shine the opportunities * Telehealth has come up across TTC networks   Group 4   * Typical evaluation activities, particularly for intensive TA programs, have been disrupted due to COVID (often because the programs themselves were disrupted or shifted to trainings of shorter duration) * Many centers have "webinars coming out of our ears", resulting in a lot of evaluation data * Range of approaches to gathering COVID-specific needs assessment data - e.g., polls during webinars, surveys of providers * Evaluators have had to rethink how to get in-depth information without being in-person and given low response rates |
| ***Report to larger group*** | *Kim/Liz* | Themes that came up during the breakout group discussions:   * Adapting to virtual and helping stakeholders adapt to virtual trainings * Health disparities * Challenge with collecting evaluations online. Can Lanitek post a message to help redirect participants to complete additional survey questions once they have completed GPRA? * On average, Centers are hosting more trainings with more participants |
| ***Recap and ending remarks***   * *Next meeting date – 1/27/21* * *Volunteers and/or ideas for spotlight* * *Cross TTC work in your region or across regions* | *Megan/ Liz* | * The next meeting will be on 1/27/21. * The group would like to continue spotlighting what TTCs are doing for evaluation and monitoring. Please connect with the chairs if interested in sharing what your TTC is doing regarding evaluation and monitoring, and/or suggestions for agenda items. |