

# HANDOUTS FOR FINAL TTC EVALUATION PRESENTATION

JUNE 17, 2022

## CONTENTS:

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER KEY DEFINITIONS HANDOUT.....	2-4
NATIONAL TTC EVALUATION: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
SUMMARY OF DATA SOURCES.....	6-7
ACRONYM LIST.....	8

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## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER KEY DEFINITIONS

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In *The Change Book: A Blueprint for Technology Transfer*, the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) National Office provided two critical definitions derived from *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged* (1971, as cited in ATTC National Office, 2010):

1. **Technology:** “The science of the application of knowledge to practical purposes; the application of scientific knowledge to practical purposes in a particular field” (ATTC National Office, 2010)
2. **Transfer:** “To cause to pass from one person to another” (ATTC National Office, 2010)

**Technology Transfer**, then, provides a way to “transform what is useful into what is actually used,” along with a method for “mov[ing] technology developed academically into standard professional practice.” (ATTC National Office, 2010)

*The Change Book* included the following additional background information on Technology Transfer:

**The scope of technology transfer** involves

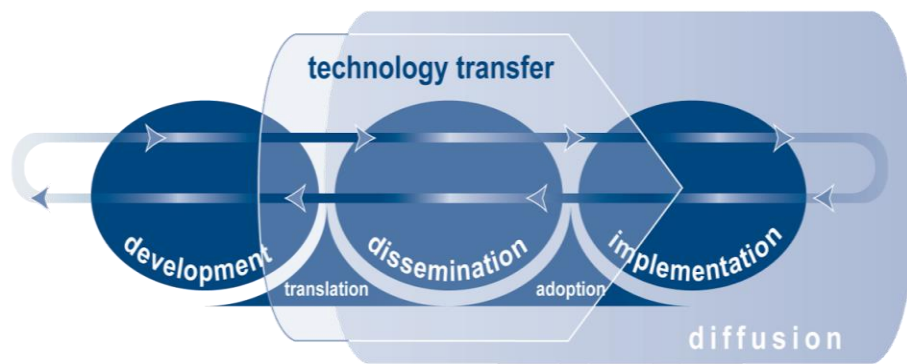
“Creating a mechanism by which a desired change is accepted, incorporated, and reinforced at all levels of an organization or system.” (ATTC National Office, 2010)

Brown (2000, as cited in ATTC National Office, 2010), noted:

“. . . to produce behavior change, technology transfer strategies must not only develop the cognitive skills needed to implement a new treatment component, but may also have to induce or increase motivation for behavior change, reduce concerns about change generally, and/ or about the innovation specifically, and explore organizational issues in adopting new strategies.”

### What is Technology Transfer?

- “The purpose of the [TTC] Network is technology transfer - disseminating and implementing evidence-based practices for [addictions, mental health, and prevention] into the field.” (MHTTC Network, 2022)
- “Technology transfer is a multidimensional process that intentionally promotes the use of an innovation.” (ATTC Network, 2022; MHTTC Network, 2022)



- “Technology transfer begins during the development of a new technology or innovation, continues through its dissemination (raising awareness), and extends into its early implementation (incorporation into practice). This process requires multiple stakeholders and resources, and involves activities related to translation and adoption. Technology transfer is designed to accelerate the diffusion of an innovation.” (Gotham, et. al., 2011)
- Technology or “innovations” refer to evidence-based practices (EBPs) for addictions, mental health, and prevention services. The goal of technology transfer is to accelerate the diffusion of EBPs. (ATTC Network, 2022; MHTTC Network, 2022)

The following definitions of relevant TTC-related terms were offered by Laurie Krom, co-director of the ATTC Network Coordinating Office, during a PowerPoint presentation to the TTC Evaluation Team in Rockville, Maryland, in 2019:

**“Training:** Imparting knowledge and skills to people often in a group setting. Should include clear goals and learning objectives; and when applicable opportunities to practice.

- Characteristics:
  - Highly specific duration
  - Variation in the number of contact hours (could be spread over any amount of time)
- Expected outcomes:
  - Disseminate information
  - Improvements in skills, knowledge, and attitude
  - Raise motivation to adopt new innovations” (L. Krom, personal communication, October 29, 2019)

**“Basic Technical Assistance:** Information dissemination or brief consultation provided to customers to support change initiatives

- Characteristics:
  - Single and/or brief contacts
  - Limitations on time duration and resource availability
  - The use of simple, off-the-shelf solutions
- Expected outcomes:
  - Increased access to information that supports problem solving
  - Identification of the need for training or more intensive TA
  - Guidance on next steps” (L. Krom, personal communication, October 29, 2019)

**“Targeted Technical Assistance:** A series of services to enhance readiness and build capacity to implement a specific practice, focus area, or new innovation

- Characteristics:
  - Multiple recipients, contacts
  - Episodic, but shorter duration
  - Not entirely site customized
  - May involve performance feedback
- Expected outcomes:
  - Improvements in skills, knowledge, and attitude
  - Increased utilization of EBPs
  - A greater understanding of the usefulness and perceived fit of the EBP for the practice setting” (L. Krom, personal communication, October 29, 2019)

**“Intensive Technical Assistance:** Supports full incorporation of new innovations or practices into real world settings and considers culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Full incorporation often requires changes in policies, practices, and system functioning.

- Characteristics:
  - Driven by a collaboratively developed implementation plan that reflects mutually agreed upon goals, roles and responsibilities between TA provider and TA recipient
  - Combination of activities such as regular assessment of skill development and progress toward objectives
  - Active participation by the TA recipient as well as direct observations by the TA provider, supplemented with long-distance planning and work sessions
- Expected outcomes:
  - Full Implementation” (L. Krom, personal communication, October 29, 2019)

On their websites, the ATTC and MHTTC Networks offered insight into the aims of the TTC Network:

**Goals of the TTC Network:**

- Accelerate the adoption and implementation of [addiction/mental health/prevention] related evidence-based practices across the nation.
- Heighten the awareness, knowledge, and skills of the workforce that addresses the needs of [people living with substance use/other behavioral health disorders/mental illness]
- Foster regional and national alliances among culturally diverse practitioners, researchers, policy makers, family members, [recovery community] and consumers of [addictions, mental health, and prevention] services.
- Ensure the availability and delivery of publicly available, free of charge, training and technical assistance to the [addictions/mental health/prevention] field. (ATTC Network, 2022; MHTTC Network, 2022)

**References:**

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*NATIONAL TTC EVALUATION: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES*

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**Goal 1: Establish an informed understanding of each TTC's operations, strategies, technology transfer activities, and goals**

- 1a. Build a comprehensive and informed evaluation plan (through document review and stakeholder interviews) to ensure relevance and utility of the evaluation's findings for TTCs, NCOs, and SAMHSA
- 1b. Identify and categorize the types of services offered and products developed by each TTC
- 1c. Identify each TTC's priority populations, the approaches used by each TTC to reach these groups, and the associated facilitators and challenges
- 1d. Assess the (1) empirical and conceptual basis and (2) cultural, contextual, and developmental relevance of the products developed by each TTC
- 1e. Identify and categorize common ways that TTCs determine (1) which practices to promote, and (2) which transfer mechanisms are appropriate
- 1f. Compare how needs identified by each TTC fit with both (1) strategies and objectives defined in their work plan(s) and (2) training and technology transfer activities conducted
- 1g. Describe the inter- and intra-communication linkages and feedback mechanisms used by the TTC program
- 1h. Identify the proportion of time spent on various tasks and activities within the past year

**Goal 2: Describe the extent to which the target population is exposed to TTC services and products**

- 2a. Determine the ratios of training and TA provided face-to-face, online, asynchronous, and live
- 2b. Determine the geographical distribution of TTC services

**Goal 3: Identify the methods used to manage, monitor, and ensure continuous quality improvement of the services and products offered by the TTCs**

- 3a. Identify and categorize the methods TTCs have selected to monitor quality improvement
- 3b. Describe how quality improvement methods are being used to enhance TTC services and products
- 3c. Review reported data pertaining to recipient satisfaction with the TTCs' services

**Goal 4: Identify the facilitators & barriers experienced in the dissemination, adoption, and implementation of evidence-based and promising practices/programs**

- 4a. Review reported data to describe recipients' intentions to modify their practice after receiving a TTC service/product
- 4b. Describe how the TTCs address organizational factors in their delivery of TA services

**Goal 5: Provide recommendations for optimizing the transfer of addiction, mental health, and prevention technology**

- 5a. Identify factors that enhance and/or detract from effective technology transfer
- 5b. Identify existing gaps that are hindering optimal technology transfer

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## *NATIONAL TTC EVALUATION: SUMMARY OF DATA SOURCES*

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### **Document Review** (Goals 1, 3, 4, 5)

- Description: Review of purposely selected sample of 139 grantee and network documents (e.g., grant proposals, progress reports, work plans, and other grantee updates)
- Purpose: Extract relevant information from source documents related to Goals 1, 3, and 4
- Dates of Data Collection: Reflects a snapshot of plans and activities through the first fiscal year for MHTTCs and PTTCs, and second fiscal year for ATTTCs (does not reflect materials beyond 2019)

### **Key Informant Interviews (KII)\*** (Goals 1, 3, 4, 5)

- Description: Interviews with purposely selected TTC leaders (60-75 minutes) and SAMHSA Regional Administrators (RAs) (30 minutes)
  - 9 ATTTCs, 9 MHTTCs, 10 PTTCs, 5 RAs
  - TTCs were selected from all 10 regions and both National Focus Areas (NAI/AN and NH/L)
  - 71 TTC staff interviewed (inclusive of leads) across 21 individual or group interviews
- Purpose: Better understand TTCs'/RAs' roles and to learn about TTCs' priorities, strategies related to technology transfer, evaluation activities, facilitators and challenges to technology transfer, lessons learned, and the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on TTC operations and plans.
- Dates of Data Collection: April-May 2020

### **Product Review** (Goals 1, 5)

- Description: Quality review of a randomly sampled set of 75 TTC products, 25 per Network
- Purpose: Learn about the quality of products and trainings delivered by TTCs relative to a set of quality standards
- Dates of Data Collection: Reflects a random sample of products, services, and events provided by TTCs between January 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020

### **Semi-Structured Interviews** (Goals 1, 5)

- Description: Eight semi-structured interviews with purposely selected TTCs
  - 3 regional ATTTCs, 3 regional MHTTCs, 2 regional PTTCs
    - 23 staff interviewed (60 minutes each)
- Purpose: Gain insight into the determinants of technology transfer and activities/tasks involved in operating a TTC (used to inform the development of two surveys)
- Dates of Data Collection: April-May 2020

### **Organizational Networking Analysis** (Goals 1, 5)

- Description: Online survey completed by all regional TTCs and National Focus Area Centers (excluded NCOs)
- Purpose: Better understand the network of communication within the TTC program
- Dates of Data Collection: March-April 2020

### **Determinants of Technology Transfer (DTT) Survey\*** (Goals 1, 3, 4, 5)

- Description: Online survey completed by all TTCs, including NCOs
- Purpose: Better understand how TTCs select which practices to promote and which technology transfer methods to utilize; gain insight into TTCs' perceptions of the usefulness of current GPRA instruments
- Dates of Data Collection: August 2020

**Time Allocation Survey\*** (Goals 1, 5)

- Description: Online survey completed independently by two individuals at each TTC, including NCOs
- Purpose: Better understand the time spent on various activities necessary for operating a TTC (i.e., represent all activities conducted by TTCs, not just those directly related to the delivery of products and services)
- Dates of Data Collection: February 2021

**Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Survey** (Goals 3, 4, 5)

- Description: Online survey completed by all TTCs, including NCOs
- Purpose: Better understand how CQI has been operationalized within the TTC network; gain insight into the organizational factors considered by TTCs when delivering Technical Assistance (TA) services
- Dates of Data Collection: June 2021

**GPRAs Event Description Data** (Goal 2, 5)

- Description: Required data entered for the event description form (GRPA-EDF) by TTCs into SPARS
- Purpose: Review existing data to better understand the types of events offered by TTCs
- Dates of Data Collection: September 1, 2019 to September 23, 2020

**GPRAs Post-Event Data** (Goal 2, 4, 5)

- Description: Data collected (using the Post-Event GPRAs form [GPRAs-PEF]) from participants who attended TTC events (i.e., trainings, meetings, technical assistance)
  - (n=117,742)
- Purpose: Review existing data related to TTC reach (e.g., participant ZIP codes and demographic information), participant satisfaction, and participants' intention to change their practice
- Dates of Data Collection: September 1, 2019 to September 23, 2020

**GPRAs Follow-Up Data** (Goal 2, 4, 5)

- Description: Data collected (using the Follow-Up GPRAs form [GPRAs-FU]) from participants who attended events lasting three hours or longer and who agreed to complete the Follow-Up GPRAs form
  - (n= 7,149)
- Purpose: Review existing data related to the application and usefulness of the information gained during the TTC event (30 days after the event)
- Dates of Data Collection: September 1, 2019 to September 23, 2020

*\*Collected data includes information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic*

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## *ACRONYM LIST*

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- ARAs = Assistant Regional Administrators
- ATTC = Addiction Technology Transfer Center
- CEUs = Continuing Education Units
- CQI = Continuous Quality Improvement
- EBP<sup>1</sup> = Evidence Based and Promising Practices/Programs
- FOA = Funding Opportunity Announcement (refers to the FOAs to which TTCs responded)
- FTE = Full Time Equivalent
- GIS = Geographic Information System
- GPO = Government Project Officer
- GPRA = Government Performance and Results Act
- LGBTQIA<sup>2</sup> = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual
- MAT/MOUD = Medication Assisted Treatment/Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- MHTTC = Mental Health Technology Transfer Center
- NAI/AN = National American Indian/Alaska Native (TTC)
- NCO = Network Coordinating Office
- NFAC = National Focus Area Centers (refers to NAI/AN and NH/L TTCs)
- NH/L = National Hispanic/Latino (TTC)
- PTTC = Prevention Technology Transfer Center
- RAs = Regional Administrators
- SME = Subject Matter Expert
- SMHA = State Mental Health Agencies
- SMI = Severe Mental Illness
- SPARS = SAMHSA's Performance Accountability and Reporting System
- SSA = Single State Agency
- TA = Technical Assistance
- TT = Technology Transfer
- TTA = Training and Technical Assistance
- TTC = Technology Transfer Center

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of our evaluation reporting, and for consistency and parsimony, the presentation of findings uses the acronym EBP, but we acknowledge similar concepts of evidence-based interventions (EBI); evidence-based and promising practices (EBPPs); and evidence-based policies, programs, and practices (EBPPP). Understanding and respectful of the nuances among different fields and professionals, for our purposes, any of these terms and acronyms are used interchangeably.

<sup>2</sup> Source documents from across the TTC Network used various terms and acronyms to represent their work with and for the LGBTQIA community (e.g., LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQ+). While we acknowledge that selected terminology in source documents may have been intentional, we have standardized the acronym for the evaluation reports to LGBTQIA, a more inclusive term.