

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN RESEARCH ON SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

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The Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research

Acknowledgements



The mission of the Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research is to promote the full participation in socially valued roles of transition-age youth and young adults (ages 14-30) with serious mental health conditions. We use the tools of research and knowledge translation in partnership with this at risk population to achieve this mission. Visit us at: <http://www.umassmed.edu/TransitionsACR>

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Adapting IPS for High School Age Youth

Marsha Langer Ellison, PhD.



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Developing a New Fidelity Scale to Measure IPS Supported Employment for Youth and Young Adults

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Presentation Outline

- Fidelity scale structure and format
- IPS model and its evidence
- IPS for young adults
- Standardized IPS fidelity scale
- IPS Fidelity Scale for Young Adults



Fidelity Measures

- *Fidelity* is defined as the degree to which a particular program follows the standards for an evidence-based practice (EBP)
- A *fidelity scale* is a tool to assess fidelity
- EBP fidelity scales measure quality of implementation



Data Collection Procedures for EBP Fidelity Scales

- Ratings made by two independent assessors
- Day-long site visit
- Multiple data sources (interviews, chart review, observation)
- Fidelity report (with narrative + ratings) given to site leadership



EBP Fidelity Scale Structure

- Fidelity scales = multi-item scales
- Typically 10-35 items
(Longer scales – less practical)
- Individual items of interest for quality improvement
- Total score (linear additive scale) most important for research



EBP Fidelity Item Format

- Items rated on 5-point behaviorally-anchored continuum:

1=Not Implemented...5=Fully Implemented

14B. Experience-based educational assessment: For clients with educational goals, IPS specialists assess (1) educational interests, (2) talents, skills, environmental supports, resources (3) preferences, (4) academic history, (5) future academic aspirations, (6) barriers to education, and (7) accommodations/support needs.

Number of domains assessed and documented in career profile:

1 = Three or fewer

2 = Four

3 = Five

4 = Six

5 = All seven documented



Individual Placement and Support (IPS)

- Supported employment model for people with serious mental illness
- Developed in 1990s by Debbie Becker and Bob Drake
- Grounded in clinical experience and rigorous research



IPS Principles

1. Open to anyone who wants to work
2. Focus on competitive employment
3. Rapid job search
4. Targeted job development
5. Client preferences guide decisions
6. Individualized long-term supports
7. IPS integrated with treatment team
8. Benefits counseling provided



Research on IPS for Young Adults

- IPS for young adults has been studied in many subgroups
- Strong employment outcomes for IPS
- Shorter job tenure compared to older adults
- Null findings for education outcomes
- Young adults drop out of IPS sooner?
- Not clear: Are modifications of IPS model necessary? If yes, which ones?



IPS Fidelity Scale (“IPS-25”)

(Becker et al., 2008)

- 25-item scale
- Items measure the 8 principles of IPS
- Fidelity assessors receive two-day in-person training and follow detailed fidelity manual (Becker et al., 2015)
- Assessments conducted annually in over 300 IPS programs in US



IPS-25: Psychometrics

- Good content validity (expert panel)
- Excellent interrater reliability
- Acceptable internal consistency
- Scale discriminates sharply between new and established teams
- Sensitive to change over time
- Established predictive validity (4 studies)



Goals in Creating New Scale: IPS Fidelity Scale for Young Adults

- Build on validated scale (IPS-25)
- Ensure suitability for a wide range of young adult subgroups
- New scale easily learned if you know IPS-25 (changes highlighted)
- Additions will not make scale too long



IPS-25 vs. New Scale

- **What's unchanged:**
 - Same structure, fidelity review process, and scoring conventions
 - Includes original 25 items: identical (11), minor changes (9), expanded (5)
- **What's new:**
 - New scale has 35 items (10 new items)
 - New items tailored to young adults



New Content on Young Adult Fidelity Scale

- Supported education (8 items)
(assess, help apply, visit campuses,
link to college/school resources)
- Family inclusion
(at least one meeting with family)
- Career exploration
(informational interviews)
- Outreach (texting)



Pilot Fidelity Assessments Using IPS Fidelity Scale for Young Adults

- 5 fidelity reviews in diverse sites (homeless program, program for high school youth, mental health center)
- **Positives:** Scale appears to work well; measuring the right things
- **Negatives:** Lengthy! Also, hard to rate education items because these interventions rarely documented



Next Steps

- **Psychometric study:** Test current version with >10 sites
- **Usability:** Do IPS specialists find it useful?)
- **Calibration of items:** Refine criteria for good fidelity
- **Transportability:** Does it work across groups and settings?



Innovations in Research Strategies for Engaging and Retaining Youth and Young Adults in Research

Marcela Hayes, BA, BS

1. Why is effective engagement of Young Adults important?
2. Strategies and Tools for working with Youth and Young Adults
3. Tips and Lessons learned



Why is Effective Engagement of Young Adults Important?

- Data: We need it!



- Youth and Young adults are Unique



Strategies and Tools for Engagement and Retention



- It starts with Engagement



- Relationship building

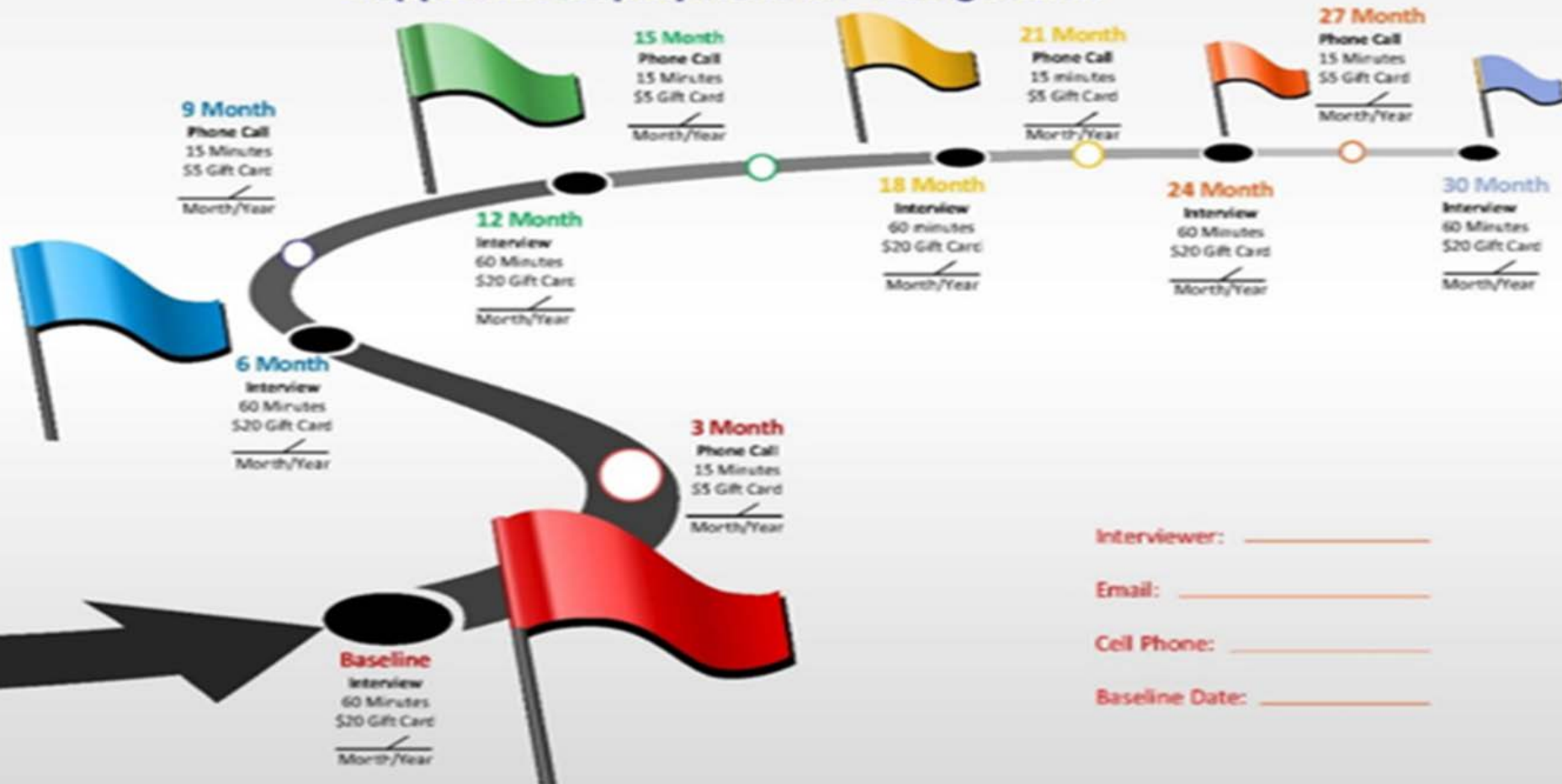


- Multiple retention strategies

Let's talk about Tools for Retention

Timeline cards

Supported Employment for Young Adults



6 Week Post-Card Reminders

We're HAPPY to have you in our research study:



"Improving outcomes of youth and young adults (ages 16-21) with serious mental health conditions with adapted Individual Placement and Support"!

Remember, while you're in the study:

- We will be reaching out to you for short phone interviews and in person interviews
- You will receive gift cards for each interview as a thank you!

Even if you stop services at the Cornerstone agency we still want you to continue to be part of our study.

If you have a change of address or phone number please call or text Alex at 240-479-0352.



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Texting and Technology

- Youth and Young adults- No phone calls please!
- Email isn't commonly used
- Prefer to be texted- it's quick and easy



Data Collection

In person data collection alternatives

- Completion of surveys by phone
- Completion of surveys through direct links by text using REDCap™



Gregor Halenda



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Additional Tips for Retention:

- Multiple Collateral Contacts
- Social media private messaging
- Collaboration with providers
- Incentives
- Be open to think “outside the box”



Let's Recap...

- Keeping Y/YA in longitudinal studies is important and challenging!
- Work with your population
- Keep a lot of tricks in your bag



Thank You!

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