

# Assessing Coordination Between Child and Adult Mental Health Systems

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**Transitions RTC**



# Introduction

- Many barriers to cross-age collaboration
  - Different funding streams
  - Different “cultures”/approaches
  - Different agents of accountability
  - Different training/background



# Ultimate Goals

1. Predict programs that will lead cross-age collaboration efforts
2. Be able to predict programs that will struggle with cross-age collaboration
3. Identify program features that could be the target of changes that would produce increased cross-age collaboration



# Investigated Program Characteristics

- Program leadership belief /perceptions
  - Good cross-age coordination is important
  - Key stakeholders want improved cross-age coordination
  - General perception of system promotion of cross-age collaboration



# Investigated Program Characteristics

- In-house collaboration practices
- Program leadership's past involvement in efforts to improve services for this population
- Other “demographic” program features, e.g. types of services, ages served, program size, funding sources, program age



# Study Methods

- “Key Informant” identified for each program in the network
- Key Informant interviewed for 1<sup>st</sup> wave of data collection spring and summer of 2011 (2nd year of HTI grants)
- Key informant report on cross-age collaboration & program characteristics
- Program characteristics will be updated annually for 3 years
- Re-assess Cross-age collaboration in 3 years



# Response Rates

25/30 completed phone interview (83%)

23 completed the web survey (77%)



# Social Network Analysis Questions

## Key informants asked about their relationships to other programs:

1. How often do staff in your program meet with staff in this other program for client planning purposes?
2. How often do staff/administrators in your program and these programs meet together to discuss issues of mutual interest?
3. How often does your program refer clients TO this other program?





# Dependent Variable: Cross-Age Collaboration

Cross-Age Collaboration= a proportion:

the # of reported connections with programs serving other age groups

*divided by* the # of possible connections

- Range .05 to .74. Mean (SD)= .31 (.18)

Coding:

Not at all

Rarely

Don't Know

No  
connection

Coding:

Occasionally

Fairly Often

Very Often

Connection



# Cross-Age Connection

Mean (and range) proportions of cross-age and same-age connections

	Child Programs	Transition Programs	Adult Programs
Child Programs (n=6)	.40 (.27-.60)	.32 (.14-.52)	.21 (0.0-.63)
Transition Programs (n=7)	.21 (0.0-.39)	.56 (.11-.83)	.28 (.08-.46)
Adult Programs (n=8)	.27 (0.0-.67)	.43 (.10-.81)	.31 (0.0-.52)



# Independent Variables: Program Characteristics

Ages served	% (N)
Youth Only (<18)	29% (6)
Transition Age (primarily 16-25)	33 (7)
Adults Only(16 /18 to 25+)	38 (8)



# Independent Variables: Program Characteristics

Other Program Features	Mean (sd)
How long providing services (yrs)	15 (17.5) <i>Range 1-79</i>
# of clients served in FY '12	1,721 (5,705) <i>Range 10-25,465</i>
Healthy Transition Initiative Involvement	% (N)
Program is involved in Healthy Transitions Initiative in their state in any way	70% (14)



# Independent Variables: Program Characteristics

<b>Services provided</b>	<b>% (n)</b>	<b>Services provided</b>	<b>% (n)</b>
Primarily Mental Health	38% (8)	Independent Living	14 (0)
Mental Health (not primarily)	19 (4)	Legal/Justice System	24 (5)
Vocational	67 (14)	Child Welfare	29 (6)
Education	67 (14)	Medical Health	33 (7)
Substance Abuse	29 (6)	Recreation	19 (4)
Housing/Homeless	33 (7)	Advocacy/Information	57 (12)
Developmental Disability	14 (3)	Care Coordination	14 (3)

# Independent Variables: Collaboration

Collaboration Measures	Mean (SD)
<b>Index of Interdisciplinary Collaboration</b> Examples: “I communicate in writing with colleagues from other disciplines”; “Some meetings, committees, etc, in my program are consistently run jointly by people from different disciplines” (5 point scale) (Bronstein, 2003)	1.7 (.38)
<b>Within Program Collaboration</b> Example: Jobs in my program have overlapping responsibilities (range 10-60)	18 (4.42)
<b>Cross Program Collaboration</b> Examples: We have a good idea of how other programs we interact with work (range 10-60)	15.9 (4.53)



# Independent Variable: Measure of Same Age Collaboration

- Same Age Collaboration =  
a proportion:

the # of reported connections with programs serving the same age group *divided by* the # of possible connections

Range = .00 to .83. Mean (SD)= .42  
(.21)

Coding:

Not at all

Rarely

Don't Know

} No  
connection

Coding:

Occasionally

Fairly Often

Very Often

} Connection



# Independent Variables: Perspectives on System and Leadership

Question	% (N) agree
My program funders want to see more coordination	90% (18)
Other program leaders want to see more coordination	90 (18)
There are barriers to coordination	80 (16)
System leadership has developed ways for programs to share responsibility for transition age youth and young adults”	55 (11)
System leadership rewards programs that coordinate well	40 (8)
System leadership has set up accountability mechanisms that require coordination	65 (13)







# **RESULTS: PREDICTORS OF CROSS-AGE COLLABORATION**

# Program Characteristics

Ages served	Not Significant
Youth Only (<18)	
Transition Age (primarily 16-25)	
Adults Only(16 /18 to 25+)	
All Ages	



# Program Characteristics

## Other Program Features

How long providing services

NS

# of clients served in FY '12

NS

## Healthy Transition Initiative Involvement

Program is involved in Healthy Transitions Initiative in their state in any way

NS



# Program Characteristics cont'd

Services provided		Services provided	
Primarily Mental Health		Independent Living	
Mental Health (not primarily)		Legal/Justice System	
Vocational		Child Welfare	
Education		Medical Health	
Substance Abuse		Recreation	
Housing/Homeless		Advocacy/Info	p=.03
Developmental Disability		Care Coordination	



# Collaboration Instruments

Collaboration Measures	
<b>Index of Interdisciplinary Collaboration</b> Examples: “I communicate in writing with colleagues from other disciplines” (5 point scale) (Bronstein, 2003)	NS
<b>Within Program Collaboration</b> Example: Jobs in my program have overlapping responsibilities (range 10-60)	NS
<b>Cross Program Collaboration</b> Examples: We have a good idea of how other programs we interact with work (range 10-60)	p=.05 (Spearman’s rho = -.601)



# Same Age Collaboration

- Same Age Collaboration =  
a proportion:

the # of reported connections with  
programs serving the same age group  
*divided by* the # of possible connections  
Range.06 to .67. Mean (SD)= .35 (.16)

NOT SIGNIFICANT



# Perspectives on System & Leadership

Question	
My program funders want to see more coordination	<p>p=.04                      Agree = .33 (.16)                      Disagree = .08 (.02)</p>
Other program leaders want to see more coordination	<p>p=.04                      Agree = .33 (.15)                      Disagree = .08 (.02)</p>
There are barriers to coordination	NS
System leadership has developed ways for programs to share responsibility for transition age youth and young adults	NS
System leadership rewards programs that coordinate well	<p>p=.05                      Agree = .39 (.17)                      Disagree = .25 (.15)</p>
System leadership has set up accountability mechanisms that require coordination	NS



# Conclusions/Summary

Cross-age collaborators:

- Collaborate well in general
- Leadership or funder emphasis
- Age not significant
- Type of services not significant
- We've created an interesting variable!

