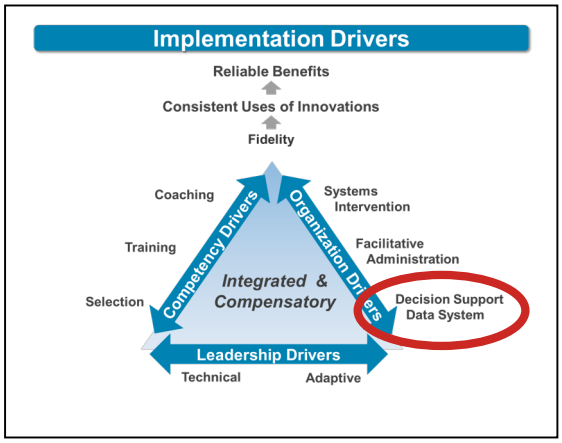
SISEP eNotes
Notes, News, and Discussion from the
State Implementation & Scaling-up of Evidence-Based Practices Center

October, 2017

E-Note: Using Data

Are you working to use different types of data efficiently and effectively to guide your implementation efforts?



Get started. A Decision Support Data System (DSDS) is a system for identifying, collecting, and analyzing data that are useful to the staff and leadership of the implementing agencies. The data system needs to provide timely, accurate, and reliable data for decision-making. Always keep in mind, data are collected to answer a question.

Using data for decision making includes:

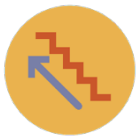
Analyzing and summarizing the data (e.g., quarterly at a minimum)

- The following seven questions will guide your decision-making process when analyzing data for action planning (Horner, Lewis-Palmer, Sugai, & Todd, 2004; Sugai, 2003):
  - What does “it” look like now?
  - Are we satisfied with how “it” looks?
  - What would we like “it” to look like?
  - What would we need to do to make “it” look like that?
  - How would we know if we’ve been successful with “it”?
  - What can we do to keep “it” like that?
  - What can we do to make “it” more efficient & durable?

Communicating data summaries clearly in reports to staff

- Consider the audience and context when summarizing results
- Determine if the message answers questions that prompted data collection

Developing action plans to improve program implementation



- Set goals that include what needs to change, by how much, and by when
- Identify the action and who is responsible

Sharing of data summaries and action plans with key stakeholders

- Use the Policy-Practice Feedback Loop and respective communication plans
- Identify method for dissemination to community stakeholders (families, local programs, universities)

"Without data, you're just another person with an opinion."

W. Edwards Deming

Get better.

Drivers Ed: Decision Support Data System Lesson

Module 2: Implementation Drivers – Topic 2: Organizational Drivers - DSDS

Handout 28: Decision Support Data System