

Implementation Science and Translation: Disseminating Innovations across Probation Contexts

Dr. Tonya Van Deinse

University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill

North Carolina, USA

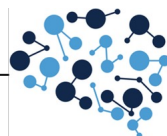
Dr. Nicholas Powell

Georgia Department of Community
Supervision

Georgia, USA



Health Interventions in the Legal System



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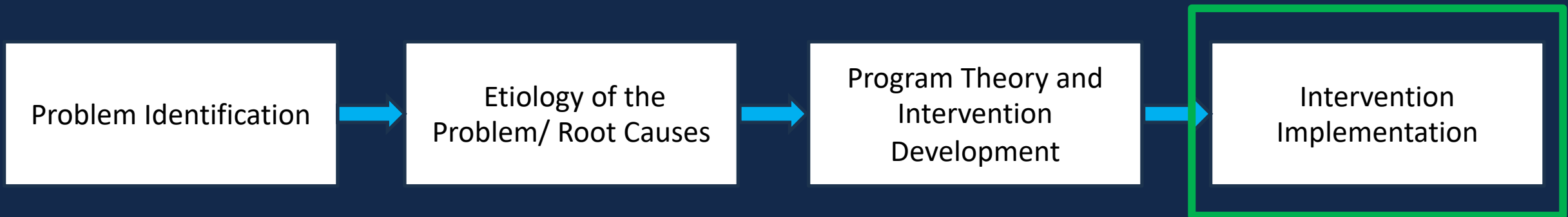
Discussion: How can
implementation
science methods be
used to address
context?

Context and the Case for Implementation Science

Why Context Matters in Intervention Development and Implementation

Assumption:

We create interventions and programs to address or prevent problems.



Context and the case for implementation science in community supervision

- The nature of community supervision and individuals' compliance/adherence relies on local resources that may vary by region, or by rural and urban setting
- Variation in governance and administration across settings
- Interventions can be complex and multi-component and sometimes not well-specified
- Some interventions are not well-specified
- Officers and other staff may be asked to perform duties outside of their typical scope
- Certain types of interventions (e.g., health-related) are inherently inter-disciplinary and involve other external entities
- The intervention or program needs to be translated from one setting to another

The Science to Service/Research to Practice Problem



How do we accelerate uptake of the intervention?

- What are the challenges of implementing this intervention and what strategies can we use to address them?
- What adaptations need to be made to the intervention for it to fit with our agency?
- How can we design an intervention with implementation and sustainability in mind?
- Who are the champions of the intervention and how might they help?

What is Implementation Science

Implementation science methods can help us accelerate uptake of the intervention into real world practice

Implementation Science is “the scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice, and, hence, to improve the quality and effectiveness of health services”

Example Framework: Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, and Sustainment (EPIS)



Applying EPIS as a Determinants Framework

- Determinants = Factors that Influence Implementation
- We use these domains to organize the questions we ask and how we focus our implementation efforts
- EPIS has 4 domains or categories of factors
 - Inner Context: Characteristics of the agency
 - Outer Context: Environment external to the agency
 - Bridging Factors: Factors spanning the inner and outer contexts
 - Innovation Factors: Fit between center & internal/external contexts

Inner Context Questions: Do leaders within the agency support the new intervention?
Does the agency have the staffing capacity and expertise to implement the intervention?

Outer Context Questions: Does the local community have the resources that the intervention calls for?
Does the organization have the external relationships needed to successfully implement the intervention?

Bridging Factor Questions: Are there policies or resources needed from external entities to ensure implementation?
Do you need policies and protocols in place to guide the interactions between entities?

Innovation Factors: Do the components of the intervention make sense for this setting?
Is it feasible to implement this intervention?

Existing Research on Implementation Science within Corrections

Systematic Review of Implementation Science in Correctional Health Interventions

- Justification:
 - Complex and multi-component health-related interventions are being implemented within correctional settings
 - Variation in context
 - Variation in correctional setting (prison, jail, community supervision, private, public)
 - Potential for correctional staff being asked to expand their roles beyond standard training
- Methods
 - Systematic review of peer-reviewed US articles of correctional health intervention studies using implementation science between 1998 and 2021
 - 24 articles identified

Results and Takeaways

- Majority of the studies focused on prisons or jails; but only a quarter focused on community corrections
- Majority noted the significance of factors related to the inner setting, which reflects the complexity of the implementation context (i.e., correctional setting)
- Most focused on understanding the factors impacting implementation but fewer examined whether strategies that addressed implementation challenges were effective
- Articles were not clear about why or how they used implementation science methods and more consistency in reporting would be helpful

Support of Implementation Science in Corrections Research

- National Institute of Drug Abuse in the US has supported major initiatives for integrating implementation science in correctional interventions
 - Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies (CJ-DATS) – there were two phases of these trials and aimed to improve public health and safety outcomes
 - Juvenile Justice – Translational Research on Interventions for Adolescents in the Legal System (JJ-TRIALS) focused on substance use and HIV prevention
 - Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) – focused on testing implementation strategies to adopt medications for opioid use disorder in criminal justice settings
- Recent funding announcement by the National Institute of Justice – focused on use of implementation science in translating research to practice in criminal justice settings

Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation

- Did the work of translating vast research into practice-based principles
- Focused on corrections settings
- US-based with international reach
- Prioritizing the leadership and organizational culture components of translation (see inner context of the EPIS framework)
- Hands on and skill focused

Using Implementation Science Methods

Specialty Mental Health Supervision

- Specialty Mental Health Supervision (SMHS) is a promising practice for supervising individuals with mental illnesses
- Evidence suggests that SMHS improves mental health and criminal justice outcomes → mixed
- Five elements of prototypical SMHS model

SMHS Core Components



Designated mental health caseloads

Reduced caseload size



Ongoing mental health training

Enhanced interaction with resource providers



Problem-solving orientation

Why implementation science and SMHS?

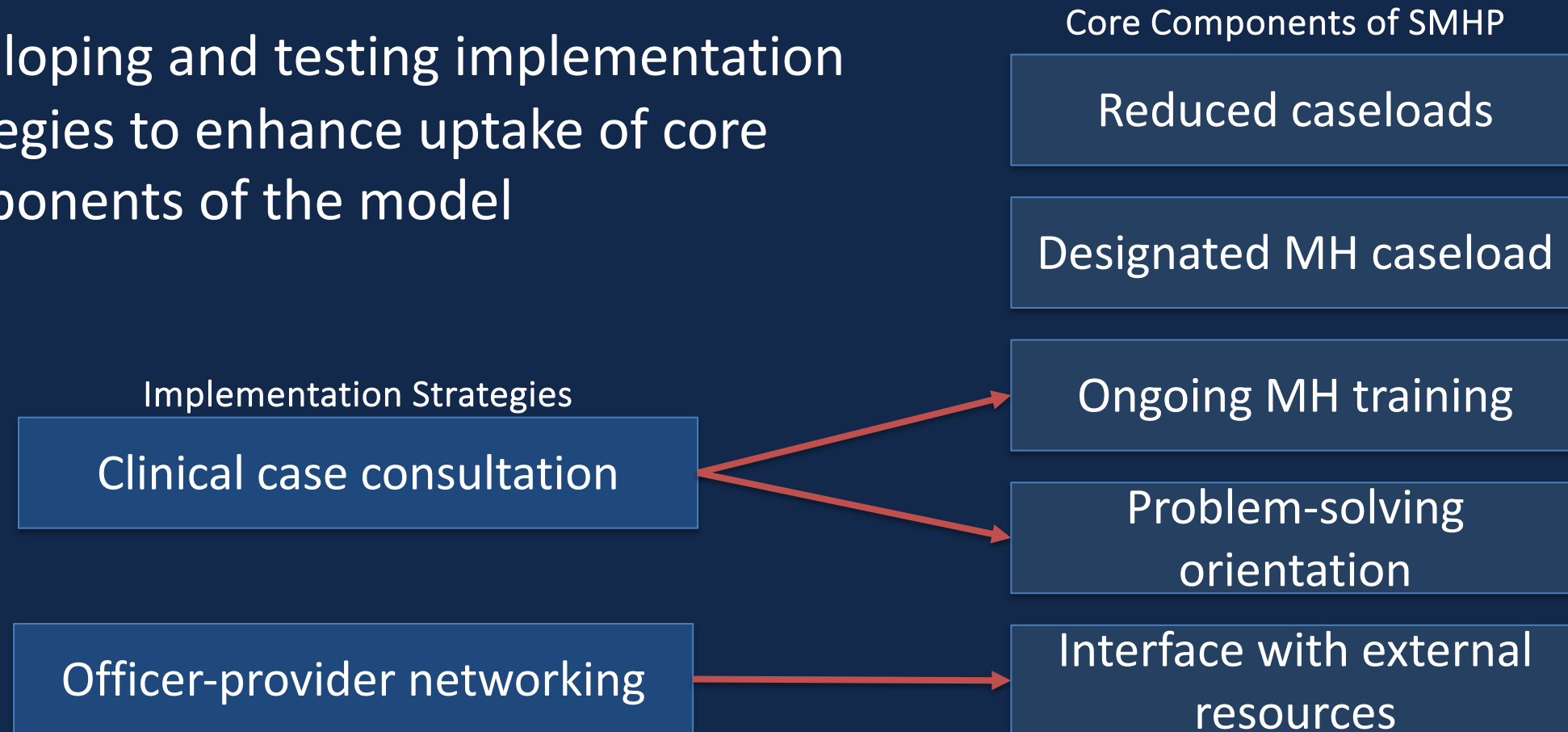
- SMHS is complex. Five interrelated components that are completely dependent on context
- Agency context. Although the larger agency may be invested, the context in the local jurisdiction can vary
- Reliance on the local service system. SMHS is dependent on availability of resources and officers' ability to network with providers
- Mental health officers are stepping outside traditional roles. This is a new and enhanced skillset for community supervision officers and we need to be sure they are equipped to implement

How we can apply implementation science to specialty mental health supervision

- Engage with practice-based experts and researchers to better understand what key ingredients are needed to implement SMHS
- Use implementation science frameworks to understand essential components of the model
- Use implementation science frameworks to assess factors that impact implementation
- Develop and test implementation strategies to address implementation challenges and enhance uptake of the model's core components
- Systematically adapt the model to fit the local context

Example: Using Implementation Strategies to Enhance Uptake of Core Components

Developing and testing implementation strategies to enhance uptake of core components of the model



SMHS in Georgia, USA

- SMHS has been running for much of the last decade
- Recently, the jurisdiction learned that the outcomes were not what they had expected and began looking at how their model was implemented
- Pursued grant funding to focus on: (1) eligibility criteria for specialized caseloads, (2) enhancing relationships and networking with service providers, and (3) enhancing officer capacity via an implementation strategy

Our Process

- Partner with an academic research lab focused on implementation science, specifically in correctional settings and with respect to SMHS
- Planned to use an implementation strategy the research lab developed in another state and adapt to GA context
- Developed a cross-agency and inter-disciplinary implementation team
- Conducted a pre-implementation assessment to identify potential barriers to using the implementations strategy and adjusted approach
- Adapted the implementation strategy to fit the needs of the agency and the preferences of the implementation team
- Currently co-designing the evaluation process with academic partner

Discussion: How can
implementation science methods
be used to address context?

Questions about exploration

- What is the prevalence of mental illness among people on your community supervision caseloads?
- What strategies do you use for supervising them?
- If you were to implement SMHS as we've described, what implementation questions would you want to ask, specifically related to:
 - Reducing caseload size
 - Creating exclusive caseloads of people with mental illnesses
 - Providing ongoing mental health training
 - Enhancing coordination and collaboration with behavioral health services
 - Using a problem-solving approach

Questions about preparation

Let's say you decided to implement the model...

- In what ways would you need to prepare your agency?
- How might you engage your leadership in managing the change process?
- Would you need to engage and outreach the community or other agency partners?
- What specific strategies might you use to prepare your agency?

Questions?

Contact information

- Tonya Van Deinse: tbv@email.unc.edu
- Nicholas Powell: nicholas.powell@dcs.ga.gov

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