

“Building Evaluation Capacity for Evidence-Based Interventions”
 Center for Substance Abuse Prevention’s (CSAP) Service-to-Science Initiative
FINAL REPORT TEMPLATE

Date Submitted: 5-30-08

PROJECT TITLE/ORGANIZATION NAME: SIGNALS: Setting Important Goals Now Against Life-threatening Substances
 / The Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children & Youth

AUTHOR (S) OF REPORT OR PERSON (S) AUTHORIZED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE REPORT (name, title, telephone number, e-mail address):
 George R. Ross, Ph.D. Project Evaluator, 859-223-5126 email: 53049grr@insightbb.com / Lane Stonecypher, Project Director, 859-509-4313 lane@kyumh.org / Kathryn Webb, Research Assistant, 859-873-4481
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1. Describe the specific ways in which the subcontract contributed to your ability to conduct a more rigorous process and outcome evaluation of the intervention.	Stated goals and objectives of evaluation capacity-building enhancements (s)	Activities conducted which enhanced evaluation capacity	Process measures	Outcome measures
<p>The sub contract enabled us to more clearly focus the evaluation design and articulate evaluation questions, and implement a stronger research design. In addition data collection and retrieval system and data analysis capacity were enhanced. Finally the resources enabled us to improve instrumentation used to measure outcome variables and to improve external validity by increasing the populations receiving the intervention</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet with stakeholders to clearly define information requisites 2. Institutional cycle design (Campbell & Stanley, 1963) And a stratified random assignment pretest-post test control group design (true experimental design). {Campbell & Stanley, 1963} 3. Implement project Management Information System (MIS). 4. Purchase SPSS 5. Analyze data using improved methodology 6. Develop measurement instruments 7. Four additional settings including a residential treatment facility similar to the Methodist Home, a Christian high school, a private day school, and a public school 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Logic model and evaluation design clearly delineated and agreed to by key stakeholders 2. Implementation of institutional cycle design. 3. Data collection instrument developed. Contract with Rocky Mountain Behavioral Science Institute to organize, process, and validate data collection. Utilizing scanning instrument resulting in SPSS data set. 4. SPSS purchased 5. Statistical analysis is currently being conducted. 6. Development of an extensive measurement instrument (see attached SIGNALS Survey) to measure program outcomes. 7. Program implemented and evaluated at seven additional sites including Early Intervention Programs, public alternative school, private Christian school, and regional prevention center. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successful partnering with key stakeholders to implement research design 2. Institutional cycle design using multiple t-test for the difference between two means with correlated observations and non parametric statistics 3. SPSS data set. 4. SPSS program installed and running on computer system. 5. Statistical analysis is currently being conducted. 6. Completed instrument. 7. Instructor training, implement program at sites, pre and posttests administered. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved reliability and validity of evidence base Improved accountability 2. Improved internal and external validity 3. Improved accessibility and quality control 4. Improved analysis capacity 5. Improved validity and reliability of evidence base 6. Improved external validity.

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2. In thinking about question #1, identify any other factors that contributed to this goal and the relative contribution made by this subcontract versus those factors.	Short-term	Midterm/intermediate	Long-term impact
	None	None	None

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3. Describe any plans to continue or further the evaluation of your intervention.	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
	<p>Factor analysis of research data to shorten length of instrumentation</p> <p>Collection of additional pretest data to further refine SIGNALS Survey collection instrument.</p> <p>Enhance mechanisms being used to evaluate and improve consistency of program dissemination by instructors. (e.g. instructor surveys, online training and focus group)</p> <p>Reevaluate guidelines for administration of pre and posttest to enhance validity and reliability of testing results.</p>	<p>Implement pretest posttest experimental design with control group utilizing stratified random sampling.</p> <p>Continue to enhance population base including additional and more diversified program sites.</p> <p>Continue to enhance mechanisms being used to evaluate and improve consistency of program dissemination by instructors. (e.g. instructor surveys, online training and focus group)</p>	<p>Replicate improved evaluation design at future program sites.</p> <p>Continue to enhance mechanisms being used to evaluate and improve consistency of program dissemination by instructors. (e.g. instructor surveys, online training and focus group)</p> <p>Evaluate impact of differing program implementations with specific focus on implementing a course over two weeks vs. a semester, method of implementation (DVD version vs. CD Rom version), inclusion vs. non-inclusion of students' accurate understanding of risk level through the course summary.</p>

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4. Describe any plans to disseminate the results	Publications	Presentations	Applications to NREPP	Other dissemination strategies and / or systems for rating program effectiveness
Awaiting results of the analysis of outcome variables as purposed by the evaluation design	Summary of evaluation findings to be sent to stakeholders.	Present summary of findings to sponsoring agency's CEO and Vice President of Community Based Services.	Application to NREPP under review. Currently the NREPP Board is backlogged and no further reviews can be submitted until October 2009. It is the intension of SIGNALS to submit for review.	Contingent upon the results on the evaluation of data.

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5. Describe any plans to disseminate results for the evaluation of your intervention, after additional evaluation work has been completed.	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term
	Summary of project results on the SIGNALS program website to be accessed by general public	Summary of project results to state agencies and stakeholders	Technical reports presented to: NREPP/ Federal government Resource for Education, Adaptation, Change and Health REACH of Louisville Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluations (PIRE) Center for Applied Prevention Technologies (CAPT)

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6. Discuss any obstacles you encountered in implementing the subcontract and how they were addressed.	Administrative	Technical/Management	Personnel Resources	Other (explain)
	<p>1. Lost the opportunity to more efficiently evaluate the testing instrument due to a change in administration at the Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth (KYUMH). We used the pretests across sites to enhance the validation of the study and further validate the scale.</p> <p>2. Difficulty was encountered with disseminating the program in a consistent manner across sites. The program instructors had different levels of experience. Some sites used the DVD version of SIGNALS instead of the CD Rom version of the program. We obtained additional resources to replicate the study across sites and to shore up the consistency of presentation. We made careful documentation as to how the program was originally presented at each site.</p>	<p>1. Under-estimated the cost of purchasing and maintenance of SPSS. Partnered with another community-based program at KYUMH to combine funds to purchase SPSS. Received additional funds from the Foundation For Drug Free Youth for SPSS program maintenance.</p>		<p>1. We encountered different standards for Institutional Review Boards (IRB) sites. To address the issue we negotiated and created assent forms as needed.</p>

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7. Detail the accomplishments made under the subcontract.	Short-term evaluation capacity-building improvements	Intermediate./mid-term changes	Anticipated long-term evaluation capacity-building outcomes	Other (explain)
	<p>Improved the focus of the evaluation design with clear articulation of evaluation questions.</p> <p>Enhanced internal and external validity of the evaluation through implementation of institutional cycle design.</p> <p>Successfully implemented and installed MIS / SPSS system resulting in improved accessibility, quality control, and data analysis procedures.</p> <p>Developed more sensitive instrumentation to measure significant outcome variables.</p> <p>Improved generalizability of program outcomes by expanding population base to include a greater diversity of program participants.</p>	<p>Improved reliability and validity of data.</p> <p>Improved external validity of evaluation findings.</p> <p>Improved accessibility and quality control of data collection procedures with an enhanced data analysis capacity and expansion of generalizability of results.</p>	<p>Improved reliability and validity of data.</p> <p>Improved external validity of evaluation findings.</p> <p>Improved accessibility and quality control of data collection procedures with an enhanced data analysis capacity and expansion of generalizability of results.</p>	

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8. Discuss the extent to which progress made as a result of the subcontract met, exceeded or fell short of the progress expected and described in your proposal.	Fell short of expectations (Describe and explain)	Met expectations (Describe and explain)	Exceeded expectations (Describe and explain)
	<p>Validation process of instrumentation is in need of further progress.</p> <p>Did not achieve the level of participation from public schools and residential treatment facility that was originally anticipated.</p> <p>Although the institutional cycle design was implemented, a stratified random assignment, pretest/posttest control group was not implemented.</p>	<p>Focus of evaluation designed with articulated evaluation questions accomplished.</p> <p>Evaluation design upgraded from what was previously being done to include institutional cycle design.</p> <p>Improved accessibility and quality control of data and capacity to analyze it.</p> <p>Validity and reliability of testing instrument has been enhanced.</p> <p>The population base was increased.</p>	

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9. Identify factors that contributed to greater or less than expected progress.	Administrative	Technical/Management	Personnel Resources	Other (explain)
	<p>1. The change in CEO's at KYUMH cost valuable time and backlogged the implementation of milestones originally purposed. The change in CEO's made it difficult to finalize negotiations with stakeholders.</p>	<p>1. A factor that contributed to the progress of the program was teaming with the Rocky Mountain Behavior Institute to develop and construct the instrument. The institute was able to enhance data collection, storage, and retrieval capacity.</p>		

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<p>10. Discuss lessons learned from implementing the subcontract that might help guide future awardees, shape a future request for proposals, improve the technical assistance provided during the project, etc.</p>	<p>Administrative</p>	<p>Technical/Management</p>	<p>Personnel Resources</p>	<p>Other (explain)</p>
	<p>Negotiating site participation required more time than was initially anticipated</p> <p>It was discovered that implementation of the program required more flexibility than initially anticipated in order to accommodate the conflicting demands of individual sites. The challenge presented is how to maintain the integrity of the program within the confines of the limitations presented by the different sites. In a similar fashion conducting pre and post testing also required careful negotiation and in some case became prohibited because of constraints imposed by the participating agency.</p>	<p>Implementation of computer systems required more time and funds than originally anticipated.</p> <p>Administrative change at the KYUMH and other project sites created a delay in the implementation of several key milestones.</p> <p>It took longer to get the completed pre and posttests to the Rocky Mountain Behavioral Institute preventing the ability to fully evaluate the pretest and still be able to implement the evaluation design. This delay further delayed the implementation of the evaluation design back logging data preparation and data analysis milestones.</p>		