Adapting Wraparound for Older Youth and Young Adults

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TA NETWORK

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Presenters

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Remainder of the webinar…

According to providers…

- What are key differences between this population and younger children in Wraparound?
- How do these differences impact the Wraparound process?

What are the implications of the answers to these questions?

- Particularly with regard to model specification and fidelity

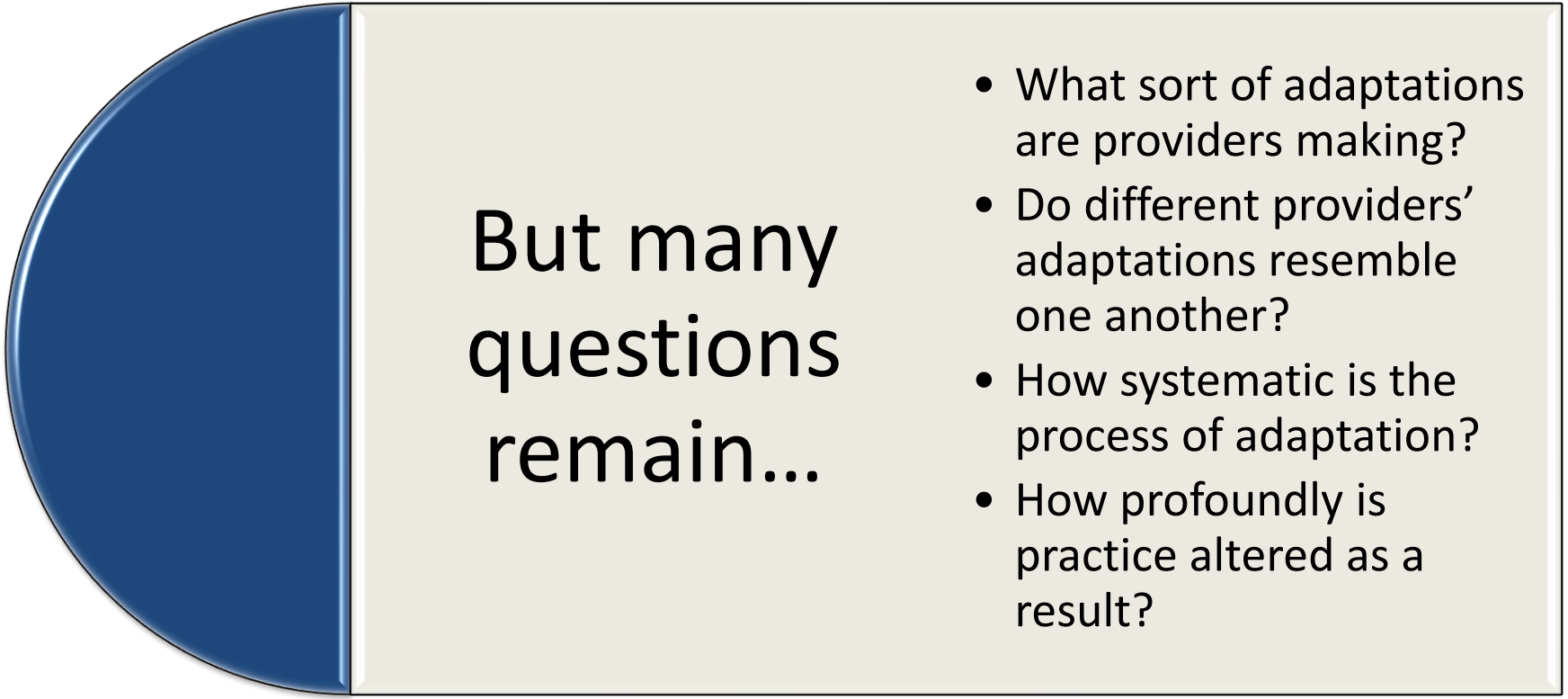
Questions and observations from the audience

Using Wraparound with Older Youth and Young Adults

Providers value Wraparound, but almost universally describe a need to adapt the process

- *I would definitely say that we've had to be flexible with the model itself.*
- *So while we are Wraparound, we are not using the traditional model of Wraparound with our young adults.*

Providers are Adapting Wraparound…



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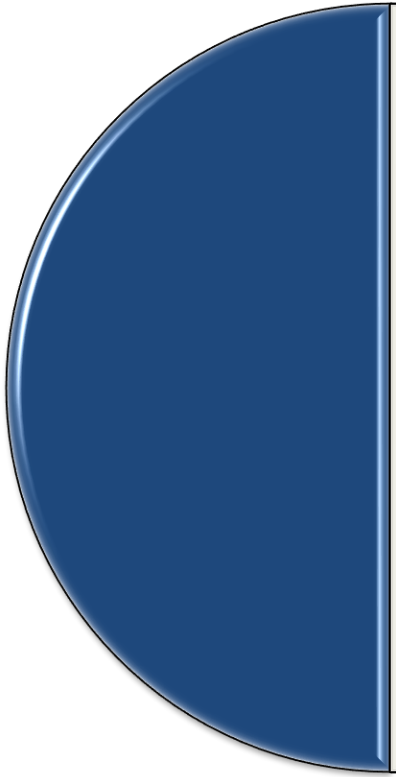
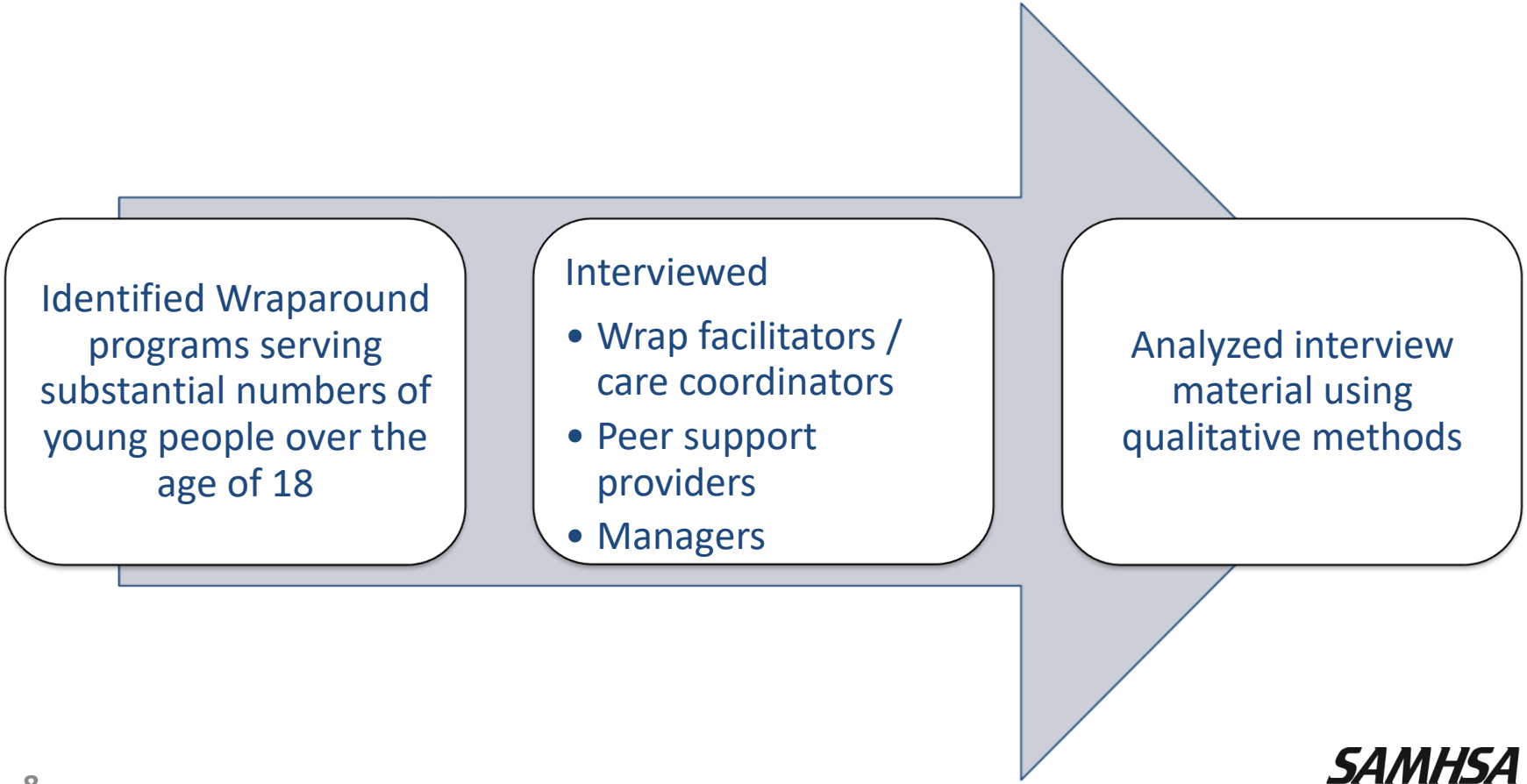


But many questions remain…

- How to ensure that an adapted practice model is well described, and that it maintains its fidelity to the overall Wraparound model?

Process for Answering these Questions



According to Wraparound Providers…

Older youth and young adults in Wraparound versus younger children

What are key developmental differences?

Self-reliance, Independence and Responsibility Increase

Approaching and particularly over age 18, young people are the drivers

- *After 18 of course it's up to them who they want on the team, not the family*
- *We do go by what the client wants to accomplish… and what they want to set out to do because they have the voice*

Self-reliance, Independence and Responsibility Increase (cont.)

Need to “right size” support, and also recognize that becoming more self-reliant can be intimidating

- *We want them to build their natural supports but then we also want to teach them independence and how to handle these things.*
- *Sometimes they kind of shut down knowing that now this is real life and now they are on their own, and they will start to not engage as much because they’re scared of the real world.*

Self-reliance, Independence and Responsibility Increase (cont.)

Many systems-experienced young people have not had much practice in self-reliance

- *We act like they're all grown up at 18 but they're not…*
- *We can be working with a kid who has been in the system for ten years and has had most things done for them and as soon as they turn 18, the expectation shifts to they need to be doing most things because they're an adult now.*

Networks of Natural Support Change

The young person's own natural supports are the focus

- *It's not the family's natural supports but the youth's, which is not the same thing at all: their friends, their girlfriend, their boyfriend, their family of choice…*

Families may continue to be key supports… or not

- *We have a young man who's 19 I think, maybe he's almost 20, and he didn't want to really have anything to do with his family…*
- *It's just he… has burned so many bridges with his family that they don't want anything to do with him.*

Networks of Natural Support Change (cont.)

Positive connections to adults may be lacking

- *They do not see that they have any adults in their lives as natural supports.*
- *Their parents moved away and they had a hard time getting natural supports in there.*
- *There may be adults, but… sometimes those are the people they need to get away from.*

According to Wraparound Providers…

For older youth and young adults

How do developmental differences impact the Wraparound process?

Process Must be Youth-/Young Adult-Driven

It's developmentally optimal

Young adults are legally entitled to run the process

Young adults won't engage otherwise

- *Comparing to working with younger kids, if you can engage well with a young adult and they feel like their goals are, they identify they're being worked on, they're more likely to come to the table.*

Team Composition is Different

Young adults may be reluctant to involve others, particularly at first

- *Well I know the young adults we have been working with, I know they're not always comfortable with people sitting around a table and talking about them so to speak.*
- *The young people are really are sick of having people intimately in their business.*

Team Composition is Different (cont.)

Teams will likely be smaller, and may not include parents

- *Once youth get over 18, then a lot of times the people who would be the team of professionals evaporates as well because they're not charged with working with young adults anymore.*
- *It becomes optional for the young person as to whether they see their parents as adult allies in their plans.*

Team Composition is Different (cont.)

Initial work of Wraparound may be more one-on-one (or two-on-one with peer support), with team building as a focus

- *As time goes on and we're engaging more, they start opening up to me more about people in their life who they said they didn't have. They just have to eventually recognize that there is always someone there for them, they just haven't been able to pinpoint who.*
- *We are patient with that process as well, and we find that more times than not, the young adult is eventually ready to sort of have the family member come in and also be a supportive member of the team in what they're trying to accomplish.*

Team Composition is Different (cont.)

Subsets of team members may come and go, depending on specific goals

- *Some of the participants that go in and out of the teams also have to do what the goal is. There may be a person that attends a few meetings but once they're not needed anymore as far as whatever the goal was, they may pull out.*
- *Sometimes the client wants their mother, their father, their brother or sister and then in other meetings, they don't want any of them.*

Collaboration Can be Different

Fewer team members with authority or mandates

- Less need to integrate viewpoints from people who are required to be there
- More need to build a role for natural supports

Phasing

Initial phases slower, with more overlap

- Team formation, which normally happens by the early part of the initial plan development phase, may be delayed until after work on goals has begun
- In the meantime, the Wraparound facilitator and/or peer support provider may work with the young person to gain trust, to identify natural supports, and/or to help the young person see the benefits of engaging family members and other allies on the team.

Phasing (cont.)

Initial goals may change quite radically

- *A lot of times they'll present with [a simple goal] and then as trusting relationships build, they're open to exploring different needs. So I think the fact that we just allow the young adults to be in the driver's seat and let them gently explore what their needs are as time passes and they accomplish their initial goals.*

Focus on Skill Building

Skills for self-determination

- *Sometimes it takes teaching them how to make those goals or how to set goals. Sometimes it's not what the goal is, it's the process of setting the goal and making the step by steps.*
- *"…This time, I'll show you and next time, you have to do it." But really just picking up from the ground level and walking through it with them.*

Key Role of Peer Support

Seen as uniquely valuable and important

- *The peer has been really the shining star of the grant so to speak, in that it being a newer way of really engaging young adults into better care.*
- *Probably some of the best stories that we could give include [a peer] that was assigned to the case.*

Conclusions

- Some differences in working with the population are seen as an easy fit with “traditional” Wraparound
  - Young person as driver
  - Peer support
  - Skill building
  - Evolution of goals over time

Conclusions (cont.)

- Uncertainty regarding differences in teaming and phasing can be troubling
  - Lack of model clarity and training

[Providers'] claim when they [don't form a team] is just that young people really don't want teams. But I think that maybe we haven't quite figured out how we work through that. We have some facilitators who have figured out how to do a really good job with that.

Next Steps

- Ensure that Wrap care coordinators have skills to ensure young adult-driven process and to teach self-determination
  - AMP evidence-supported enhancement for Wraparound
- Ensure peer support trained specifically to enhance Wraparound
  - AMP+ empirically supported model
- NWI/NWIC support
  - Learning community spring of 2019
    - Create guidance document on teaming and training
  - National Wraparound Implementation Academy September 2019

SAVE THE DATE

September 9-11, 2019

National Wraparound Implementation Center

National Wraparound Implementation Academy

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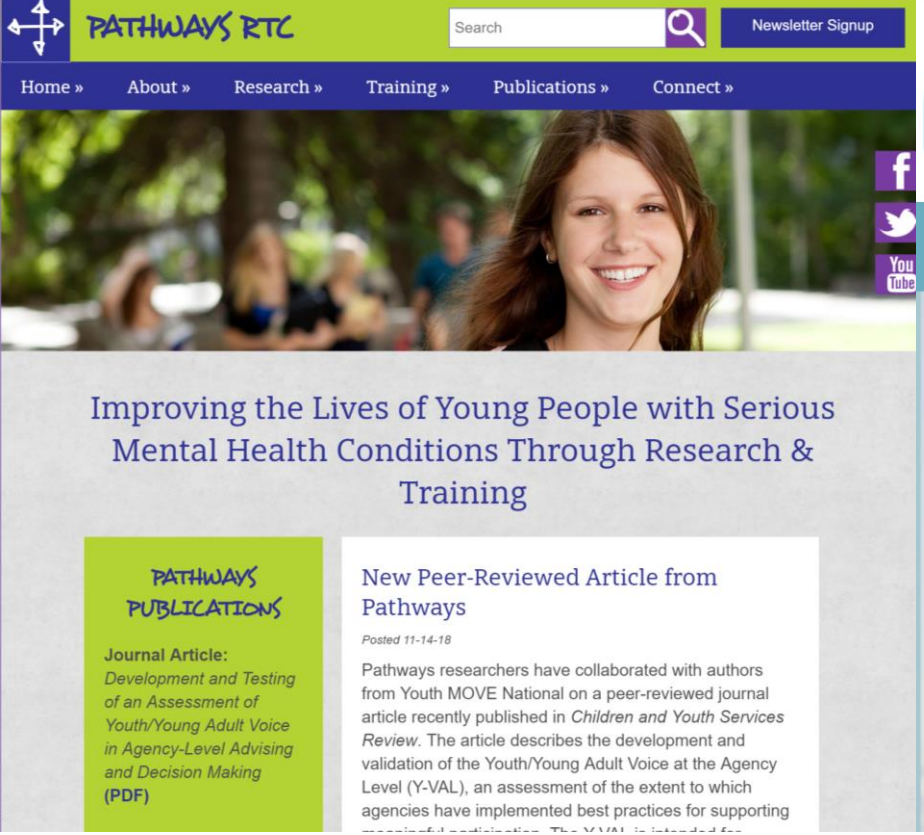

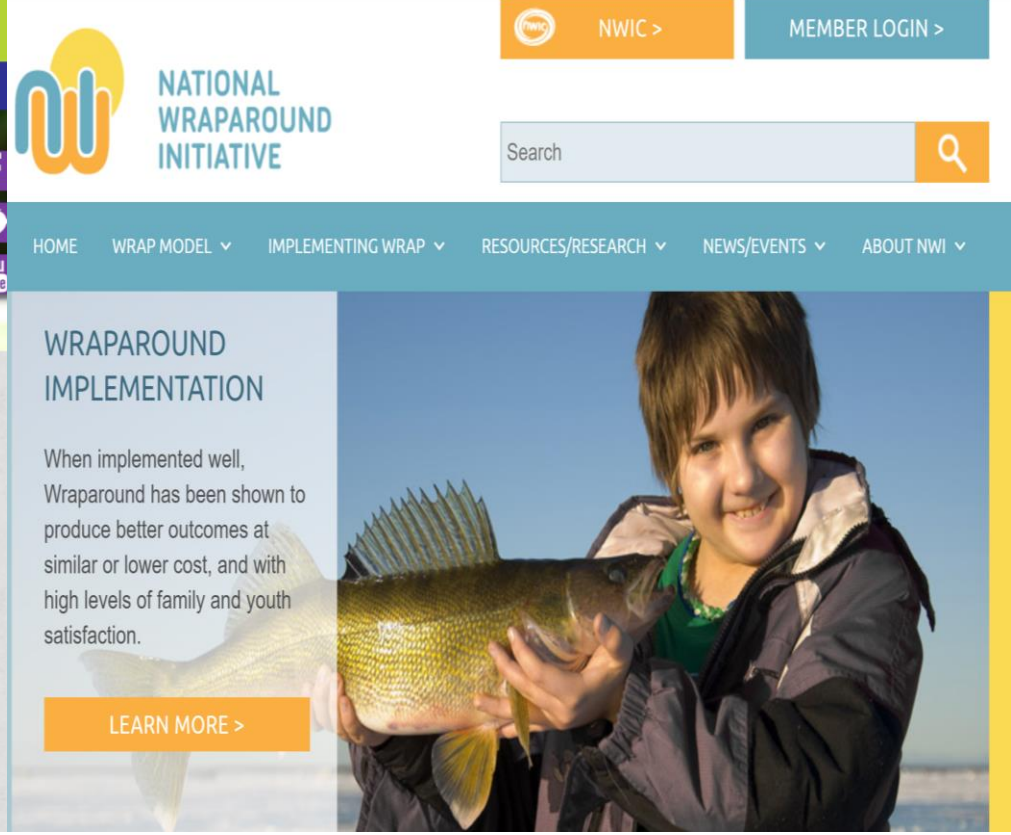

Report and other resources at Pathways RTC and NWI

www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu www.nwi.pdx.edu

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Thank You

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