Calculating the Components of the Reclaiming Futures Model

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Summary

Implementing the Reclaiming Futures Model is not the same thing as “evaluation.”

The Model can help with evaluation in the long term, but in the short-term it is intended to identify and track key performance measures.

You CAN fill out the Model with individual-level data, but the Model’s performance and outcome measures do NOT require individual data — they are system processing counts (and proportions based on those counts).

Once the correct numbers are assembled, the calculation of the proportions is quite simple.

The hard part is collecting the correct numbers, because they require consistent counting across agency boundaries.
The Model focuses on transitions from one stage to the next.

The numbers at each stage are used to calculate process and outcome measures.

1. Initial Screening
   - If possible substance abuse is indicated, refer for Initial Assessment.
   - As soon as possible after being referred to the juvenile justice system, youth should be screened for possible substance abuse problems using a reliable screening tool.
   - If no substance abuse is indicated, resume traditional juvenile justice.

2. Initial Assessment
   - If substance abuse is indicated, refer for Service Coordination.
   - Intervention plans should be designed and coordinated by community teams that are family driven, open agency boundaries, and draw upon community-based resources. Intervention should include whatever mix of services is appropriate for each youth, often including AOD treatment, educational and preventive services, involvement in formal activities, and the assistance of “natural helpers” known to the youth and his or her family.

3. Service Coordination
   - Service initiation is the critical moment in intervention. Consistent with the treatment standards of the Washington State Group (www.washingtongroup.org), initiation is defined as at least one service contact within 14 days of a full assessment. Initiation can be measured for each component of the plan. Service initiation should be monitored whether or not the intervention plan includes formal AOD treatment.

4. Initiation
   - Youth and families must be effectively engaged in services. Engagement is defined as three successful service contacts within 30 days of a youth’s full assessment. Engagement can be measured for each service component or for all elements of the service plan taken as a whole. Engagement should be monitored whether or not the intervention plan includes formal AOD treatment.

5. Engagement
   - Community coordination teams should specify how much of each service plan must be completed in order for the plan as a whole to be considered complete. As apprentices, completion of the service plan should involve the gradual withdrawal of agency-based services and the engagement of youth and families in community resources and natural family involvement.

6. Completion
   - Of all youth identified with AOD problems at assessment, how many get full assessments?
   - Of all youth identified with AOD problems at screening who do not get full assessments, how many are successful for at least one year?

Outcome Measures
- Of all youth who initiate a service plan, how many become fully engaged in services?
- Of all youth who initiate a service plan that fails to initiate services as designed, how many are successful for at least one year?
- Of all youth who complete the service plan, how many are successful for at least one year?
EXAMPLE:
Of all youth who initiate a service plan, how many become fully engaged in services?
EXAMPLE:
Of all youth who initiate a service plan but FAIL to become fully engaged, how many are successful for at least one year?
For example, let’s focus on “Initiation” and “Engagement” …
Initiation

Service initiation is a critical moment in intervention. Consistent with the treatment standards of the Washington Circle Group (www.washingtoncircle.org), initiation is defined as at least one service contact within 14 days of a full assessment. Initiation can be measured for the entire intervention plan or for each component of the plan. Service initiation should be monitored whether or not the intervention plan includes formal AOD treatment.

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**Process Measures**

Of all youth who initiate a service plan, how many become fully engaged in services?
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Outcome Measures

Of all youth who initiate a service plan but **FAIL** to become fully engaged, how many are successful for at least one year?
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OUTCOME

Not Engaged and Arrest-free

Not Engaged

%
The Generic Case:

Population at previous stage

ELIGIBLE

Current Stage

Continued

Stopped

% Process Measure = Continued

% Process Measure = Stopped and Successful

% Outcome Measure = Stopped

PROCESS

OUTCOME
Everything you need to design a data collection plan is in the RF Model

- But, the Model is not highly specific
- It allows you to choose the exact way that each stage is measured
- All of the process and outcome measures are stated in general terms precisely because the Model is intended to allow for great flexibility
For More Information

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