



Center for Mental Health Services Research

GEORGE WARREN BROWN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Washington University in St. Louis

Training the next generation of implementation researchers

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Importance of Training for IR

“Implementation gap” –one of the most serious issues in health care

True science of implementation just emerging

Field is primed to advance implementation science



Challenges for Training in IR

Theory is debated

Methods underdeveloped

Rapid change in publication outlets

Funding is limited; no standing review committee



Challenges for Training in IR

Limited evidence about effective implementation strategies

Multiple levels of analysis

policy, organizational, medical team, practice

Multiple stakeholders

payers, administrators, patients, providers, families

Design challenges in testing effects of practice change

small “n;” randomization, contamination

Emergent literature on selecting and measuring implementation outcomes



“Case:” Training framework and assumptions

**Establish a centralized training base
through new funding (NIH R25)**

**few extant centers and
institutional training programs**

Trans-disciplinary approach

IR has no disciplinary home



“Case”: Framework

Dual goals: develop human and intellectual capital

- “learning collaborative”
- faculty will learn along with trainees
 - joint publications
 - trainees engaged in faculty research



“Case” Framework:

Target researchers eager to move into IR

Didactic and experiential learning

Centralized training:

- Bring trainees together for intensive learning
- Core curriculum, evolving over time
- “Core” and “expert” faculty
 - New expertise emerges as field evolves



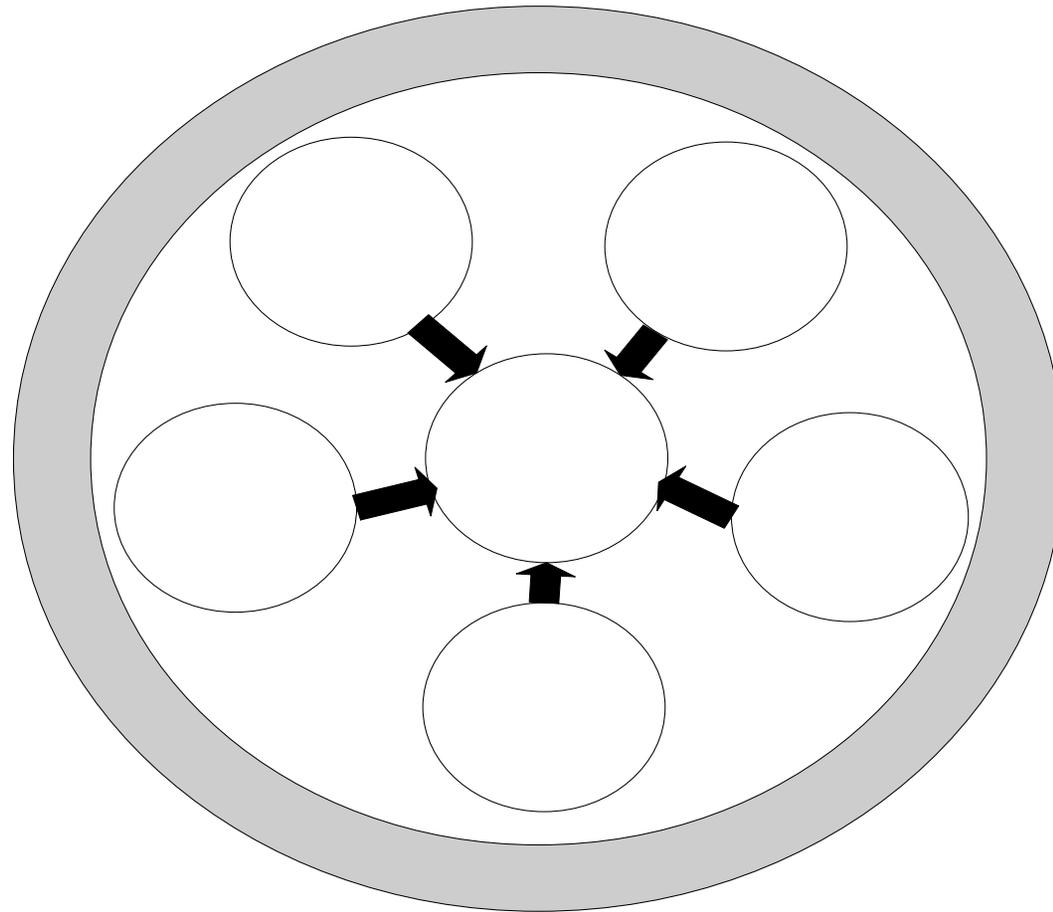
“Case:” Framework

Experiential learning

- Visits to established sites of IR
- Training in observation and research implementation efforts
- Distance learning
- Pilot work for preliminary studies



Centralized and De-centralized Training Resources



Faculty
Research Sites



Brian Mittman

John Landsverk

Greg Aarons



Discussion

1. What training programs focused on implementation research do you conduct or know about?



Discussion

2. What additional challenges must be overcome to succeed in developing and delivering training in implementation research?



Discussion

3. What suggestions do you propose for designing, funding, and conducting implementation research training?



Discussion

4. What actions should key organizations take to promote and facilitate better training in implementation research?
 - Funding agencies:
 - NIH, AHRQ, RWJ, other...
 - Universities
 - Professional associations and specialty societies
 - Agencies & other policy boards



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