

North Carolina's Experience with Evidence-Based Practices

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In 2004, the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) received a three-year Mental Health Systems Transformation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The goal of the Mental Health Systems Transformation (MHST) Project is to assist four local management entities (LMEs) (i.e., Mental Health Services of Catawba County in Hickory, CenterPoint Human Services in Winston-Salem, The Durham Center in Durham, and Wake County Human Services in Raleigh) to develop the infrastructure necessary to support and sustain the implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs) within their local communities. This Project fits within the overall science to service initiative of the DMH/DD/SAS to deliver high quality, effective MH/DD/SAS system of services and supports for consumers and families.

Each LME was asked to select one of the EBPs for which an implementation resource kit was available and to focus their infrastructure-building efforts on that EBP. LMEs were also asked to consider what infrastructure was needed from the perspective of the mandated LME functions. Their first step was to identify what they needed in order for the EBP to be supported. As the project has progressed, workgroups at each LME have grappled with ways in which to develop the infrastructure necessary to support their selected EBP.

The Chair of the panel will provide an overview of the project. Each of the three panel members will focus on a different aspect of infrastructure (e.g., service management, provider relations and support, customer services, quality management and outcomes evaluation, business management, information management) needed to support the EBP. A brief question-and-answer period will follow.