

## **From Conceptualization to Implementation: Kentucky's Statewide Outcomes Management System for Children's Mental Health**

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The demand for accountability in children's mental health is not a new concept. In fact, Kentucky had instituted an evaluation system to monitor the IMPACT Program, the statewide system of care for children and youth with serious emotional disabilities and their families, as early as 1990. Unfortunately, as the system evolved, policies changed, and technology advanced, the evaluation system did not keep pace. An initiative began in late 2002 to evolve the evaluation system to better meet the changing information needs of the system. This presentation will describe Kentucky's process for developing and implementing a statewide outcomes management system.

Following a brief discussion of the background and context of the Kentucky IMPACT program as well as its early childhood mental health initiative, presenters will describe the steps taken from conceptualization to implementation of Kentucky's statewide outcomes management system:

- Establishing principles to drive system development
  - Utilization-focused
  - Outcomes-based
  - Technologically-advanced
- Securing top-down and bottom-up commitment
- Developing a theory of change
- Agreeing on an outcome protocol
- Specifying the technology
- Piloting the system
- Launching the system
- Communicating and using results

Presenters will share lessons learned from the process, relating both design and implementation challenges and facilitators, and describe future plans. A demonstration of the PDA-based outcomes management system will be conducted.