Collaboration Strategies for Implementing Cross-System Interventions with Child Welfare & Behavioral Health Organizations

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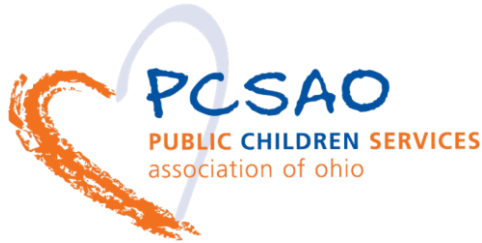
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Acknowledgements

Building Bridges to Link Social Service Systems and Behavioral Health Care

Cross-System Interventions

- Interventions that depend on services/support/actions from entities in more than once system to be delivered.

- May be designed link more than one type of service or service delivery system to promote access to comprehensive/integrated services
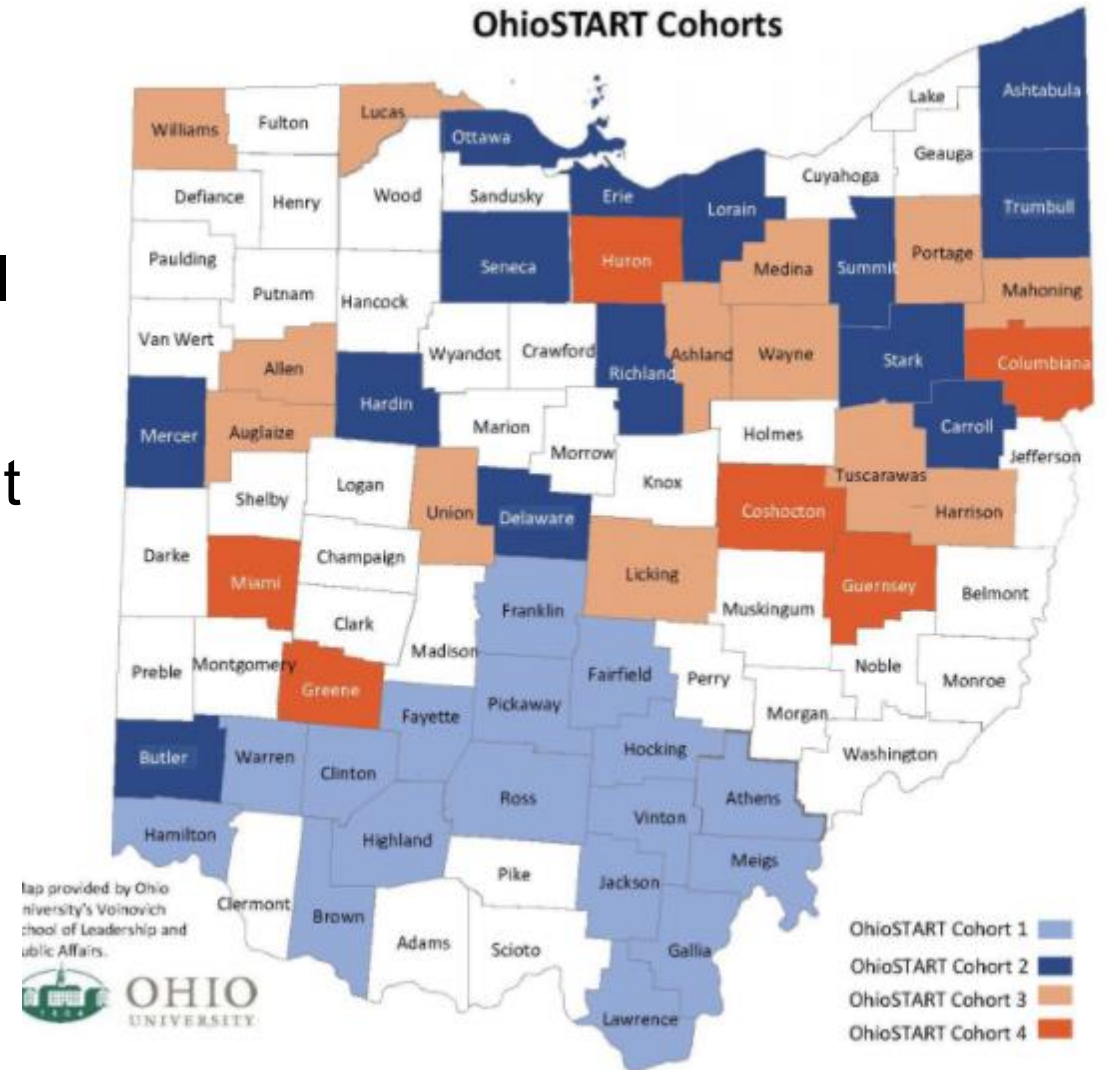
- Challenging to implement

Child welfare intervention for families affected by child maltreatment & parental substance use disorder (SUD)

- ✓ Expedites parents' access to treatment
- ✓ Improves treatment retention
- ✓ Increases level of sobriety
- ✓ Keeps families together during and after the intervention

Hall, Wilfong, Huebner, Posze, & Willauer, 2016

Huebner, Posze, Willauer, & Hall, 2015

Huebner, Willauer, & Posze, 2012.

OhioSTART Cohorts

Map provided by Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs.

OHIO UNIVERSITY

OhioSTART Cohort 1
OhioSTART Cohort 2
OhioSTART Cohort 3
OhioSTART Cohort 4

What Kind of Collaboration Does it Take to Implement START?

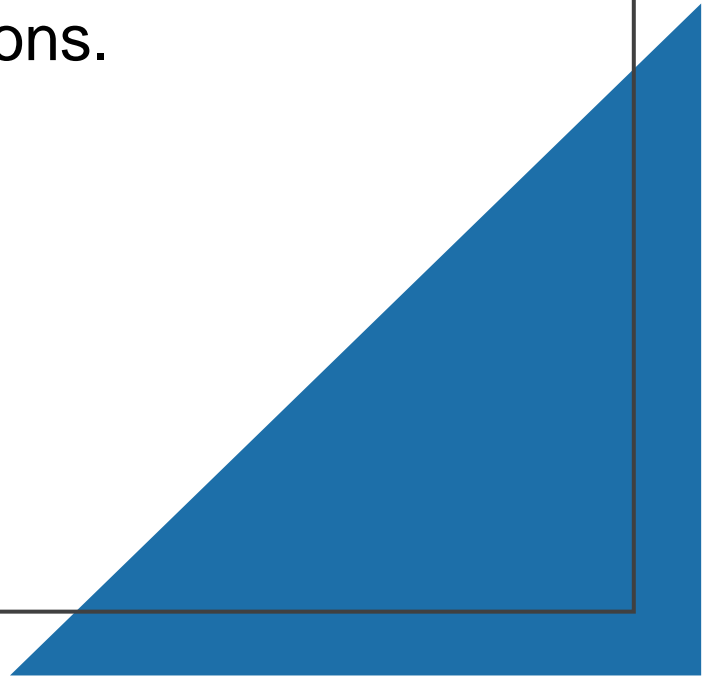**Collaboration Strategies are Implementation Strategies**

- Relationships across child welfare and behavioral health systems are important for START.

- Collaboration can be challenging and look different in every county.

Design

Aim: Identify and classify multi-level collaboration strategies used to implement cross-system interventions.

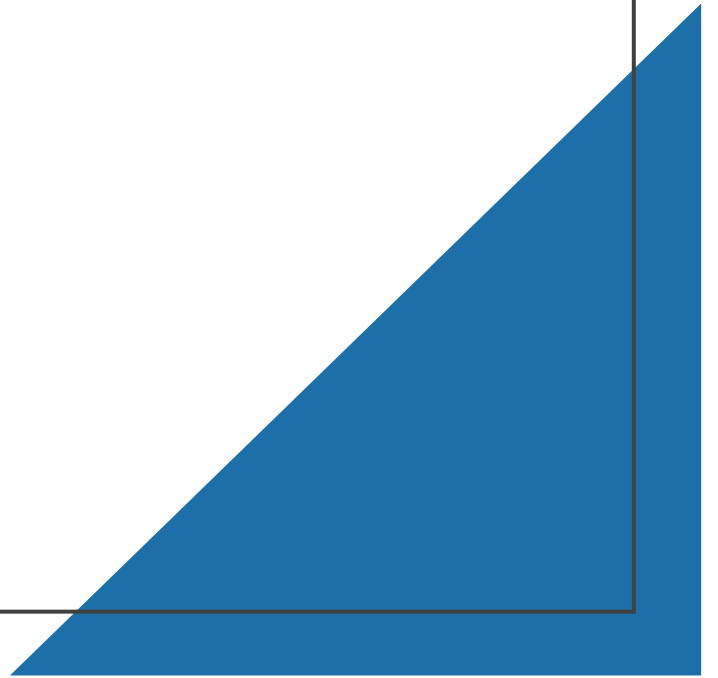- Multiple Case Study = 17 counties (Cohorts 1 & 2)
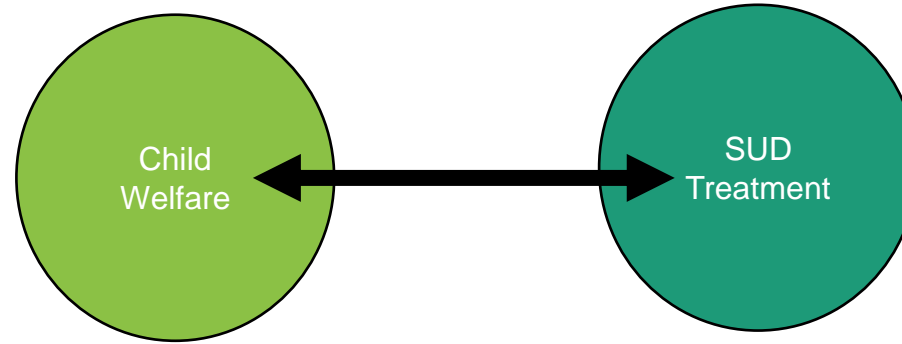
Data Sources and Analysis

- Formal partnership agreements (contracts, MOUs)
- 48 small group interviews = 104 individuals
  - Child welfare agency
  - Substance use treatment partner(s)
  - Regional behavioral health board
- Data collected: December 2019-March 2020; August 2020-April 2021
- Template approach (using codes from our conceptual model, START manual) and content analysis
- Expert Panel Meetings – strategy definitions and specification

Results – Collaboration Strategies

- Identified 10 collaboration strategies used to align different functions at different levels of the system
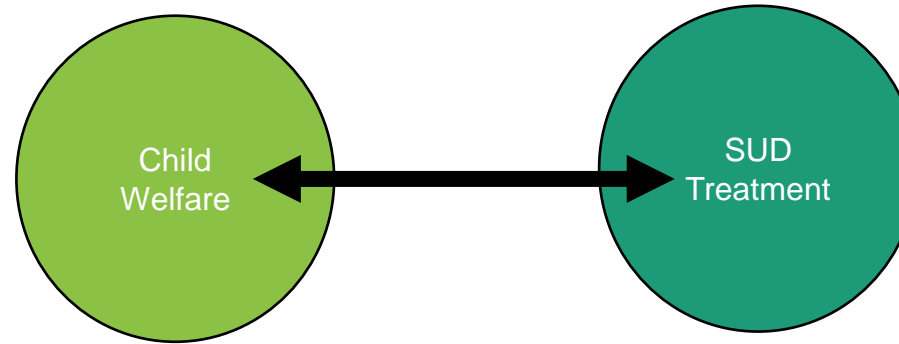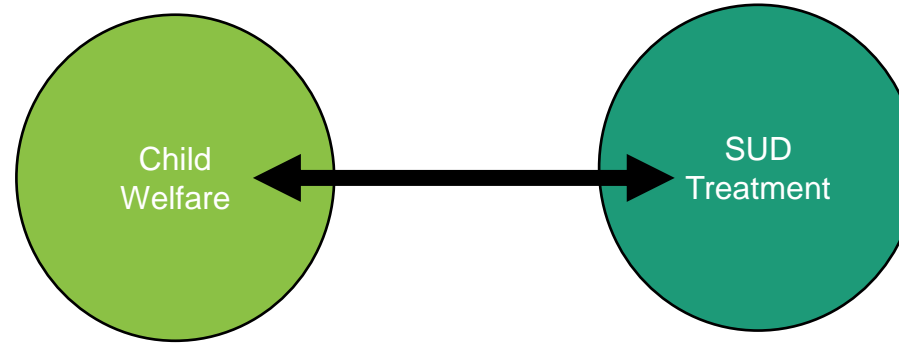
Results

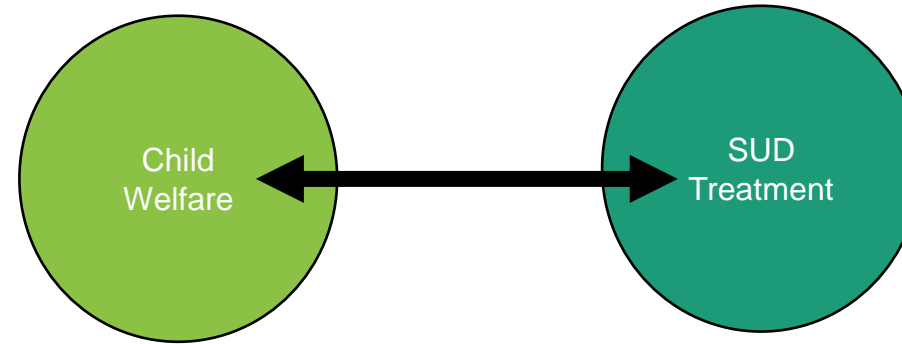| Function	Agency Leaders	Supervisors	Front-Line Staff
Staff the Program			

Results

Child Welfare ⟷ SUD Treatment

Function	Agency Leaders	Supervisors	Front-Line Staff
Staff the Program	1. Contract Out for Expertise 2. Co-Locate Staff	3. Joint Supervision	

Results

Function	Agency Leaders	Supervisors	Front-Line Staff
Staff the Program	1. Contract for Expertise 2. Co-Locate Staff	3. Joint Supervision	
Expedite Service Access	4. Expedited Access Agreements	5. Referral Protocols	

Results

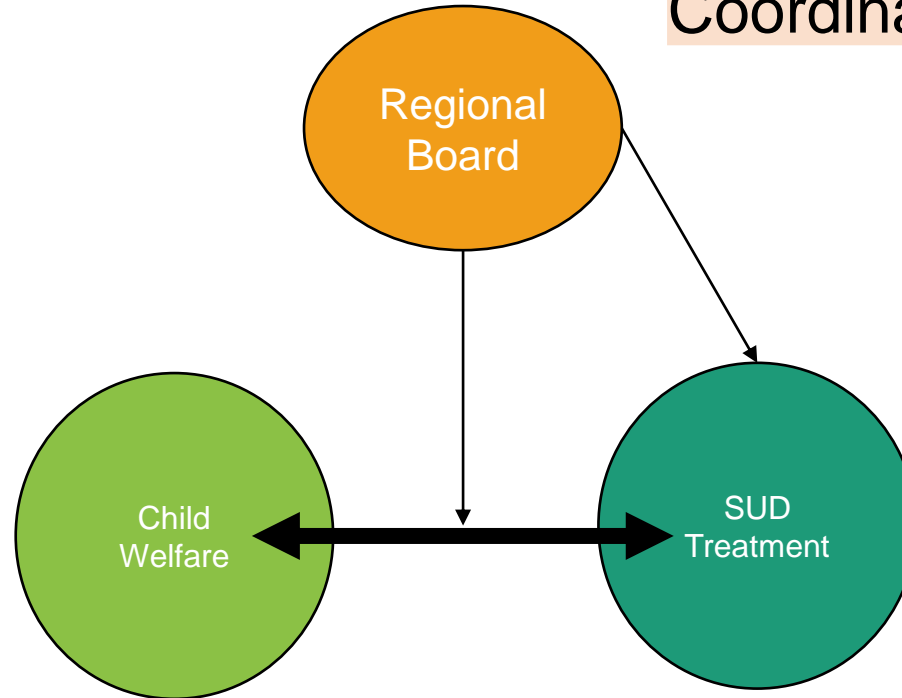| Function	Agency Leaders	Supervisors	Front-Line Staff
Staff the Program	1. Contract for Expertise 2. Co-Locate Staff	3. Joint Supervision	
Expedite Service Access	4. Expedited Access Agreements	5. Referral Protocols	
Case Alignment	**Buy in/Support needed	6. Shared Decision Meetings 7. Sharing Data/Info	

Results

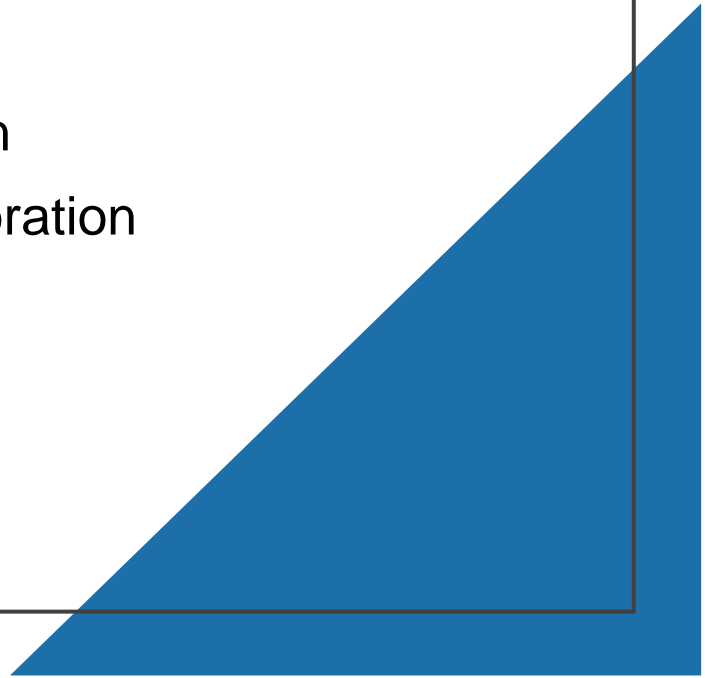| Function	System Leaders
System Coordination	8. Steering Committee 9. Broker Connections 10. Provide Resources

Function	Strategies
Staff the Program	Contract out for needed expertise, Joint Supervision, Co-Location
Expedite Service Access	Formal Agreements to Expedite, Referral protocols
Case Alignment	Shared decision-making meetings; Data sharing/reporting

Discussion

- There is no standard way of collaborating for implementation
- Levels – Collaboration Strategies used at multiple levels
- Temporality – Initiated at different times during implementation
- Interdependence – Some lay the foundation for strong collaboration

- Bridging factors (EPIS)

Future Directions

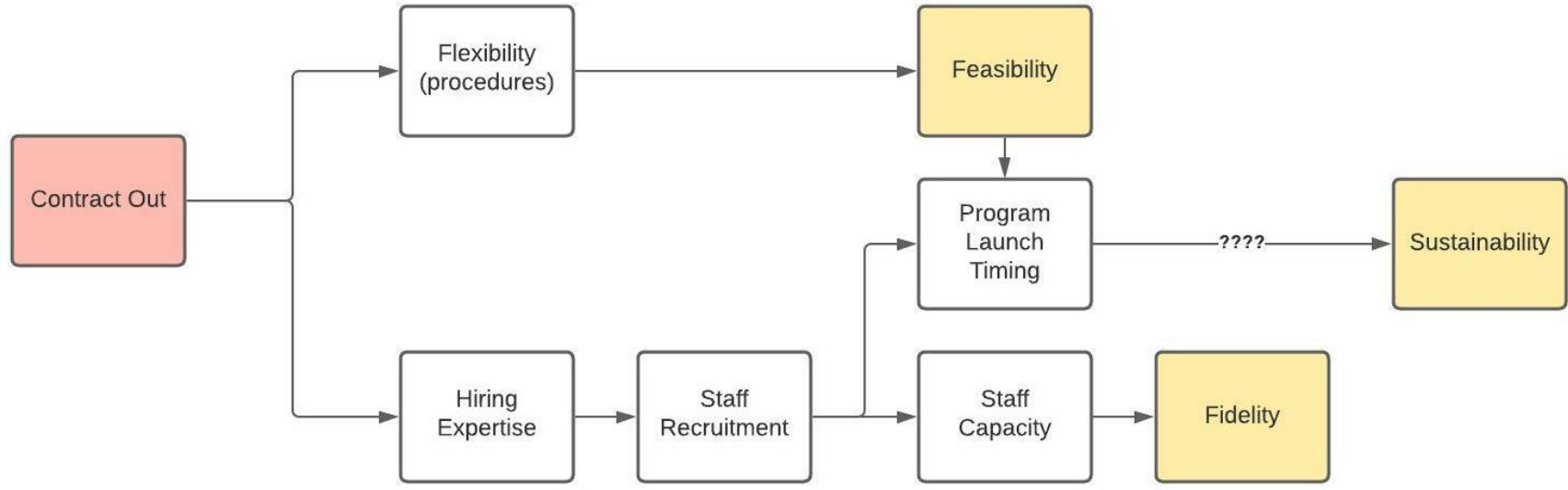- How do collaboration strategies lead to better implementation?

#	LABEL	ACTOR	ACTION	START SPECIFIC APPLICATION(s)	MECHANISM	JUSTIFICATION	CONSIDERATIONS	TEMPORALITY
		Who uses the strategy?	Description of the strategy	How is the strategy used in Ohio START?	How does this strategy work? How does it lead to implementation?	Why would we use this strategy?	What are the key considerations that might affect the success of this approach?	When is the strategy used?

A. STAFF THE PROGRAM

| | Contract out for needed expertise | Administrators responsible for programming/staffing decisions, procurement staff, HR staff | Outsource a staff role needed to implement a particular program/model to another organization. This entails an agreement that the staff person in this position is employed by another organization for purposes of supporting the EBP/program in the focal organization. | | | | | |

1. Contract Out for Needed Expertise - Outsource a staff role needed to implement a particular program/model to another organization. This entails an agreement that the staff person in this position is employed by another organization for purposes of supporting the EBP/program in the focal organization.

We should think about the counterfactual (hire inhouse). Does this still work?

Future Directions

- How do collaboration strategies lead to better implementation?
- Examine regional variations in strategy selection and their effectiveness for implementation (qualitative comparative analysis)
  - Create collaboration strategy toolkit (Collaborating Across Systems for Program Implementation; CASPI)

Questions?

Please email us: **STARTCollaborating@osu.edu**