The Five Keys to Sustainability

HCBS Conference: Sustainability Session
Karen LLanos, Director
Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, CMS
Sustainability approaches

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State Panel: experiences with sustainability

• Elizabeth Jones, Money Follows the Person Project Director, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

• Tom Gossett, TEFT Grant Business Project Manager, Aging & Adult Services Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services

• Tim Cortez, Manager, Community Options Section, Department of Health and Human Services Policy and Financing

General questions & answers
• Demonstration initiatives struggle with maintaining changes once grant funding has ended.

• Researchers and funders have identified practices that can help to maintain and sustain these efforts.

• Sustainability approaches cluster into five areas:
  1. Partnership Expansion
  2. Sustainable Funding
  3. Permanent Advisory Committees
  4. Policy Change
  5. Institution/Organization Change
Key #1: Partnership Expansion

• Expanding the numbers and types of partners increases the number of individuals who support the ideas and practices identified as critical to promotion of the grant-funded activities (the champions)
  – Ensures that information and lessons learned from the grant-funded activities become part of the larger ongoing public dialogue

• Planting seeds of awareness and increasing community knowledge are enduring regardless of ongoing presence.
Key #2: Sustainable Funding

• Be innovative in thinking about potential funding sources
  – Effective sustainable programs make good, logical arguments for how defined activities meet seemingly unrelated funding guidelines.
  – Adapt quickly and respond to emerging opportunities.
Key #3: Permanent Advisory Committees

- Approach sustainability through the development of permanent advisory committees or official entities focused on providing input and advice to decision makers.

- Focus on understanding and communicating the potential health impacts of local decision-making.

- The development of these entities may not guarantee that favorable decisions will be made; however, they do ensure that attention to your mission and vision continues.
Key #4: Policy Change

• Long-lasting community change will result from changing policies.

• The most commonly reported types of policy change were municipal and county ordinances, policies and guidelines.

• Other types of policy changes related to sustainable funding include legislative support.
Key #5: Institutional/Organizational Change

- Strategies include:
  - supporting staff positions
  - creating new departments, and
  - formally including lessons learned from grant-funded activities in missions and visions.
Key Questions/Considerations for States

• What partnership expansions occurred across sectors and disciplines and into broader geographic areas?

• Describe additional funding that extended beyond grants to Medicaid authorities and other funding sources.

• Which permanent advisory committees were established to inform decision makers about a range of active living impacts?

• Describe pertinent policy changes that occurred which will continue to further the TEFT and MFP missions? How will these changes accomplish that?

• Discuss how sustainability achieved through institution/organization changes led to the allocation of dedicated staff and incorporation of TEFT and MFP into agency missions.
State Experience: Colorado

Tim Cortez
Manager, Community Options Section
Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing
State Experience: Minnesota

Tom Gossett
TEFT Grant Business Project Manager
Aging & Adult Services Division
Minnesota Department of Human Services
State Experience: Texas

Elizabeth Jones
Money Follows the Person Project Director
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

• Awarded MFP demonstration grant in 2007
• Target populations: older Texans, individuals with physical disabilities, and individuals with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD)
• Transition to either 1115 managed care HCBS or 1915(c) waiver programs for IDD
• Demonstration services: behavioral health pilot, and relocation services
• Total Transitions as of December 2016: 11,433
Questions?