

# The Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (SCCAP): Initiative for Dissemination of Evidence-based Treatments for Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health Problems

With additional support from Florida International University and The Children's Trust.



# Workshop

## Measuring Progress in Clinical Practice: Contextualized Feedback Systems (CFS)

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# CFS

Contextualized  
Feedback  
Systems®

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Vanderbilt University



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Mental Health grants (RO1 MH068589;  
RO 1 MH087814) and a grant from the  
Leon Lowenstein Foundation

Disclosure of potential conflict of interest.  
Vanderbilt is the owner of CFS but the  
presenters can receive income from CFS  
sales.

1. Real world need, scientific theory, and research evidence in support of measurement feedback systems
2. Integrating feedback into clinical practice
3. Relevant questions in youth psychotherapy:  
*Peabody Treatment Progress Battery (PTPB)*
4. Case study of the use of feedback in the treatment of a 14 yr old girl
5. Supporting successful implementation
6. Summary and conclusions

1. Summarize basic theoretical, research, and practice perspectives on the strengths and limitations of using feedback to inform practice
2. Observe demonstrations of feedback use in clinical encounters, session documentation, treatment planning, and supervision with youth and family case examples
3. Describe five strategies for integrating feedback into clinical care to improve client outcomes
4. Utilize feedback in clinical care with youth and families

1. My Personal Journey
2. Brief Introduction to CFS
3. Theories of Change
4. Six Pressing Problems
5. CFS Evaluation Results
6. Summary



# What is Contextualized Feedback Systems (CFS)?





# CFS - A Concurrent, Systematic Monitoring and Formative Feedback Practice Improvement Tool



Practice Without Feedback  
Does Not Lead To Improvement

- Is part of treatment – can be completed at the close of a session or at any other time
- Is designed by clinicians to support clinicians
- Supports supervisors – helps supervisors identify areas where clinicians need extra guidance to ensure they feel confident
- Is flexible – use any measure, schedules, reports can be tailored for office workflow and QI initiatives. Not designed to support a specific measure or questionnaire
- Provides administrative and reporting functions – tools for leadership to become more successful at meeting the needs of their funders and clients

# Contextualized Feedback Systems<sup>®</sup> (CFS)

is:

- A real time, web based, quality improvement tool
- A result of over 15 years of research & development with grants from multiple agencies
- A measurement feedback system that assesses change as a client progresses and instantly provides feedback
- A system that enhances evidence-based practices
- The only system shown to improve youth outcomes

The screenshot displays the CFS web application interface. At the top right, a user greeting reads "Welcome, super admin. Last Login: 10/19/2011 8:30 am". Below this is a "Context Switcher" dropdown menu set to "CFS" with a "Change" button. The main navigation bar includes "DASHBOARD", "SCHEDULE", "QUICKLOOK", and "EXPORTS" buttons, along with "ADMIN / ACCOUNT / LOGOUT" links. A "CFS Contextualized Feedback Systems" logo is on the left. A "Add User" button is visible. The main content area features a "CFS" header and a table with columns for "Organization", "Unit", "Office", "State", "NAME", "CATEGORY", "REPORT", "CLIENTS", "HELD", "SEVERITY", "CLIENT", "CLINICIAN", "CAREGIVER", "FEEDBACK", and "STAFF LOGIN". The table data is as follows:

CFS	Organization	Unit	Office	State	NAME	CATEGORY	REPORT	CLIENTS	HELD	SEVERITY	CLIENT	CLINICIAN	CAREGIVER	FEEDBACK	STAFF LOGIN
							Report	13	75%	85%	68%	68%	68%	0 / 9	33%
	- Middletown Community Services					Organization	Report	7	67%	86%	68%	68%	68%	0 / 6	50%
	- East					Office	Report	4	67%	75%	68%	68%	68%	0 / 6	50%
	- Southwest					Office	Report	3	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0 / 0	100%
	- Tri-State Behavioral Health, LLC					Organization	Report	6	100%	83%	0%	0%	0%	0 / 3	17%
	- Maryland					State	Report	3	100%	133%	0%	0%	0%	0 / 3	33%
	- Baltimore Family Care					Office	Report	3	100%	133%	0%	0%	0%	0 / 3	33%

***CFS<sup>TM</sup> can be used in any human services setting, with any measure, any number of respondents and any schedule of services***

# CFS Was Developed Because of Two Personal Questions

*The journey that led my colleagues and I to develop CFS over the last 15 years was influenced by two questions.*

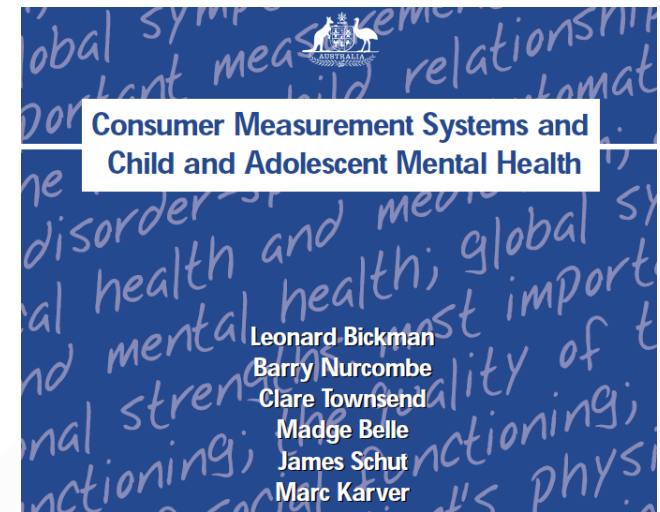
# Question 1. *How can human services achieve similar success rates as childhood cancer treatment?*

- Cure rate for some childhood cancers went from 20% to 80% in 30 years
- Most children enter a randomized clinical trial
- Almost every child treated adds to knowledge
- Every client treated should be an opportunity to learn
- Few human service agencies systematically collect information to add to scientific knowledge of how to improve services
- A major opportunity is being lost to learn how to do better

## Question 2. *How do we improve clinical effectiveness of systems of care?*

- \$94 million, 5 year (1989 – 1994) demonstration funded by the U.S. Army known as the Ft. Bragg Demonstration.
- Clinical outcomes were no better in the system of care but it was more expensive than treatment as usual.
- Replicated in a RCT in Stark County Ohio.
- Findings not well received by the field but 17 years later agreement with results and need for effective “interventions, services, and supports” (Stroul, Blau, & Friedman, 2010)
- The Center for Mental Health Services has a major emphasis on the importance of continuous quality improvement, accountability, and evaluation (Stroul, Blau, & Sondheimer, 2008).

- 1997 sabbatical in Australia gave me time to consolidate my thinking on an important missing ingredient in typical clinical care
- Developed a monograph for the Commonwealth that described the core of CFS
- Received first NIMH grant in 2004 for initial development and evaluation
- In 2010 received second NIMH grant to combine CFS with an another EBT – Functional Family Therapy.
- Additional demonstrations currently supported by SAMHSA and AHRQ



# CFS is Theory and Evidence Based





- The individual or psychological level
- The group or organizational level



# *The Psychological Approach of CFS – Motivation is Needed*

CFS applies four well-established social psychological theories

Goal theory – Goal commitment, expectancies & attractiveness in its **feedback approach**

1. Cognitive dissonance theory – Feedback shows the gap between goal and reality
2. Attribution theory – Attribute cause of gap to controllable factors
3. Strength-based / self-efficacy theory – Maintains positive performance & supports learning

- Measurement and feedback are the core of all management and learning theories.
- Thousands of studies outside of mental health show that improvement is minimal without measuring performance and providing feedback.
- Direct feedback occupations show improvement with experience. However, clinician experience alone is not a good predictor of client outcomes.

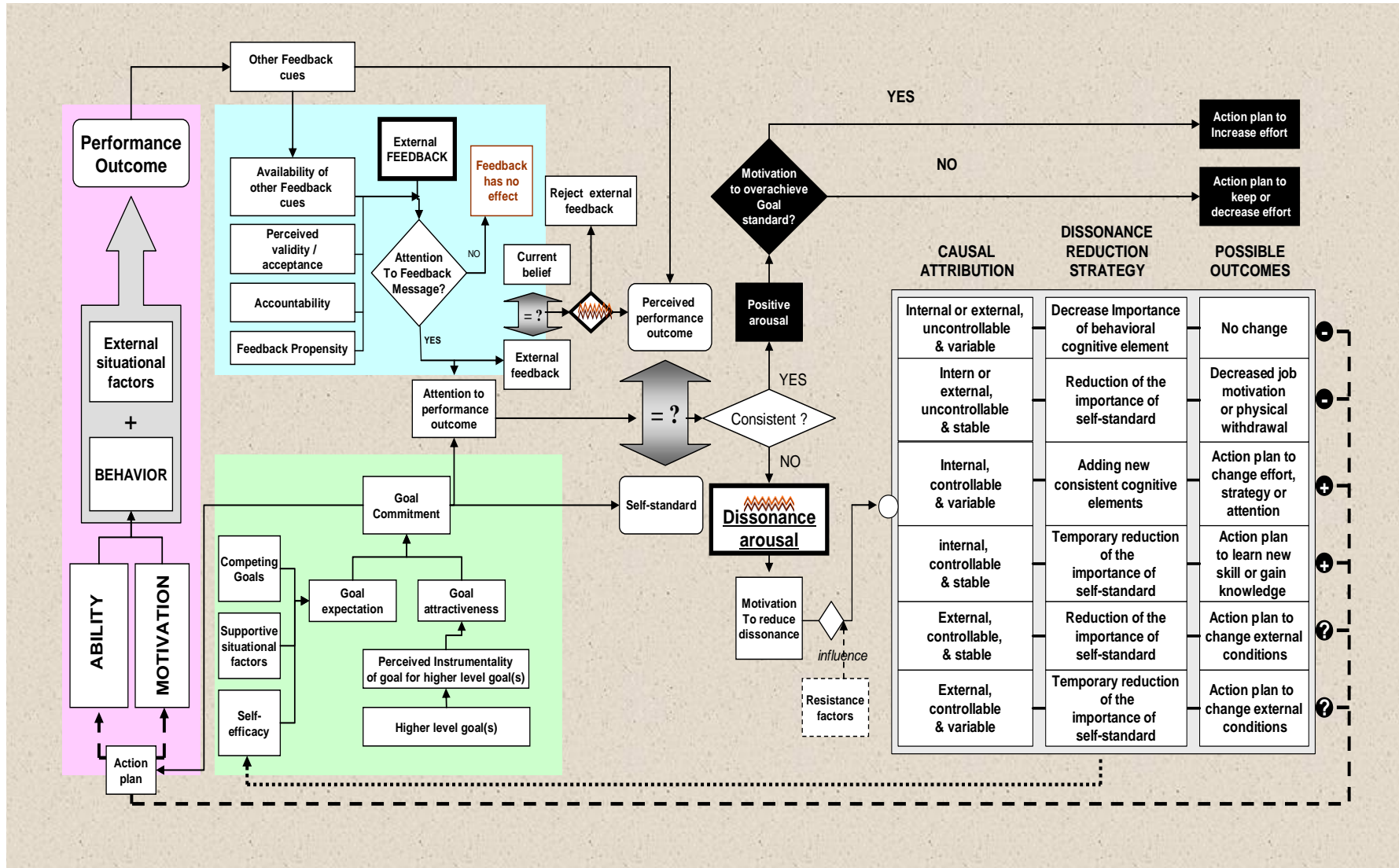
# *Theory at the organizational and services levels*

Organizational level measurement and theories are also considered: organizational learning and transformation, implementation, and leadership factors

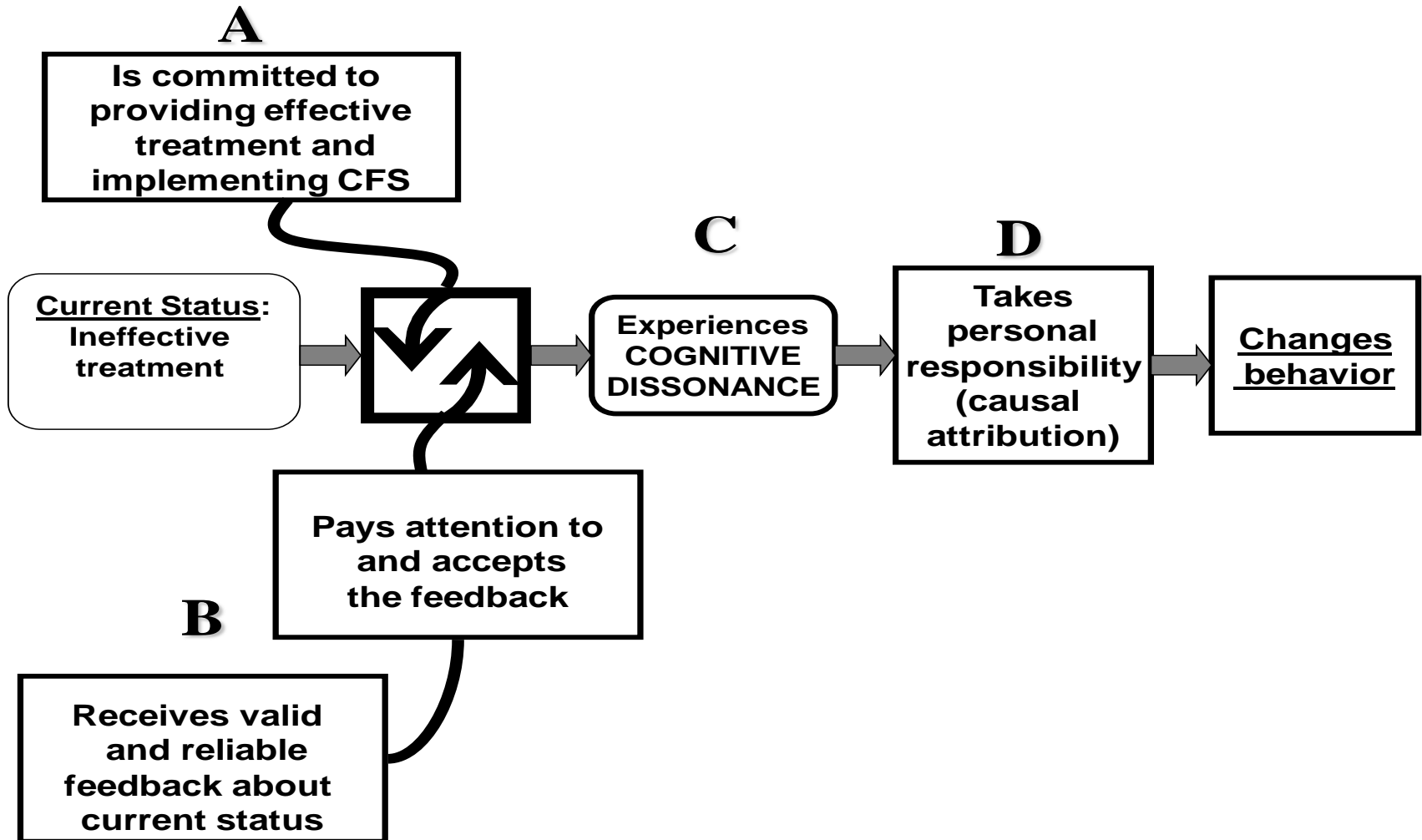
Pre-implementation Readiness Study of culture, adaptability, leadership, organizational learning, barriers to implementation & initial perceptions of CFS

- Annual organizational survey of initial constructs plus barriers/supports, value of reports, self-efficacy, & goal commitment
- CFS connects with other evidence based treatments models by providing feedback on model specific process changes

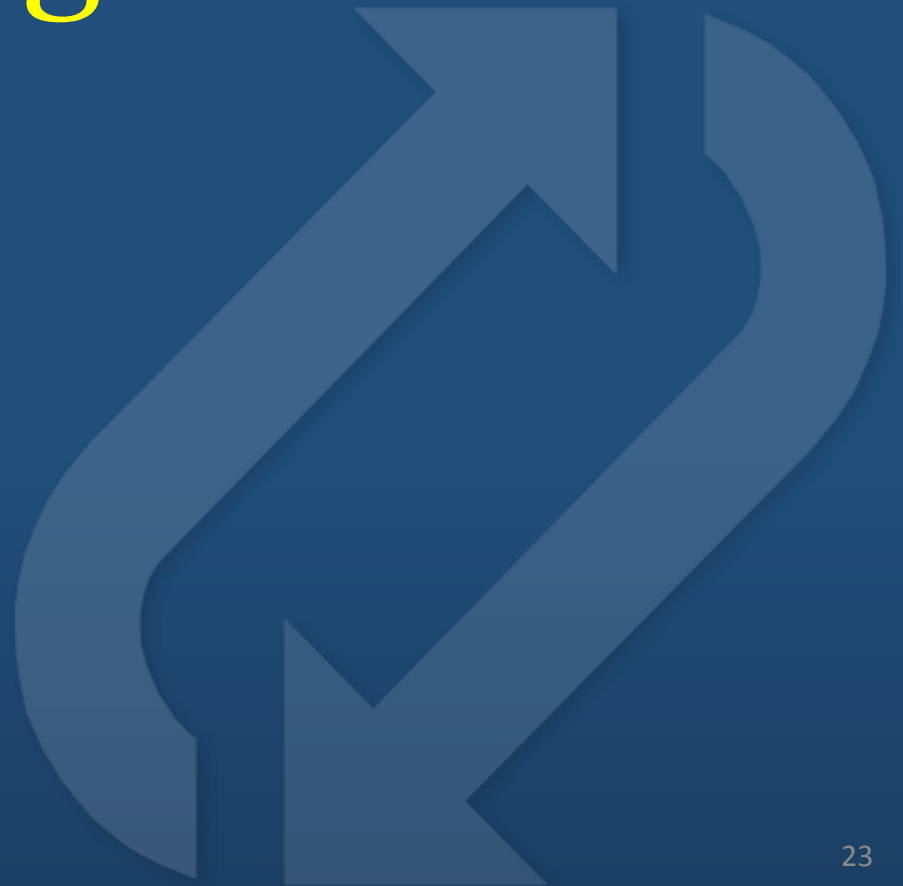
# Changing Behavior is Complex



# The CFS Path To Change



# CFS Responds to Six Pressing Problems.



# *Problem 1: Inadequate quality improvement and accountability*

- Changes in standards for monitoring and quality are imminent.
- Clinician experience alone is a poor predictor of client outcomes.
- No scalable way to measure effectiveness of services for funders and managers.
- Consumers do not know if the services they are receiving are effective.
- No comprehensive way to monitor implementation fidelity of most Evidenced Based Treatments (EBTs).
- Human services are priced like a commodity in a downward spiral in price





# *Solution: CFS provides and accountability measurement and feedback*

Measurement and feedback in CFS:

- are the core of all management and learning theories
- are critical to success at every level of a system from front-line staff to policymakers
- includes input from consumers and thus aids in their empowerment
- can lead to more efficient services without sacrificing outcomes
- provides consumers with access to accurate indicators of effective services,

## *Problem 2: How to increase efficiency in the face of decreasing resources*

- Funds are becoming scarcer
- Substantial management inefficiencies exist
- Paperwork is time consuming and without demonstrated benefits
- Traditional management approaches are without research support - we have 19th century management in 21st century
- Baseball teams (see "Moneyball") and police departments use data to make critical decisions. Why are human services not using data?



**SPECIAL ISSUE**

# **DATA IS POWER**

**HOW INFORMATION  
IS DRIVING  
THE FUTURE**

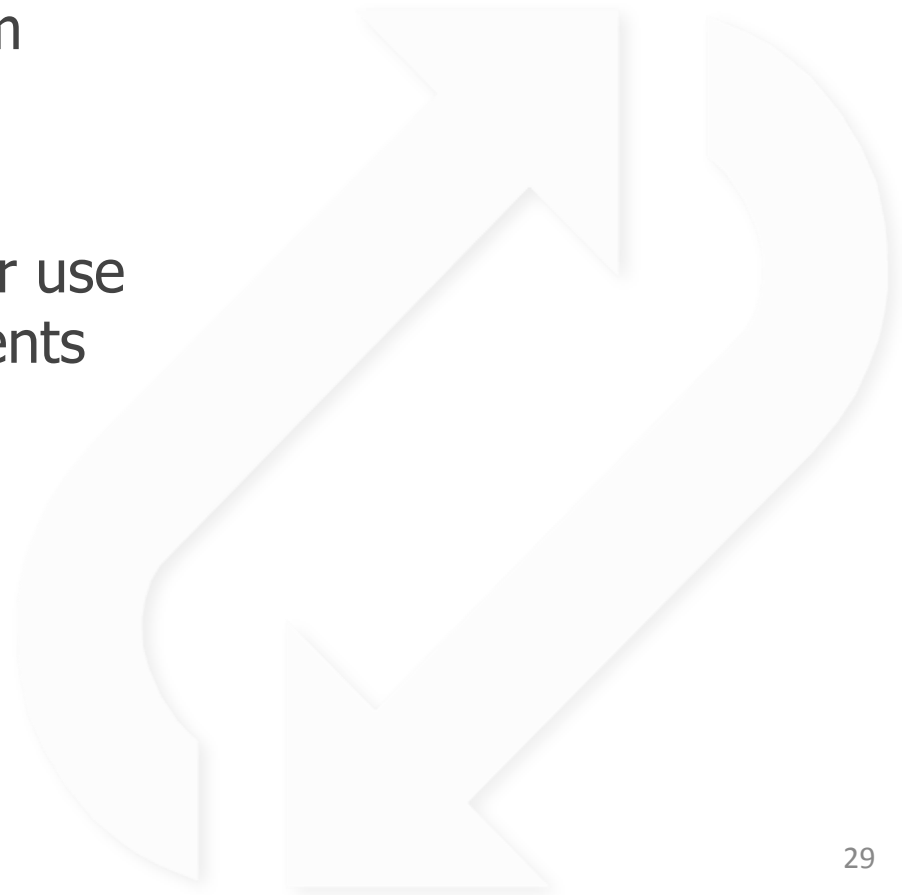


# *Solution: CFS promotes efficiency through automation and relevant data*

- CFS uses information from multiple sources and does not depend on detailed notes and guesswork
- CFS can reduce paperwork
- CFS evaluates the impact practices and policies
- CFS can increase the efficiency of human resources
- CFS automates information gathering, analyses and communication using modern technology

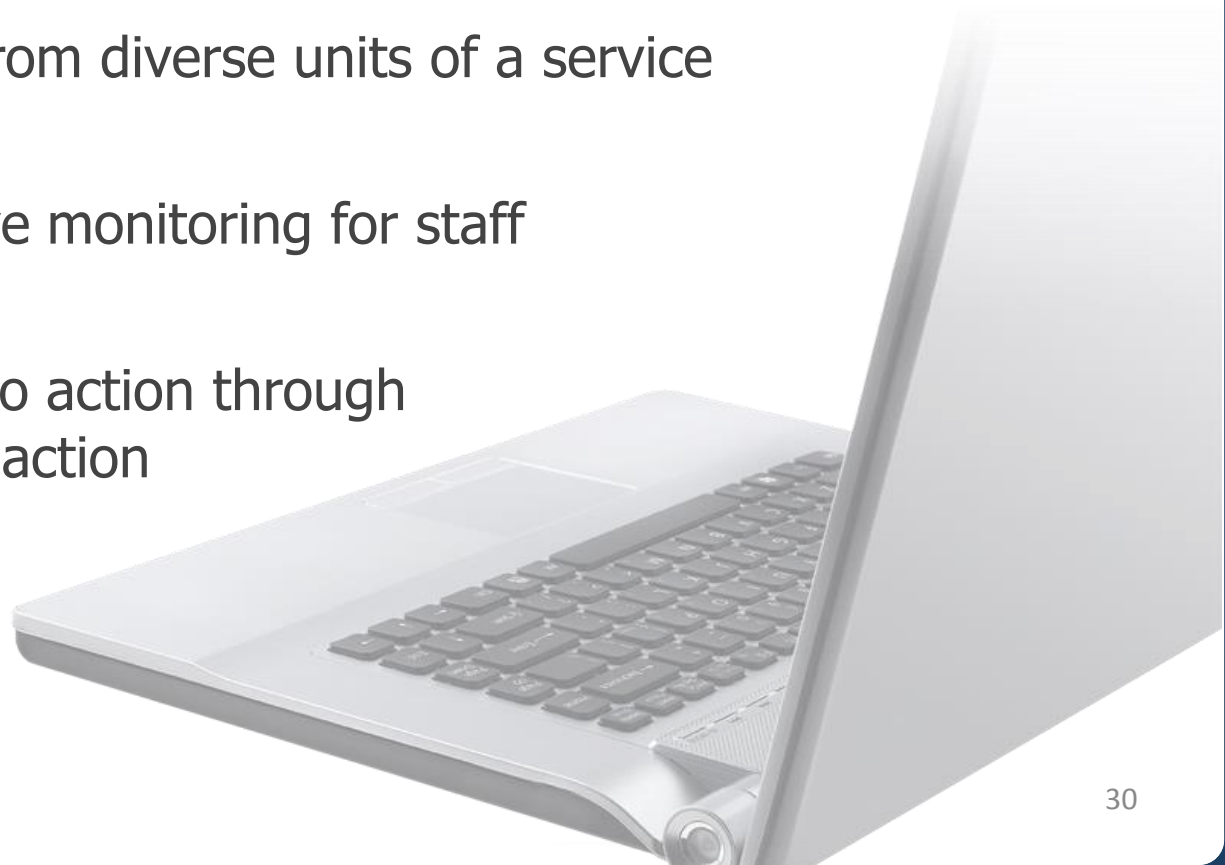
## ***Problem 3: Lack of knowledge and difficulty in translating research into practice***

- What works with whom?
- Current researchers and research funds cannot fill the gap
- We need methods to learn from each client served
- We have had limited success translating research findings for use in real-world service environments



## ***Solution: CFS can transform providers into learning organizations – practice based research***

- Utilizes sophisticated software that provides information that is immediately useful
- Uses most devices with an Internet connection
- Customizes information collected
- Gathers information from diverse units of a service provider organization
- Provides administrative monitoring for staff support
- Translates findings into action through visual alerts for quick action by users



# *Problem 4: How to optimize & individualize treatment*

- Individualized medicine is needed in mental health.
- Wide variation in effectiveness among clinicians. Which clinicians work best with what types of problems and clients?
- Evidence-based treatments, effective in the development lab:
  - ▶ Lose up to 50% of their effect when implemented in community settings
  - ▶ These reductions persist despite the development of model specific adherence or fidelity measures
  - ▶ We need additional information concurrent with treatment that measures changes in key process variables.

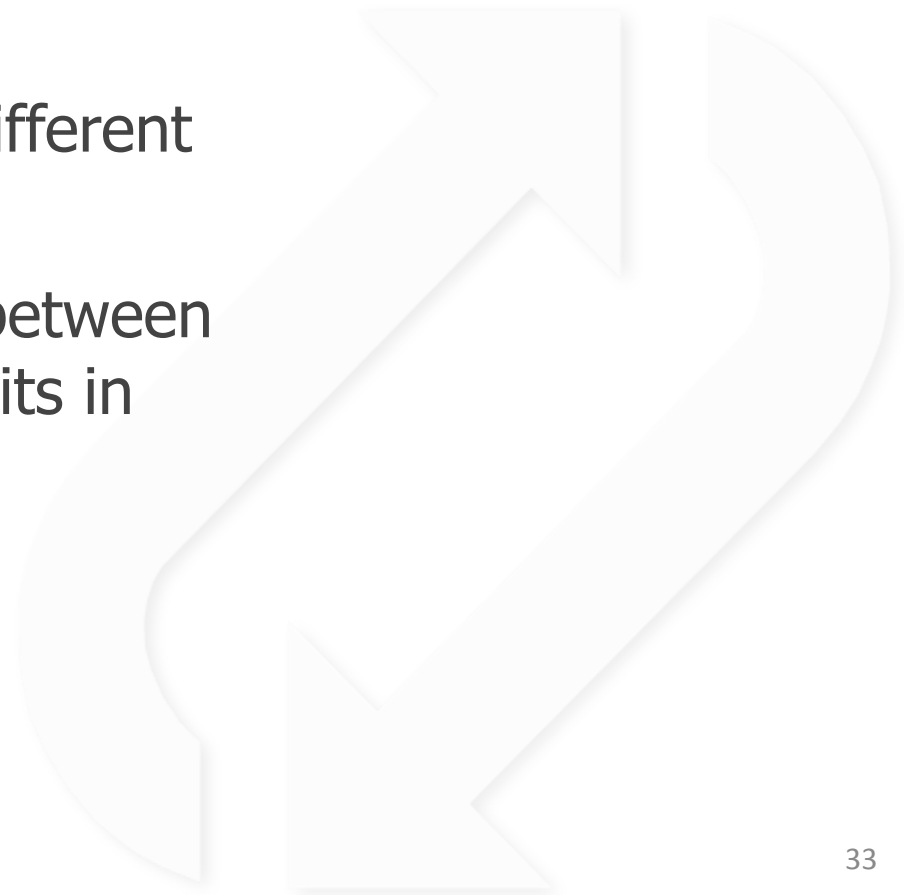
# *Solution: CFS gives the power to individualize*

- CFS empowers clinicians with the information needed to individualize service delivery,
- CFS allows EBTs to individualize the manual based clinical protocol and “fit” it to clients
- CFS provides EBTs with a continuous quality improvement tool
- CFS provides a comprehensive way to promote the continual evolution of EBT’s



## *Problem 5: Lack of tools to ameliorate previous problems that boundaries*

- Problems are similar across different disciplines and agencies
- Staff are similar in their training and background
- Many clients are served in different systems at the same time
- No easy way to share data between and among agencies and units in agencies



# *Solution: CFS is flexible, customizable & dynamic*

- Can be used by any organizational structure in any type of agency
- Allows the use of any questionnaire or form
  - ▶ Multi-lingual support
  - ▶ Our mental health measures (PTPB) are provided at no cost
  - ▶ Uses any schedule of service provision, daily, weekly or unscheduled on-the-fly sessions
- Produces customized reports that include benchmarks set by the organization

## *Problem 6: Clinicians are not omniscient*

- More than 3/4 of child-parent-therapist triads had no consensus on a single problem after the first session
- No significant correlation between standardized measures and clinicians' perceptions of progress
- Clinicians had difficulty detecting worsening of symptoms and functioning over the course of treatment
- Chance Agreement on Level of Care Assignment of youth among clinicians in a SOC
- Clinicians poorly estimate how youths and caregivers rate therapeutic alliance with them
- Clinicians overestimate the degree of agreement between youths and caregivers on how they would rate the alliance with the clinicians
- Not one of 143 clinicians rated him or herself below average and 2/3 gave themselves A or better on how good a clinician he or she is

# *Solution: CFS Provides Accurate Feedback to Clinicians and Supervisors*

- CFS provides clinicians with immediate feedback on problems as the caregiver and youth see them
- Clinicians get feedback on the severity of problems and other outcomes as caregivers and youths define them
- CFS has built in visual alerts to let clinicians know if they are missing issues raised by caregivers or youths
- CFS reminds clinicians if they are not discussing important issues raised by caregivers or youth
- Alliance rating feedback is provided to clinicians from all participants for each session and over time in one simple graph.
- Supervisors can provide feedback to clinicians on how well they are performing compared to other clinicians

# *CFS is applicable to the six pressing problems*

- CFS provides a quality improvement method that can result in greater accountability
- CFS can increase provider efficiency in the face of decreasing resources
- CFS can increase our knowledge of what works for whom and translate research findings into practice
- CFS provides accurate, relevant and timely feedback from caregivers and youths
- CFS is designed to be integrated with other evidence based treatments and provides the information needed to individualize treatment
- CFS is a tool designed to ameliorate those problems, especially for uses that cross disciplinary or agency boundaries

# *The Evaluations*



# The Evaluation of CFS Version 1

December 2011  
issue of  
Psychiatric  
Services: *The  
only feedback  
system for youth  
of demonstrated  
effectiveness*

## Effects of Routine Feedback to Clinicians on Mental Health Outcomes of Youths: Results of a Randomized Trial

Leonard Bickman, Ph.D.  
Susan Douglas Kelley, Ph.D.  
Carolyn Breda, Ph.D.  
Ana Regina de Andrade, Ph.D.  
Manuel Riemer, Ph.D.

**Objective:** A randomized cluster controlled trial tested the hypothesis that weekly feedback to clinicians would improve the effectiveness of home-based mental health treatment received by youths in community settings. **Methods:** Youths, caregivers, and clinicians at 28 sites in ten states completed assessments of the youths' symptoms and functioning every other week. Clinicians at 13 sites were provided with weekly feedback about the assessments, and clinicians at 15 sites received feedback every 90 days. Data were collected from June 1, 2006, through December 31, 2008. Intent-to-treat analyses were conducted with hierarchical linear modeling of data provided by youths, caregivers, and clinicians. **Results:** Assessments by youths, caregivers, and clinicians indicated that youths (N=173) treated at sites where clinicians could receive weekly feedback improved faster than youths (N=167) treated at sites where clinicians did not receive weekly feedback. A dose-response analysis showed even stronger effects when clinicians viewed more feedback reports. **Conclusions:** Routine measurement and feedback can be used to improve outcomes for youths who receive typical home-based services in the community. (*Psychiatric Services* 62: 2011)

- Randomly assigned 28 sites in 10 states to weekly feedback or no weekly feedback conditions to test if CFS feedback improves outcomes
- Participants were 356 youths, 432 caregivers & 167 clinicians with 1500 sessions
- The largest national provider of in-home services in U.S.



# *1.*

## *CFS affects clinician behavior*

The more reports viewed by the clinician,  
the more often “alert” topics addressed in  
future sessions

## 2.

### *CFS improves clinical outcomes*

Youth whose clinicians received feedback improved significantly faster according data from the clinician, youth and caregiver respondents

# 3.

*CFS has a dose-response  
relationship between  
implementation and clinical  
outcomes*

The better the implementation by the  
clinician the faster the clinical  
improvement

# The Evaluation of CFS Version 2

*Implementation is Critical –  
A Tale of Two Sites*



- Youths were randomly assigned to treatment groups within each site. Two Sites: Red Hook & Tilden
- Participants were 257 youths, 243 caregivers & 31 clinicians with 2702 sessions
- Large provider of child and adolescent mental health services in New York State.
- Random assignment was at the client level within each site
- Each site considered separately

*1.*

*CFS improves clinical outcomes  
Only at Red Hook*

Youth whose clinicians received feedback  
on them improved significantly faster  
according data from the clinician

## 2.

*Implementation significantly better  
at Red Hook.*

*Clinicians completed a higher percentage  
of questionnaires and viewed a higher  
percentage of reports*

# 3.

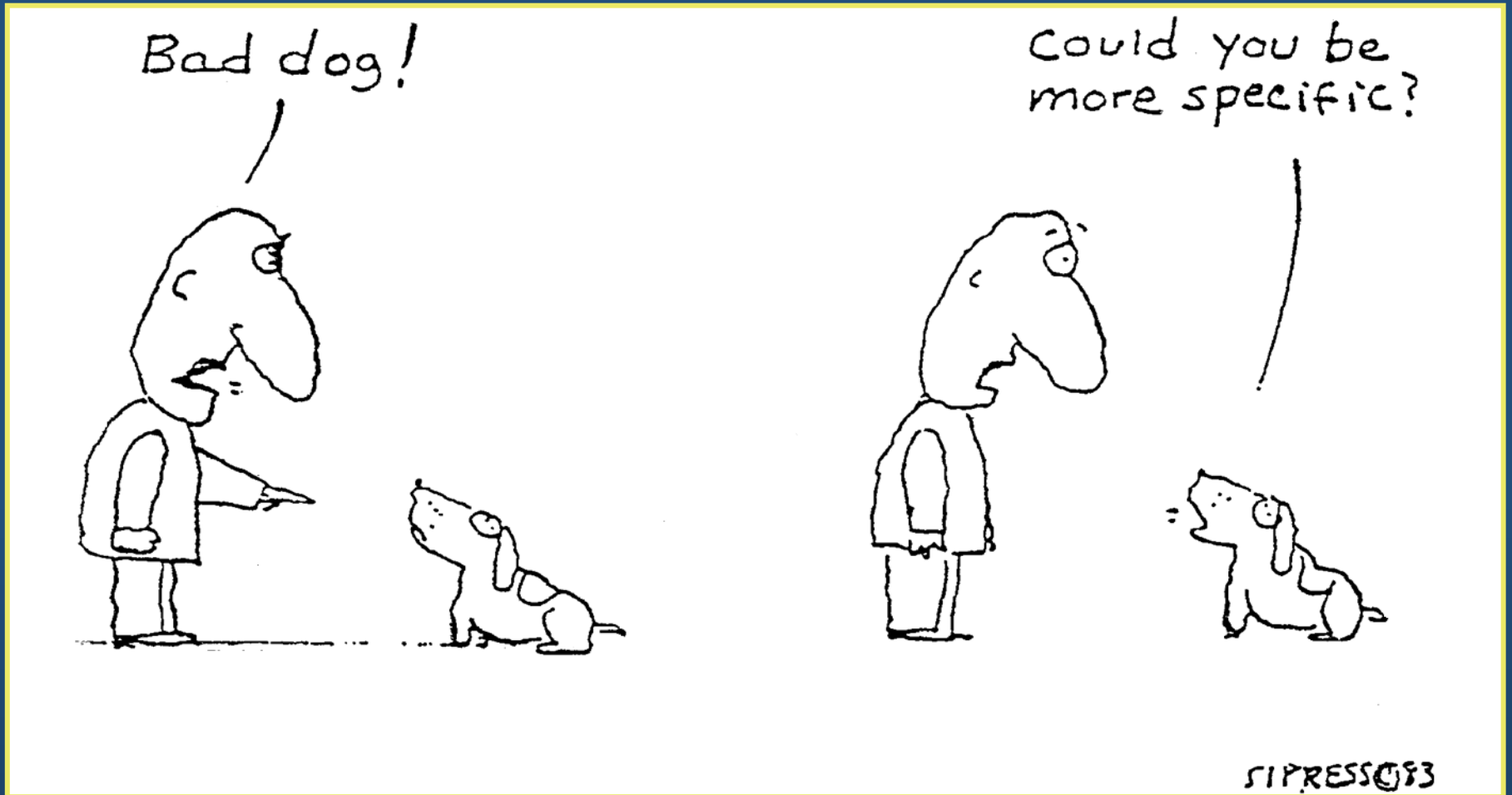
*CFS has a dose-response relationship  
between feedback viewing and clinical  
outcomes at Red Hook*

The better the implementation by the clinician  
the faster the clinical improvement rated by  
clinician and caregiver



- Version 3 is being tested in a large NIMH supported randomized trial combining CFS with Functional Family Therapy (Sexton)
- Version 4 is in development that will offer additional features such as business analytics, predictive modeling, online analytic processing (OLAP) as well as tie to social media.
- CFS supports provider initiated research, collaboration and quality improvement through its built in random assignment procedures and ease of introducing new measures.
- CFS is extremely flexible and customizable – use one or multiple measures, respondents, schedules and reports.

# *But Feedback is Still in the Early Stages of Development*





# Integrating feedback into clinical practice



## 1. Why feedback?

## 2. How does CFS work?

- ▶ Secure and automated process
- ▶ Dashboard driven to facilitate workflow
- ▶ Evidence-based clinical feedback

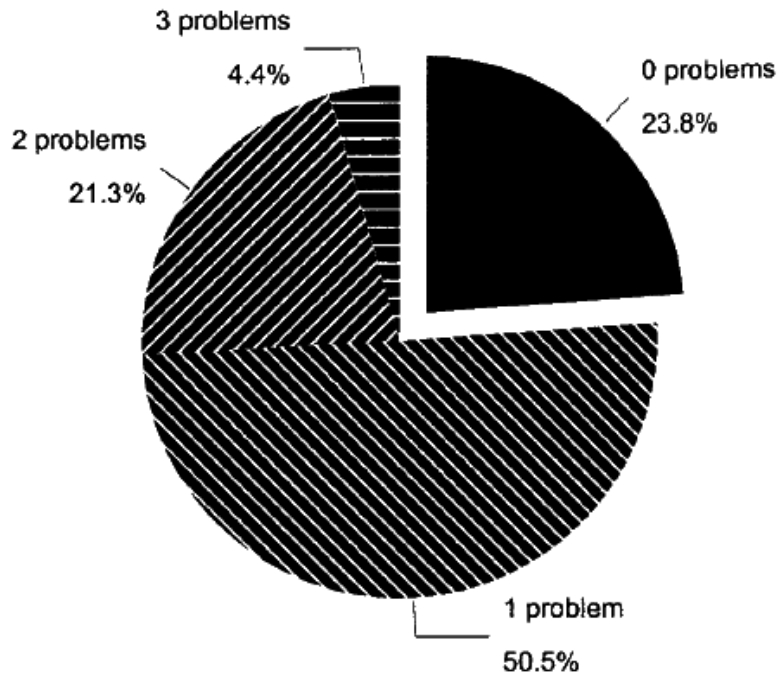
## 3. Why CFS: What can CFS do for you?

- ▶ Clients and caregivers
- ▶ Clinicians and supervisors
- ▶ Agencies

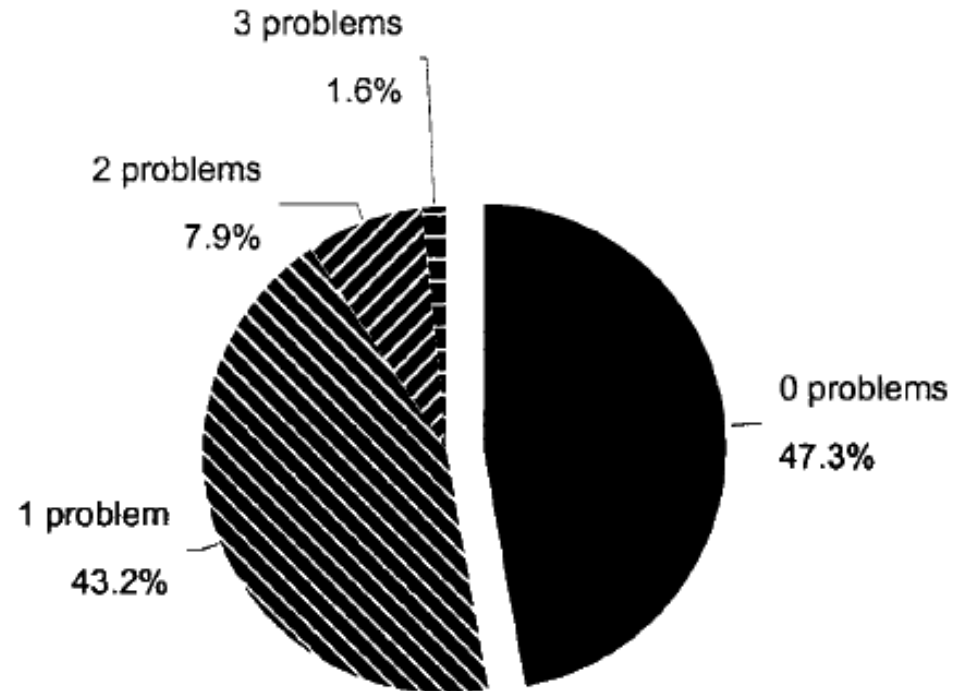
What Type of Feedback do  
you Receive in your Everyday  
Life?

In your Professional Life?

- No correlation between standardized measures and clinicians' perceptions of progress (Love et al., 2007)
- Difficulty predicting and detecting worsening of symptoms and functioning over the course of treatment (Hannan et al., 2005; Hatfield et al., 2009)
  - ▶ Yet when asked how they would know if clients deteriorated, 89% of clinicians said they would know based on their clinical judgment



Parent-Therapist Agreement

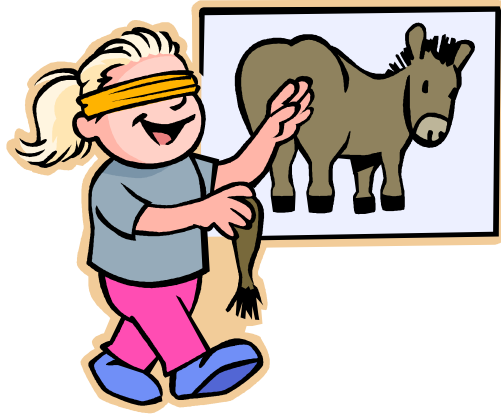


Child-Therapist Agreement

**Number of target problems agreed on by parents and therapists, and children and therapists.**



- Fifty years of research does not support relying only on clinical judgment for effective practices
- Reliance on other standards of putative quality such as licensing and accreditation also retard development of effective services
- This dependency contributes to the poor outcomes of treatment in community settings



*"Improving personal and organizational performance without constant feedback is like trying to pin the tail on the donkey when we're blindfolded. Only through knowing where we are, can we change where we are going."*

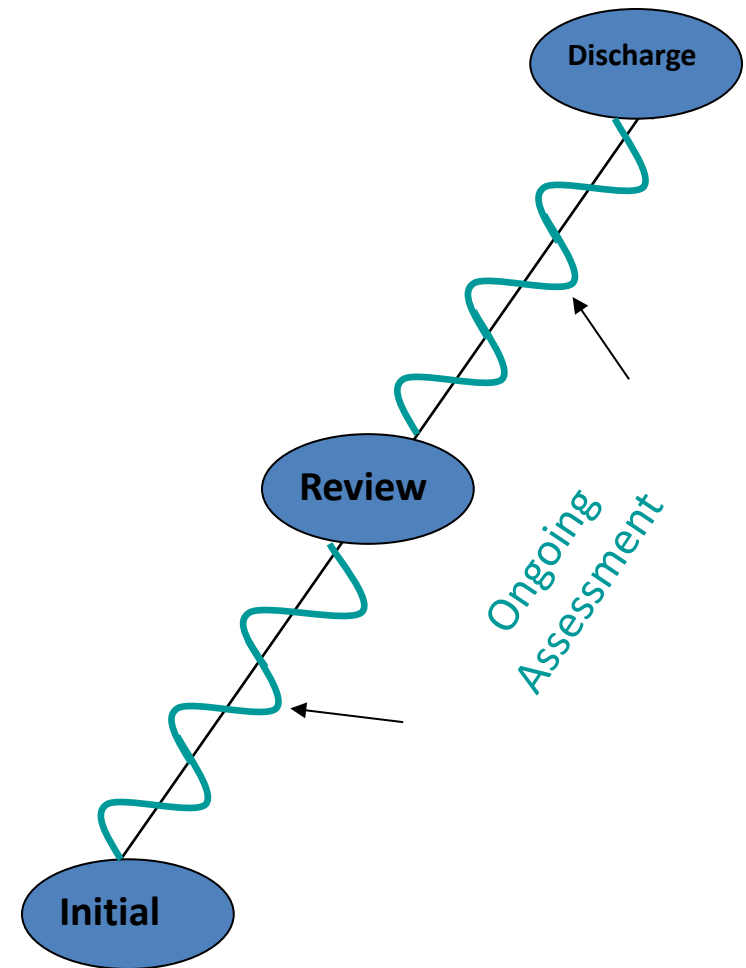
- from Jim Clemmer's article,  
"Don't Wait to See the Blood"



A measurement feedback system (MFS) is:

- Administered frequently
- Concurrent with treatment
- Provides rapid, useful and objective feedback
- Includes clinical processes, contexts, and outcomes
- Uses digital technology

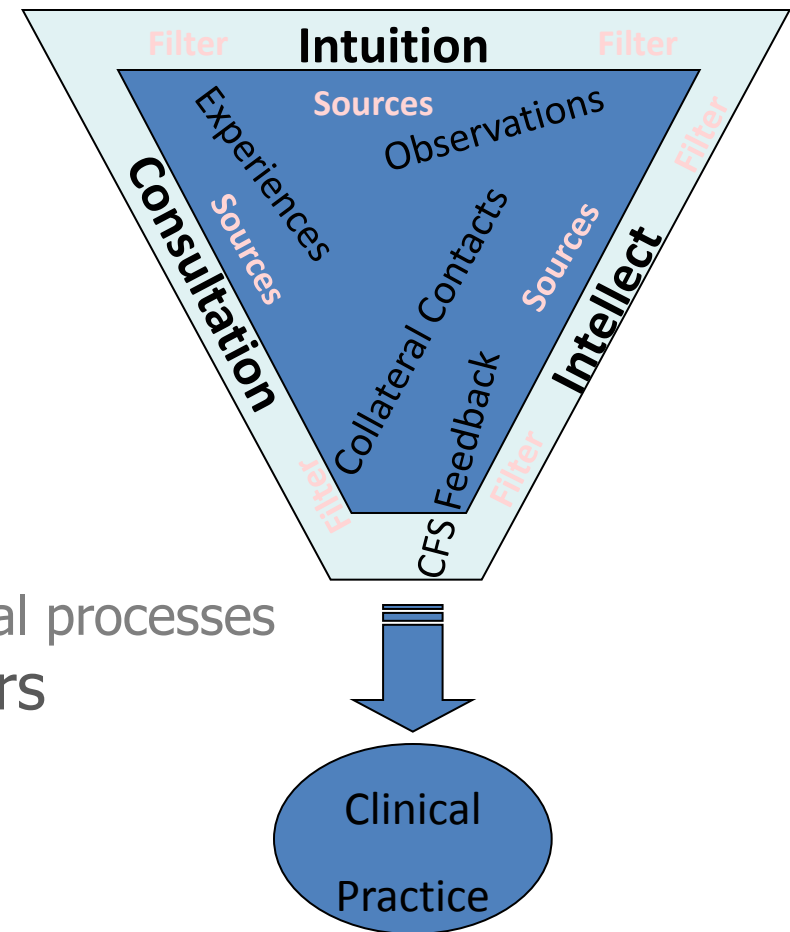
- Process of ongoing assessment
- Begins at the initial assessment and is an ongoing process- not an outcome
- Requires continuous review. It is a guide to direct your everyday interactions with the youth and caregiver
- Builds on intake information to continually inform discharge planning in treatment



# *What kinds of information do you use for ongoing assessment?*

- Your experiences with and observations of the youth's and caregiver's
  - Energy
  - Tone
  - Mood
  - What they are saying
  - What they are not saying
- Your conversations with collateral contacts
  - Teachers
  - Psychiatrists
  - Other counselors
  - Case managers
  - Other
- Your CFS questionnaires and feedback reports
  - Client
  - Caregiver
  - Clinician

- Your *intellect*
  - Educational knowledge
  - Formal and informal training
  - Direct practice with clients
  - CFS feedback reports
- Your *intuition*
  - Sixth sense
  - Perceptive insights
  - Knowing without the use of rational processes
- Your *consultation* with supervisors
  - Fresh perspective
  - Space that promotes reflection
  - Safe place to process



# How Does CFS Work?

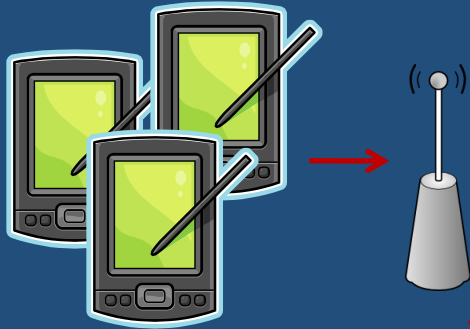
## A very brief introduction

VERSION 3.0



# *CFS uses cutting edge technology as well as paper and pencil*

Clients and caregivers complete questionnaires using a computing device or paper-and-pencil



Clinicians complete questionnaires and other documentation on the computer

Questionnaires are scheduled automatically



Secure database stores processed data



Reports are generated on paper or Web site for use in clinical sessions, treatment planning, and supervision



# CFS is a Dashboard-Driven System

Welcome, Miranda Bailey.  
Last Login: 10/19/2011 2:39 pm

CFS Contextualized Feedback Systems

DASHBOARD SCHEDULE QUICKLOOK EXPORTS

ACCOUNT / LOGOUT

Add User

TRI-STATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, LLC

Filter by Name Report Start Report End

10/10/2011 10/17/2011

CFS					CFS FIDELITY						Clear				
Organization	Unit	Office	State		NAME	CATEGORY	REPORT	CLIENTS	HELD	SEVERITY	CLIENT	CLINICIAN	CAREGIVER	FEEDBACK	STAFF LOGIN
					Tri-State Behavioral Health, LLC	Organization	Report	63	87%	61%	67%	65%	52%	71% / 35	54%
					-- Maryland	State	Report	39	100%	89%	71%	69%	59%	60% / 20	33%
					--- Baltimore Family Care	Office	Report	39	100%	89%	71%	69%	59%	60% / 20	33%
					-- Virginia	State	Report	24	75%	33%	60%	58%	40%	87% / 15	71%
					--- Richmond Family Care	Office	Report	24	75%	33%	60%	58%	40%	87% / 0	67%
					--- Franconia Family Care	Office	Report	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0% / 0	0%

5 10 15 20 1

- ▶ Organized to show information and actions relevant to the user's workflow
- ▶ Easily see vital information at a glance
- ▶ Quickly reach more detailed information

- Separate tables contain information for:
  - ▶ Organizational hierarchy
  - ▶ Programs
  - ▶ Clinicians
  - ▶ Clients
  - ▶ Sessions
- Look at data the way you want
  - ▶ Choose different time periods
  - ▶ Sortable columns within tables
  - ▶ Filtering across tables

The screenshot displays the CFS dashboard interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'DASHBOARD', 'SCHEDULE', 'QUICKLOOK', and 'EXPORTS', along with user options 'ADMIN / ACCOUNT / LOGOUT'. Below this, a 'This Week' section is highlighted with a blue box, containing a 'BLANK' button and a 'Filter by name' input field. The dashboard is organized into several sections, each with a table and a 'Filter by name' input field:

- PROGRAMS**: A table with columns: NAME, CATEGORY, REPORT, CLIENTS, HELD, SEVERITY, CLIENT, STAFF, CAREGIVER, FEEDBACK. It includes a pagination bar with '5', '10', '15', '20' and a '1' indicator.
- CLINICIANS**: A table with columns: NAME, REPORT, ACTIVE, HELD, SEVERITY, CLIENT, STAFF, CAREGIVER, FEEDBACK. It includes a pagination bar with '5', '10', '15', '20' and a '1' indicator.
- CLIENTS**: A table with columns: NAME, PROGRAM NAME, NEXT SESSION, PREV, SEVERITY, MDC, REPORT, STAFF. It includes a 'Print All' button and a pagination bar with '5', '10', '15', '20' and a '1' indicator.
- SESSIONS**: A table with columns: CLIENT, PROGRAM, DATE, #, SRF, QUESTIONNAIRES.

Welcome, Scott, Michael.  
Last Login: 09/25/2012 9:38 am

This Week Last Week This Month Last Month **This Year** Last Year

Add User

## TN FAMILY SERVICES

Filter by name
















Organization	Office		FIDELITY						
NAME	CATEGORY	REPORT	CLIENTS	HELD	SEVERITY (CL)	CLIENT	STAFF	CAREGIVER	FEEDBACK
- TN Family Services	Organization	<a href="#">Report</a>	130	91%	41%	45%	22%	34%	9% / 23003
-- North	Office	<a href="#">Report</a>	72	89%	48%	45%	23%	33%	11% / 16900
-- Southwest	Office	<a href="#">Report</a>	55	95%	31%	47%	20%	35%	4% / 6101
-- East	Office	<a href="#">Report</a>	1	100%	100%	33%	40%	0%	0% / 2

5 10 15 20

1

## CLIENTS

Filter by name

NAME	PROGRAM NAME	NEXT SESSION	PREV	SEVERITY (RATED BY CLINICIAN)	MDC	REPORT	STAFF QC
Banks, Michael	Standard PTPB	10/11/2012 1:45 pm	 	FAIR		09/27/2012	0%
Casey, Aidan	Standard PTPB	10/01/2012 4:00 pm	 	POOR		05/29/2012	0%
Henley, Seth	Standard PTPB	10/03/2012 3:00 pm	 	FAIR		09/19/2012	0%
Jones, Sam	Standard PTPB	10/03/2012 2:00 pm	 	GOOD		07/02/2012	0%
Kestrel, Ella	Standard PTPB	09/07/2012 9:00 am	 	FAIR		08/31/2012	0%

Print All

5 10 15 20

1 2 next last

## SESSIONS

CLIENT	PROGRAM	DATE	#	SRF	QUESTIONNAIRES
Banks, Michael	Standard PTPB	09/27/2012 1:45 pm	 10	 	43%
Henley, Seth	Standard PTPB	09/19/2012 3:00 pm	 7	 	89%



# Clinical Feedback Report – bullet charts

## Features:

- Bullet Charts provide a visual representation of the clients current score against the benchmarks
- Color scheme is intuitive and it is easy to interpret red, yellow, green
- Quickly assess areas of concern visually. The picture tells the story.



Improved



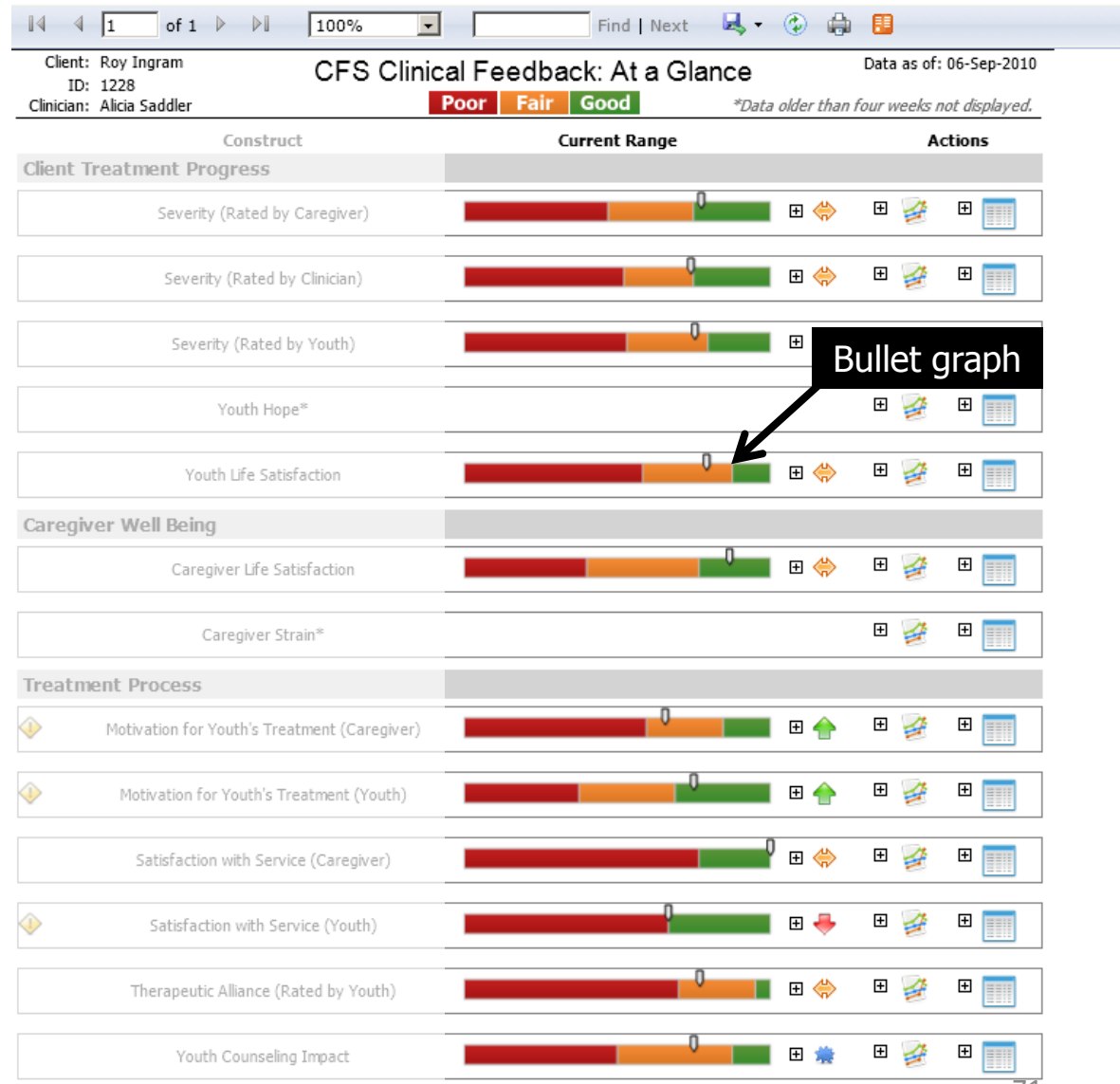
Declined



No change

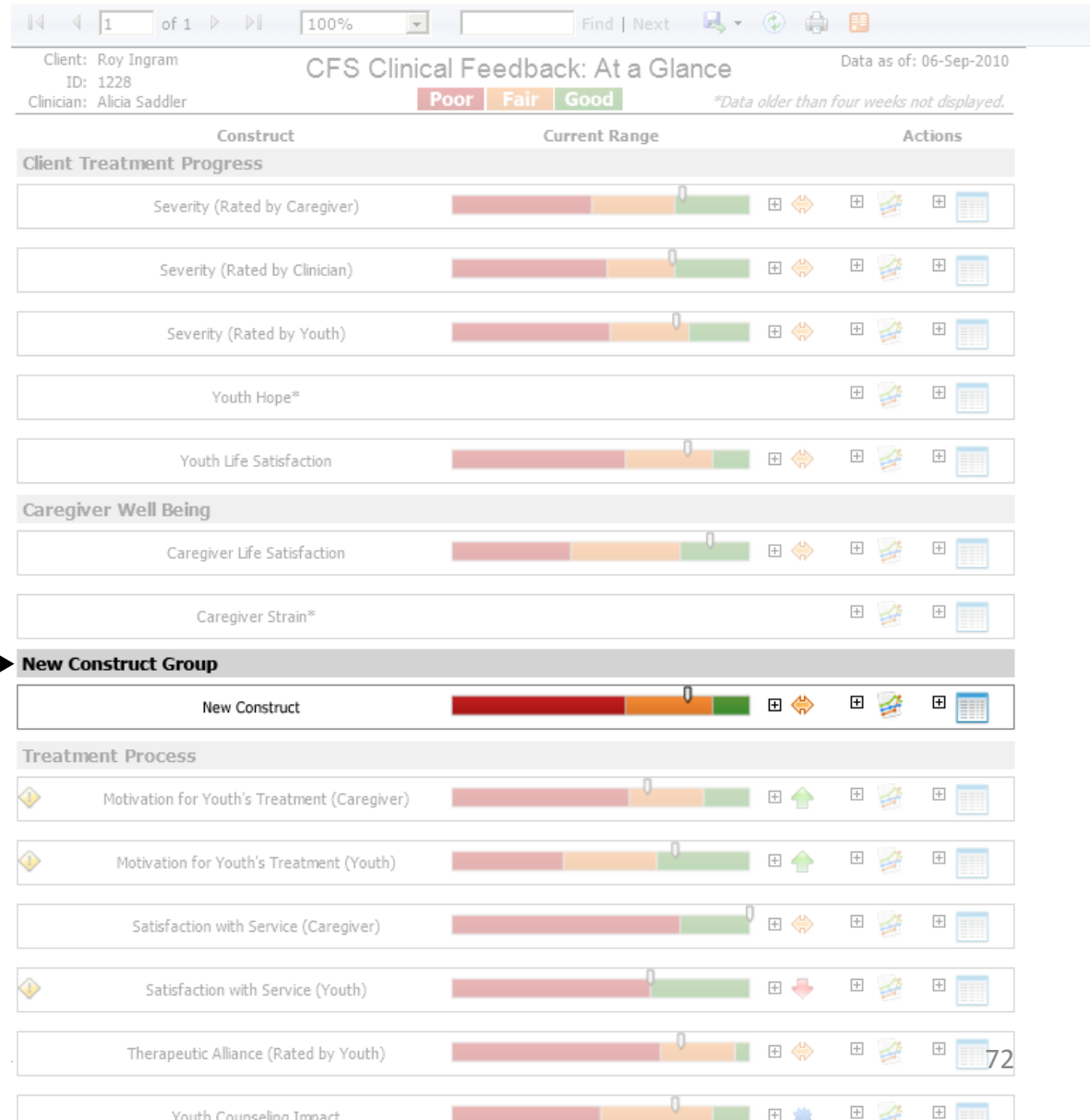


No previous score



## Features:

- Easy to add constructs and associated questions
- Allows for customizations on the fly
- Gives the ability to modify and get results to monitor, measure and respond



# Why CFS?

CFS provides information on treatment progress and the therapeutic process

---

CFS provides the information to help you tailor treatment to your individual client

---

CFS improves youth outcomes



# *Everyone who uses CFS can benefit*

- Clinicians
- Youths
- Caregivers
- Supervisors
- Directors/Managers





*Enhance clinician's ability to gather and act upon information to better support clients and their caregivers for the purpose of:*

- Assuring clients feel heard
- Providing guidance in supervision
- Improving client outcomes
- Facilitating professional growth and organizational improvement
- Improving effectiveness of other evidence-based practices
- Guiding program planning

- Better identify thoughts, events, and feelings of clients and caregivers
- Identify successes and problem areas to focus sessions
- Provide consistent and systematic feedback of clinically relevant information
- Inform treatment planning and goal setting
- Focus sessions on clients' issues to show that you are attending to their concerns
- Check on how well treatment is working

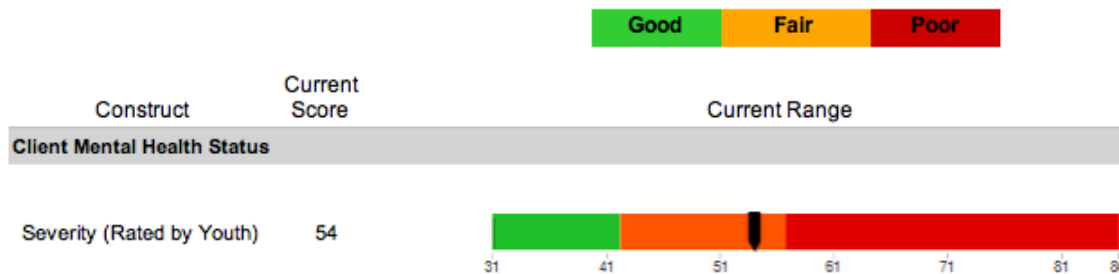
***CFS is a tool that enhances the clinician's ability to tailor treatment as it progresses***

## *What can CFS do for clients and caregivers?*

- Provide a way to raise issues they may not feel comfortable addressing aloud or in the presence of family
- Reassure them that the clinician is paying attention to their needs and is tailoring services to their concerns
- Demonstrate that effective services are a priority by showing that effectiveness is actually measured by the organization
- Help focus treatment on issues that are important to them

***CFS is a tool that takes the consumer's voice beyond the session and into all aspects of care***

# Case study: How CFS focused treatment on 'Carlos' concerns and helped clinician, client, caregiver



← Overall SFSS Score

## SFSS Item Alerts


01A. Youth feels unhappy/sad	4
03A. Youth has little/no energy	4
05B. Youth worries a lot	5
06A. Youth fears others will laugh at him/her	5
07B. Youth feels worthless	5
08A. Youth feels nervous/shy around others	5
08B. Hard for youth to have fun	4
10A. Youth cries easily	1
11B. Trouble sleeping b/c youth worrying	3
12B. Youth feels tense	4
<b>Internalizing</b>	<b>72</b>

- In the first session
  - Mother said he is not doing well but not much more specific
  - Carlos said little about what was going on
- The feedback told a very different story
  - Severity of Symptom and Functioning (SFSS) rated by the youth
- What happened in the next session
  - Clinician looked at the feedback report together with Carlos
  - Sparked discussion about his concerns and they agreed on a treatment plan for social anxiety

- Provide clinical data on each case's progress and areas that are improving or declining
- Provide the needed information for a continuous quality improvement effort that facilitates accountability
- Provide a tangible framework from which to guide clinical supervision that is independent of the clinician's own account or report

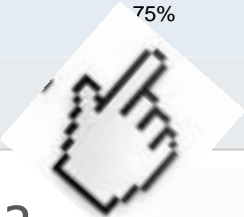
***CFS is a tool that provides the supervisor with needed resources to promote evidence-based practice***

# Supervising with CFS is different –it's based on data

CLINICIANS -- Vanderbilt X 

Filter by name

					FIDELITY			
NAME	REPORT	ACTIVE	HELD	SEVERITY	CLIENT	STAFF	CAREGIVER	FEEDBACK
Clinician, A <a href="#">history - edit</a>	<a href="#">Report</a>	3	100%	0%	40%	40%	40%	80%
Kelley, Susan <a href="#">history - edit</a>	<a href="#">Report</a>	21	90%	25%	55%	55%	55%	52%
Williams, Ted <a href="#">history - edit</a>	<a href="#">Report</a>	25	89%	60%	20%	100%	20%	40%
Alda, Alan <a href="#">history - edit</a>	<a href="#">Report</a>	16	50%	90%	75%	100%	75%	100%
Fey, Tina <a href="#">history - edit</a>	<a href="#">Report</a>	19	75%	75%	75%	100%	75%	100%

5 10 15 20  1

- To whom do I assign a new case?
- Which clinician could use my support to improve treatment engagement?

# Fidelity of Implementation Reports

Name	Last Login		% Qx Attempted Last Session*		% Qx Attempted Overall*		Last Session Feedback Viewed		Feedback Viewed Overall				
	Client												
Questionnaire Attempted		1/20/2012	1/22/2012	1/25/2012	1/29/2012	2/1/2012	2/4/2012	2/8/2012	2/11/2012	2/18/2012	2/19/2012	2/26/2012	3/4/2012
Relationship with Your Counselor		☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺				
Your Behaviors, Thoughts, and Feelings (Youth Form B)			☺		☺		☺		☺				
Your Counseling Session		☺		☺		☺		☺					
Your Behaviors, Thoughts, and Feelings (Youth Form A)		☺		☺		☺		☺					



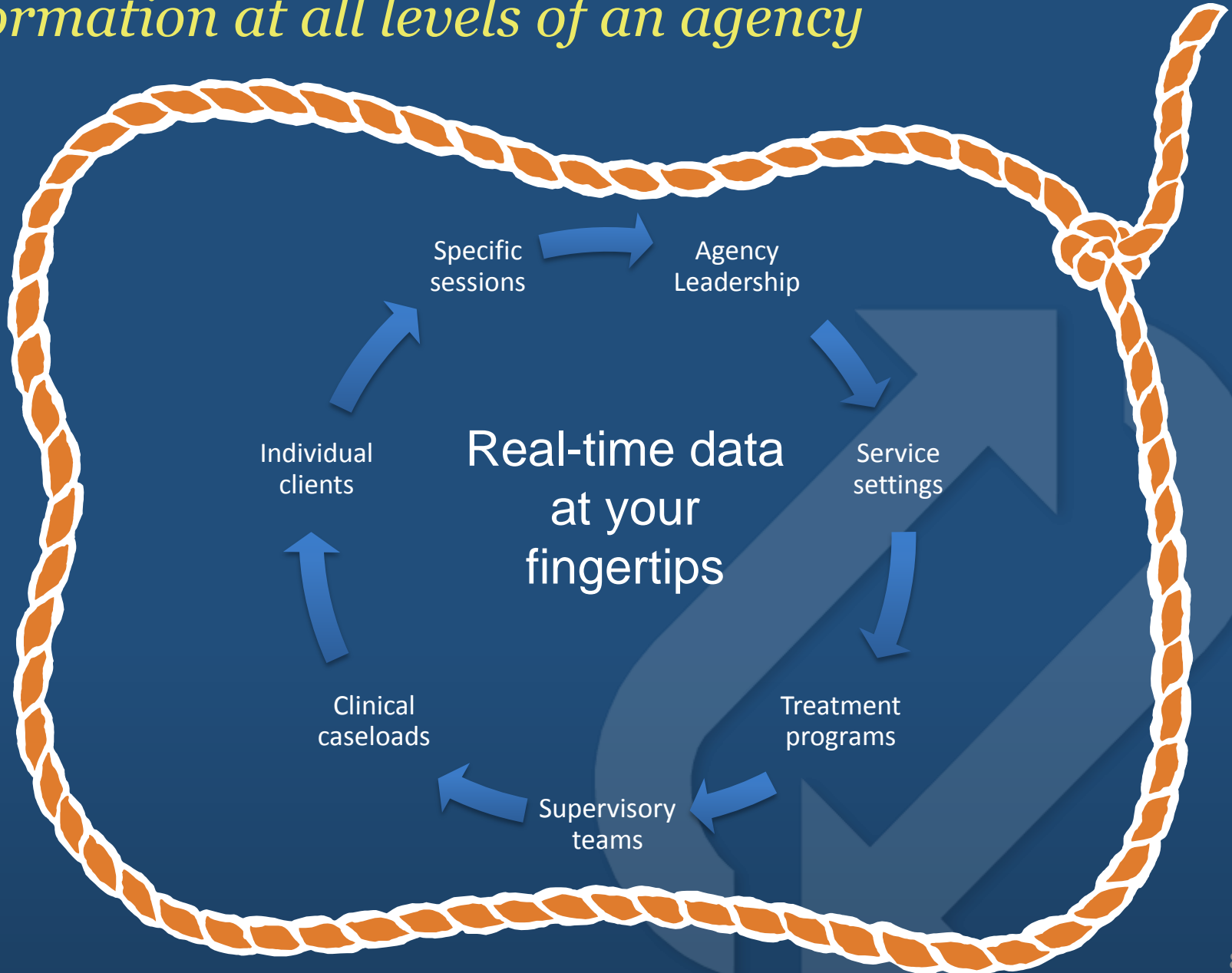
- At-a-Glance information on implementation of CFS
  - ▶ Date and time of last login
  - ▶ Overall questionnaire completion
  - ▶ Feedback viewing
- Click for more detailed information
  - ▶ Which questionnaires were completed when
  - ▶ Which feedback reports viewed and when

- Show funding agencies that quality of services and effectiveness are a priority
- Manage clinical services on their impact as well as their cost
- Provide data on the effectiveness of services, how clients are improving, the typical problems being encountered, and where needs are not being met

***CFS is a tool that supports overall  
practice improvement***



*Captures the “golden thread” of linking information at all levels of an agency*





# *CFS Measurement*

- *CFS can use any number of measures*
- *With any schedule*
- *Measures can be customized*
- *Includes the electronic and paper versions of the Peabody Treatment Progress Battery*

- Includes process and outcome measures
- Includes strength-based measures
- Practice-oriented – developed in collaboration with clinicians
- Brief & reliable – each takes 15 seconds to 1 minute
- Classic and item response theory used to develop and validate all the measures
- Shows convergent and divergent validity
- Information from youth, clinician, and caregiver
- Easy to score and interpret
- Sensitive to change
- Free paper and pencil version, licensed to over 1200 groups
- Now in second edition
- <http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/ptpb>

# Administration and Policy in Mental Health AND Mental Health Services Research

Volume 39 · Numbers 1–2 · March 2012

Special Issue: Practical Multi-Informant Measurement of Youth Mental Health Treatment Progress

Guest Editors: Leonard Bickman · Mary Michele Athay

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Instructions for Authors for *Adm Policy Ment Health* are available at [www.springer.com/10488](http://www.springer.com/10488)

# *What are the relevant questions you ask when working with youth and caregivers?*

How is the youth doing overall?



How is treatment going with this youth?



Caregivers play a critical role in treatment with a youth. What are some ways that the caregiver(s) can affect your treatment with a youth?

- How is the youth doing overall?
  - ▶ Severity of symptoms and functioning (y, cg, cl)
  - ▶ Life satisfaction (y)
  - ▶ Hope (y)
- How is treatment going with the youth?
  - ▶ Therapeutic alliance (y, cl)
  - ▶ Motivation for treatment (y)
  - ▶ Counseling impact (y)
  - ▶ Service satisfaction (y)
- What are important caregiver issues?
  - ▶ Caregiver strain
  - ▶ Life satisfaction
  - ▶ Therapeutic alliance
  - ▶ Motivation for treatment
  - ▶ Service satisfaction
- What is the content of treatment sessions?
  - ▶ Session Report Form (cl)



- How is the youth doing overall?
  - ▶ Severity of symptoms and functioning (y, cg, cl)
  - ▶ Life satisfaction (y)
  - ▶ Hope (y)





## Youth: Severity of Symptoms and Functioning

### Symptoms and Functioning Severity Scale (SFSS)

The SFSS assesses common internalizing and externalizing problems in youth. Its items were selected to reflect four of the most common childhood disorders: ADHD, conduct/oppositional disorder, depression and anxiety. In addition, it includes items related to peer and family relationship problems and drug and alcohol use.

- Core indicator of treatment progress.
- Measure of youths' emotional and behavior problems
- Developed with IRT and classical test theory
- SFSS completed by caregiver, clinician and youth
- 3 forms: 26 items intake and 2 equivalent 13 item concurrent with treatment short forms. Covers 4 major diagnostic categories. Internalizing and externalizing subscales.
- Correlates well with other measures: CBCL Adult .86; YSR Youth .77 YOQ youth; .83 Adult; .89; Clinician .87 SDQ Youth .75; Adult .79; Clinician .71

# SFSS Items – Form A & B

## Response Key:

1 = Never  
 2 = Hardly Ever  
 3 = Sometimes  
 4 = Often  
 5 = Very Often

Question	Session		
	2	3	4
<b>Severity (Rated by Clinician)- Externalizing Score Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>43</b>
01B. Youth throws things		5	
02A. Youth gets in trouble	3		1
02B. Youth interrupts others		5	
03B. Youth lies		5	
04A. Youth disobeys adults	4		
04B. Youth struggles to control temper		5	
05A. Youth threatens/bullies others	2		2
06B. Hard for youth to get along w/ family/friends		5	
07A. Youth struggles to wait turn	2		3
09A. Youth struggles to sit still	2		
09B. Youth hangs w/ kids who get in trouble		5	
10B. Youth struggles to pay attention		5	
11A. Youth annoys others on purpose	2		
12A. Youth argues w/ adults	4		

<b>Severity (Rated by Clinician)- Internalizing Score Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>50</b>
01A. Youth feels unhappy/sad	4		2
03A. Youth has little/no energy	5		
05B. Youth worries a lot		5	
06A. Youth fears others will laugh at him/her	4		3
07B. Youth feels worthless		5	
08A. Youth feels nervous/shy around others	3		
08B. Hard for youth to have fun		5	
10A. Youth cries easily	4		
11B. Trouble sleeping b/c youth worrying		5	
12B. Youth feels tense		5	
<b>Severity (Rated by Clinician) Score Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>46</b>
014. Youth thought about hurting self	1	5	
13A. Youth drinks alcohol	1		
13B. Youth uses drugs (non-medical)		5	

## Youth: Life Satisfaction

Brief Multi-Dimensional Student  
Life Satisfaction Scale (BMSLSS)

The BMSLSS assesses youth's life satisfaction across five dimensions. These dimensions are: Family, friends, school living, environment, & self

## Youth: Hope

### Children's Hope Scale (CHS)

Children's hope is defined as the beliefs in one's capabilities to produce workable routes to goals (the pathways component), as well as the self-related beliefs about initiating and sustaining movement toward those goals (the agency component).

- How is the youth doing overall?
  - ▶ Severity of symptoms and functioning (y, cg, cl)
  - ▶ Life satisfaction (y)
  - ▶ Hope (y)
  
- How is treatment going with the youth?
  - ▶ Therapeutic alliance (y, cl)
  - ▶ Motivation for treatment (y)
  - ▶ Counseling impact (y)
  - ▶ Service satisfaction (y)



## Youth: Alliance

Therapeutic Alliance Quality  
Scale (TAQS)

Therapeutic Alliance Quality  
Rating (TAQ-R)

Three components of the  
TAQS:

- Agreement on therapeutic goals,
- Agreement on therapeutic tasks
- The bond between the client and therapist.

The counselor rating (TAQ-R) includes two items. One rates counselors' perceptions of the level of their alliance with their adolescent client. The other item estimates the level of alliance counselors think the youth reported about their relationship with the counselor.

## **Youth: Motivation**

Motivation for Youth's  
Treatment (MYTS)

The youth version of the MYTS assesses internal motivation to stay and participate in treatment including:

- Problem recognition,
- The desire for help,
- Treatment readiness (or acceptance)



## Youth: Counseling Impact

### Youth Counseling Impact Scale (YCIS)

The YCIS has two dimensions: (a) immediate session-based task impact and (b) prolonged counseling impact on client behavior.

It focuses on the helpfulness of therapeutic tasks and if counseling has affected the youth's behavior over the past two weeks such as:

- Used things they learned in counseling
- Felt better about themselves, and
- If they changed their behavior either at school or at home as a result of counseling.

## **Initial Assessment: Treatment Expectations**

Treatment Outcome  
Expectancies Scale (TOES)

Treatment Process Expectancies  
Scale (TPE)

Expectations about treatment are assessed with two questionnaires, the TOES and the TPE.

The TOES assesses youths' and caregivers' expectations about the outcomes of services, resulting in a total score.

The TPE looks at process and role expectancies about treatment. Items assess issues such as concerns about confidentiality, school involvement, etc. No summary score is available for the TPE—instead, individual items are presented.

- How is the youth doing overall?
  - ▶ Severity of symptoms and functioning (y, cg, cl)
  - ▶ Life satisfaction (y)
  - ▶ Hope (y)
- How is treatment going with the youth?
  - ▶ Therapeutic alliance (y, cl)
  - ▶ Motivation for treatment (y)
  - ▶ Counseling impact (y)
  - ▶ Service satisfaction (y)
- What are important caregiver issues?
  - ▶ Caregiver strain
  - ▶ Life satisfaction
  - ▶ Therapeutic alliance
  - ▶ Motivation for treatment
  - ▶ Service satisfaction



## Caregiver: Caregiver Strain

Caregiver Strain Questionnaire  
(CGSQ)

The demands, responsibilities, difficulties, and negative psychic consequences of caring for relatives with special needs. Two subscales of strain are measured:

- Objective strain,
- Subjective internalized strain

## Caregiver: Life Satisfaction

Satisfaction with Life Scale  
(SWLS)

Focuses on global life satisfaction and does not tap related constructs such as positive affect or loneliness.

## Caregiver: Alliance

Therapeutic Alliance Quality  
Scale (TAQS)

Therapeutic Alliance Quality  
Rating (TAQ-R)

Structured the same as the youth version, but about the relationship between the *caregiver* and the therapist

## Caregiver: Motivation

### Motivation for Youth's Treatment (MYTS)

The caregiver version of the MYTS assesses internal motivation of the caregiver to participate in youth's treatment including:

- Problem recognition (of youth as well as caregiver),
- The desire for help and support,
- Readiness to participate

- How is the youth doing overall?
  - ▶ Severity of symptoms and functioning (y, cg, cl)
  - ▶ Life satisfaction (y)
  - ▶ Hope (y)
- How is treatment going with the youth?
  - ▶ Therapeutic alliance (y, cl)
  - ▶ Motivation for treatment (y)
  - ▶ Counseling impact (y)
  - ▶ Service satisfaction (y)
- What are important caregiver issues?
  - ▶ Caregiver strain
  - ▶ Life satisfaction
  - ▶ Therapeutic alliance
  - ▶ Motivation for treatment
  - ▶ Service satisfaction
- What is the content of treatment sessions?
  - ▶ Session Report Form (cl)





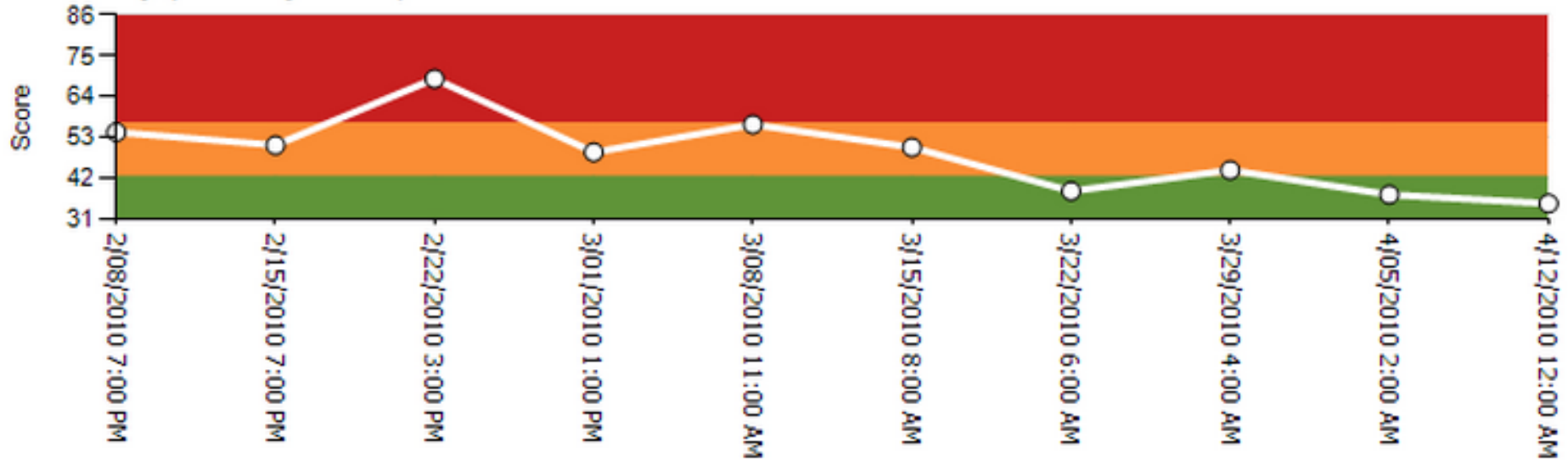
## *Session Report Form: Capturing the content of treatment*

- The SRF is completed by the clinician as part of typical session documentation and can be combined with progress notes
- Keyed to corresponding PTPB measures of treatment progress and treatment process
- Contains content domains that could be addressed and/or an important focus of treatment problem area
- Psychometric analyses supports internal consistency and utility as part of regular clinical documentation
- SRF provides important feedback for supervision and collaborative care – what client and caregiver issues is the clinician missing?
- Feedback alerts are provided to clinicians if they do not discuss critical issues as indicated by caregiver or youth

# What is the clinician addressing in sessions?

Example: spike in severity at third session

Severity (Rated by Youth): Trend over time



What happened?

What did the clinician do?

How did the clinician address this decline?





# Session Report Form (SRF)

Counseling Process (Rated by Caregiver)

## CFS Session Report Form

KEY: **N** = Not Addressed    **A** = Addressed    **F** = Addressed and Important Focus of Session    \* Issues range

Session Date	8/2/10 <i>baseline</i>	8/9/10	8/16/10	8/23/10	8/30/10 <i>phase I</i>	9/6/10	9/13/10	9/20/10	9/27/10 <i>phase II</i>	10/4/10	10/11/10	10/18/10
Session Topic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Issues	N	F	A	N								
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinician Item Alert (# of #)	**** 2/16	0	**** 5/16	0								
Throw things when mad	4	1	4	1								
Get in trouble	5	1	5	1								
Disobey adults	1	1	1	1								
Interrupt others	1	1	1	1								
Lie to get things want	1	1	1	1								
Hard control temper	1	1	1	1								
Get along fam/friends	1	1	5	1								
Threaten/bully others	1	1	5	1								
Hard time waiting turn	1	1	5	1								
Troubled peers	1	1	1	1								
Hard paying attention	1	1	1	1								
Get into fights fam/friends	1	1	1	1								
Lose things you need	1	1	1	1								
Hard to sit still	1	1	1	1								
Annoy others on purpose	1	1	1	1								
Argue with adults	1	1	1	1								

<input type="checkbox"/> Family Issues	F	A	F	N								
--	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<input type="checkbox"/> Harm to Self or Others	N	F	A	F								
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

# Danni's Story

*Case study using  
concurrent feedback  
to inform clinical  
decision-making*





St. Clair/Getty

Danni: 14 yrs old (adopted at 4 weeks old) caught for sexting nude pictures to classmates



Danni's cell phone was confiscated at school because classmates were laughing at the nude photo of Danni and graphic sexual language.



Danni brought a knife to school and threatened to kill both male and female classmates. She was suspended for the rest of the year.

- Poor communication with mother and daughter
- Anxiety disorder
- Mood disorder
- Additional borderline personality features were noted. Client self mutilates by cutting





Danni lives at home with Mom, Dad, and Emma, her 10 yr old sister (a birth child of parents)



Danni has two older siblings who are away at college. **Kate** – 19 yr old sister (a birth child of parents), and **Bradley** – 18 yr old brother (half-biological sibling also adopted into the family)



Cathy Goodwin, Danni's clinician, began treatment using a structural family therapy frame with attention to the mother-daughter relationship.

Activities were identified that they enjoyed doing together.



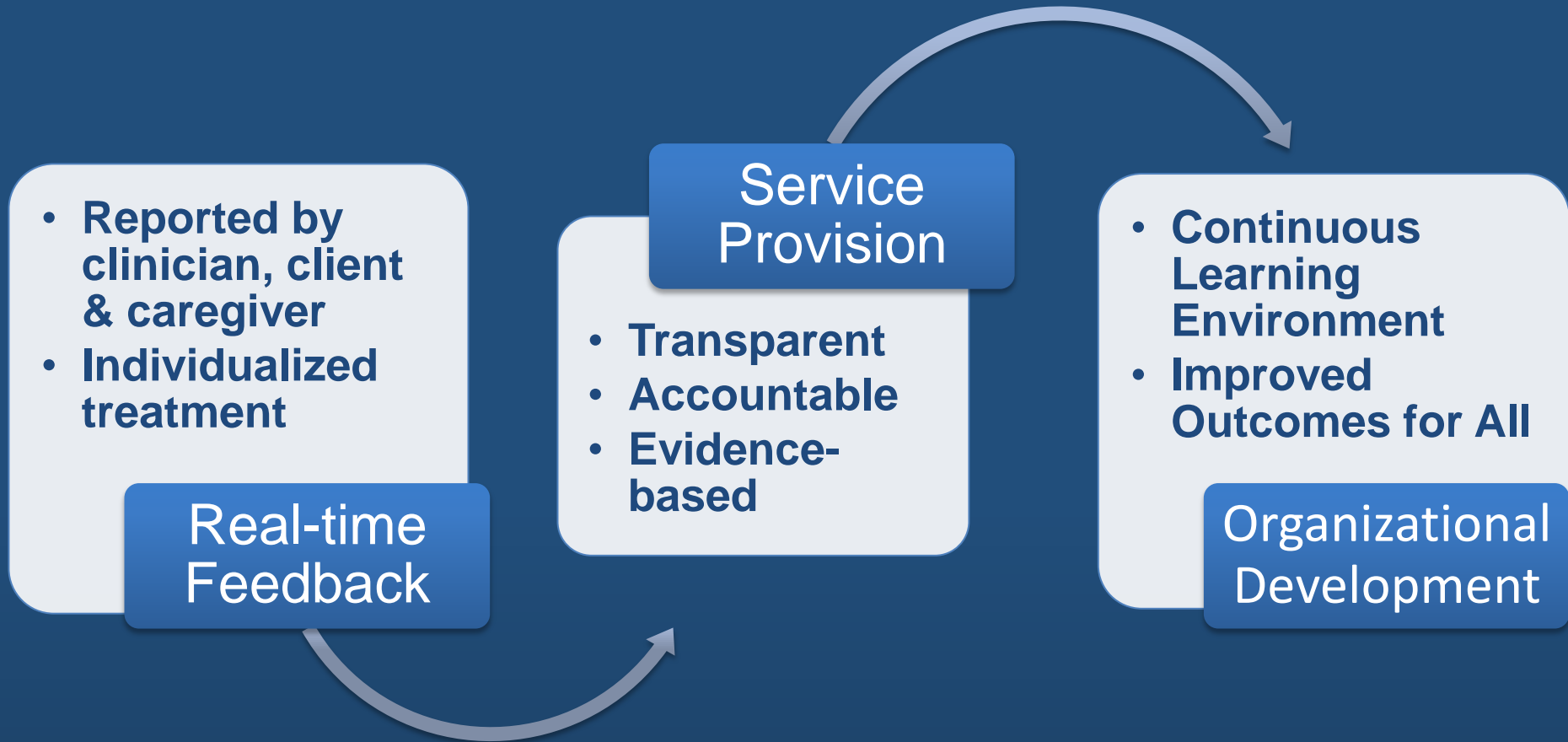
Individual counseling included work on client self-identity, her story of abuse from father and her motivations around this story, and emotions experienced during mutilation incidents.



# *Supporting Successful Implementation*



# *Goal of Implementing a MFS*





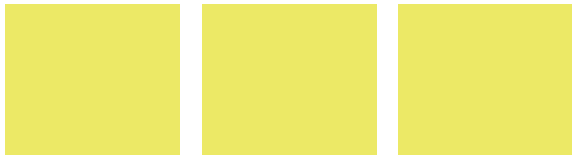
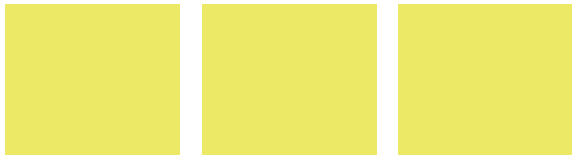
## Discovery Stage

Pre-implementation planning and contextualization to optimize CFS to your organization



## Implementation Stage

Contextualization, operational training, clinical coaching and consultation



Ongoing support – life of license

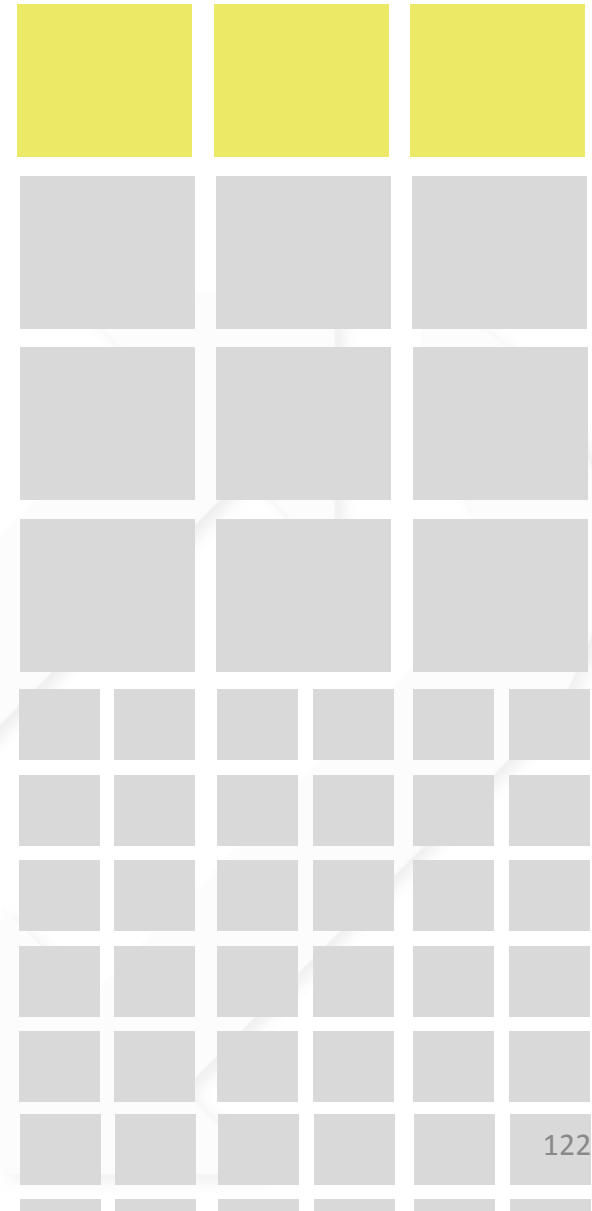


## Key activities

- Readiness assessment
- Workflow analysis
- Collaborative team approach

## Key outcomes

- Integration of MFS into relevant areas of business practice
- Direct integration of feedback into required session documentation
- Identification and support for champions





- Staff investment
- Leadership
- Agency structure
- Client flow
- Resources



## Domains

- Client related
- Personnel / supervision
- CQI / QA
- Fiscal
- Technology

## Issues

- Roles and responsibilities
- Procedures and protocols
- Requirements v SOP
- Monitoring / auditing
- Improvement needs

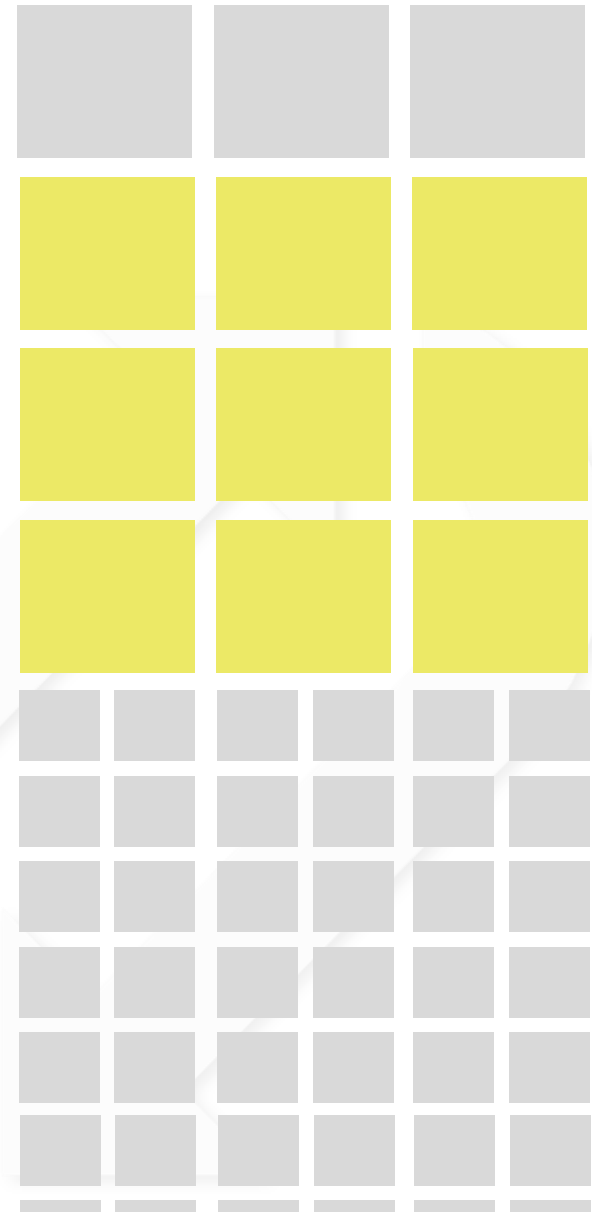


## Key activities

- Operations training
- Clinical and supervision coaching
- Leadership support

## Key outcomes

- Inoculation to common implementation barriers
- Support for staff accountability
- Sharing personal impact of feedback through case review

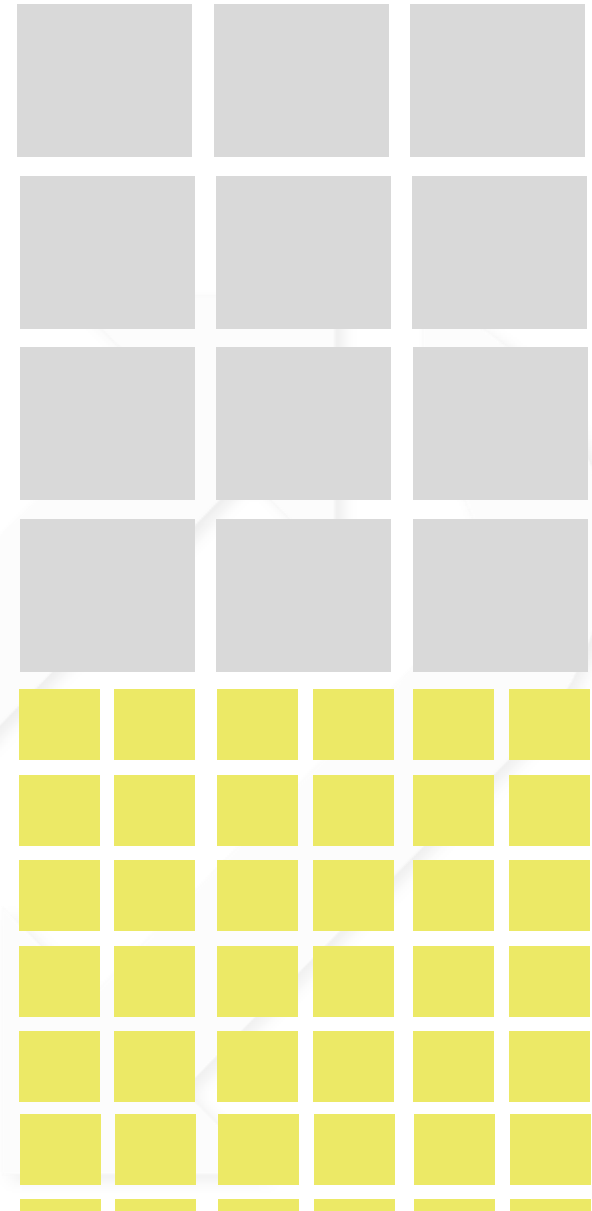


## Key activities

- Learning collaborative
- Performance evaluations
- Creation of actionable feedback

## Key outcomes

- Transformation as a learning organization
- Active use of MFS is expected as part of culture
- Feedback used to guide training and program planning



- The evidence supports MFS – feedback affects clinician behavior and improves client outcomes
- Feedback is much more than routine outcome monitoring – it is a vital part of ongoing assessment
- A battery of measures provides actionable feedback on treatment progress and process in youth psychotherapy
- Implementation is critical – and takes ongoing commitment
- MFS should be integrated into all aspects of clinical practice
- Actionable feedback is effective feedback



# Contact Us

**CFFS**<sup>TM</sup> Contextualized  
Feedback  
Systems<sup>®</sup>

[www.cfsystemsonline.com](http://www.cfsystemsonline.com)  
[leonard.bickman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:leonard.bickman@vanderbilt.edu)

For more information, please go to the main website and browse for more videos on this topic or check out our additional resources.

## Additional Resources

### Websites:

1. Contextualized Feedback Systems: <http://www.cfsystemsonline.com/>
2. Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology website: <http://effectivechildtherapy.com>

### Books:

Stroul, B., Blau, G., & Sondheimer, D. (2008). Systems of care: A strategy to transform children's mental health care. In B. Stroul & G. Blau (Eds.), *The system of care handbook: Transforming mental health services for children, youth and families* (pp. 3- 24). Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing. Co.

### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

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