

QRIS Through an Implementation Science Lens

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Principles: QRIS “To Be”

- A QRIS is a dynamic system. A QRIS will continue to evolve as new evidence is available.
- A data system is in place to collect and manage key system data.
- Evaluation and performance management are used to inform implementation and continuous program improvement.
- A growing evidence base will move QRIS towards standard practices and procedures on system key elements.

Vision: QRIS “To Be”

- Evidence-based standards tailored to state/local context
- Rating process that is validated. Rating staff are supported in their roles.
- Defined quality improvement strategies that include needs assessment, goal setting, and matching of services to the needs
- Evidence-based financial incentives that promote access (parents) and quality improvement (ECE providers).
- Evidence-based marketing and communication strategies for parents and ECE providers.

Stages of Implementation: Definitions

- Exploration: assessing fit and deciding to move forward
- Installation: preparing for implementation
- Initial implementation: implementing a new intervention for the first time
- Full operation: implementation at a steady state
- Innovation: adapting to community conditions
- Sustainability: ensuring stable implementation

Stages of Implementation: Factors to Consider

- Implementation takes 2 to 4 years
- Stages do not occur in a linear fashion or in isolation from each other
- Stages may not occur simultaneously for all QRIS components

Stages of Implementation: A Design Tool

- Identify stage of implementation for each QRIS component
- Consider questions that should be asked at each stage of implementation
- Identify steps needed to move to the next stage of implementation
- Assess availability of resources to move to the next stage
 - Financial
 - Staff training and support
 - Data systems

Possible Next Steps

- Create an implementation team
- Set priorities and goals
- Develop and implement a workplan and timeline
- Educate stakeholders

Discussion Questions

- Knowing what you know about your QRIS and about implementation science so far (from the plenary and this breakout), what would you consider the most urgent areas to focus on? What are the priorities in your state? (Use the handout as a guide)
- Where are you in terms of stage of implementation? Does this dictate what your priorities should be in terms of content?
- How do we make next step plans more concrete?