Bases of my discussion

• PROSPER
• Implementation Science
• Clearninghouse for Military Family Readiness
PROSPER IS...

A scientifically-proven delivery system that facilitates sustained, quality delivery of evidence-based programs for youth and families, by creating partnerships among Cooperative Extension, local schools, community volunteers and university-based researchers.

--Tested in 14 communities;

--Community teams coordinates the delivery of two evidence-based programs: Family based and School-based.

--Teams receive ongoing TA from Prevention Coordinators who are linked to University Scientist team
Implementation Science is

• A new area of study within NIH
• Involves how one brings evidence-based programs and practices to scale
• A few challenges of this science involve:
  • Maintaining quality while scaling up
  • Balancing pure replication versus thoughtful adaptation

- The **usability** of program or practice has nothing to do with the weight of the evidence regarding it.
- Evidence on effectiveness helps you select what to implement for whom.
- Evidence on outcomes **does not help you implement** the program.
Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness
The Clearinghouse is a distribution and implementation framework for professionals (practitioners and researchers) supporting military families.

Promotes and supports:
(1) the use of research-based decision-making;
(2) the selection, dissemination, and evaluation of evidence-based or evidence-informed programs and practices
What Kinds Of Evidence Counts, For Whom and Who Decides?

- **Community folks:**
  - Evidence must involve local data and the method to gain such data is not as much of a concern
  - Programs with likeable face value: Reality Tour Example

- **Empirical Scientist:**
  - Focus on evidence from well designed studies involving rigorous methods (Randomize Control Trials)

- **Funders (Government and Philanthropies):**
  - Over the last decade have moved toward needing evidence from rigorous scientific methods.
Evidence-based: What does it mean?

- **Evidence-based**: theoretically sound innovations that have been evaluated using a well-designed study and have demonstrated significant improvements in the targeted outcome(s).

- **If RCT is considered the only source of reliable evidence then we have defined evidence too narrowly**

- **Evidence-informed practices**: the integration of experience, judgment and expertise with the best available external evidence from systematic research.
  - Solutions informed by the best possible evidence
Implications of delayed benefits for gathering such evidence

- Collecting and utilizing data that involves rigorous methods and is comprehensive
  - Takes time and costs a great deal
- Benefits are:
  - Clear direction or road map of how to achieve success
  - Increases the likelihood of sustainability
  - Can establish a ethos of continuing improvement and innovation
What engagement practices and processes are most likely result in shared benefits for community and university partners

- Practices that provide opportunities for solution-focused problem solving
  - Learning Communities
  - Ongoing TA sessions
  - Professional development opportunities
  - Willingness to continue to examine and tests potential solutions
Implementation Support

Lessons

1. Continue to make the “why” compelling and the “how” clear, do-able and tailored
2. “Spread” requires social interaction and constant, multi-faceted communications
3. Recognize, cultivate and celebrate champions and successful organizations
4. Use a systems approach
5. Demonstrate results and provide feedback
Evidence-based of engaged scholarship

- Decide and keep track of metrics:
  - Traditional metrics: # of grants; # of publications; # of people served and outcomes
  - New metrics:
    - New areas of study
    - # of innovative methods
    - Value added measures of the engaged scholarship: University reputation and demonstrated commitment to the community.