


Practice Makes Proficiency:
Using Motivational Interviewing, Live Supervision, and Standardized Clients in Child Welfare



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Supervision, and Standardized
Clients in Child Welfare**

University of Maryland School of Social Work
Motivational Interviewing
Research Lab Study Team
November 2, 2013

University of Maryland School of Social
Work Motivational Interviewing
Research Lab Study Team

- Edward Pecukonis, Ph.D., Project Director & Principal Investigator
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- Elizabeth Greeno, Ph.D., Chief Data Analyst & Research Team Associate
- Laura Ting, Ph.D., Data Analyst & Research Team Associate
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- Hyeshin Park, MSW, Research Team Associate
- Chris Wirt, MSW, Research Team Associate
- Kevin Wade, MSW Research Team Associate
- Mary Ann Galeano, Special Research Assistant

Context for Presentation

- We're still learning and welcome your discussion, collaboration, and feedback!

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 UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

What Is Motivational Interviewing?

“Motivational interviewing is a collaborative, goal-oriented style of communication with particular attention to the language of change. It is designed to strengthen personal motivation and commitment to a specific goal by eliciting and exploring the person’s own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion.”


Miller, W.R. & Rollnick, S., (2013). *Motivational Interviewing: Helping People Change*; 3rd ed., NY: The Guilford Press.

Why Use Motivational Interviewing (MI)?

- Allied with social work values (The spirit)
- Strategic use of interviewing skills (OARS) that correspond to EPAS competencies
- Suggests interventions specific to identified phases of the intervention process
- In child welfare, provides an alternative to authority -only intervention
- Evidence based intervention----opportunity to facilitate real change in factors that result in risk of maltreatment----enhancing safety, permanency, and well-being.

MI is one tool...

in the child welfare worker’s practice toolbox.



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Why Use Standardized Clients?

- Gives students permission to practice skills
- Opportunities for teaching
- More universal experience for students
 - Helpful in teaching
 - Helpful in assessing skills
 - Essential in research
- Confidentiality/legal issues with CW clients

What Does Live Supervision Look Like?

- The following video highlights the different teaching methods used in Live Supervision
- Students in this video are Foundation Students with very little prior exposure to Motivational Interviewing

Staging the Change: A Process!

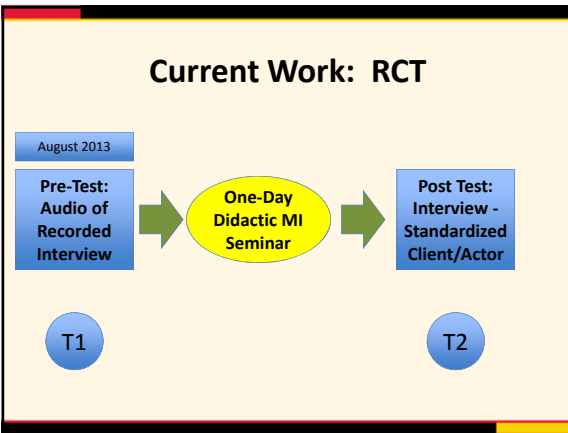
We are almost 9 years into the process from beginning with the use of standardized clients to teach and measure CW students' skills to our current research.

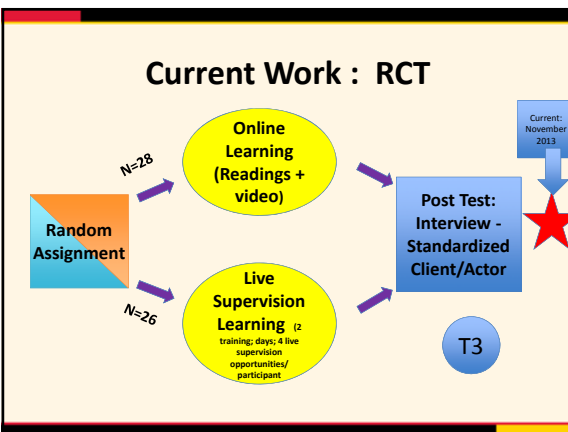
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Current Work: Dr. Theresa Moyers

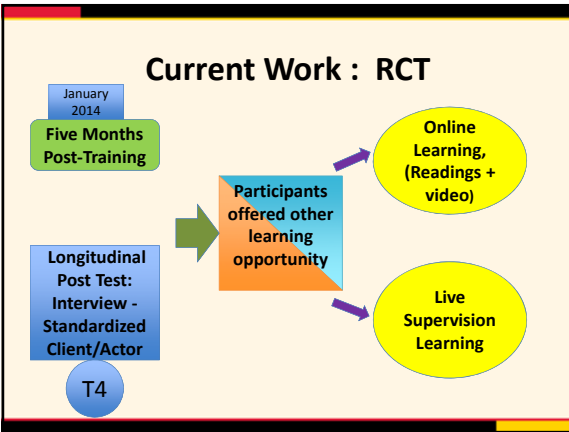
- With ongoing consultation from Dr. Theresa Moyers, a faculty member at the University of New Mexico, and who is internationally recognized for her scholarship on empirically-based treatments including motivational interviewing, we are currently conducting an RCT on the use of live supervision and standardized clients to teach CW students MI skills.
- Video





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- Potential Challenges to the Use of MI in Child Welfare**
- Families may need to address many difficulties simultaneously
 - CW interventions need to address family dynamics within an ecological perspective
 - Mandates, timelines, court, permanency
 - MI is not meant to be the answer to all questions
 - Child welfare workers at times do hold an authority position
 - May require a paradigm shift for families and workers

- Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Teaching**
-
- Challenge in faculty's application of intervention strategies
 - Understand the model as one of many tools utilized
 - Apply intervention concepts and spirit in daily child welfare social work practice

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Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Learning

- Develop clarity of the Child Welfare Social Worker role and when to use the model to intervene
- Become familiar with applying the methods
- Create a common language and conceptualization about change
- Nurture an interest and investment in the application of the model

Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Child Welfare Practice


- Struggled for years in observing our own practice to understand the place of MI in child welfare
- Affirmed the requirement of a collaboration
- Clarified the need to focus on targeted behavior
- Gained appreciation of the spirit of MI in child welfare practice

Feedback from Student Participants

- "...live supervision helped me to relax more, despite being on camera. Overall, I would highly recommend the use of live supervision to aid in engagement skill development."
- "...I hope to utilize this practice again, and look forward to utilizing what I have learned this week in field, and throughout my career!"
- "Both watching and participating were valuable experiences."
- "To my surprise, it was an amazing experience..."
- "Rarely, do we get an opportunity to observe a counseling simulation so closely, with an instructor."

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Sometimes Road + Rubber Seems Like.....



But Mostly It's Great!

- The team would like to thank Dean Rick Barth, the Richman Family Fund, the Title IV-E Education for Public Child Welfare Program, Family Connections, our Media Center staff, and our students and field faculty for their invaluable support of this project.
- And thank you, as well!
