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Using Data From Schools, Mental Health, and Other Child-Serving Partners to Investigate What Works and For Whom

- ▶ *Workshop Presented 44th Annual Youth Development Conference, Association of New York State Youth Bureaus, Syracuse, October 28-29, 2014*
- ▶ Mansoor A. F. Kazi, PhD, University at Albany, State University of New York



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

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- ▶ American Evaluation Association (eval.org) Co-Chair and Founder of the Social Work Topical Interest Group.

New York Success: Connecting Systems of Care With Children and Families



STAKES/THL



Social Services Department

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Realist Evaluation Partnerships



Tapestry of
Chautauqua
County,
New York



**SAMHSA's
Gold Award for
Outstanding
Local
Evaluation
2010 Training
Institute**

**Based on Kazi, M. A. F.
(2003) 'Realist Evaluation
in Practice', London: Sage**

New York State System of Care SAMHSA Funding

- ▶ (Mary Coppola, Project Director, mcoppola@ccsi.org)
- ▶ **Upstate New York System of Care Expansion Project'** (with Monroe County Public Health Department and 55 Upstate New York State counties; \$4,000,000 2012-2016; \$741,934 for evaluation, Funded by SAMHSA—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services).



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Effectiveness Research and Epidemiology Traditions (Videka, 2003)

- ▶ **Efficacy approach: testing hypotheses about intervention effects**
- ▶ **Epidemiology approach: explanation of the problem**
- ▶ **Combining or blended approach: explanation-oriented, individual and environmental characteristics and study of service outcomes**



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Local Evaluation Strategy for Each County

- ▶ **Evaluation resource and service for you and for each participating agency**
- ▶ **How to access and to use your own MIS data**
- ▶ **How to analyze this data repeatedly to inform practice**
- ▶ **Carried out with you and for you only—you decide who to share with and how to use the findings**



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Realist Evaluation: What Interventions work & in what circumstances

- **A combination of efficacy research & epidemiology traditions**
- **Management Information System (MIS) Data routinely collected but typically not used for evaluation in agencies**
- **Investigate interrelationships between outcomes, client demographics, client circumstances, & services provided (interventions)**
- **Methods such as binary logistic regression can predict the likelihood of effectiveness of an intervention in given circumstances**
- **Use findings at regular intervals to better target and develop services**



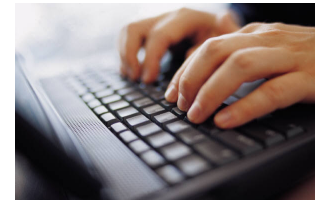
Evaluation Strategy

- ▶ **We are here to help you—as an evaluation resource**
- ▶ **Help you to use your own data for evaluation**
- ▶ **Can connect to others in Chautauqua County and others who have done this (e.g. data-dumps)**
- ▶ **Data findings can inform your decision-making and help make your services more effective**
- ▶ **This evaluation will also help you to be in a better position to apply for grants and other funding**
- ▶ **Enhance your own capacity for evaluation**



DETAILED EXAMPLES: Columbia COUNTY

- ▶ **Michael W. Cole, LCSW**
- ▶ *Director of Community Services*
- ▶ **325 Columbia Street, Suite 300**
- ▶ **Hudson, NY 12534**
- ▶ **P-518-828-9446 ext. 2277**
- ▶ **F-518-822-8096**
- ▶ **My new email address is:**
- ▶ **Michael.Cole@columbiacountyny.com**

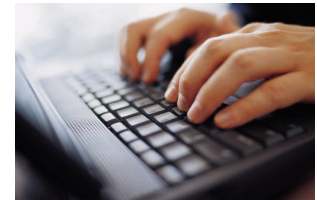


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DETAILED EXAMPLES: Columbia COUNTY

- ▶ **County mental health (Department of Human Services)**
- ▶ **MHA of Columbia and Greene Counties**
- ▶ **Twin Counties Recovery Services**
- ▶ **Hudson School District**
- ▶ **Promise Neighborhood**
- ▶ **DSS**
- ▶ **Probation**



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Columbia County

- ▶ County: Four years' data analyzed Jail services (n = 417)
- ▶ County: 1990-2013 all clinic patients with diagnoses (n = 6071)
- ▶ MHA: 2002-2013 (n = 2379) analyze with discharge reason
- ▶ Twin County Recovery Services—4 years' data (n = 4572)
- ▶ Hudson School District (n = 2028)

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Columbia County mental health

- ▶ Senior school: 84 (31.1%) out of 555 received county mental health, 2012-13 school year
- ▶ Recorded average incidents twice as high (6.7 to 3.13) at baseline
- ▶ GPA 70.6 compared with 76 at baseline
- ▶ Both incidents and GPA statistically significant differences at baseline, so now we can investigate the progress made into the following year

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Greene County DSS & County MH Merger

- ▶ **Social Services**

- ▶ **Kira Pospesel**

Commissioner

- ▶ **Greene County Social Services Department**

411 Main St.

Catskill NY, 12414

- ▶ **Telephone: 518-719-3700**

Toll Free: 1-877-794-9268

Email: dss@discovergreene.com

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Greene County DSS & County MH Merger

- ▶ **Mental Health**
- ▶ **Margaret Graham, APRN BC**
- ▶ *Director of Community Services*
- ▶ **Greene County Mental Health**
905 County Office Bldg
Cairo NY, 12413
- ▶ **T. 518-622-9163**
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Greene County DSS & County MH Merger

- ▶ **First Merger ever between DSS and County MH**
- ▶ **296(57%) out of 517 reunited with family or relatives**
- ▶ **129 (25%) out of 517 were at County Mental Health Clinic**
- ▶ **Out of the 129 CMH, 65.1% were reunited compared with 54.6% of the rest**

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Factors Associated with Reunification with Family or relatives

- ▶ Involvement with Greene County Mental Health or not ($r = .092$, $n = 517$, $p = .037$). It was found that 129 (25%) had received mental health clinical services, and that 65% of those who received these services were successfully reunited with family or relatives as compared with 55% of the rest.
- ▶ The number of agency spells during entry and exit from DSS ($r = .235$, $n = 517$, $p = .00$). Those who were reunited with family or relatives had less than 2 agency spells, as against more than 2 for those who were not reunited with family or relatives.



Factors Associated with Reunification with Family or relatives

- ▶ Age at first agency spell ($r = .093$, $n = 517$, $p = .035$). The average age of those reunited with family or relatives was 8 years, as compared with 9 for those who were not reunited with family or relatives.
- ▶ Duration of the first agency spell ($r = .157$, $n = 517$, $p = .00$). The average duration of the first agency spell was 220 days for those reunited with family or relatives, as against 364 days for those not reunited with family or relatives.

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Binary Logistic Regression with above factors: Reunited with family/relatives

- ▶ Predictors for reunification were number of agency spells, age at first spell, duration of the first spell, and involvement with County Mental Health Clinic
- ▶ If County MH were involved, then twice as likely to be reunited with family or relatives

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 4 ^d Number of agency spells	.361	.068	28.112	1	.000	1.435
Age at first agency spell	.040	.017	5.873	1	.015	1.041
Duration of First Spell (days)	.002	.000	32.846	1	.000	1.002
Greene County Mental Health or not	.644	.228	7.967	1	.005	1.905
Constant	-2.532	.349	52.735	1	.000	.080





Action Plan for Columbia, Greene, Counties

- ▶ **Quarterly data analysis carried out with each agency with the data they collect, and using methods to investigate what interventions work and for whom.**
- ▶ **Quarterly written reports in each quarter following this collaborative analysis**
- ▶ **Merger between agencies, e.g. school outcomes**
- ▶ **Formulate a plan of action to improve services based on the findings from this data, and how the realist evaluation strategies could be integrated into practice to evaluate these services prospectively and indefinitely.**

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