

# LESSONS FROM A UNIVERSITY- CHILD WELFARE AGENCY PARTNERSHIP:

Successfully selecting an  
evidence-based practice to  
reduce long-term foster care

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Child Welfare Evaluation Summit

## Presenters:

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- **Erin Stucky**, President, KVC Behavioral Healthcare
- **Sheila Walker**, Project Manager, KIPP, University of Kansas

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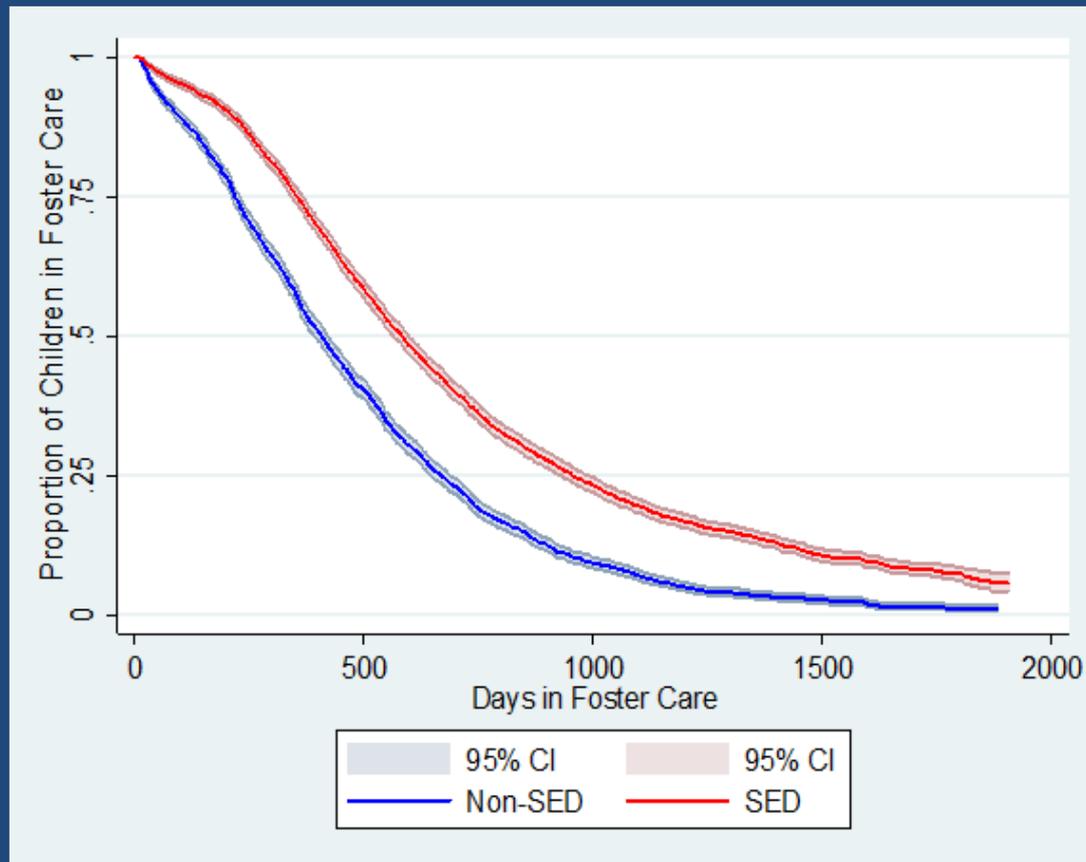
# Goals of the Session

1. How to select an EBP
2. How to use Implementation Science
3. The lessons we've learned about adapting an EBP for our demonstrator



# Target Population: Children w/ Serious Emotional Disturbance

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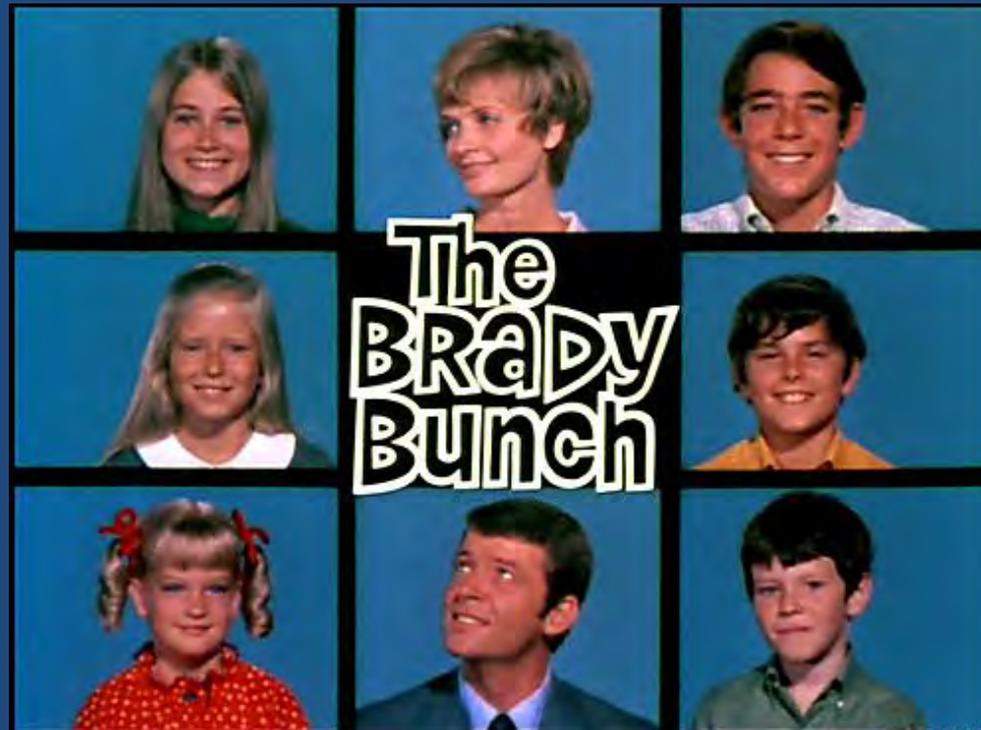


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Here's a Story...

# Not too different really...

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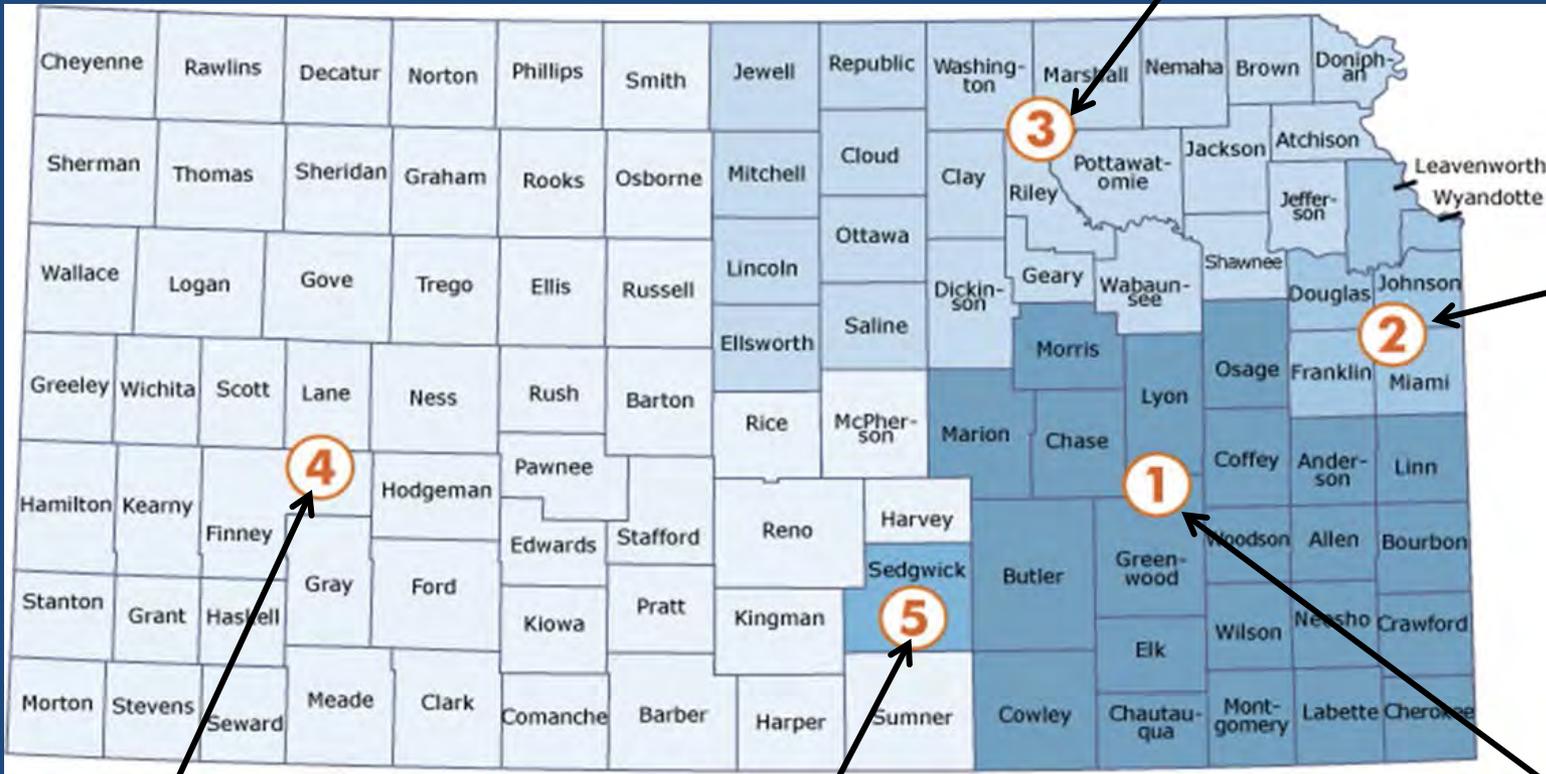


# ...of our search for an EBP purveyor

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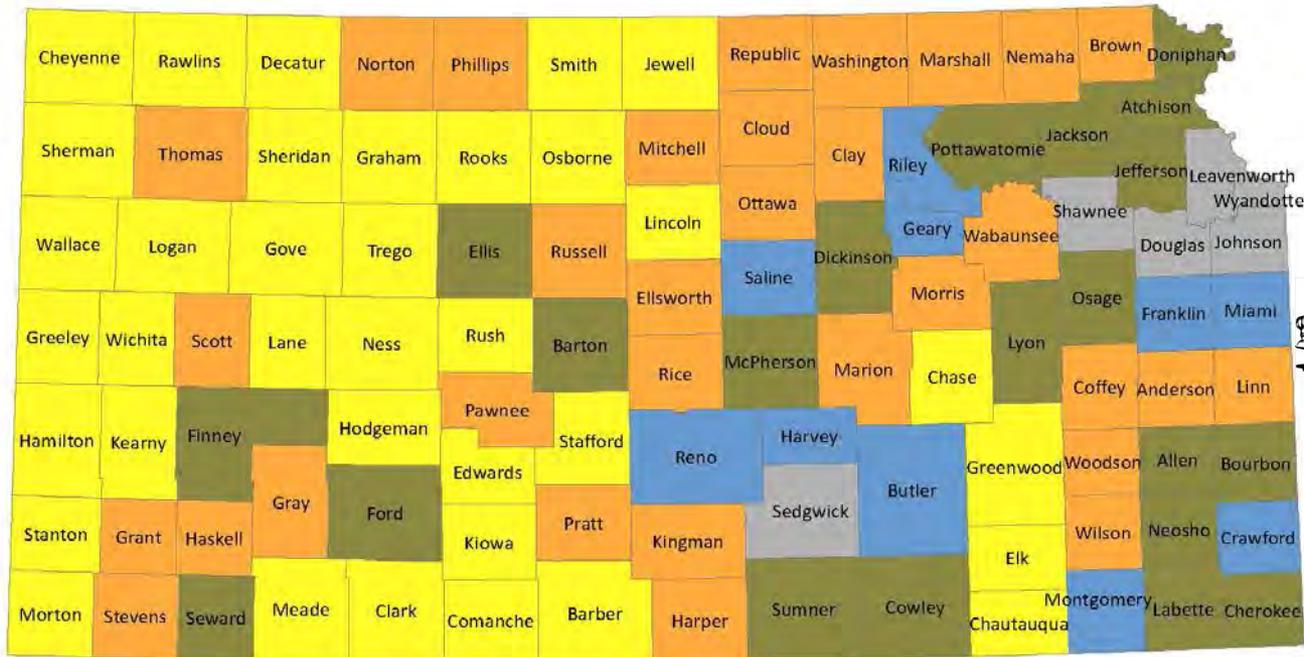
# Kansas in Context



- 1 – Southeast region, TFI
- 2 – KC Metro region, KVC
- 3 – Northeast region, TFI
- 4 – West region, St. Francis
- 5 – Wichita region,

## 2010 Population Density Peer Groups for Kansas Counties

For more information, see <http://www.socwel.ku.edu/occ/viewProject.asp?ID=76>



### Population Density Peer Group

- Frontier (less than 6 persons per sq. mile)
- Rural (6 to 19.9 persons per sq. mile)
- Densely-settled Rural (20.00 to 39.9 persons per sq. mile)
- Semi-urban (40 to 149.9 persons per sq. mile)
- Urban (150+ persons per sq. mile)

Based on 2010 Census Redistricting Data (PL94-171) Summary File, Table G001 for Kansas counties. Land Area converted from square meters to square miles. Counties classified using Kansas Department of Health and Environment Population Density Peer Groups. Data retrieved April 4, 2011.



# Mental Health System of Care

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- Vision is that Kansans with mental illness will experience recovery and live safe, healthy, successful, self-determined lives in their homes and communities
  
- Children with an SED determination are eligible for:
  - individual and family therapy
  - case management
  - wraparound facilitation
  - attendant care
  - parent support
  - psychosocial groups

# Existing Partnership Between KU & SRS

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Between 2002-2011:

- 100 separate research projects in Adult Mental Health (AMH) Child Welfare and Children's Mental Health, and Aging & Long-Term Care
  - **77 in child welfare or children's mental health**
- \$47,903,039 total
- Data use agreements and Business Associates Agreements in place
- Decades-long partnerships

# Federal Context

# ACF Issued an RFP-6/24/2010

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- **Initiative to Reduce Long-Term Foster Care**  
HHS-2010-ACF-ACYF-CT-0022
- The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to **fund demonstration projects that support the implementation and test the effectiveness of innovative intervention strategies to improve permanency outcomes** of subgroups of children that have the most serious barriers to permanency in spite of the reform efforts in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997(ASFA).

# KU Convened Foster Care Agencies

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- Partners came together during grant writing process
  - ▣ Defined mutual goals of project
  - ▣ Identified target population, point of intervention, focus of intervention:
    - Children with serious emotional disturbance (SED)
    - Early in the life of the case
    - Parents of children experiencing an SED

# Parents Are Underserved

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- Case review of 30 cases-children with SED in long-term foster care
- Representative of 5 regions
- 5 variables predictive of long-term foster care:
  - 1) *parent history of trauma* (80%)
  - 2) *parent alcohol and drug problems* (83%)
  - 3) *poverty related issues* (87%)
  - 4) *parent mental health problems* (90%)
  - 5) *parenting competency or attitude* (97%)

# Kansas Intensive Permanency Project

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- Funded in October, 2010
  - ▣ KU Management serves as administrative body/wrote proposal, including evaluation plan
  - ▣ KU Management + Agency Directors formed Steering Committee
- Goal: *Reduce long-term foster care among Kansas children with serious emotional disturbance*
- Planning year required selecting an EBP to evaluate rigorously

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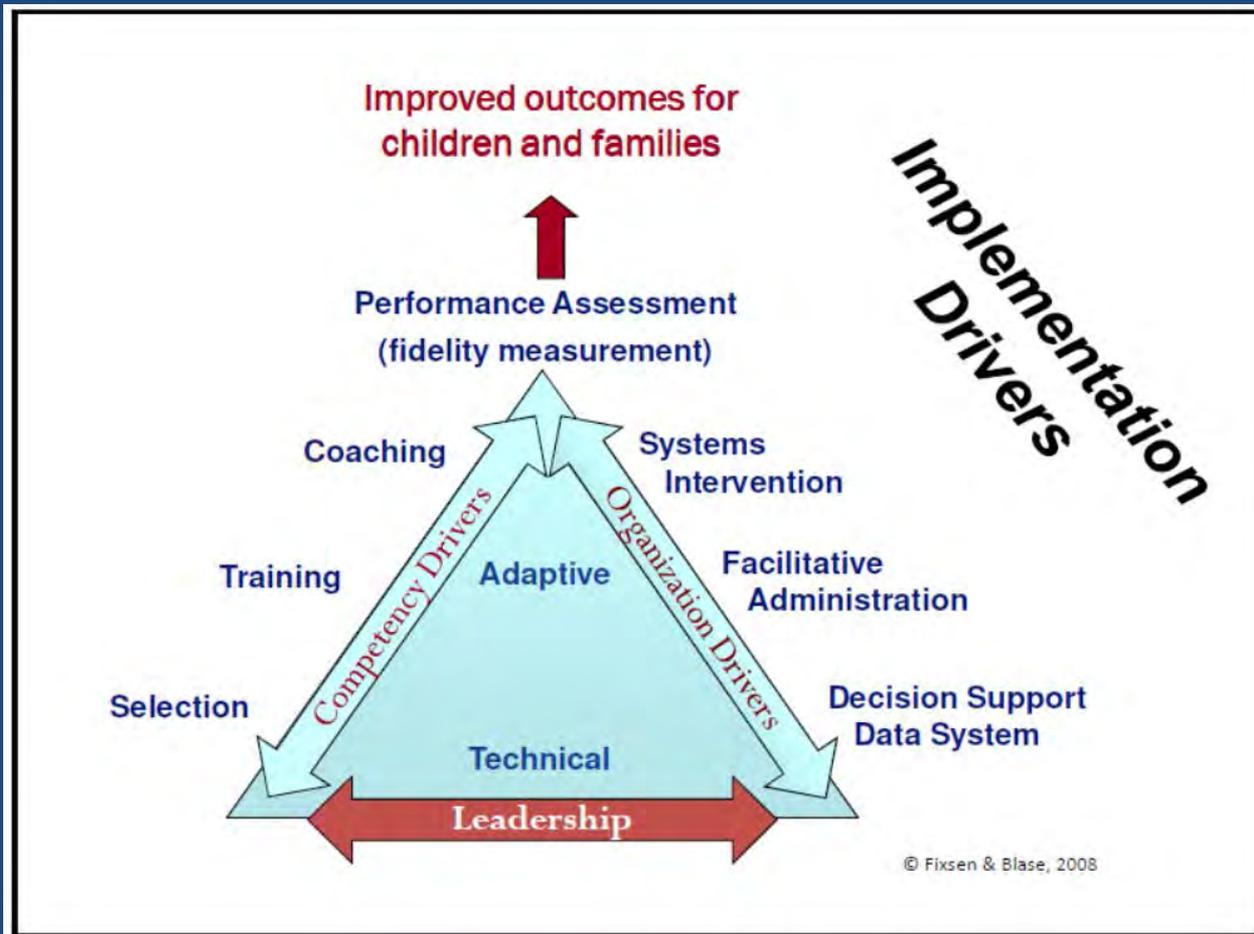
# How to Select an EBP in Four...Steps



- ...iterative
- ...maddening
- ...time-consuming
- ...rewarding

# Using Implementation Science

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# 1. Expert Interviews

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- Interviewed child welfare researchers about effective intensive, in-home interventions
- Explained the “package” we were proposing



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- Early contact & engagement
- In-home, intensive
- Low caseload
- Accessible & responsive
- Trauma-informed
- Comprehensive assessment
- Concrete services
- Access to specialists for AOD, DV, DD
- Service coordination
- Emphasis on parent/child visits
- Concurrent planning
- Clinical & team supervision

Date	Participants	Activity	Approx. hours
10/6/2010	KU Management Team	First planning meeting	7
10/15/2010	Kansas Division of Children and Family Services, Director of CFS	Meeting	1
10/25/2010	Children's Bureau	First meeting	2
10/25/2010	Kansas Division of Disability and Behavioral Health, Director of Mental Health	Presentation and Discussion	1
11/1/2010	KIPP Steering Committee	First meeting	7
11/8/2010	PII T/TA; JBS	First meeting	2
11/10/2010	Kansas Child Welfare Quality Improvement Committee	Presentation	2
11/12/2010	PII T/TA/JBS	Meeting	1
11/15/2010	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
11/19/2010	State Liaison/Leadership Committee	Presentation	2
11/23/2010	PII Evaluators/Westat	Meeting	1
12/1/2010- 12/3/2010	KU Steering Committee	All Grantee Kick-Off Meeting, Washington, DC	22
12/6/2010	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
12/13/2010	PII T/TA	Meeting	1
12/20/2010	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
12/28/2010	Peter Pecora, Mark Fraser, Mark Testa, Natalie Conner	Expert interview Experts recommended adopting a parent training model like PMTO, Triple P, etc.	2



## 2. Gather Evidence

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- We researched the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for parent education programs
- Circulated the list
- Gained some familiarity with programs

# Handout 1

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- Used Cutler Institute Review
- Added information from expert interviews
- Added CEBC information

# 3. Interview Purveyors & Implementers

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Date	Participants	Activity	Approx. hours
1/4/2011	Shelley Leavitt, Homebuilders	Purveyor interview	2
1/5/2011	Shelley Leavitt, Homebuilders	Purveyor participated in Steering Committee meeting	1
1/5/2011	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
1/11/2011	PII T/TA and Evaluators	Meeting	1
1/11/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
1/18/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
1/19/2011	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
1/20/2011	Children's Bureau	All Hands meeting re: Target Population Template	1
1/21/2011	TTA-KU Meeting	Meeting	1
1/24/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
1/26/2011	Rita Bostick, Triple P	Purveyor interview	2
1/26/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	1
1/26/2011	PII Evaluators	Meeting (data mining)	1
1/28/2011	KU SSW Advisory Board	Presentation	1
1/31/2011	Jon Baker, Marian Forgatch, Laura Rains, PMTO	Purveyor interview	1
2/1/2011	PII T/TA and Evaluators	Meeting	1
2/1/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
2/2/2011	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
2/8/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2

# Interviewed Implementers

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Date	Participants	Activity	Approx. hours
2/15/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
2/17/2011	Stephanie Romney, San Francisco	Implementer interview	2
2/18/2011	Stephanie Romney and Nathaniel Israel, San Francisco	Implementer interview	1
2/21/2011	Patricia Kohl, St. Louis	Implementer interview	2
2/22/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
2/22/2011	Rick Barth, Maryland	Expert interview: Recommended PMTO and cautioned that combining interventions may reduce effectiveness.	2
2/23/2011	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
2/24/2011	T/TA Webinar	Webinar	2
3/1/2011	Lee Rone, Youth Villages	Implementer interview	1
3/1/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
3/1/2011	Jim Wotring, Michigan	Implementer interview	1
3/2/2011	TA Site Visit	Meeting	6
3/3/2011	Robin Spath	Evaluator interview	1
3/4/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
3/7/2011	Triple P	Purveyor interview	1
3/8/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
3/8/2011	Patti Chamberlain, Oregon	Expert interview: Recommended PMTO.	1
3/8/2011	PMTO	Purveyor interview	2
3/9/2011	Intervention Working Team	Meeting	3
3/9/2011	Abi Gewirtz, Minnesota	Implementer interview	1
3/14/2011	PII T/TA	Meeting	1
3/14/2011	PMTO	Purveyor interview	1.5
3/14/2011	Jill Duerr-Berrick, California	Expert interview	1
3/17/2011	PII T/TA	WebEx	1.5
3/18/2011	PII T/TA	WebEx	1
3/23/2011	Intervention Working Team	Meeting	3
3/24/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
To date	KIPP Team	Post meeting debriefings	78
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>223</b>



# Continued to Interview Experts

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Date	Participants	Activity	Approx. hours
2/9/2011	Kansas SRS Leadership; Casey Family Services (Lien Bragg, Peter Pecora, Page Walley, Barry Salovitz)	Presentation Expert interview: Peter Pecora suggested adopting PMTO.	3
2/22/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
2/22/2011	Rick Barth, Maryland	Expert interview: Recommended PMTO and cautioned that combining interventions may reduce effectiveness.	2
2/23/2011	KIPP Steering Committee	Meeting	3
2/24/2011	T/TA Webinar	Webinar	2
3/1/2011	Lee Rone, Youth Villages	Implementer interview	1
3/1/2011	KU Management Team	Meeting	2
3/1/2011	Jim Wotring, Michigan	Implementer interview	1
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# 3. Narrowed to Two Choices

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- Compare and contrast using 3 criterion:
  - ▣ Does the intervention *fit* the population?
    - Clinical goals/approach
  - ▣ Does the intervention *work* with the population?
    - Outcomes with children/families experiencing SED
  - ▣ What is the potential to *sustain* the project after funding has ended?

# Questions We Asked

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- ❑ CEBC rating?
- ❑ Specific foster care evidence?
- ❑ Underlying principles?
- ❑ Training and time to certification?
- ❑ Coaching?
- ❑ How does staff training facilitate staff ability to implement the core intervention components with fidelity?
- ❑ Fidelity measures?
- ❑ Time before operational?
- ❑ Special foci (e.g., disability, dual dx)?
- ❑ Core components? How operationalized?

# 4. Battle it out and make a choice

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- What are the deliverables with each EBP?
- What can be adapted to meet your needs?
- Budget, budget, budget
- Sustainability



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# Lessons Learned

# 1. Allow Yourself to “Accept Influence”

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- Expert interviews, purveyors, implementers, and T/TA changed our minds
- Almost daily!
- But these provided critical information
  - ▣ Example: Pecora & Fraser first conversation; Barth’s caution about combining interventions

# 2. Adaptations Make a Difference

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- Geography crucial to consider
  - ▣ Will this work in rural or frontier counties?
  - ▣ How does it need to be modified?
- What kinds of adaptations need to be made for the population?
- Can the purveyor do the modifying?
  - ▣ Too wedded to the model to change it enough to work?

# 3. Allow Enough Time to Choose Well

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- Process felt like blind speed-dating at times
  - ▣ Too aggressive
  - ▣ Too laid back
  - ▣ Just right
  
- Hindsight:
  - ▣ Wish we had final purveyors come to us and make their cases face-to-face to ensure good match
  - ▣ Work out details up front
  - ▣ Know your bottom line
  - ▣ Stick to it

# 4. Consensus= Satisfaction with Choice

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- Take the time to get to “Kansas Consensus”



- Pragmatic approach
- Work through strong objections and offer alternatives
- Compromise for consensus

# THANK YOU!

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