

Ontario's Measurement Initiative in Child and Youth Mental Health

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Overview

Provincial mandate (2000) – accountability, outcomes, evidence-based practices

Provincially mandated use of a the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (Hodges) to measure level of functioning outcomes among 6-17 year old children and youth receiving mental health services in Ontario

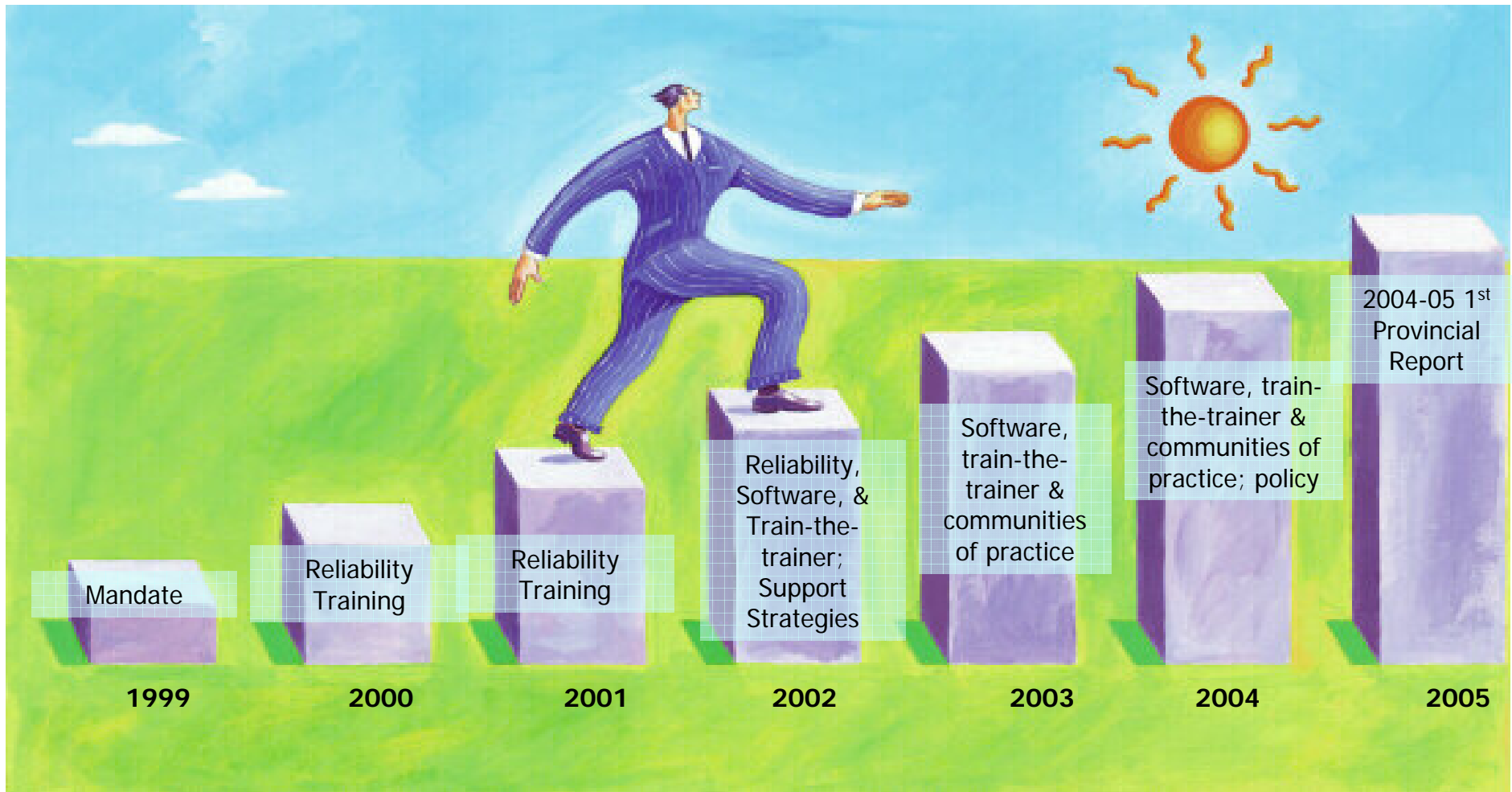
Begun in 2000 with training of over 3000 practitioners over 3 years

120 CMHC (children's mental health centres) participate in the initiative

CMHCs also participate in use of a systematic intake screening interview called the Brief Child and Family Phone Interview

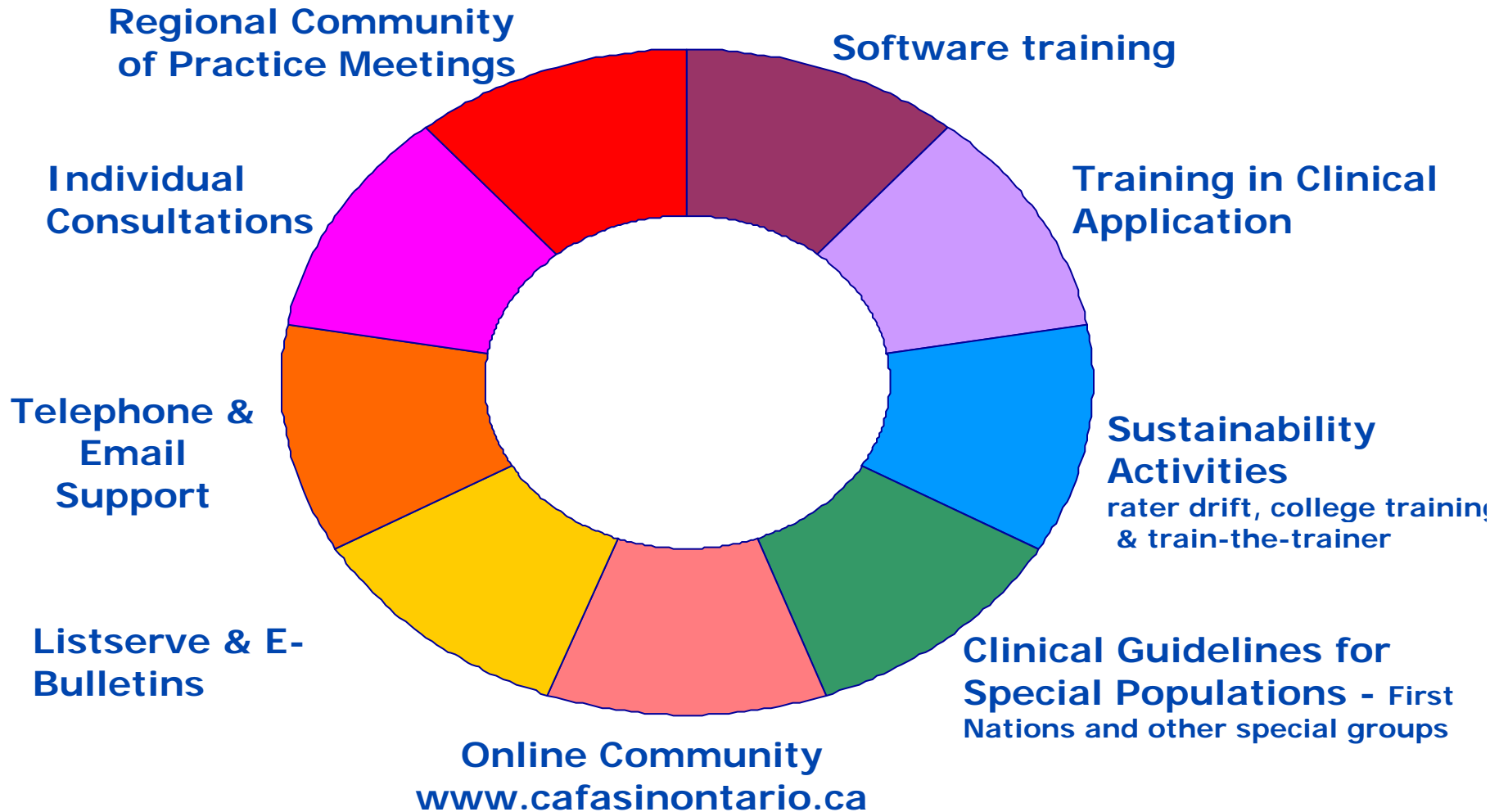


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Implementation Support



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Benefits of this initiative

- Increased receptivity and awareness of EBPs and outcome management
- Common language and collective voice
- Provincial network enables implementation of other EBPs
- Advancing knowledge about how to roll out EBPs



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Benefits for children and youth

Practitioner use of the CAFAS provides a common language and common metric for the entire CMH system in Ontario (system integration)

Systematic assessment of functioning in multiple areas of the clients life is imperative for comprehensive assessment and formulation

The systematic measurement of a client's response to treatment over the course of formulation and treatment has been shown to improve outcomes

Patient outcomes can be improved if therapists are alerted to treatment response



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Benefits for the System of Care

Determine – for the first time ever – if Ontario children improve as a function of the services they receive

System-wide use of CAFAS builds accountability for the quality of the services we provide

Access to services is only meaningful if services are effective

Provides an evidence-base from which to develop system and organization-level service delivery improvements

Does client functioning improve as a result of service?



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Accomplishments

Over 3000 practitioners trained to be reliable raters

Development & delivery of Reliability Training

Development & delivery of Software Orientation

IT and clinical support to 120 CMHCs and >3000 practitioners

Booster training for rater drift

Development & delivery of Train-the-Trainer

Developed a common data set for Ontario



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Accomplishments

CAFAS in Ontario website

Knowledge Transfer Infrastructure

Community of Practice model in healthcare

Special Considerations for rating the CAFAS with Aboriginal Children and Youth

Are the only “CAFAS user group” to study rater drift

Train-the-Trainer

Community Colleges

French language CAFAS materials

Guidelines for Use of the Measurement Tools in Accreditation

New software versions and suggest improvements



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Associated Program of Research

Synthesis Grant: Knowledge Translation in Mental Health and Addiction – Strengthening the Science of Knowledge Translation in Child and Youth Mental Health(CIHR, 2007-2008)

Practice Change Using a Community of Practice Model (CIHR, 2005-2007)

Knowledge Brokering for Paediatric Healthcare Research: From Science, to Linkage, to Impact (CIHR, 2004-2007)

Best Practices in Knowledge Transfer and Integration of Evidence-Based Practices in Children’s Mental Health (CMHO, 2005)

Knowledge transfer in rural settings (CIHR, 2003-2005)



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What we wish we'd known going in...

Plan should reflect organizational / practitioner readiness for change

Communicate...communicate...communicate – Redundancy is key

Be solution-focused in the face of resistance

But, know when to drop the ball and move on

Anticipate barriers and plan accordingly

Anticipate strengths and weaknesses in your target audience – i.e., computer literacy

Develop a marketing plan based on how the innovation improves the life/work of the user

Base much of your support for implementation on face-to-face interaction, and back it up with additional supports

Use face-to-face venues as opportunities for innovators and early adopters to influence late adopters and laggards 😊

Develop incentives for compliance and ensure there are penalties for lack of compliance; although the “carrot” is preferred, both approaches are needed



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Additional gains within the system

Broad appreciation of the importance of outcomes

Clear sense of the positive outcomes occurring in children and youth now receiving service ... >70% of kids are showing significant improvements in level of functioning

Increase in computer literacy among workforce and similar gains in computer sophistication among organizations.

Strengthened capacity and competencies in the workforce:

- in-house CAFAS trainers;
- liaison role with both implementation teams;
- research in practice
- the instruments provide the ability and opportunity for organizations to evaluate their programs and services, relative to themselves over time, and against their regions and the province



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