

### **OHSU Deflection Sites**

May 29, 2025

Jac A. Charlier, M.P.A.

Executive Director
TASC's Center for Health and Justice
Chicago, IL
JCharlier@tasc-il.org
312-573-8302





## **Sustainability Reference**

- Sustainability for publicly-funded behavioral health and justice grant programs: A model for stability and success.
  - Delmar, NY: SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice

Transformation - Charlier J., & McDonnell, M. (2012)



#### Know, Do, Be

- Start <u>early</u> with **KNOW**ing what is needed for sustainability
- Move <u>early</u> to **DO**ing things that promote sustainability
- Repeat daily the work of BEing sustainable



## Start Early, and if not, Start Now

#### Day 2

- ❖ The time when a program incorporates an external, future focus into daily activities
- Establish sustainability early in a program's DNA <u>before</u> day-to-day operations

monopolize the agenda



## **Sustainability: Two Interlocking Pieces**

#### **CONCEPTUAL and PRACTICAL SUSTAINABILITY**

- Conceptual (HEARTS) sustainability about <u>perceived value</u>
- Practical (MINDS) sustainability about <u>quantifiable value</u>
- Must build <u>both</u> over the long run
- Consider the <u>time element</u> to develop and deploy both





## **Conceptual Sustainability**

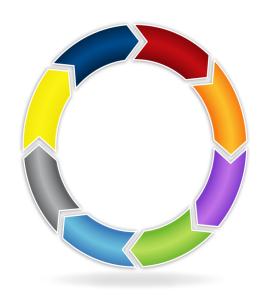
#### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

- Shaping the future
- "Land of ideas"
- Achieving the future by doing realistic, manageable activities now...
- ...so your vision and mission is still relevant when the future arrives





## **Conceptual Sustainability Cycle**



#### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? REPEATING ACTIVITIES (BE)

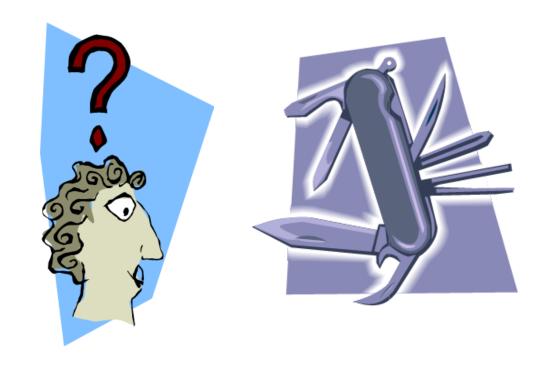
- Know what the heart -perceived value- wants
- See (Know) where you want to be
- Know how far you need to go
- Check-In (Do)
- Create (Do) your engagement mechanisms



#### **KNOW What the Heart Wants**

#### WHY DO YOU EXIST? WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

- What events took place (are still taking place) that created the initial sense of purpose and/or sense of urgency?
- What is the need/problem/gap that created the program?
- What is/was the starting vision?
- Who were the initial supporters, champions and creators?





## See (KNOW) Where You Want to Be

#### LOOKING THROUGH YOUR SUSTAINABILITY TELESCOPE

- Know what you want to sustain
- Environment
- Context
- Culture



#### **KNOW How Far You Need to Go**

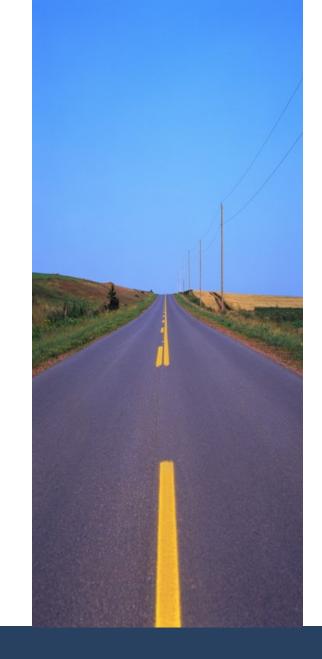
#### **SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS "RULE OF THUMB"**

Achieve this % of your sustainability plan every year:

1

Total years of established funding – 1 year

- The final year of your funding is for shoring up sustainability
- Measure and celebrate your sustainability progress





## Check-In (DO)

#### **QUESTIONS TO KEEP ASKING**

Year 1

- What is your organizational authority to act?
- What is your risk tolerance for collaboration?
- Who else is in your "neighborhood"?

## Middle Years

- Are you sufficiently focused each day on sustainability?
- What new activities are you doing to shape the future?
- What new partnerships can you create?

# Near the End

- What are we missing?
- What is new in the environment?
- What do we need to shore up?



## **Create (DO) Your Engagement Mechanisms**

# KEEP PEOPLE CONNECTED, INTERESTED AND FOCUSED <u>BEFORE</u> THE EXCITEMENT IS GONE

- Create your identity, appeal and value (brand)
- Become well known (presence)
- Enlarge your reach (capacity)





## **Create (DO) Your Engagement Mechanisms**

#### **EXAMPLES**

Community Advisory Boards Story of the month

Newsletters Social media

Thank you calls Speakers bureau

Invitation to visit the program "Investors" teleconference

Webinars Community events - walks, runs

Weekly updates Other Ideas???



## **Practical Sustainability**

- Deals with <u>quantifiable</u> value attractive/appeals to the mind
- Ability to spell out <u>with precision</u> Who? When? How Much?
- Chart it out, literally
- Codification in (legislation, policy, budgets, MOUs, etc..) is a measure of your success





## **Organizing to Gain Support**

#### **BIG QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS**

- Who benefits from the project?
- In what way do they benefit?
- How much do they benefit?
- Can it be quantified?

- Money saved?
- Quality of life improved?
- Public safety improvements?





## **Organizing to Gain Support**

#### MORE QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS

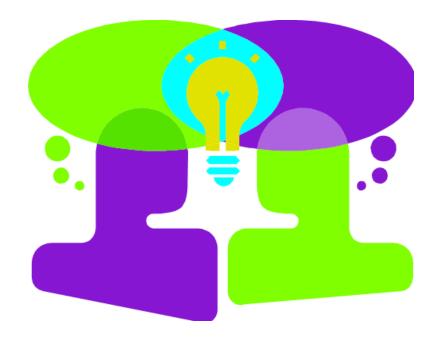
- Whose support does the program want? Why?
- What can they do for you?
- How much and what type of support? Can it be quantified?
  - ❖ Direct: Funding, legislation, access to services or personnel, overcoming barriers
  - Indirect: Connect you with people who can do things
  - Media coverage: Spreading the gospel
- Your project can never have too many friends



## **Organizing to Gain Support**

#### AND A FEW MORE QUESTIONS THAT NEEDS ANSWERS

- What information do you have?
- What data can you develop easily?
- What client successes can you share?





## **Sustaining Services**

#### BE, DO, KNOW

- DO Simple, colorful examples tell the story you want told
- DO Create venues to share your examples
- Chief Judge's meetings, Veteran's events, legislator briefings, federal visits, TA events, graduations
- DO Solid foundation of partnerships
- KNOW What components to sustain
- KNOW Options for funding after the grant
- Initiate before funding ends continuity matters



## **Sustaining Change Initiatives**

#### **PRIORITIES**

- Securing champions
  - Look for people who control resources you need
  - Look for people with an interest in your population, type of project or problem you solve
- Strategies that matter:
  - What policy changes, training programs, etc. will make a difference in replication and adoption?
  - Which will not cost much? Which are a matter of changing the way resources are used?



## Lagniappe

#### **IN CLOSING....**

- Overlap between Conceptual and Practical sustainability
- Sustainability efforts are highly contextual activities
- Be open to the unexpected happening
- Social media

Start early, and if not, start now





#### **Contact Information**

Jac A. Charlier, M.P.A.

Executive Director
TASC's Center for Health and Justice
Chicago, IL

JCharlier@tasc-il.org 312-573-8302

