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**Coaching Strategies for Sustaining Programming for At-Risk Children, Youth, & Families**

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**Objectives/aims**

The CYFAR PDTA Center promotes implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of projects that help low-resource youth/families lead healthy, contributing lives. Coaches guide projects towards demonstrated outcomes, institutionalization, and continued participant impacts. Coaches use a sustainability toolkit to move projects from organizational development (e.g., infrastructure; collaborative relationships; program effectiveness; evaluation; ownership) to fund development (e.g., case for funding; approach strategy; fund diversification). An online tool allows projects to rate themselves on 14 sustainability elements; Results provide direction for sustainability steps.

**Methods**

The CYFAR PDTA Center’s coaching model and sustainability toolkit were built on evidence-informed practices derived from research literature. CYFAR projects rate coaching practices and their own implementation progress and sustainability annually through an online survey. In addition, data is collected on coaches’ utilization of each sustainability toolkit item. Responses to the online assessment tool, the Spider Web Analysis Tool for Sustainability, will be available in the future to assess sustainability factors for both individual CYFAR projects and the CYFAR initiative as a whole. The CYFAR initiative began in 1991, so there is also historical data published by Mancini, Marek, & Brock.

**Main findings**

Initial coaching results were published in *Evaluation and Program Planning* (Olsen, McCarthy, Perkins, & Borden, 2017); A more comprehensive analysis is complete and being submitted for peer-review. Findings demonstrate: growth in coaching skills; satisfaction with coaching interactions; strengthened coach-project relationships from on-site visits; and increased implementation progress and stakeholder support.

The proposed presentation will: introduce the coaching model; share the evidence-informed practices within the sustainability toolkit; provide a Spider Web demonstration; and highlight findings. Time will also be dedicated to an interactive discussion with the audience.