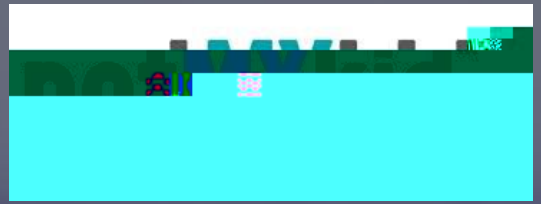
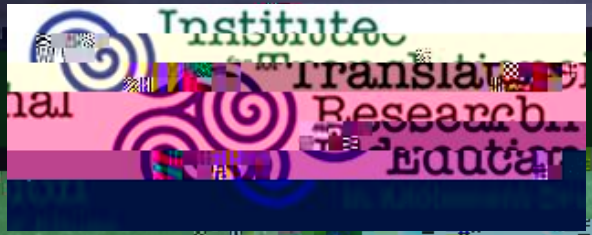
Casey Blaesing, Tessa Burt,
Amy Armstrong-Heimsoth, Shevaun Sullivan

OCJ




Institute
Research

FOSTER
ARIZONA

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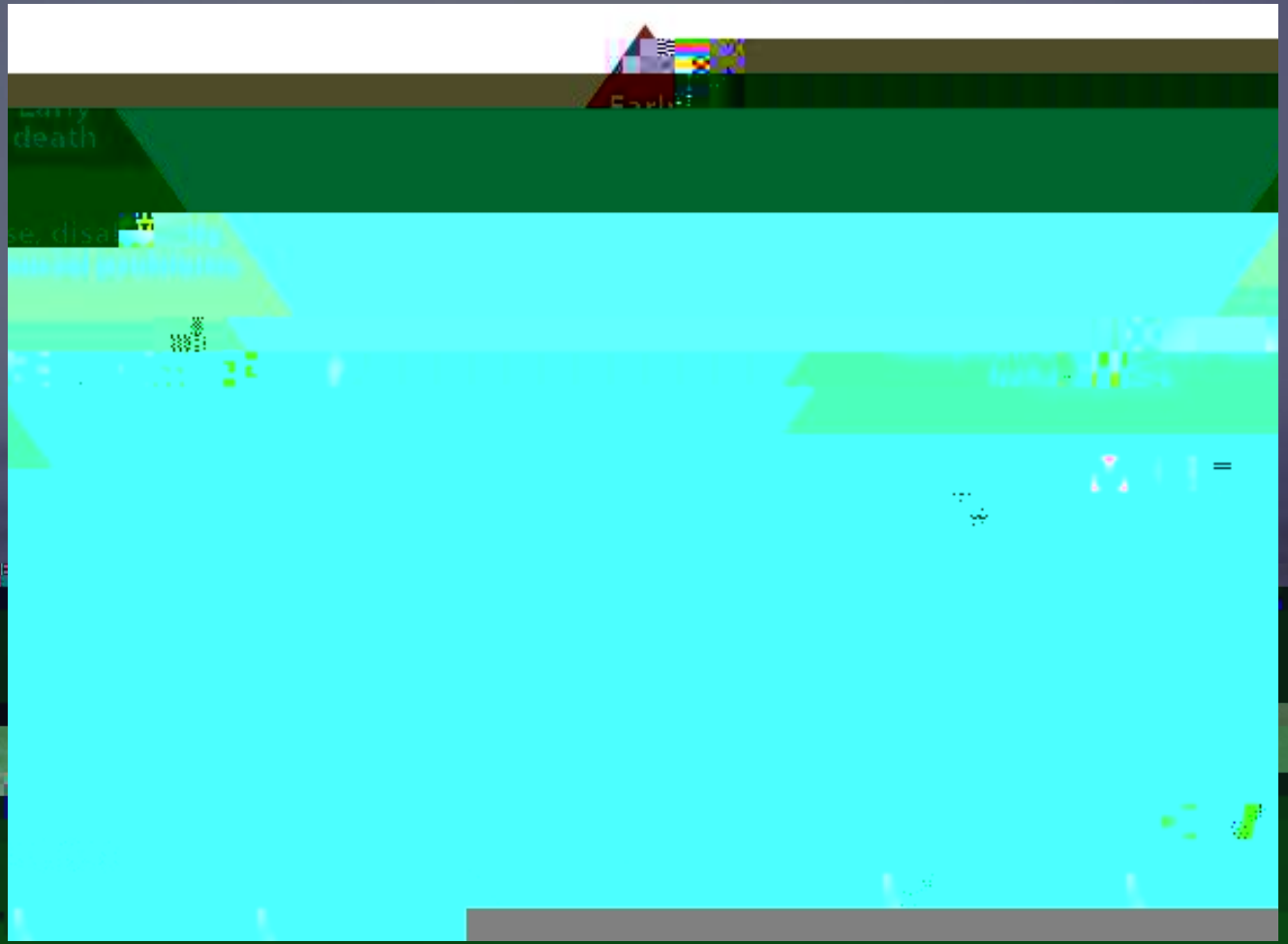


- **Two-thirds** of all children in foster placements have mental or behavioral health concerns and **up to 60%** have developmental disorders.[2]
- Foster youth are **five times** more likely to receive a drug dependence diagnosis.[2]
- Former foster youth are **twice** as likely as U.S. war veterans to experience PTSD in adulthood.[3]
- **67%** of those involved in child welfare system had experienced 4+ traumatic events.[4]
    - **93%** have been exposed to a recurring traumatic event.[4]

“The burden of truth is get to know this kid, wrap or create this collaboration around this kid and then we all work together to move towards the finish line, whatever that looks like.”

- Agency 2

- Epigenetics - the effect the environment has on gene expression[5]

- Community resilience - “the empowerment of communities to come together, share responsibility for alleviating crisis, improve services, and build healthy environments”[6(p.326)]

16 youth ages 18-20

semi-structured interviews, support mapping & resiliency measurements

gather experiences of transition from foster care

(A) initial transition supports (B) didn’t receive/delayed receiving transition supports

unknown service providers & service availability

agencies were providing similar services and there were gaps in service delivery

“The study of the methods and strategies to promote the uptake of interventions that have proven effective into routine practice, with the aim of improving population health”[7(para 1)]

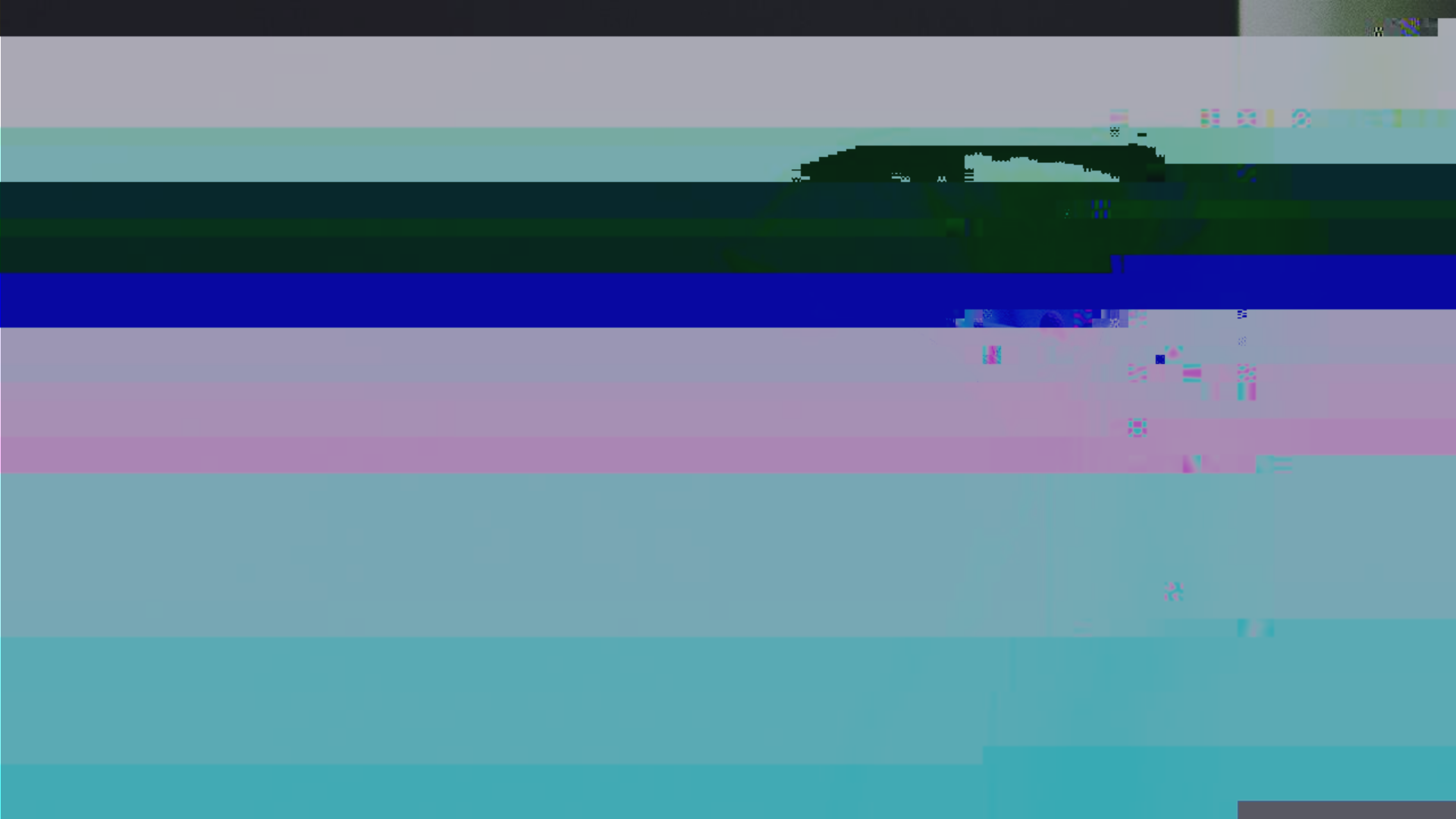
- Lack supportive evidence & insufficient implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs)
- Limited funding & budget cuts → EBP’s[8]
- Lack of specialized training & knowledge to effectively implement & sustain EBPs
- Deficient understanding of implementation science

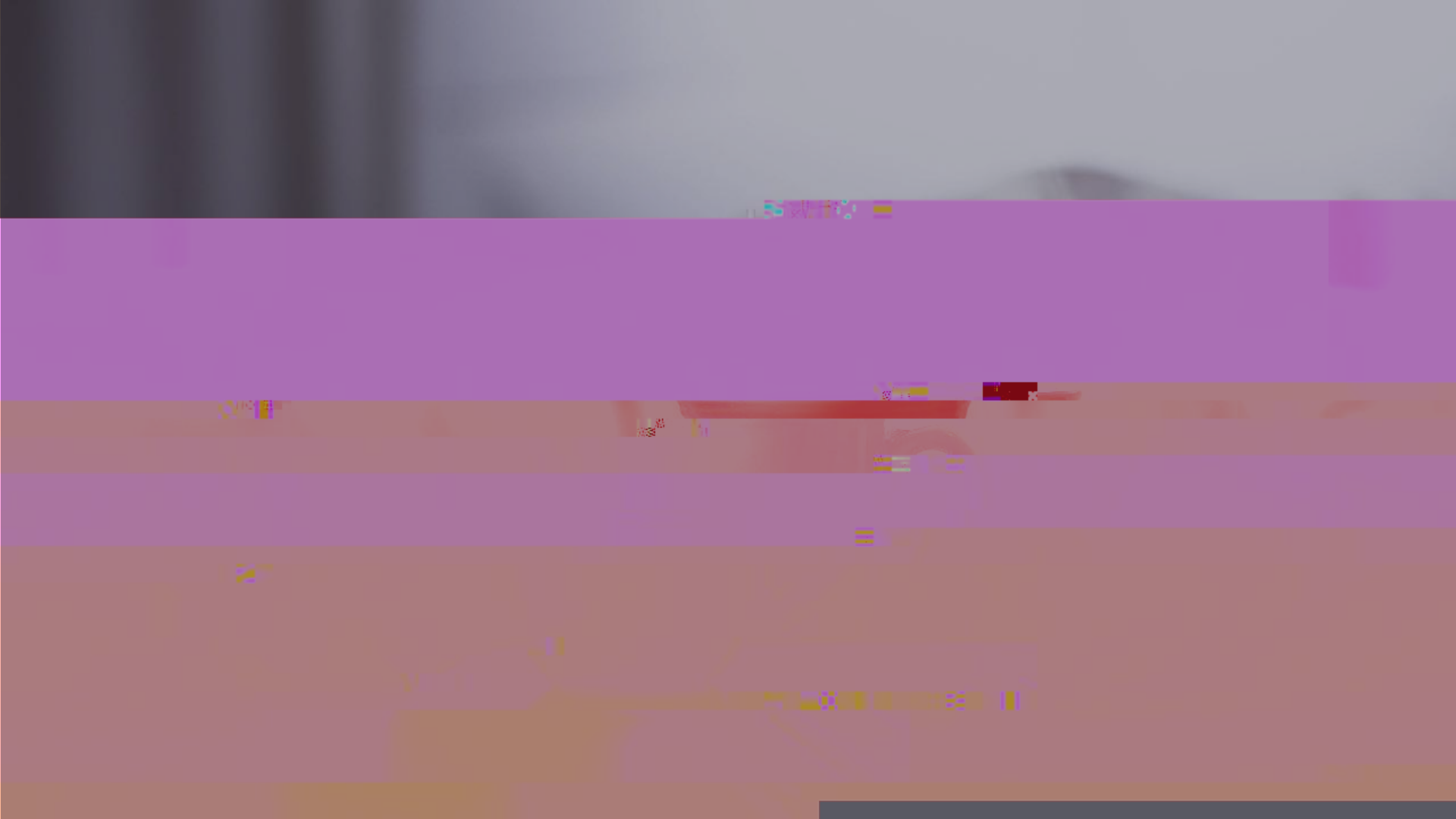
Provides:

- Information on program outcomes[8]
- Interpretation of what influences those outcomes[8]
- Feedback for continuous quality improvement[8]
- Information on specific adaptations
- Data on a program is successful or fails[8]
- An increase in funding opportunities

Program measurement →

no program measurement tools
established & inaccurate measurement





4. Identify components of program and brainstorm ways to measure

Modified

5. Come to the next session with thoughts about the following questions:

-
-
    -
- University-community partnership
- Networking
-
- Community

“We all want to do a good job at helping and making an impact and really using our resources wisely... I think that the information that was given... really allowed us to feel empowered with understanding a little bit more on how we can track things to be better stewards of the resources.”

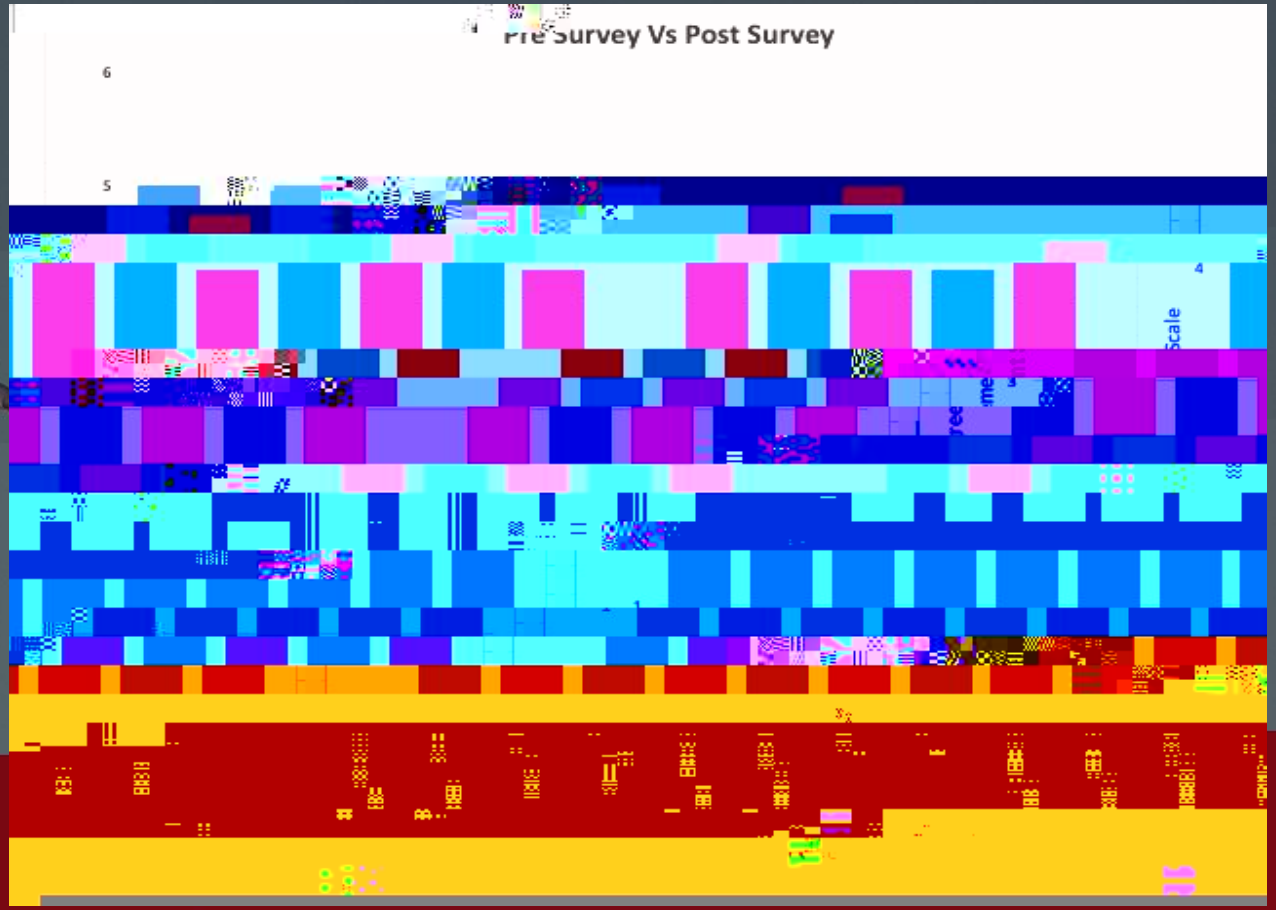
-Agency 3

- Maintaining fidelity
- Flexibility
- Funding
- Leadership buy-in
- Sta f ng

- Adherence
- Lack of initiative
- Time
- Lack of training
- Lack of resources

-
-
- Desire to develop & change
- Willingness to learn
- Openness to new perspectives

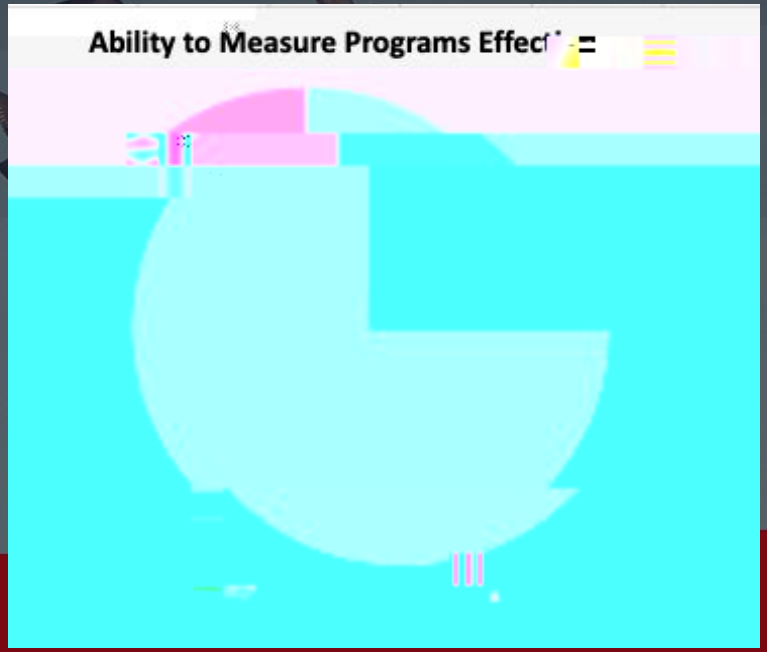
- Goals
- Dissemination
-
- Reflection
- Follow-up
- Concrete references
-
- Trial and error



Pre-Survey

Post-Survey

ity to use Implem


Ability to Measure Programs Effec

- Small sample size (n=4)
- Participants in different stages of program implementation
- Strong relationship between participants and research investigators
- Timing of semi-structured interviews

- Homework
- Member checking
- The population!!!

“So, we have to totally shift our thinking when working with this population of kids so that we can see them become resilient, see them be successful.”

-Agency 1

- Improved supports provided to foster youth → enhance the environment → improved epigenetic outcomes
- Decrease ACE scores by developing an integrated service delivery system[6]
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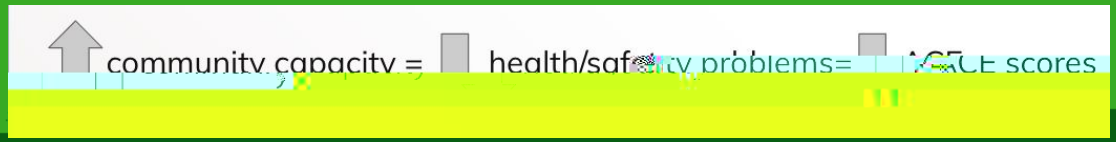

Next Steps...

- Implement program measurement tool
- Training sessions with entire organization
- Advocating for policy change
- Coalition amongst agencies