Evidence, Knowledge, Confidence

Maureen Dobbins, RN, PhD

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What is Evidence-Informed Public Health?

The process of **distilling** and **disseminating** the **best available evidence** from research, context and experience, and using that evidence to **inform** and **improve** public health practice, programs and policy. (Brownson, 2009; Dobbins 2010; Ciliska, 2012)
Evidence-Informed Decision Making

Public Health Expertise

- Community health issues, local context
- Community and political preferences and actions
- Research
- Public health Resources
Aims

• Public health practitioners use best available evidence to inform decisions
• Public health organizations integrate best available evidence into programs and policy
• Improve health and well-being of Canadians
Methods: Training and Mentoring

• Based on decade of experience working with public health organizations

• Engages all levels within organization
  – Management and senior leadership
  – Frontline and program staff

• Knowledge Broker Mentoring Program
Management and Leadership

• Focus group to identify needs and priorities
Frontline and Program Staff

- Large and small group problem-based learning
  - In person workshops, online webinars
- Completion of rapid review evidence synthesis
- Change management mentoring
  - Regular coaching from NCCMT knowledge broker
"We really try to bring to the table as much as possible scientific expertise and EIDM. [The training] was absolutely helpful in making sure that whatever decision making framework we came up with, and what we have in front of us right now, includes that evidence part of it."
– Senior Executive

"The knowledge we've learned is going to last for years. It's going to really improve the quality of work we're producing. It's going to be an invaluable addition to the Health Unit."
– Participant

"It gave me the confidence in supporting other people to follow that cycle and mentor people or support them in going through the steps to incorporate evidence in their work."
– Participant
Limitations

• Program must be tailored to specific needs of organizations
  – Challenge for program evaluation
• Limited capacity of NCCMT to provide training
  – Time, number of knowledge broker mentors
• Barriers to participation: cost, travel
Conclusions

• Training and mentoring programs tailored to the needs of specific organizations positively impacts public health decision making
• Participants gain knowledge and skill
• Organizations integrate evidence-informed decision making
Thank you!

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