

MODULE 8 – IMPLICATIONS

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And, of course, everyone's favorite part of the lecture-- implications for child and adolescent behavioral health policy. This lecture has emphasized the important differences in the process of policy development and the conduct of research. Certainly there are commonalities across the two frameworks, in terms of the use of numbers, as well as the importance of communication. Nevertheless, there is often a schism between the need to disseminate the results of applied research studies and the language needed to do so that is helpful and meaningful to policymakers.

Child and adolescent behavioral health policy-making is no different, in this regard. Communication becomes critical in translating research to practice and, in turn, to impact policy. While there are a number of communication successes-- mental health parity legislation-- unfortunately, there are also many failures in communication-- for example, the Mental Health Systems Act.

The next lecture will examine communication from the perspective of consumers and advocates and their efforts to impact policy.