



# COMPASS-EZ™

A self-assessment tool for behavioral health programs

Creating welcoming, recovery-oriented,  
co-occurring-capable services for adults, children,  
youth and families with complex needs

A Two-part Training Series

# Part Two: Program Co-occurring Capability Development

Using your COMPASS-EZ™ organizational baseline self-assessment to create a relevant and manageable improvement process

# Purpose and Content of Part Two

- Teaches participants how to translate the COMPASS-EZ™ baseline self-assessment of co-occurring capability into an organizational improvement approach.
- Topics include:
  - Organizational quality improvement partnerships
  - Action planning
  - Common starting places and steps toward program co-occurring capability

# 12 Steps for Agencies and Programs Developing Co-occurring Capability

The following slides are for general guidance. The steps are a compilation of approaches that programs across the country have employed to successfully move toward co-occurring capability.

# 1. Formal Announcement and Commitment

Program/agency leadership:

- Makes a formal commitment to achieve co-occurring capability for all programs.
- Announces it officially to all staff.
- Communicates to all staff about the CCISC implementation process.

## 2. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Team

Leadership organizes and supports a continuous quality improvement team that:

- Represents all the different levels of the agency or program in a partnership.
- Engages in regular meetings to own and oversee the change process.

### 3. Change Agent Team

The organization identifies a team of change agents that represents the front-line voice of clinicians, peers, support staff and others in *each* program.

- Change agents:
  - Become represented on the CQI team
  - Help other program staff achieve co-occurring competency in their procedures and practices.

# 3. Change Agent Team

- The Change Agent Team becomes an empowered group:
  - To support the development of co-occurring capability in the organization/system
  - In partnership with executive leadership and management

## 4. Goal: Co-occurring Competency for all Staff

- The agency or program includes in its formal commitment the goal that all service providers over time will develop co-occurring competency
  - Within the service they provide
  - Commensurate with their level of professional/clinical training and licensure (if any).

## 5. Program Self-assessment

Each program uses a structured tool such as the COMPASS-EZ™ to conduct a program baseline conversation and self-assessment of co-occurring capability involving as many representative staff as possible. (See Part One of the COMPASS-EZ™ training for more detail on using the tool.)

## 6. Program Action Plan

- Based on results of the COMPASS-EZ™ survey, each program creates an achievable 3-6 month action plan to make progress toward co-occurring capability, with prioritized starting places, incremental steps with measurable objectives, reasonable timeframes, and responsible people.

## 6. Program Action Plan

- This action plan should be:
  - Simple and doable.
  - Derived from the program's own COMPASS-EZ™ conversation.
- Action plans are:
  - Dynamic.
  - Frequently updated by program CQI team.

# 6. Program Action Plan

- Six C's of Action Planning:
  - Co-occurring capability focused
  - Committed
  - Comprehensive
  - Concrete
  - Connected
  - CQI-based
- The following slides are common action plan starting places.

# Sample Action Plan Template

AGENCY/PROGRAM		Date: 2023	
<p><u>Strength Based Discussion:</u> Describe progress that the agency or program has made in the 12 steps of the CCISC process in inspiring services for customers: e.g., person/family centered, recovery- or resiliency-oriented, trauma-informed, complexity/co-occurring capability.</p>		<p>CQI Team Members and other Change Partners</p>  <p>Agency/Program's Inspired Vision:</p>	
<p>List 3-4 issues that were identified through COMPASS self-assessment(step 5) and other processes. Usual starting places for change (steps 6-12): WELCOMING, ACCESS, HOPE, SCREENING &amp; DATA, ALL STAFF COMPETENCY</p>	<p>WHAT DO WE DO? (Small step measurable interventions for each objective)</p>	<p>RESPONSIBLE PERSONS (Who does what for each intervention?)</p>	<p>Timeframes, Milestones of Progress and Opportunities for Rounds of Applause (for each objective)</p>
<p>1. Issue: e.g., Welcoming Agency/Program's Goal for the issue/ List objectives e.g., improve welcoming policies/practice for COD</p>	<p>a.</p>  <p>b.</p>	<p>a.</p>  <p>b.</p>	<p>a.</p>  <p>b.</p>

# 7. Welcoming and Access

The program action plan:

- Addresses welcoming individuals and families with complex needs in program spaces, policies, procedures, clinical and support practice and staff competencies.
- Emphasize welcoming those who may be challenging (e.g., active substance use)
- Identifies access barriers that need to be removed.

# 8. Screening, Identification and Counting

## The program action plan:

- Improves consistency of screening for and documentation of co-occurring issues
- Improves measurement of baseline data on how many co-occurring clients and families are served.
- Develops a CQI (plan-do-check-act) cycle to improve recognition of the population.

## 9. Empathic, Hopeful, Integrated Strength-based Engagement and Assessment

The program action plan focuses on development of integrated engagement and assessment protocols and skills:

- Communication of empathy and hope
- Documentation of hopeful goals
- Identification of periods of success, and strengths used to address each issue
- Strength-based case presentations
- And more....

# 10. Integrated Stage-matched Recovery Planning & Programming

- The program works on policies, procedures and processes for improving:
  - Integration and stage-matching in recovery plans
  - Documentation of integrated stage-matched interventions for each issue
  - The use of co-occurring skills training, stage-matched groups, and positive rewards as part of routine service planning.

# 11. Co-occurring Competency for all Staff

- Initial assessment of current workforce competency: CODECAT-EZ
- Use 12 Steps of Competency for staff to identify specific objectives for each staff to practice
- Provide small steps of training with follow-up practice opportunities.
- Implement supervision and coaching to support learning: ILSA Supervision Workbook

# 12. Interprogram Partnership and Collaboration

- Identify a partner program in the “other” domain.
- Set up times to meet and get to know one another.
- Find small steps for mutual education, cross-consultation and in-reach



## End of Part Two

Thank you very much for completing  
this COMPASS-EZ™ training.