An Evaluation of the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards as a Catalyst for Prevention Learning Collaborative

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Introduction

Prevention Action Alliance, The Great Lakes Prevention Technology Transfer Center, and the Ohio Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion evaluated the impact of an initiative to integrate CLAS Standards, cultural responsiveness concepts, and the NIATx Process Improvement Model.

11 Ohio Prevention Organizations participated in a 4-month learning community.

Research Questions

Did participation in the learning community **increase:**

1. **Knowledge** of cultural responsiveness, CLAS Standards, and the NIATx process improvement model?

2. **Confidence** to apply their new knowledge in a prevention environment?

What are...

CLAS Standards: "... a set of 15 action steps intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services," (1).

NIATx: a process improvement model that includes coordinated activities to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of organizations' ability to meet their missions. (2)

1. Culturally and linguistically appropriate services. (2024). Think Cultural Health. Retrieved April 8, 2024, from https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas

2. What is NIATx? (2024). Retrieved April 8, 2024, from https://niatx.wisc.edu/what-is-niatx/

Methods

1. A retrospective survey was drafted and administered electronically to participants 6 months after the learning community concluded.
2. Knowledge gain and application was analyzed across 21 concepts relating to CLAS Standards, cultural responsiveness and the NIATx Process Improvement Model.
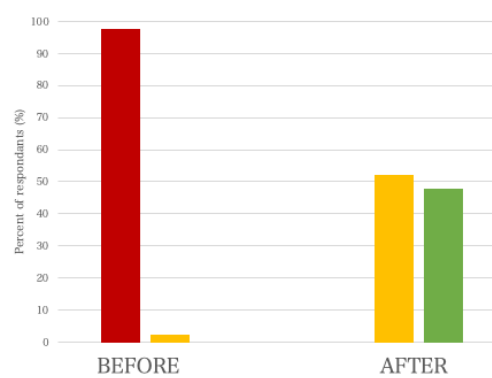3. 17 individuals completed the survey.

Results: Knowledge Gain
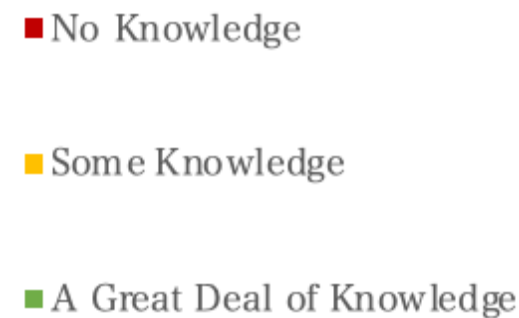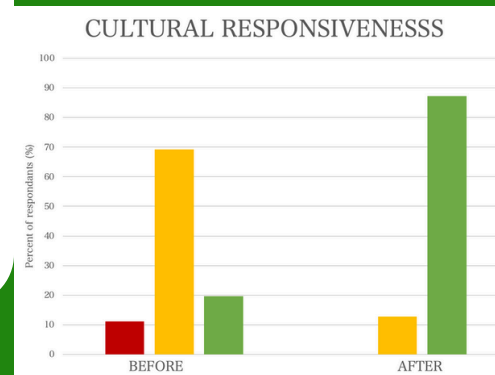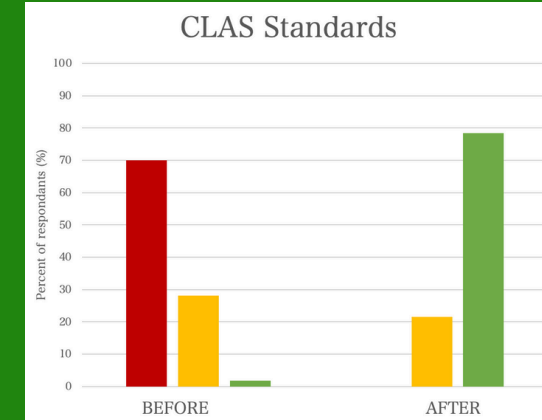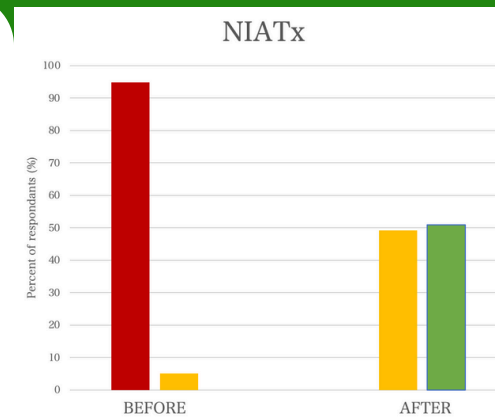
X axis: responses before and after training
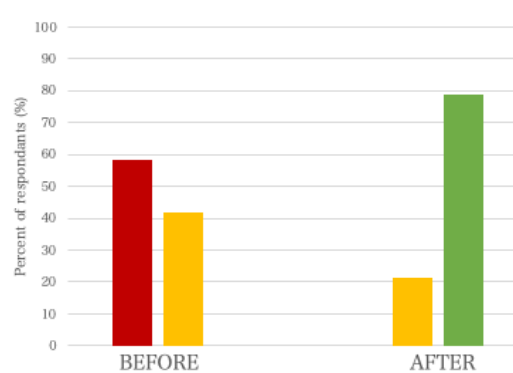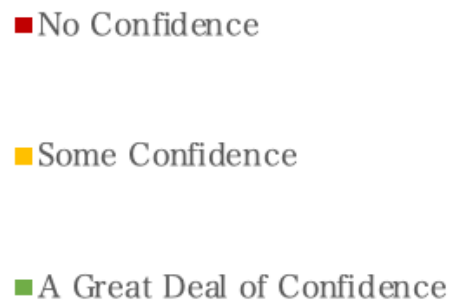Y axis: percent of responses (0%-100%)

Results: Confidence Gain

NIATx

CLAS Standards

CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS
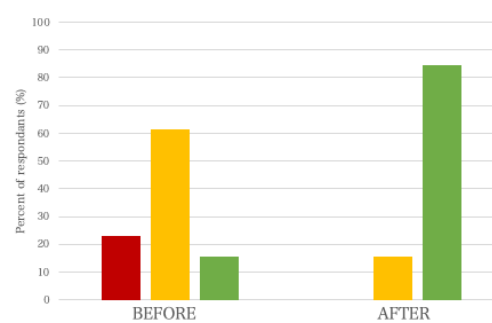
■ No Confidence
■ Some Confidence
■ A Great Deal of Confidence

X axis: responses before and after training
Y axis: percent of responses (0%-100%)

Discussion

Knowledge Increase: Participants reported increased knowledge across all 3 concepts. The greatest knowledge gains were within NIATx process improvement model, indicating this model was a new concept for many.

Confidence Increase: Overall, there was an increase in confidence to implement all 3 concepts within a prevention environment. Participants reported the least amount of confidence implementing NIATx principles.

Next Steps

With sustained funding from all 3 partner organizations, the course will refine program delivery content based on feedback and this data.

The greatest opportunities for revision is within the NIATx process improvement content. Participants indicated a need for more experience practicing how to take their new knowledge and move to application.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped me with this project. Special thanks to Jen Morel, Dr. Holly Raffle, and Roshan Kumar.