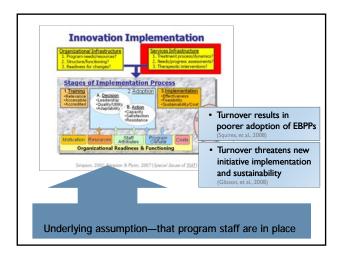
Knight, D.K., Landrum, B.K., Edwards, J.R., & Flynn, P.M. The Influence of Perceived Program Needs and Change Orientation on Counselors' Decisions to Quit



Symposium-- Organizational Characteristics Affecting Behavioral Health and Service Delivery

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What Factors Contribute to individual Decisions to Leave?



- Burnout/Emotional Exhaustion
 (Ellis & Miller, 1994; Knudsen, Ducharme, & Roman 2006; Lake, 1998)
- Low Job Satisfaction (Cotton & Tuttle, 1987; DeCotlis & Summers, 1987; Eby, Freeman, Rush, & Lance, 1999; Jenaro, Flores, & Arias, 2007)
- Stress
- Organizational Climate
 (Ducharme, Knudsen & Roman, 2008; Glis Schoewald, Kelleher, Landsverk, Hoagwoo

Organizational Climate: Job Demands & Resources

Job Demands: Aspects of a job that require sustained effort

Example: Program Needs

Job Resources: Aspects of a job that are functional,

reduce job demands, or stimulate growth

Example: Program Change Orientation

Both contribute to personal job strain, motivation, and decisions to remain employed by an organization

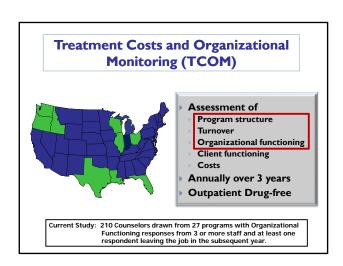
Baaker & Demerouti, 2007 (Journal of Managerial Psychology)

Purpose

To examine whether program needs (conceptualized as a job demand) and program change orientation (conceptualized as a job resource) interact to predict individual decisions to quit.

Research Questions

- Are staff in programs with high demands (i.e., high program needs) less likely to leave when program management is oriented toward change?
- Do these influences remain after controlling for individual-level measures of satisfaction, burnout, and stress and for program-level characteristics?



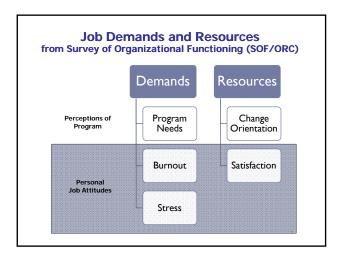
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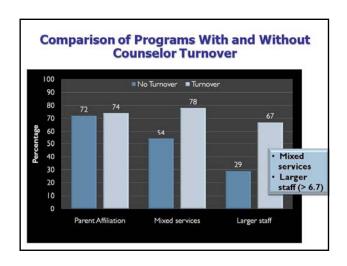
Measures YEAR 1 SSO SSO Parent Affiliation Clinical Staff Service Approach Turnover Staff Size SOF/ORC Counselor demographics Program Needs Multi-level Analysis using HLM: Change Orientation 210 Counselors 27 Programs Stress Burnout Satisfaction Broome, et al., 2007 (Special Issue of JSAT); Knight, et al., 2008 (HSR)

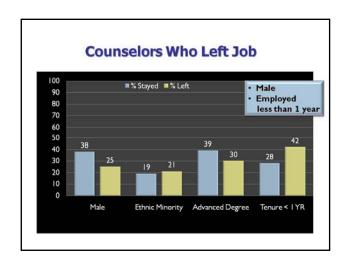
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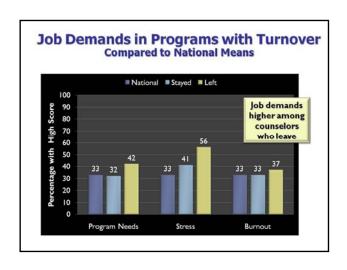
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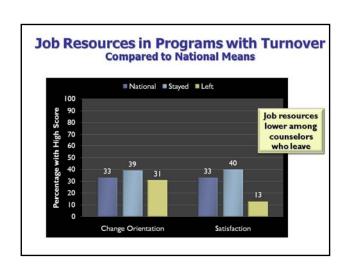
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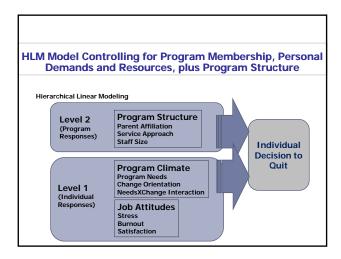
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Interaction between Program Needs and Change Orientation -Stayed -Left When program needs are high. counselors are more likely to stay if they feel that the organization is oriented toward change High How much variation is Program Need attributed to personal and program factors?

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Summary & Limitations

- Counselors' perceptions of job demands and resources contribute to subsequent decisions to leave a job
- Counselors are less likely to leave a job in a "high needs" program if they feel that the organization is committed to change
- Findings remain significant after controlling for program membership, individual-level burnout, satisfaction, and stress, and program characteristics
- Limitations include
 - Reduced sample due to the inclusion of only programs that experienced turnover
 - Measurement of Change Orientation does not include degree of personal involvement in change plans
 Other potentially important variables (such as organizational
 - Other potentially important variables (such as organizational commitment) were not available

Implications

- Results support Job Demands-Resources Model
- Perceived resources counteract potentially negative affects of job demands
- The benefits of being oriented toward change extend beyond service provision and quality, impacting counselor retention
- Communicating with staff about upcoming plans for change not only has the potential to stimulate buy-in and adoption of new initiatives, but can also increase counselor retention
- Match between program needs and change orientation appears important
 - Emphasis on change when perceived program needs are low may contribute to decisions to leave
- Future studies should examine the role that active participation in change plans has in increasing staff retention

