Driver Diagram Draft

AIM

Primary Drivers

Design Changes/ Interventions
Why identify an aim and drivers?

Defined aims and drivers can:
- Reinforce the desired project outcome, or aim
- Define the key leverage points, or “drivers,” in the system
- Link the specific project activities and changes (the “Hows”) to key components in the system
- Help define how project progress and results should be measured and monitored
- Facilitate stakeholder buy-in and commitment to the changes that the project will require
- Provide a simple tool for explaining the project’s purpose and showing how the project activities will deliver that aim

We can use quality improvement (QI) methods to increase our odds of program success through an early definition of the project’s aim (aka “goal” “objective”) and early agreement on our team’s theory about what changes are necessary to achieve that aim. The factors or components that influence the achievement of the aim are called “drivers.”

A key driver diagram depicts the relationship between the aim, the primary drivers that contribute directly to achieving the aim, and the secondary drivers (also called factors or interventions) that are necessary to achieve the primary drivers.

**A driver diagram represents the team members’ current shared team theories of “cause and effect” in the system** – what changes will likely cause the desired effects. It sets the stage for defining the “how” elements of a project – the specific changes or interventions that will lead to the desired outcome.

Creating a driver diagram is a tool for planning an improvement initiative, and helps to define which aspects of the system should be measured and monitored, to see if the changes/interventions are effective, and if the underlying causal theories are correct.

Aims and driver diagrams assist teams in staying focused and on course when they are used as regular references for the improvement work. The diagram should be updated regularly as the team acquires new knowledge and experience.