



Presentation Abstract Submitted to the 2nd Biennial Australian Implementation Conference (AIC 2014)

**Implementation Science and Collective Impact:
Frameworks for Scale and Sustainability**

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Collective Impact has gained recognition as a useful framework for organizations and communities seeking to make a positive and sustainable impact through implementation of effective practices at a scale that is sufficient to create lasting social change. Although implementation science is sometimes thought to be a field of investigation primarily focused on achieving fidelity for individual programs and services, the core tenets of implementation science are designed to ensure that enabling contexts (organizational, systems, and policy supports) exist and increase the likelihood that any and all programs, services, or initiatives are successful. Effective implementation therefore requires that the organizations, systems, and policies surrounding community-based efforts are aligned, share a common goal to positively and sustainably impact the community, and share a common language with regard to how success is defined. Similarly, Collective Impact seeks to leverage parallel but connected efforts, point them all in the same direction, and produce a coordinated impact that is greater than the sum of its parts.

This presentation will offer a review of elements common to Implementation Science frameworks and their similarity with the five components of Collective Impact. The presenters will offer an argument for expanding our understanding of Implementation Science to incorporate tenets of community organizing frameworks such as Collective Impact and will discuss ways in which elements of a Collective Impact framework currently exist in community readiness and capacity building efforts such as Communities That Care (CTC). A local example from Colorado USA will also be described to provide participants with a more specific narrative on how this approach is conducted in community-based settings.