

Behavioral Health is Essential To Health



Prevention Works



Treatment is Effective



People Recover



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Incorporating Family and Youth Voice in Evaluation

Sireyia Ratliff, FREDLA

Zach Lang, Consultant- Youth M.o.v.e. National

Kristin Thorp, Youth M.O.V.e National

Goal

To provide an overview of the basic terms and concepts of evaluation and to increase competence on incorporating family and youth voice in evaluation efforts.

Learning Goals & Objectives

- Familiarize participants with key terms and concepts of evaluation
- Review why family and youth programs and organizations need to evaluate
- Identify ways data and evaluation can benefit your program and/or organization
- Identify strategies for partnering with local and national evaluation efforts
- Identify strategies for incorporating family and youth voice in evaluation efforts

Some terms to know...

- Evaluation - Objective or subjective judgment of a product or project's value
- Indicators - Observable and measurable factors that reflect whether or not results have been achieved
- Sample - A subset of the relevant population
- Validity - Strength and accuracy of your recorded outcomes.
- Qualitative Data - A record of thoughts, opinions, words, or stories
- Quantitative Data - A record of numeric information
- Logic Model - A visual representation of the relationship between your program and the desired effect.
- Outcome Evaluation - Measurement of impact and attainment of goals
- Process Evaluation - Measuring program functioning and implementation

So why do we do evaluate?

- Determine if you've met your goal.
- Know who it is your program reaches
- Assure credibility and validity
- Market your program as effective

Why we evaluate (continued)

- Building Capacity and Credibility
- Identify areas that need improvement, show growth
- Communicate your impact on the community in measurable form
- Keep your leadership informed of development and resource allocation

Evaluation Cycle



Making the Data You Collect Work

- Share your successes
- Support sustainability efforts
- Support advocacy efforts
- Support growth and expansion of your project or program
- Data informed decision making
- Support quality improvement efforts

Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA)

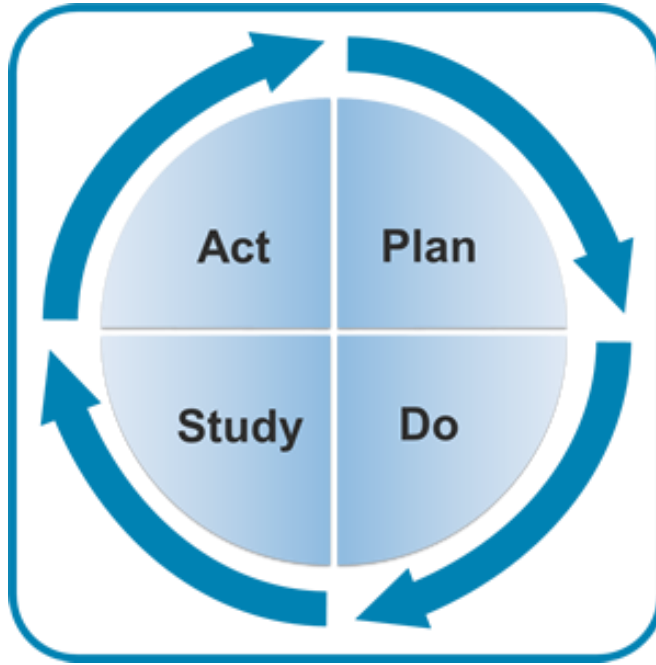


Figure 2. [Minnesota Department of Health, 2014](#)

What is Participatory Evaluation?

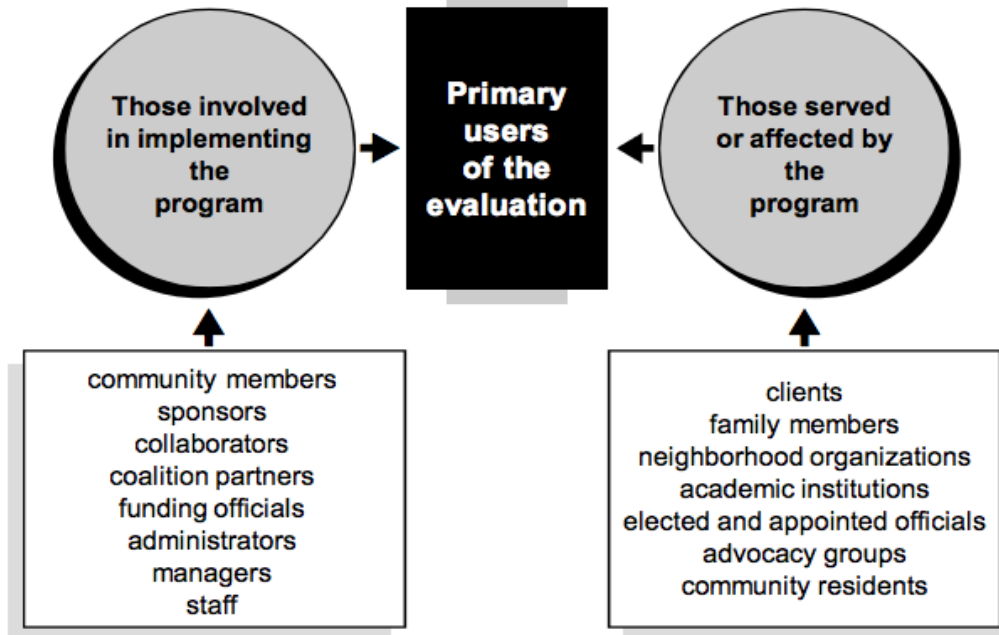
“Participatory evaluation is a partnership approach to evaluation in which stakeholders actively engage in developing the evaluation and all phases of its implementation” ([Community Based Public Health, 2002](#)).

Engaging Stakeholders

- Evaluation cannot be done in isolation
- Community health and development work involves partnerships— alliances among different organizations, board members, those affected by the problem, and others
- Stakeholders bring unique perspective and different values to the project
- Stakeholders ensure community culture and needs are understood
- If stakeholders are not appropriately involved, evaluation findings may be ignored, criticized, or resisted

Types of Stakeholders

Types of Stakeholders



Establishing Community Partners

Who Do You Partner With and Why:

- System of Care and Healthy Transition sites
- State/county entities
- Provider agencies
- Local boards, committees, commissions

Utility Questions

- Have you included individuals and organizations that will be affected by the evaluation in your evaluation planning group?
- Have you considered adding new stakeholders as your program evaluation is implemented?
- Are participants in the evaluation planning group trustworthy and competent?

Identifying Community Resources

Where do you go to get evaluation information in the community?

- Organizational annual reports
- Survey results
- State level reports
- Grant governance committees

Making the Connection

Creating Meaningful Roles

- Developing a plan for how and when data will be collected and by whom
- Methods for collecting data
- Sharing evaluation findings
- Adjustment and Improvement

Propriety Questions

- Are individuals clear about what is to be done, how, by whom, and when?
- Is there a written understanding?
- Have steps been taken to assure that all stakeholders and the population served will be respected and their values honored?
- Have conflicts of interest been discussed to ensure that the results or findings will not be compromised?

Brainstorming Activity

- What are ways youth and family can be involved in evaluation efforts?
- What roles can they play?

The Role of Youth and Family

- Build community capacity and engage communities
- Influence policy makers and funders
- Share what works and what doesn't work with other communities
- Ensure funding and sustainability

The Importance of Youth and Family Voice

- Experts in their communities
- Attain data from the lens of those that are directly involved
- Opportunity for families and youth to be full partners in determining the direction and effectiveness of a project
- Leadership development (Stakeholders)

Practical Examples

- Youth/Family data collectors in local evaluation efforts
- Advisory
- Review draft evaluation protocols/surveys
- Develop and recommend language
- Help interpret and present findings
- Translate findings into youth/family friendly language

Thank you!

Resources

- Allaman, Erin & Powers, Cara Berg. (2012). How Participatory Action Research Can Promote Social Change and Help Youth Development. Retrieved from:
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Questions or comments?

Presenter Contact Information

Sireyia Ratliff, FREDLA: sratliff@fredla.org

Zach Lang, Consultant: jtz1993@gmail.com

Kristin Thorp, Youth M.O.V.E. National: kthorp@youthmovenational.org

