Using Data to Successfully Drive Your Program:

Program Evaluation and Evidence Informed Respite Programs

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&
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Some Guiding Questions for Today

• Why evaluate?
• What are some promising ways to approach evaluation?
• What are some examples of program specific evaluation tools and tools that can be used cross program / cross state?
• What are some of the goals of evaluation?
• What are some of the myths surrounding evaluation?
• How can evaluation be put to good use (and create a win / win situation)?
What is **IT** you want to evaluate?

- Implementation Science tell us that successful implementation can be measured if we know what our “it” is and then collect and use data to determine:
  - Did IT make a difference?
  - What kind of difference did IT make?
  - How much of a difference did IT make?
  - Was IT worth it? *Cost effectiveness*

*Know it, do it, determine the impact...*

*So, what’s our strategy?*
Some Promising Ways to approach Evaluation

• Use a logic model to guide evaluation strategy

• Develop indicators that measure progress towards short-and long-term outcomes

• Identify or create a tool to measure them

• Interpret the data

• Use the data ~ inform funders, budgeting, CQI
(1) Engage key stakeholders in strategic planning, and set learning agenda and performance goals and measures.

(2) Learn from experience and relevant research, and incorporate lessons into program/policy design.

(3) Engage in innovation, monitoring, and experience.

(4) Learn from evaluation and comparisons with others.

(5) Transfer lessons for course corrections and program respecification, and identify knowledge gaps for research and experimentation.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING SYSTEM
What is a Logic Model?

• A graphic that represents what your program hopes to accomplish, what it is doing, and what its impacts are on target participants and the community.

• A logic model guides a respite program by aiding in strategic planning and the development of effective communications among leadership, staff, constituents and the community.
How Can a Logic Model Guide Evaluation of Respite Programs?

- Promotes a process of continuous learning and improvement
- Helps you identify whether there are logical linkages between inputs and desired outcomes
- Helps you identify indicators of progress towards outcomes
- Helps you distinguish between measures of effort and measures of effect
Considerations for Data Collection

• Programs are sometimes confused between assessing the number of people they reach and evaluating the actual impact of the program’s services.

How can they shift to measuring the latter?
What types of data can we collect?

- Process data (numbers served, services provided, demographics)
- Outcome data (client changes)
- Fidelity data
- Satisfaction data (families, practitioners with implementation assistance)
- Other?

Is one more important than the other? Do they all have relevance?
Considerations for Data Management

• Collect the Data
  ▫ Select the tool
  ▫ Train staff to use the tool (including informed consent)
  ▫ Identify data collection points
  ▫ Define sample size for analysis
  ▫ Administer the tool

• Enter the data
  ▫ Have / create a data base system
  ▫ Train staff on data entry

• Analyze the data
  ▫ Develop and disseminate reports
  ▫ Meet with staff to review results
  ▫ Identify necessary changes
Examples of Data Collection Tools
CB: Before you were matched with your CareBreak volunteer, how "stressed" would you say you were

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D/O: Before starting the Day & Overnight Respite Camp, how "stressed" would you say you were

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How do we put evaluation data to good use?

- Use more than one evaluation measure
- Gather Qualitative data / input (stories)
- Use Data as *an* implementation driver
- Identify Expectations for CQI
  - Staff training
  - Reporting and dissemination to stakeholders
- Document Activities for CQI
  - Document service adjustments
  - Revisit your logic model
Other Uses for Evaluation Data

• Raise awareness of promising practices

• Support programs’ improvement efforts

• Enhance programs’ sustainability

• Other???
What’s in our future?

- Challenges?
- Learnings?
- Successes?
- Ongoing Strategies?
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