We create opportunities for independence for people with disabilities through research, education, and consultation
APRIL Conference 2021
Part 2: Filling the Gap

Presenters:

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Patricia Yeager

October 20, 2021
Meet the Presenters

• Daisy Feidt
• Seth Hoderewski
• Joe Michener
• Patricia Yeager
What You Will Learn

- Strategies and practices to assist your organization in shifting from identifying the gap to program implementation
- How to utilize data for program evaluations and to assess the success of programs
Program Design and Implementation

Patricia Yeager
Independence Center
5 Ws and an H

- **What** is your idea?
- **Who** does your idea benefit?
  - Who will it impact internally?
- **When** can your idea be implemented?
- **Where** did your idea come from?
- **Why** is your idea necessary?
- **How** will your idea be implemented?
  - Is it an easy, one-person job or will it require numerous resources?
Vetting Process

- Reference your workbooks to go through each step meticulously.
How does your organization approach program implementation?
Capacity, finances, resources, etc. – how do you make sure you have these key elements in place?
Why is program evaluation important?
Program Evaluation

Seth Hoderewski & Joe Michener
Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
Program Evaluation: What’s the Point?

Good program evaluations...
• assess program performance
• measure impacts on consumers and communities
• document success

With this information, programs are better able to direct limited resources to where they are most needed and most effective in their communities.

Knowing more about both successes and not-so-successful endeavors enables you to make positive changes within your program.
Common myths about evaluation to stop believing:

1. Evaluation is a useless activity that generates lots of boring data with useless conclusions.
2. Evaluation is about proving the success or failure of a program.
3. Evaluation is a highly unique and complex process that occurs at a certain time in a certain way, and almost always includes the use of outside experts.
Program Evaluation: What It Really Is…

Program evaluation is carefully collecting information about a program or some aspect of a program in order to make necessary decisions about the program.

Evaluation can include any or a variety of at least 35 different types of evaluations, such as:

- needs assessments
- cost/benefit analysis
- effectiveness
- efficiency
- formative
- summative
- goal-based
- process
- outcomes
- and more

The type of evaluation you undertake to improve your programs depends on what you want to learn about the program.
Keep It Simple
How are these goals measured? How do you evaluate your programs?

How does your organization set indicators?
Program Evaluation: Model to Use?

- Millions of models out there, but one of the better ones is found on the CDC website: https://www.cdc.gov/eval/index.htm

- Key Steps of the CDC model include:
  - Engaging Stakeholders
  - Describing the Program
  - Focusing Evaluation Design
  - Gathering Credible Evidence
  - Justifying Conclusions
  - Ensuring Use and Share Lessons
Program Evaluation: Focusing the Evaluation

• What are the key evaluation questions for...
  – your consumers?
  – your customers?
  – your agency?

• Be sure to include...
  – Specific and obvious outcomes
  – Other less obvious aspects of program and service
Now it’s time to determine the *indicators* you will use to measure your program’s success and answer those key evaluation questions!

What are the *indicators* that will be relevant to your key evaluation questions?

- According to the CDC, indicators should be simple, precise and measurable.

Once indicators are determined, it’s time to get out there and obtain the data and information needed.
Program Evaluation: Analysis and Ensuring Use

- The CDC says: “Deliberate effort is needed to ensure that the evaluation process and findings are used and disseminated appropriately.”

- How will you use the information?
  - Program improvement
  - Adjusting costs/fees
  - Training
  - Marketing (if positive)
  - What else?
How are these goals measured? How do you evaluate your programs?

How does your organization set indicators?
How have you used the data to prove success?

Or, to market to potential funders or conduct outreach to potential community partners?
Audience Q&A
Final Questions and Evaluation Survey

• Any final questions?
• Please complete the following short evaluation survey. We appreciate your feedback!

https://uthmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ac0nLRVZT0Z0grY
IL-NET Attribution

The IL-NET is supported by grant numbers 90ILTA0002 and 90ISTA0002 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.