

Saturday, November 4, 12:55 P.M. to 1:40 P.M.

SESSION 537: Presidential Strand Conversation With

Room: Lanai

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Collaborative, Participatory & Empowerment Evaluation

Empowerment Evaluation: A Model for Building Evaluation Capacity

Presenters: David Fetterman, Stanford University
Melissa Eiler, Stanford University

Empowerment evaluation is designed to help people evaluate themselves. It is one of many models to build evaluation capacity. An evaluation facilitator or critical friend helps program staff members and participants describe their mission, take stock of what works and what does not work in the program, and plan for the future. The plans for the future involve specific goals and strategies determined by the group. In addition, they identify credible evidence to document change over time with the assistance of a critical friend. This approach is often referred to as process use in which people learn how to do evaluations by doing them. This approach engenders greater buy in to an evaluation and the recommendations for change and improvement, because they are developed (with an empowerment evaluation coach) by program staff members and participants.

SESSION 538: Demonstration

Room: Akaka

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Business and Industry

Evaluation of Just in Time Training Delivered to the Desktop

Facilitator: Gayle Procopio, Compaq Computer Corporation

In order to stay competitive in today's technical corporate environment, it is critical that information and training be delivered quickly, anytime, anyplace. To meet this training need, we developed a Remote Access Lab (RAL) program that provides worldwide remote access to a centralized multi-vendor lab, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have also integrated RAL with Centra Symposium (a distance learning application) to deliver 'just in time' training solutions via the Web to learners worldwide. This capability has significantly cut costs while providing a high level of student satisfaction. The delivery system also supports auto-enabled collection of evaluative feedback from learners. This presentation covers the goals of the RAL program, the design and implementation strategy, the delivery process, and return on investment, as well as lessons learned.

SESSION 539: Demonstration

Room: Koko

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Evaluation Use

A Heuristic Tool for Increasing Evaluation Use: The Strength of Claims Composite Measure

Chair: Cynthia C Phillips, Educational Computing Consultants
Presenters: Cynthia C Phillips, Educational Computing Consultants
James W Dearing, Michigan State University

Evaluators are expected to provide feedback useful for policy and programmatic decision making within sponsoring organizations. We present a new tool, the Strength of Claims Measure, for condensing and summarizing data and interpretations into a series of claims to facilitate evaluation use. For each claim, an evaluation team strength rating is provided. This strength rating is a composite heuristic based on team assessment of the validity, reliability, breadth of methods, breadth of indicators, degree of data convergence, and degree of respondent and informant validation of findings and interpretation. The present demonstration will use cluster-level evaluation data from a W. K. Kellogg Foundation initiative to illustrate the tool utility and drawbacks. We will explain (1) the need for such a tool, (2) the logic for each indicator, (3) indicator measurement, (4) examples of composite strength ratings, and (5) ongoing tests of and refinements to this tool.

SESSION 540: Demonstration

Room: Waimea

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Collaborative, Participatory & Empowerment Evaluation

Reciprocal Evaluation: Completing the Triangle of Client Support through Evaluation

Facilitator: Richard Phillips, Eastern Washington University

Reciprocal evaluation extends participatory evaluation into the context of public schooling, a normalized environment in which narrow definitions of success influence how programs are implemented. Reciprocal evaluation triangulates a) a program's goals with b) the data collected on instruments that measure c) each individual client's progress on goals that have been set by the client (or teacher or parent) in light of the overall program goals. In other words, reciprocal evaluation turns social service evaluation into a multiple single-case study format in which goal attainment of client-set and client-valued goals becomes a means of showing program effectiveness. It is the reiteration or cycling back and forth of client individualized progress measured in relation to program goals as mediated through evaluation tools that is at the heart of reciprocal evaluation. Examples from the evaluations of collaborative partnerships between mental health agencies and school systems in Alaska, Washington, and Idaho will be used as a database. Participants will learn about setting up a reciprocal evaluation cycle through:

- 1) initial goal clarification processes with different constituencies;
- 2) negotiating with service providers to identify 'goals of practice';
- 3) use of focus groups to build context specific evaluation tools;

The presentation will also describe the dangers of supporting partnership goals as different from established system goals, and the circumstances under which reciprocal evaluation most benefits clients. The implications of reciprocal evaluation deal mainly with a) how we generalize across clients to show program effectiveness, and b) how context specific partnership environments may call for special interpretations of both participatory and empowerment evaluations concepts. Reciprocal evaluation extends the meaning of the conference theme by addressing the relationship between what individual clients achieve as a result of service and the capacity of evaluation to impact the perceptions of individuals within highly normalized systems in a way that enables client success.

SESSION 541: Demonstration**Room: Niihau**

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Computer Use in Evaluation

Using Technology To Study Technology's Impact in the K-12 Classroom

Chair: Marcie J Bober, San Diego State University

Presenters: Marcie J Bober, San Diego State University
Maria Kazinou, San Diego State University

This session focuses on the data-gathering, analysis, and reporting associated with case studies conducted under the auspices of the Department of Education's Technology Innovation Challenge Fund, a major technology infusion effort. What we intend to demonstrate is how technology -- in particular a qualitative software package called Nvivo (Nud*ist) -- has allowed us to capture and report on data in ways no other tool can match. By using constant comparison to draw multilevel relationships between and among the participants' own words, our personal field notes, video snippets, student products, and the data gathering protocols themselves, we have been able to depict a sound vision of what technology infusion "looks like" and its profound impact on:

- a) critical learning outcomes (e.g., problem-solving, decision-making, independent v. collaborative learning, content knowledge), and
- b) the classroom environment (e.g., engaged time, use of human resources, use of technology resources).

SESSION 542: Think Tank**Room: Hilo**

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Non-profit and Foundations Evaluation

Evaluation as a Part of The Solution: Connecting Resources with Underserved Communities

Facilitators: Pauline E Brooks, The California Endowment
Ruth E Forman, The California Endowment
Tenzing Donyo, The California Endowment
Sally R Durgan, The California Endowment

How and in what ways can evaluators 'grow' enough so that they are better able to measure and communicate toward solutions of complex, real, human problems. One of these problems in the health foundation world is how to get resources to underserved, culturally diverse, populations. In this problem, what roles can evaluation play in helping a funder to cross language-, culture-, and resource barriers, etc., so that the funder can build community-desired

programs within underserved, culturally diverse, communities? What do funders need to know about how to modify their outreach and other practices, which bear on this problem? Conversely, what capacity building (e.g., the community infrastructure, etc.) needs to be nurtured within underserved, culturally diverse, communities in order for them to be able to access and effectively manage for community betterment an infusion of resources? This Think Tank explores how evaluation can play a more responsive role.

SESSION 543: Demonstration**Room: Puna**

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Program Theory and Theory-driven Evaluation

Applications of Program Logic to Evaluation, Monitoring and Program Design

Facilitator: Sue C Funnell, Performance Improvement

This session will demonstrate three applications of program logic as an evaluation tool within three different program areas: a national telecommunications rollout and support program, the Best Practices Collection of UNAIDS (HIV/AIDS), and a national farm forestry program. The applications will show how program logic has been used to:

- 1; provide a strategic and practicable framework for the monitoring and evaluation of large programs that are a conglomerate of diverse types of projects, serving different communities in different contexts, with different specific needs and commencing at different points in time.
- 2; design an evaluation of program effectiveness, design data collection instruments, report findings and identify a small number of indicators for ongoing monitoring.
- 3; provide a framework for the future strategic development of a program and its component projects.

SESSION 544: Demonstration**Room: Kohala**

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Evaluation Managers and Supervisors

Metaevaluation: The Standard of Choice for Public Health Evaluation?

Facilitator: Nalin Johri, CARE-India

The demonstration focuses on an ex post application of established standards and criteria for evaluations to CARE-India's Mid Term Evaluation Quantitative Survey (MTS) of the Integrated Nutrition and Health Program (INHP). The metaevaluation of the MTS attempts to provide a fair assessment of this survey. Methods: For purposes of the demonstration of this metaevaluation, the procedures adopted focus on three identified indicators. The steps followed are - 1) Specify the objectives of the INHP; 2) Specify the objectives of the MTS; 3) Comparison of the design of the MTS and Baseline Surveys; 4) Assessing the MTS on the Standards and Criteria established for evaluations and 5) Addressing gaps in verification through triangulation of results. Conclusion, Discussion and Recommendations: In the absence of other tools and procedures for objective and rigorous verification of the quality of public health evaluations, the standards for quality evaluations find ready applicability. Some of these standards may need to be reviewed for appropriateness. The objectivity of the standards and criteria could be enhanced and buttressed through imaginative triangulation of results. Implications for Evaluation Practice and Relationship to Conference Theme: The demonstration makes a case for furthering the application of standards and criteria for quality evaluations to public health evaluation. Cultivation of such self-evaluation skills leads to 'Increasing Evaluation Capacity' in non-governmental organizations and provides a benchmark to objectively assess commissioned evaluations.

SESSION 545: Alternative Format**Room: Kona**

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health

Evaluating Community Efforts To Reduce Alcohol and Drug Abuse Via the 'Environmental' Approach: Challenges and Lessons

Chair: Michael Scriven, Claremont Graduate University

Discussants: Karen Beck Wade, WestEd

Jodie Lara, Claremont Graduate University

Rachel Burkhardt, California Department of Education

Kim Musterer, Pepperdine University

Environmental risk reduction approaches to AOD prevention are increasingly widespread as counties and other governmental bodies search for ways to maximize their prevention dollars. Seven community-based coalitions funded by a county initiative implemented environmental risk reduction strategies including ordinance/zoning enforcement, sting operations, mobilizing parents, and lobbying against industry advertising strategies. The evaluation mixed distance and participatory evaluation models permitting evaluators to build coalition capacity for self-evaluation in the future, while adding value via the objectivity of external evaluation. Process outcomes were the primary criteria used for evaluating intervention success, because of time limitations. The intervention approach appears promising with further refinement, but true community-level impact evaluation requires a well-financed, long-term approach. Lessons learned for future interventions have community, coalition, and program-level components. The evaluation included an assessment of the reliability/validity and utilization of new GIS/mapping software program that integrates AOD-related offenses into police data systems. ALTERNATIVE FORMAT: The proposed presentation will be offered in a 60 minute, panel-like format that allows different members of the evaluation team to offer a 10 to 15 minute presentation on an aspect of the evaluation. The evaluation team's director/PI will serve as moderator and facilitate discussion with the audience. A paper will be available for distribution.

SESSION 546: Panel

Room: Ewa

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Health Evaluation

Measurement and Evaluation of Pediatric Outcomes

Chair Shelagh Mulvaney, University of Arizona

The evaluation and study of pediatric outcomes, constructs and measurement models are the focus of this panel presentation. Two presentations involve on the use of cognitive variables in pediatric outcomes within a medical setting. One discusses cognitive variables as outcomes and the other discusses the use and measurement of cognitive variables as a class of predictors of functional outcomes as they pertain to disorders with a neurological basis. Confirmatory factor analysis on a widely used general health status instrument for children, the Child Health Questionnaire, forms another presentation. The construction of methodologically and theoretically sound measurement models for the study of child abuse provides an important perspective on a problem whose impact is often documented via medical and psycho-social outcomes. Finally, an analysis of cost of service for a diverse population of chronically ill children offers a much-needed perspective on the natural history of these types of childhood disorders.

Panelists: *Predicting Cognitive Outcomes Following Medical Disorders in Children*, Kristine Kaemingk, University of Arizona

Many medical disorders can impact a child's subsequent cognitive function. Predicting cognitive outcomes following medical disorders in children is challenging but important. Outcomes have significance not only for the children and their families, but also for medical professionals, health care organizations, and health care policy. One way to address this problem is to develop models that include variables hypothesized and/or known to impact cognitive outcomes. While different medical disorders can impact the central nervous system and subsequent development in different ways, there may be common mechanisms of central nervous system injury that directly impact cognitive outcomes. In addition other biological and psychosocial factors also influence outcomes. Possible relationships between these variables will be discussed in the context of common pediatric disorders.

Measuring Adaptive and Functional Outcomes in Neurologically Based Disorders of Childhood, Shelagh Mulvaney, University of Arizona

Two issues in the study of neurological disorders of childhood are considered: the role of cognition in functional outcomes and the nature of cognition and function in comprehensive outcomes models. Differentiating causes of dysfunction based on sources of disability is necessarily a process involving many classes of variables. Cognition forms a class of intermediate level outcome variables that may be overlooked in research and present functional status instruments. The nature of the relationship between cognitive status and functional outcomes can be confused when complex behaviors are used as part of the measurement model for cognitive constructs. Using the appropriate level of measurement for cognitive and behavioral measurement models will provide better understanding for the purpose of decomposition of causal relationships in outcomes. Intervention is necessarily dependent on these models

as diagnoses often do not contain implications for functional status.

Measuring Pediatric Health Outcomes with the Child Health Questionnaire: A Confirmatory Factor Analysis, Kimberly A Bissell, University of Arizona

The Child Health Questionnaire (CHQ; Landgraf, Abetz, & Ware, 1996) is a viable method of assessing children's health. The CHQ is designed to measure general functional status and well-being and is available in several versions to suit the needs of the health evaluator. Several publications have reported favorably on the psychometric properties of the CHQ. Earlier work reported the results of an exploratory factor analysis that provided evidence for a two-factor structure representing physical functioning and psychosocial functioning. In order to validate and extend these results, a confirmatory factor analysis was conducted with an independent sample of generally healthy, predominantly minority children. Results of the analysis indicate that a two-factor model provides a good fit to the data, confirming previous exploratory analyses with this questionnaire.

Childhood Adversity and Later Psychopathology: Effects of Measurement Strategy on Strengths of Association, Jennifer Bailey, University of Arizona

Existing literature has linked a wide range of adverse childhood experiences with psychopathology in adolescence and adulthood. Often the strengths of these associations are unclear or controversial. The origin of some disagreements in the literature can be found in the strategy or strategies used in measuring the childhood stressor(s) of interest. Some literatures rely almost solely on dichotomous indicators of stress, a practice which may artificially lower the strength of relationships found among stressors and outcomes. Psychometricians have long argued that the strengths of relationships among variables increase as the measurement of these same variables becomes more precise. The presentation provides a demonstration of this principle using data on childhood stressors and adolescent outcomes from a longitudinal study of child and adolescent development. The variation in the power of such childhood stressors as interparental violence and sexual abuse to predict adolescent psychopathology under differing measurement strategies will be examined.

Evaluating the Cost of Health Care for Pediatric Chronic Illnesses, Melinda Davis, University of Arizona

Few studies have quantified the medical costs for chronic childhood disabilities, and fewer have examined the costs across disabilities, different payment sources, and types of expenditures. The medical expenses for 1130 children enrolled in the State of Arizona's Children's Center for Rehabilitative Services (CCRS) were calculated summing across the state and private funding for each child from 1995-1996. These expenses were categorized by the child's disability, source of payer (private and public) and type of expense. The average expense for all children served at CCRS varied somewhat by disability. However, 18 of the children accounted for 46% of the expenditures. Catastrophic hospitalizations, often in the first year of life, account for the largest expenses for children with disabilities. As states move toward managed care and capitation, it is important to keep in mind the largest proportion of expenses can neither be predicted nor avoided.

SESSION 548: Roundtables

Room: Kahuku

Crime and Justice Evaluation Issues

Host: To be announced

Roundtable A: Approaches to Evaluation in Crime and Justice Settings

Presenters: *Factors Impacting Retention in a Prison Therapeutic Community*, Maureen L O'Keefe & Joe Stommel, Colorado Department of Corrections, Kelli J Klebe & Dina L Dunne, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

The therapeutic community (TC) is becoming the preferred modality within state prisons, but treatment retention problems pose a threat to long-term outcomes. This study examined individual characteristics that may impact retention at the Crossroads to Freedom House TC in Colorado. Participants included 347 male inmates who were assessed on multiple psychological, substance abuse, motivation, and criminal risk measures. Groups were

comprised of participants who (a) successfully completed treatment, (b) unsuccessfully terminated treatment, and (c) terminated treatment early due to release from prison.

Findings suggest that successful participants differ from unsuccessful participants on several personality traits as well as juvenile conduct problems. Risk levels accounted for the only differences between successful participants and those leaving treatment early. Unsuccessful participants were higher on characteristics indicative of management problems than individuals who left treatment early. Results indicate that both individual characteristics and prison release practices are related to treatment retention

Integrating Person-centered and Variable-centered Approaches in Criminal Justice Evaluations: Applying General Growth Models To Evaluate Criminal Justice Programs, Sanjeev Sridharan, Leticia Fernandez & Charles W Turner, Caliber Associates

We demonstrate the utility of integrating person-centered and variable-centered approaches in evaluating criminal justice programs. Most evaluations of criminal justice programs apply variable-based approaches-these methods (e.g. regression analysis) focus on relationships between variables. Person-centered methods (e.g. cluster analysis) focus on relationship among individuals. We demonstrate how person-centered approaches can be combined with variable-centered approaches to examine heterogeneous responses to treatment. Our analysis focuses on a comprehensive juvenile justice program intended to keep kids away from drug use and violence. Our example illustrates two key questions in program evaluation: Does a program work? For whom does the program work? These questions are addressed in a longitudinal setting that focuses on the program's ability to modify developmental trajectories of drug use and violent behaviors among children.

Roundtable B: Involving the Community in Crime and Justice Initiatives

Presenters: *State of California Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Program Evaluation*, Bonita J Soley, BOTEK Analysis Corporation

The State of California Board of Corrections has undertaken a program research initiative to reduce the number of seriously and persistently mental ill persons in California jails. Under this program, the County of Santa Cruz Mentally Ill Offender Strategy Committee, the County of Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department, and the Santa Cruz Department of Mental Health are engaged in a four year randomized trial of the application of an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Program to an offender population. It is hypothesized that the experimental program will stabilize seriously and persistently ill offenders, who otherwise are at serious risk of re-offending. The treatment group will receive ACT program services while the control group will receive the services that are currently supplied to mentally ill offenders. BOTEK Analysis Corporation designed the experiment, is carrying out the research component, and will develop an implementation study, a process evaluation, and an outcome analysis.

A Framework for Process and Outcome Evaluation of Community Restorative Justice Initiatives, Wendy E Rowe, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Gordon Bazemore, Florida Atlanta University

Community and Restorative Justice represents a different paradigm for delivering our justice system - one based on a balanced attention to community safety, victim restoration, offender accountability, and offender rehabilitation. In recent years, principles of community and restorative justice have been incorporated into the practices of the justice system, yet little attention has been given to evaluating the impact of these practices. In this paper we will present a systemic framework for the evaluation of community restorative justice initiatives. This framework assesses processes of community readiness, justice system commitment to the principles of restorative justice, community citizen involvement, victim 'voice', and programmatic activities. In addition this framework assesses the extent to which initiatives result in balanced attainment of systemic outcomes (for juvenile offenders, victims of juvenile crime, justice system providers, and community citizens.) We will discuss issues of implementation and measurement as we have implemented this framework in several sites across the nation.

Roundtable C: Examining Qualitative and Quantitative Data for Evaluation in Justice Settings

Presenters: *Impact of the Privatization of Child Support Enforcement Services in One State*, Z Joan Wang & Elheim Eid Alldredge,

Research Evaluation Development Analysis International Inc (REDA)

This paper reports and discusses findings from an evaluation of the privatization of child support enforcement services in one state. This two-year evaluation effort consisted of a longitudinal comparison (pre-post) within each of three experimental sites (two for privatization and one for public demonstration), and a cross-site comparison between each of the three experimental sites and its control. Process evaluation was mainly based on qualitative data collected via focus groups, in-depth interviews, and observations, while outcome evaluation used quantitative data collected via the statewide child support enforcement system (CSES) and a survey of custodial parents. Some of the evaluation findings turned out to be counter intuitive.

Outcome Evaluation of a Rural Drug Court, Craig T Love, Brown University

A rural drug court was evaluated to assess short-term outcomes over a 1 year period. The basic design included pre-post measures of court involvement among clients in a small district drug court and a matched district court located in a similar community. The outcome was positive, showing over 10% gain in time to re-arrest, number of subsequent convictions. Individuals who complete the program tend to be older and more experienced in treatment than those who do not complete. The comparison group was well matched with the drug court group, with slightly more minorities in the drug court group. The drug court protocol was discussed in terms of theory and philosophy of treatment. One specific topic is the impact of coerced treatment on the outcomes. Qualitative and quantitative data are used to address the issue. The outcome results are examined in terms of the current drug court literature and evaluation practice.

SESSION 549: Panel

Room: Oahu

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Non-profit and Foundations Evaluation

From Stakeholder Evaluation to a Strategic Planning Process Involving Multiple Stakeholders of the Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii

Chair: Helen Slaughter, University of Hawaii

The Kamehameha Schools was established through the will of Bernice Pauahi Bishop to educate children and youth of Hawaiian ancestry in the late 19th Century. It is one of the richest endowed educational institutions in the world. Recently, in spring 1999 the institution underwent a complete reformation, and new board members were appointed to lead the schools into a new and more service oriented future. This panel will discuss how stakeholder evaluation concepts based on Patton's work contributed to a comprehensive strategic planning process involving stakeholders from all dimensions of the Hawaiian community. Helen Slaughter, professor at the University of Hawai'i, College of Education, will serve as chair and discussant for the panel. Charlene Hoe and Kathy Tibbitts, of the Kamehameha Planning Leadership Group, will discuss the process of organizing, collecting and synthesizing data, and involving a wide range of community voices as the process was carried out. The implications of this process for improving the lives and education of Hawaiian children and youth, as well as empowering the community and Hawaiian families to realize a better future, will be described.

Panelists: Charlene Hoe, Kamehameha Schools
Kathy Tibbitts, Kamehameha Schools

Charlene Hoe and Kathy Tibbitts, of the Kamehameha Planning Leadership Group, will discuss the process of organizing, collecting and synthesizing data, and involving a wide range of community voices as the process was carried out.

Discussant: Helen Slaughter, University of Hawaii

SESSION 550: Demonstration

Room: Waialua

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Pre-K-12 Educational Evaluation

"Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall" A Formative Evaluation Tool that Builds Schools' Capacity To Reflect on Their Progress toward Implementing a Standards-based Curriculum

Chair: Kristine L Chadwick Nilsen, AEL Inc
Presenters: Kristine L Chadwick Nilsen, AEL Inc
Patricia E Ceperley, AEL Inc

The majority of states have implemented high academic standards with accompanying mandated student assessments to measure schools' progress toward achieving those standards. The Standards Implementation Indicators, which were developed both as a formative evaluation measure, and to help build capacity in schools and districts to evaluate their status around standards implementation, are based on 34 factors found in schools that have been successful at standards implementation. Field tests of the Indicators have shown that schools utilize the Indicators to get an accurate assessment of their progress that can help them chart a course toward improvement and high achievement. Schools at different stages of implementing a standards-based curriculum portray different profiles on the Indicators. The Indicators are proving to be a useful tool for schools to learn how to reflect on their progress and practices. This session will walk participants through using each of the 34 factors, organized into six indicators.

SESSION 551: Business Meeting**Room: Waianae**

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Qualitative Methods
TIG Chair: Beth Walden, Utah State University

SESSION 552: Demonstration**Room: Molokai**

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on International and Cross-cultural Evaluation

Evaluation of the UNICEF's Sara Communication Initiative in Africa

Chair: Craig Russon, Western Michigan University
Presenters: Nuzhat Shahzadi, United Nations Children's Fund
Craig Russon, Western Michigan University

In sub-Saharan Africa, many of the rights of children, particularly adolescent females, are not recognized and protected by families and communities. In an effort to address this issue, UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office implemented an "enter-education" a strategy called the Sara Communication Initiative (SCI). Animated films, radio broadcasts, and printed materials have been developed around a central character named Sara. In this session, SCI materials will be demonstrated and the three part evaluation that was carried out will be explained. The evaluation included a process component, an outcomes component, and an impact component.

SESSION 553: Roundtables**Room: Maui****Evaluation Issues Related to Alcohol, Drug-abuse and Mental Health**

Host: To be announced

Roundtable A: Examining State Tobacco Policy

Presenters: *Successes and Challenges in Conducting an Evaluation of Florida's Tobacco Free Community Partnerships*,
Stephanie A Klein, Normal L Weatherby & Edward J Trapido, University of Miami

The Community Partnerships and Youth Component of Florida's Tobacco Pilot Program (TPP) represents anti-tobacco community coalitions in all of the state's 67 counties. Each quarter, the Partnership Coordinator completes a report summarizing the activities of the partnership, including the extent to which objectives for each program goal were reached. The data are summarized and thus provide an ongoing measure of the activities of the Partnerships. Evaluation of the Partnerships is based in part on 57 empirical measures of performance, including number of members and their demographics, membership organizational representation, types of development activities, and fulfillment of objectives for each program goal. The final analysis consists of summarizing how each partnership compares to the other partnerships. This has enabled successful development of a quarterly ranking system; however, challenges remain, including identification of what constitutes an 'effective' Partnership.

Tobacco Policy among the States: Implementing the Synar Regulation, Ronald A Harris, Southern University and A&M College

Tobacco use is both addictive and causally linked to disease and death. Most users begin consuming tobacco products before their 18th birthday in violation of laws which prohibit sales to minors. Prevention of early addiction to tobacco should increase citizens' health. The 1992 Synar Amendment to the Public Health Service Act requires state governments to conduct random, unannounced inspections of over-the-counter and vending machine outlets to measure unlawful distribution of tobacco products to individuals under age 18. The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is guiding implementation through the single state agencies responsible for substance abuse prevention. The distribution of federal block grant funds for public health are administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and linked to the enforcement effort. This paper analyzes implementation trends among the 50 states towards reaching 80% compliance with the Synar legislation. The database consists of the 1997 baseline survey results from the 50 states and follow-up data when available. Compliance checks of tobacco outlets were conducted in Louisiana from 1996 through 2000. Louisiana was compared with the other states implementing Synar. A statistical model was constructed for Louisiana to predict the probability of illegal sales of tobacco to minors under various social conditions at the point of sale. This paper should be of interest to evaluators, researchers, and practitioners and topical interest groups such as: alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health, health evaluation, state and local government, and quantitative methods.

Roundtable B: Approaches to Tracking Program Implementation for Prevention and Treatment Programs

Presenters: *Computer Modeling of Client Flow through a Human Service Treatment System*, Gary B Cox, Linda Brown & William E Jones, University of Washington

The purpose of this project was to develop a computer program that would approximate the flow of clients through a county level human service system. The immediate application was to a chemical dependency treatment system, but the intent was to write a program that would have much broader applicability. The model is intended to allow the representation of the existing system, and also variations in the system, for example differences in referral patterns, numbers of clients, treatment capacities, types of treatment modalities, etc, so that an estimate of the productivity of the system could be obtained under variations in treatment system characteristics. Such information has potential usefulness for treatment system planners and administrators. This presentation will describe the model briefly, discuss our experience in using the model, and comment on the likely utility of such models generally.

Evaluation of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problem Prevention in Managed Care Settings, Brenda L Benesch & Joanna Tyler, ROW Sciences Inc; and Nancy Kennedy & Charlie Williams, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

As part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Managed Care for Vulnerable Populations Initiative, ROW Sciences is carrying out a Study of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problem Prevention and Early Intervention services provided by States and managed care organizations. The study describes the program impetus and processes used in providing prevention services to public sector clients. Findings are disseminated on a national scale, so that health service providers and policy makers may learn from each others' efforts. The survey addresses methods of program evaluation within organizations. Through use of guided discussions, this study provides an opportunity for policy makers and health providers to share their program implementation and evaluation concerns. This presentation provides insight into the difficulties encountered in evaluating substance abuse and mental health problem prevention and early intervention programs and offers guidance for expanding evaluation capacity.

Roundtable C: Assessing the Impact of Managed Care Reform

Presenters: *Medicaid Managed Care and Adults with Severe Mental Illness: Access, Quality and Outcomes*, Roger A Boothroyd & David L Shern, University of South Florida

The use of managed care strategies by states to control spiraling Medicaid costs has dramatically increased. In approaches such those involving prospective payments, the incentive for managed care entities is to limit access or the amount of services provided, to maximize profits. This raises concerns regarding enrollees' access to, quality of, and outcomes from services provided. Findings from a 12-month longitudinal study of 688 adults Medicaid recipients with severe mental illness enrolled in one of three managed care plans (i.e., mental health carve-out; a carve-in; fee-

for-service) will be summarized. Self-report data were collected in face-to-face interviews three times: upon enrollment into the study, at six-months, and at 12-months post enrollment. Administrative service use data on each person were also examined. Enrollees' access to services, service utilization patterns, functioning, symptomatology, and satisfaction, will be contrasted across the three managed care plans as well as the change over time. Results are case-mix adjusted to control for differences in enrollee characteristics across the three plans. Implications will be discussed.

Health Care Reform Tracking Project: Findings from the Evaluation of Public Sector Behavioral Health Managed Care Reforms, Mary I Armstrong, University of South Florida; Sheila Pires, Human Services Collaborative; and Beth Stroul, Management and Training Innovations

The Health Care Reform Tracking Project is a 5-year project designed to track and evaluate the impact of public sector managed care reforms on children and adolescents with emotional disorders and their families. The tracking project uses a mixed method approach: surveys of all states and impact analysis studies of states with substantial experience with Medicaid behavioral health managed care reforms. The impact analysis uses a case study approach involving site visits to states during which semi-structured interviews are held with multiple groups of key stakeholders. The presentation will summarize key findings from the project's 1999 impact analysis study.

Roundtable D: SAMHSA's Managed Behavioral Health Care in the Public Sector: Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders

Chair: Virginia Mulkern, Human Services Research Institute

The Adolescent component of SAMHSA's "Managed Behavioral Health Care and the Public Sector" project has two goals: to enhance knowledge about the range of managed behavioral health care services provided to adolescents with substance use disorders; and, to enhance knowledge about the effects that managed behavioral health care has on these adolescents. Six sites and one Coordinating Center are funded via cooperative agreements to design and implement a multi-site study using common data collection instruments and design protocols. This is a complex study with four substudies including:

- 1) A survey of the structural characteristics of the managed care initiatives at each site
- 2) An implementation study examining the managed care initiatives at each site and how they are changing during the study period and the degree to which contractual elements are actually implemented at each managed care site
- 3) A prospective study (N=1506) examining outcomes among samples of adolescents in managed care and fee for service programs at each site
- 4) An analysis of system level service utilization and costs using administrative data bases

This session provides an overview of the study as well as "preliminary findings" from the prospective interview study.

Presenters: *The Impact of Managed Care on the Use of Substance Abuse Treatment Services among Adolescents*, Craig Anne Heflinger & Denine A Northrup, Vanderbilt University

After the implementation of managed care initiatives in the adolescent substance abuse treatment field some research questions need to be addressed. For example: What are the effects of managed care on utilization of substance abuse treatment services in the adolescent population? This paper examines how managed care in the public sector affects the provision of substance abuse services among adolescents in six sites in the United States and Puerto Rico. Each site measured patterns of service utilization in two samples of adolescents: a group of adolescents under managed care and a group of adolescents under traditional fee-for-service. Service use data were collected from prospective interviews conducted at baseline and six-months. Sample measures include total days in inpatient / residential, days of outpatient and length of episode. This study is an opportunity to summarize changes in the types of services adolescents in substance abuse treatment receive under managed care. The managed care initiatives in these six sites differ considerably in terms of their maturity, structural characteristics and risk arrangements. This study allows us to examine the types and amounts of services used by adolescents receiving substance abuse services in different managed care models and in different geographic areas.

Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes of Adolescents in Managed Care and Fee for Service Treatment System,

David Hughes, Virginia Mulkern & Sarah Witham, Human Services Research Institute

This paper examines 6-month substance use outcomes for adolescents entering publicly funded substance abuse treatment facilities. Data for this presentation were collected at six sites in The United States and Puerto Rico. Each site collected outcome data on a sample of adolescents receiving services under a managed care arrangement and a second sample of adolescents in fee-for-service care. Substance abuse outcome measures will include the frequency of use for alcohol and ten other drugs including cannabis, hallucinogens, cocaine, amphetamines, and opiates, as well as summary measures such as composite alcohol and drug use scores and the consequences of substance use. Measures of drug dependency and drug abuse will also be examined. Analyses will describe outcome differences between adolescents in managed care and fee-for-service conditions for each site and for all sites combined, controlling for site, condition and client characteristics.

Six Month PsychoSocial Outcomes for Adolescents Who Received Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment, Patricia Perry, Melissa Wyman-Paquin & Dawn Lambert-Wacey, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services; and Evelyn Zamir, Research Foundation of Mental Hygiene Inc

This paper examines six-month psychosocial outcomes for adolescents who receive alcohol or substance abuse treatment while enrolled in Medicaid managed care or traditional fee for service in the 6 participating research sites. The psycho-social outcomes include criminal justice status, mental health symptoms, risk behaviors, family and peer relationships, quality of life, and physical health. Two analyses will be reported: (1) 6-month outcomes by condition for each site (2) combined 6-month outcomes controlling for condition and site. It is expected that there will be substantial variability by site which can be explained by differences in client characteristics and Medicaid managed care / fee for service implementation status and policies. Implications for adolescent treatment and Medicaid managed care will be discussed.

Satisfaction with Services Among Adolescents Entering Substance Abuse Treatment, Jan Jernigan & Anne Medsger
University of Pittsburgh

Satisfaction with services can influence willingness to complete a prescribed course of treatment and subsequent changes to substance abuse behaviors. This study examines self-reported levels of satisfaction with initial treatment for adolescents entering substance abuse treatment in six sites, as part SAMHSA's Managed Behavioral Health Care in the Public Sector project. Data from baseline interviews with 1048 adolescents participating in the project will be examined. Adolescents are between the ages of 12-19 and admitted to a licensed treatment facility. Overall levels of satisfaction with: 1) explanation of diagnosis by treatment provider; 2) amount of adolescent involvement in development of the treatment plan; 3) content of the treatment plan; and 4) availability of treatment site staff to answer questions and help with problems will be examined. In addition, correlates of satisfaction will be analyzed. Correlates include referral circumstances (i.e., referral source, reason for referral, choice in selecting treatment site) and initial stages of treatment (i.e., wait time and travel time). The implications of these baseline findings as predictors of longer-term outcomes will be explored.

Discussant: Francis Cotter, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

SESSION 554: Think Tank

Room: Kauai

Sponsored by the Topical Interest Group on Teaching of Evaluation

Professional Development Resources for New and Experienced Evaluators

Chair: Hallie Preskill, University of New Mexico

Presenters: Nancy Drickey, Utah State University
Louise R Moulding, Utah State University
Maria C Norton, Utah State University

At the 99 AEA conference we presented "Evaluation Training: Is the Foundation Solid?" which posed the question "What kind of training programs are there in evaluation?" The presentation was focused on university programs and primarily targeted at students. However, the meeting attendees came from a variety of backgrounds, most of which

were not academic. Many of them had recently been assigned evaluation roles in their work and needed to learn about evaluation and obtain training outside of a college program. In this session we continue the discussion, addressing the question "What kind of training is available for working evaluators?" The presenters will discuss evaluation training workshops, pre/post session training at AEA, online resources, and other training opportunities. Hallie Preskill, AEA Professional Development Committee Chair, will provide information regarding her efforts to address professional development needs and listen to comments/suggestions from participants.