



CCEEPRA

Child Care and Early
Education Policy and
Research Analysis

Evaluating Statewide Quality Initiatives

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Acknowledgements



- This session and the Quality Initiatives Research and Evaluation Consortium (INQUIRE) are supported by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in the Administration for Children and Families through the CCEEPRA contract with Child Trends





Session Overview



- Review the importance of evaluating quality initiatives
- Identify how evaluation can be initiated and incorporated into ongoing activities
- Review an evaluation planning template
- Ask practical questions about evaluation

Experience with Evaluation



Have you.....

- Reviewed implementation data in a recent meeting?
- Reviewed evaluation results for a recent project in your state/territory?
- Written a Request for Proposals (RFP)?
- Managed an evaluation contract?

Experience with Evaluation



Which topics are you evaluating?

- QRIS?
- Quality improvement initiative?
- Professional development?
- Resource and referral services?
- Health and safety activities?
- Standards?

Evaluation can...



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- Identify implementation successes and challenges
- Examine the effectiveness of new initiatives
- Document outcomes for stakeholders
- Support short- and long-term planning

Performance Monitoring vs. Evaluation: Both are needed!



Performance Monitoring	Evaluation
How many programs enrolled in the QRIS? Were targets met?	Was QRIS enrollment adequate to meet the needs of families? Why do some geographic areas have lower QRIS enrollment?
How many hours of TA were delivered to programs?	How is TA being delivered? To what extent are coaches following a recommended model?
Are programs increasing their star level?	Which programs are improving their quality? Do changes in star rating align with changes in observed practice?

What are your questions?



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How should we get started with evaluation?

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Identify high priority activities and research questions



- Where are the largest investments in the system?
- Where are your concerns?
- Is evaluation required by a funder?

Match evaluation focus to the initiatives' stage of implementation



Launch of initiative

- Outreach
- Recruitment
- Staffing of the initiative (hiring, training, supervision)

Early implementation

- Awareness of the purpose of the initiative
- Participants' and stakeholders' perceptions of implementation and initial improvements
- Reach of the initiative

Full implementation

- Changes in practice
- Changes in outcomes for children and families

Mature implementation

- Use evaluation findings to document impact and/or propose changes to design of the initiative

Example: QRIS Quality Coaching



Launch of initiative

- What are the characteristics of the coaches?
- Does the training for coaches meet standards for effective professional development?

Early implementation (1-2 Years)

- How are coaches spending their time with programs?
- How do programs perceive the coaching?
- What dosage and content are delivered, and how do they vary by program?

Full implementation (2-5 years)

- Do teachers change their practices?
- Does program quality improve?

Mature implementation

- Are changes in quality sustained?
- What are the successes and challenges of coaching?
- What revisions to the coaching should be considered?

Strengthen existing data systems



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- Work with an evaluator when developing or revising a data system
- Ensure rigid procedures for data entry across all who interact with the system so that data are reliable and useful for evaluation
- Save and make historical data accessible for evaluation

What are your questions?



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What steps can we take when planning an evaluation?

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Evaluation Planning Template



- Step 1. Develop a logic model for the quality initiative or a system of initiatives
 - Specify outcomes
 - Link expected outcomes with activities
 - Identify outputs that can be tracked

Evaluation Planning Template



- Step 2. Create or connect with an Evaluation Advisory Committee
 - Engage key stakeholders
 - Identify evaluation consultants
 - Create a dissemination plan
- Step 3. Identify research questions that align with the theory of change and stage of implementation

Evaluation Planning Template



- Step 4. Identify resources for evaluation
 - Map existing data sources
 - Examine existing performance management data
 - Identify staff with expertise to support evaluation or hire a consultant
 - Identify funding sources (including public and private funders) for evaluation
 - Develop evaluation partnerships if possible

Evaluation Planning Template



- **Step 5. Align resources with evaluation strategy**
 - Lower cost – analysis of existing data, surveys and interviews, focus groups
 - Higher cost – observations of quality, collecting child development data

Evaluation Planning Template



- Step 6. Create a project through an RFP or other mechanism
- Step 7. Monitor research process and emerging findings
- Step 8. Disseminate findings
 - Tailor presentations depending on audience

What are your questions?



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- **ADD QUALITY CENTER RESOURCES ON EVALUATION**

QRIS Evaluation Resources



THE CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING SYSTEM (QRS) ASSESSMENT



The Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Evaluation Toolkit

OPRE Report 2011-31
August 2011

VALIDATION OF QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEMS FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION AND SCHOOL-AGE CARE



Research-to-Policy, Research-to-Practice Brief OPRE2012-29
April 2012



**Key Elements of a QRIS Validation Plan:
Guidance and Planning Template**

February 2013



THANK YOU

Please contact me with questions or comments

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