
THE ILLINOIS AFTER-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Outcomes Work Group Minutes

July 13, 2005

Members in Attendance: David Zverow, *Metropolitan Family Services*; Kristin Allen, *Boys & Girls Club of Springfield*; Carole Franke, *Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education*; Greta Colombi, *United Way of Metropolitan Chicago*; Angela Adan Farnham, *CPRD/University of Illinois*:

Staff in Attendance: Jennifer Becker Mouhcine, Hester Richardson

Review of Resource Chart

The group began with a review of the format of the draft chart Jennifer put together based upon the results of the resource review that has taken place. The feedback was that the layout seemed to work, and that it was good to have a concise chart for programs to reference. A suggestion was made that somewhere we should list more details about the contents that may be particularly useful, but to pull that out of the chart to keep that as an at-a-glance document. The more detailed section could include specific information on tools and resources specific to the sources.

Narrative/Description

It was noted that the wording used needs to be re-worked to be friendly to practitioners throughout the document. The group discussed the point that we need to provide summaries and information to ensure that people understand the various categories, and to give them enough background upfront so they can navigate the chart and resources successfully.

There was a discussion of including some summaries of each area in the document, and it was determined that the best way to do this may be to have an overview of what the areas mean, and in broad terms talk about the logical order of these areas.

The group discussed some of the necessary elements to supplement the chart to make the tool useful. This includes a general introduction that includes the big picture for our work, what we have done and why, why evaluation is important. It could cover how and why programs should use this, as well as who else this could be used by, including funders and state agencies. It should also include how we arrived at the resources we did, the process we followed, and the criteria that was considered

Finally, we need to draft language that provides a clear how to use this document, including guiding questions that help direct programs on which sections and resources may be useful, based on where they may be on the continuum of evaluation knowledge and experience, etc. There were suggestions for some sort of color-coding or other tools to make this easy to navigate.

Review of Chart Content

Editing/Organization

The group made suggestions as to how to shift some items to other categories that make more sense, and those changes are reflected in the revised chart document.

New Resources

There were a couple of resources added to be considered, ICVP's Evaluation Resource Institute's trainings and materials, as well as CPRD and some resources they have passed along. In addition, there are some other stand-

alone resources that could be considered as resources in the final chart. There were a couple of resources that the group decided not to include in the chart, but to use as background information for us and possibly to include in a list of additional resources to consider.

One resource in particular was the rating scale developed by CPRD that rated evaluation capacity for a project they completed. The group felt that if possible, this tool would be good to include so programs could get a sense of where they fall in terms of capacity, and could help them know where they need to access resources outlined in the chart. The group made the point that we would want to be clear that there are some evaluation activities that programs can do at any stage, and where they may fall along the scale can just help guide them toward realistic activities.

Gap Analysis

The group then looked through the various areas to see where more resources are needed and where there seems to be sufficient resources for people to access. Currently we are assessing mainly written resources. The areas to gather more information seems to be in the areas of organizational buy-in, to make sure there is written information on realistic expectations in our introduction, as well as reference utilization from the very beginning of the document

Tool Roll Out

The group began to discuss how to ensure this tool is used, and one suggestion was to work with ISBE/IDHS and other funders to provide a venue to train providers on the use of this tool, so that there is shown buy-in and support system wide.

Next Steps:

Greta will gather more information from United Way. Jennifer will rework the chart. We will begin to start drafting the narrative components for the chart.