Building Capacity to Demonstrate the Impact of Self-advocacy efforts

Framework for Assessing Self-advocacy Outcomes

iTACC

Information and Technical
Assistance Center for Councils
on Developmental Disabilities

Materials and resources

ITACC Webinar [materials](#):

- Assessing Self-advocacy outcomes: Framework (power point).

- Measuring outcomes of self-advocacy programming: A Self-assessment Tool for Councils.

Further reading:

Review of Self-advocacy Activities and Recommendations for DD Councils.

A Framework for Assessing Self-advocacy Outcomes (full document)

Why was the framework developed?

- ACL invested in research to identify how Councils can better develop resources that lead to positive outcomes related to self-advocacy and support individuals with developmental disabilities in realizing their self-advocacy goals.

What did the research show?

- Council measure inputs, outputs, and activities
- Most Councils do not measure longer term outcomes of self-advocacy efforts and resources.
- The most common outcomes measured.
- The most common positive outcomes.
- Activity characteristics that produced the greatest impact.

Most common outcomes measured by DD Councils and external programs

- Increase in participants who can better say what is important to them/what services they want.

- Increase in knowledge of services/resources.

- Increase in membership/leadership in self-advocacy groups or speaking at self-advocacy groups.

- Increase in advocacy activities following training.

Commonly mentioned positive outcomes of self-advocacy efforts

- Increased self-confidence.

- Increase ability to communicate.

- Increased ability to help others with I/DD advocate for themselves.

- Becoming a leader.

- Increased public speaking skills.

Activity characteristics that have the Greatest Impact (in order)

- Input from self-advocates.

- Person with I/DD as the trainer.

- Peer-to-peer events.

- Information on how to influence policy.

- Statewide reach.

- Supporting people with I/DD in leadership roles.

- Using plain language.

Key takeaways

- To improve the likelihood of positive long-term outcomes or impacts of self-advocacy efforts and resources, use practices that are evidence-based or informed.

- Consider focusing on the type of practice and the focus of practice to determine individual level, family level, systems level outcomes (and/or others)

Purpose of the Framework

The Framework can help:

- Think through current measurement practices and evaluation tools

- Determine if the Council is using evidence-based methods

- Determine what is working well

- Determine opportunities for improvement

- Increase understanding about measurement practices

Key items in the tool

- Practice information (target population, type of practice, focus of practice and data sources)

- Collective Data Sources

- Criteria for evaluating strength of evidence-based practice

- Individual-level short-term outcomes

- Individual-level Intermediate outcomes

- Individual-level Long-term outcomes

The Framework is a self-assessment

- Scoring method
- Guidance is provided to interpret your score

The Self-assessment tool

A brief review

Using your results to improve and change

- **Have a group discussion**
  - Consider probe questions like:
    - What are the strengths of our practice?
    - What are the gaps in measuring practice impact?
    - Are there opportunities in the months ahead to turn our gaps into strengths?
    - What is one action we can take to improve practice impacts ad how we measure them?

- **Use as a component of your 5-year planning process**
  - Consider embedding the self-assessment as one component in your 5-year State plan development process.

Using your results...

- **Ongoing baselining and benchmarking**
  - Save your initial results as a baseline and conduct it at a future time to assess your progress.
  - Use the information to guide action planning for the year or for future years.
  - Benchmark your results against other practices in the self-advocacy field.

- **Create an Action Plan**
  - Specific to self-advocacy outcomes and impact measurement.
  - Include timetables and steps toward better measuring your program's outcomes.
  - Measure to the overall goal of the practice, break down into smaller and shorter achievable targets.

Using your results – final thoughts

- **Develop a self-advocacy evaluation plan**
  - Use the tool and corresponding results as one component of your broader DD Council evaluation plan.

- **Request Technical Assistance**
  - ACL and ITACC are available to help. Ask for support in developing outcome measures, guidance on planning and evaluation, or other items.

Information

Information and Technical Assistance Center (ITACC) for Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Sheryl R. Matney
smatney@nacdd.org

Cherie Moon
cmoon@nacdd.org

www. itacchelp.org