BUDDIES PROJECT SESSION 2

Evaluative Thinking

Thursday, March 16, 2023

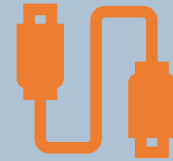**PFH** PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH

HOUSKEEPING

Recording didactic presentation and BUDDIES updates

Closed captioning available, if needed

Please keep cameras on, if possible

IT issues?
Reach out to Chad via Zoom chat or (207) 992-7325

AGENDA

1. BUDDIES Project Updates

2. Case Presentation

3. Group Discussion

4. Evaluative Thinking Presentation
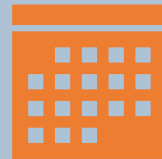
5. Q & A

6. Wrap Up

2023 SESSION TOPICS

SESSION	DATE	TOPIC
2	March 16	Evaluative Thinking
3	May 17	Multi-Partner Evaluation Engagement
4	August 17	Evaluation Frameworks
5	October 19	Community-Based Participatory Action Research
6	December 21	Internal vs. External Evaluation

CASE PRESENTATIONS

2023 case presentations set! Thank you!

Recruiting for 2024 presentations will begin in October

Anonymous case presentations in 2024

MAINE PRESENTATION

EVALUATIVE THINKING PRESENTATION

EVALUATIVE THINKING

Evaluation is an activity. Evaluative thinking is a way of doing business. – M Quinn Patton

WHAT?

- Critical, systems thinking

- Motivated by an attitude of inquisitiveness and belief in the value of evidence

- Involves identifying assumptions, and pursuing deeper understanding

- Informs decisions and actions

Buckely et al. 2015

WHY?

- Address evaluation anxiety

- Develop logic models, theories of change, program planning

- Design evaluations

- Gather data

- Reflective discussions

How?

If we ask this:	We might get that:
How does our organization know X?	More feedback (all directions)
How might we be wrong about X?	Reflective conversations among staff, beneficiaries, leadership, etc.
How does X connect to our intended outcomes?	More effective programs
Partner X's perspective on this might be Y!	Greater local level influence over project decisions

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVALUATIVE THINKING

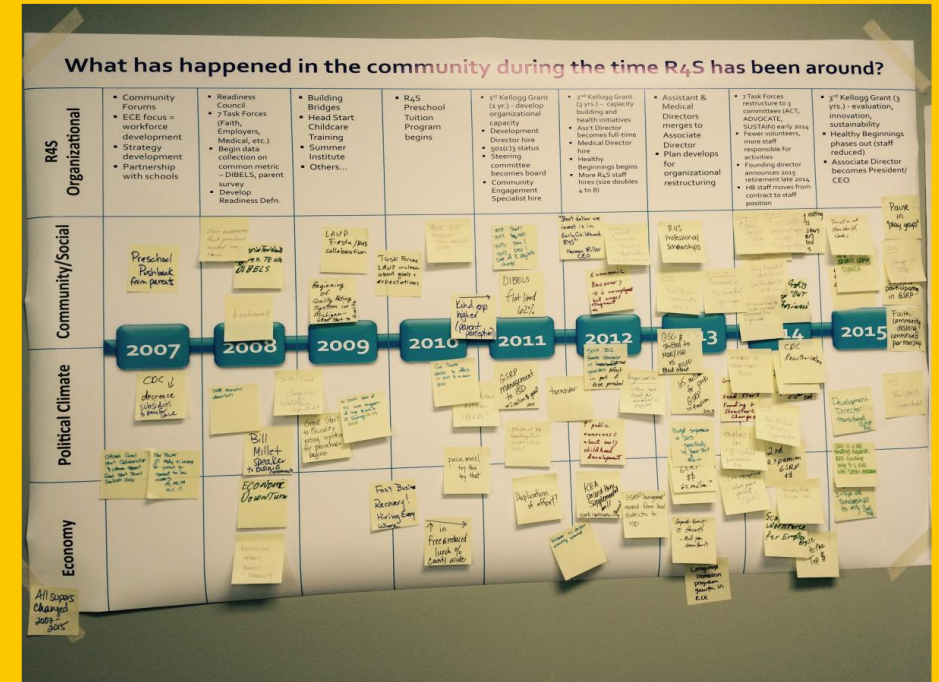| Existing structures and places to incorporate evaluative thinking:	
Staff meetings	Board or professional meetings
Advisory committee / advisory group meetings	Grantee and partner meetings
Communities of practice	Steering committee meetings
Annual staff or team retreats	Site visits

DATA PLACEMATS

Reflective Questions:

- What do these data tell you?

- What surprises you about these data?

- What factors may explain some of the trends we are seeing?

- Do these findings lead to any new questions?

- What are you learning from this activity (key insights)?

Preskill, Gutierrez, Mack, 2017

Timeline Mapping

- Map events, achievements, etc.

- Insight into their relationships to each other and to key contextual factors

- Institutional knowledge

Preskill, Gutierrez, Mack, 2017

EVALUATOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON EVALUATIVE THINKING

- A way to think deeper about your work

- Purpose is to encourage discussion and transparency, not criticize

- Safe space

- Role model

- Fun and engaging

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

SESSION WRAP-UP

NEXT SESSION: Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST

TOPIC: Multi-Partner Evaluation Engagement

Marlaina will send you the Post-Session Survey – take 5 minutes to share your thoughts and feedback on today's session!

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