

## **Evaluation Lab ECHO**

**November 19, 2019**

Participants:

Claudia Diaz-Fuentes, UNM

Melissa Binder, UNM

Kathleen Gygi, UNM

Cate McGinnis

Robert Tuton, All Faiths

Melissa Gomez

Jessica Dunn

Meghan Mead, NM Appleseed

Judy Bartlett, Casa de Salud

Dorothy and Janice, NM Legal Aid

Gabby Rivera, Health Action NM

Jules Salinas, Enlace

Facilitated by Charla Orozco, UNM

The session started with a welcome and introductions.

NM Appleseed then presented on their focus group that will look at the barriers of keeping homeless kids at their school of origin.

Their main concern was the time frame for their focus group.

The learning community gave the following suggestions: Assign each question a specific time frame; put headings in to make key topic areas clear and prioritize those areas; perhaps make some of the questions answered with written responses; especially the questions that do not need a solution and then have the conversation around the questions that you want to discuss and develop potential answers to; limit the questions to five.

Other advice for the focus group included, if the participants do not know each other then do a relevant ice breaker to help facilitate discussion.

NM Appleseed expressed that another challenge they are facing in terms of focus groups is that they already have a lot of information and data from groups but need to figure out how to put all of it to use, they are going to try Atlas IT software to see if will suit their needs.

Charla told the community that she uses Atlas IT in her work and she would recommend it however she cautions that there is a large learning curve in the beginning to learn how to enter and code all your data.

NM Appleseed explained that they started their focus groups with no real focus, only to try and get an idea of the problems their targeted community was facing, and then from there they have narrowed it down to transportation issues. Melissa assured them that this is a good way to find the issues that need to be addressed.

The Didactic: Melissa Binder and Claudia Diaz-Fuentes

Melissa and Claudia presented on Ethics and Institutional Review Board.

Claudia started on the overview and the history of the issue, see PowerPoint

Melissa followed with a presentation on how to apply the three main principles to evaluation. See PowerPoint.

It was made clear that even though this kind of research is not typically what our community does, and therefore, do not usually need an IRB review, we are still working with human subjects so it is still good to abide by the three main principles.

It is also good practice to have someone else review the research or evaluation to be sure that follows the principles, and to be upfront with participants and explain the reason behind the questions.

The session ended at 10:23 am.