# Interactive Focus Groups

**UNM Evaluation Lab Summer Institute** 

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#### DRAW:

#### HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT EVALUATION BEFORE THE INSTITUTE AND HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT NOW?



### SPEED DATING:

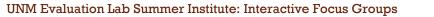
### WHAT EVALUATION TECHNIQUES DID YOU LEARN THIS WEEK?



### SPEED DATING:

#### WHAT IS MISSION TIME?

### HOW MIGHT YOU HELP PRIORITIZE IT IN YOUR ORGANIZATION?





### INDIVIDUAL:

### AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE INSTITUTE, DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONDUCT AN EVALUATION WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION?

#### WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ECHO SESSIONS?

# WHAT KIND OF OTHER SUPPORT MIGHT YOU NEED?

UNM Evaluation Lab Summer Institute: Interactive Focus Groups



### GROUP LISTS:

### WHAT MATTERS TO YOUR ORGANIZATION?

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS THAT YOU HAVE FOR EVALUATION WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR ORGANIZATION?



### GROUP LISTS:

### WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE INSTITUTE OVERALL? WHAT DID YOU ENJOY? WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE NEXT YEAR?



# GETTING Started

WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHO AND HOW?

### WHAT IS AN INTERACTIVE FOCUS GROUP?

- Engages participates in pre-planned activities to get answers to questions
- Typically involves writing, drawing, talking with one other person, talking with the whole group

# WHEN CAN YOU USE AN INTERACTIVE FOCUS GROUP?

- Anytime you think you might benefit from a variety of data collection methods
- When you want to know how your participants experienced your program and if/how it changed them

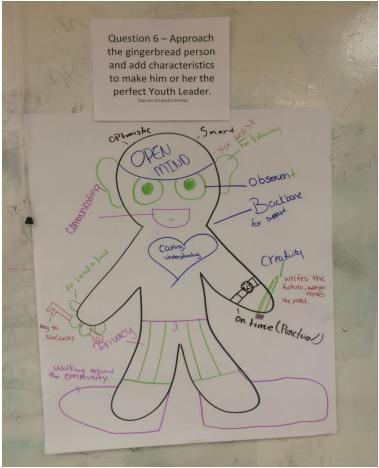


# WHY USE AN INTERACTIVE FOCUS GROUP?

- Engages the talkers and the listeners
  - Allows multiple means of communicating responses (verbal, written, drawn)
- Speeds up transcription time
- They are fun for you & participants!
- End up with cool drawings to use in final reports.



### ENLACE COMUNITARIO YOUTH LEADERS EVALUATION



- Evaluation Goal: Impact of the program on Youth Leaders themselves as a result of their training and participation in the Youth Leaders program.
  - Activity: Add characteristics to the gingerbread person to make him or her the perfect Youth Leader

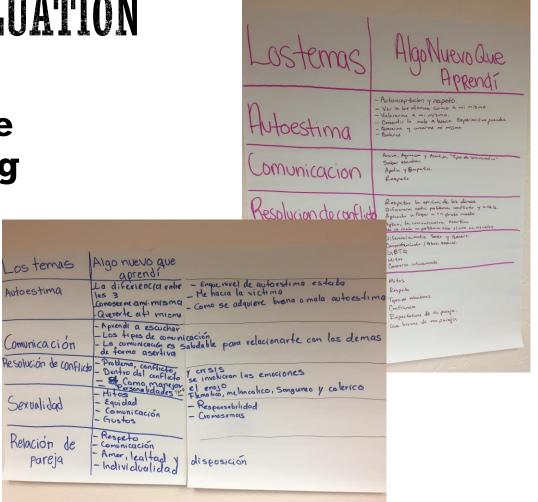




### ENLACE COMUNITARIO RELACIONES SALUDABLES EVALUATION

#### Evaluating achievement of the goal to have lasting impact on graduates.

 Activity: List one new thing you learned from each theme in the Healthy Relating Course.





# WHO CAN DO THE INTERACTIVE FOCUS GROUP?

- External evaluator
- You!





BUILDING THE **PROTOCOL** (SCRIPT)

# HOWP

### BUILDING THE PROTOCOL

- 1. Articulate the evaluation goals
- 2. Assign activities to each goal
- 3. List materials needed to complete each activity
- 4. Assign timeframe to each activity



### STEP 1: OUR EVALUATION GOALS

After the Institute, participants will:

- 1. feel positively (energized) about taking on evaluation and that evaluation is possible and meaningful.
- 2. know the basic process of evaluation.
- 3. recognize grind thinking (survival mode) vs. mission thinking and are motivated into mission thinking.
- be aware of different options for evaluation that are within reach have control over evaluating what matters to them.
- 5. leave the institute with the confidence to conduct evaluation in their organizations with support from the Evaluation Lab.



## **STEP 2: POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES**

Gingerbread Person – individual or group

- Express sentiments about something (feeling)
- Speed Dating pairs
  - Short questions
  - Answer with a partner (more private)
- Group Lists groups of no more than 5 (usually)
  - Less private, but gives opportunity to brainstorm
- Individual Answers individual
  - Entirely private
  - Opportunity to share freely
  - Can be drawn, listed, paragraph, etc.

Plus and Delta – big group, individual, smaller groups

 Gives participants a chance to voice thoughts about program in question



## **STEP 2 (CON'T): ASSIGNING ACTIVITIES**

#### After the Institute, participants will:

- feel positively (energized) about taking on evaluation and that evaluation is possible and meaningful. Activity: Gingerbread Person
- 2. know the basic process of evaluation. Activity: Speed Dating
- 3. recognize grind thinking (survival mode) vs. mission thinking and are motivated into mission thinking. **Activity: Speed Dating**
- be aware of different options for evaluation that are within reach have control over evaluating what matters to them. Activity: Group Lists
- leave the institute with the confidence to conduct evaluation in their organizations with support from the Evaluation Lab. Activity: Individual Answers



### **STEP 3: MATERIALS!**

- Gingerbread Person either flipchart with gingerbread person drawn or printouts of gingerbread person, markers, pens
- Speed Dating flashcards, tape, markers, questions printed or written on the board
- Individual Answers flashcards, pens
- Group Lists flipchart or flashcards, tape, markers, printed out visual of the activity
- Plus and delta flipchart, markers, also pens, paper for those who may not want to share out loud



### **STEP 4: TIMEFRAME**

- Strongly based in how long you have for the group
- Actual time in each activity should allow for movement, explanation, questions
  - Activity times in the protocol will be shorter than how long the overall activity actually takes
- Today 40 minutes
  - Gingerbread Person Participants get 5 minutes total activity time 10 minutes
  - Speed Dating Participants get 4 minutes total activity time 10 minutes
  - Group Lists Participants get 5 minutes total activity time 10 minutes
  - Individual Answers (including Plus and Delta) Participants get 5 minutes – total activity time 10 minutes

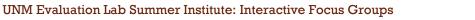
### **OUR PROTOCOL**

- See handout email me for a copy (<u>cehenley@unm.edu</u>)
- We will post on Summer Institute website



## CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS

- Interactive Focus Groups:
  - Engage the talkers and the listeners
  - Speed up transcription time
  - Are fun for you and the participants!
- After your Interactive Focus Group:
  - Take pictures of everything posted on the walls or on easels so you can type into excel or word.
  - Debrief: Ask yourself, how did it go? What could have been better?
  - Review data: try to highlight the diversity of ideas and the common themes.





### QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS, IDEAS?