


DATA SYSTEMS FOR EVALUATION

Notes from the seminar
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Presenters

- Brooke Tafoya, New Day Operations Director
- Juliann Salinas, Enlace Comunitario Development Director
- Chris Erwin, Evaluation Lab Graduate Assistant

Brooke Tafoya, New Day

- Initially there were many data formats and methods
 - *What kinds of database systems were out there and what could help us?*
- Started about a year ago
 - *Researching*
 - *Used EMR BEAR for their db*
 - Not flexible enough
 - Consider the environments in which your system will be used
 - Needed the system to be fast (response to crisis phone calls)

Brooke

- Considerations for new systems
 - *How flexible is the system?*
 - *What is the cost is the system? What are the costs of the logins?*
 - *Who takes the lead?*
 - Hierarchical structure of db must be addressed
 - *Have dba in on the decision-making process*
 - *How are conventions developed and how easily are they communicated to trainees?*
 - *How easy is it to generate reports from the system?*

Brooke

- Preparation

- *Streamline forms and surveys*
 - Eliminate duplicates, if possible
- *Consider time-savings*
 - Get input from staff and end-users
- *Establish realistic timeline*
 - Don't start the transition or development during heavy work seasons
- *Consider ease of use (training investments)*
- *Adapting systems can be fantastically costly*
- *Ensure that identifiers are easily identified*

Apricot

- FEUI – Apricot
 - *Generates reports from db very quickly*
 - *Data reports can show inconsistencies in data collection and management*
 - These can be time, and cost-saving measures

Juliann Salinas, Enlace Comunitario

What do we want to know from data?

How to
develop logic
model



What are the
effects of our
programs?

What are we doing?

- Brainstorming a database
 - *Laying out the data collection processes*
 - *Establishing reasons for the collected data*
 - *How do we need to query? (report generation)*
 - How do we sort
 - *Tracking costs and billing*
 - *Identifying the necessary relationships in the databases*
 - *Share demos with staff (end-users)*
 - *Consider a db that will autofill duplicate information (repeated or overlapping forms)*

Chris Erwin

- What is Tableau?
 - *Used for data visualization*
- Pros for Program Evaluation
 - *User-friendly*
 - *Intuitive*
 - *Hands-on*
 - *Stories and dashboards are powerful*
 - *Free for non-profit and academic endeavors*
- Cons for program evaluation
 - *Lacks analytical power*
 - Most statistical analysis should be done with R (or stata)
- Data from PB&J Family Services
 - *Considering*
 - NCFAS
 - PICCOLO
 - PFS

PB&J Family Services Data

- Structure
 - *Surveys*
 - Domains
 - *Fields*
 - Scores

- Data from surveys ported to scrubbing & analysis program
 - *Scrubbed data fed to Tableau*
 - *Tableau can generate visualizations from summary statistics which were generated from other program*
 - *Tableau talks with google Sheets*
 - Google Sheets is not secure (no PII)

Takeaways

- Tableau is pretty
- Nice to talk about development processes with other organizations
- Organizational involvement is necessary for successful rollout of policies
- Data clarity is important
- DBA is necessary for maintenance and training
- Organizations to which organizations cater could benefit from the ideas and outputs from the Evaluation gatherings (meetings)
 - *Getting their data people together with the organizations in order to develop conventions and standards*