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
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)
Considerations for new systems

- How flexible is the system?
- What is the cost of 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?
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*