Using Evaluation Research for Effectiveness Monitoring and Funding Decisions

Purposes

- What is Evaluation Research?
 - How does it work?
 - Does everything need an evaluation?
 - ✓ Example: Level 4 program evaluation
- What Does Evaluation Have To Do With Finance?
 - Aligning goals, strategy, and funding with needs.
 - How should evaluation research affect funding decisions?

Non-Purposes

Dig into individual evaluations (we can follow-up)

What is Evaluation Research?



- ☐ How does it work?
 - Systematically assess effectiveness of activities intended to create change.
 - Ongoing information/data collection about progress and outcomes.
 - Program vs Performance evaluations:

Services Policies

Interventions Processes

Communication Procedures

Trainings

What is Evaluation Research?



☐ How does it work?

- Planning
- Was it more effective than alternatives?

Did it work? Why or why not?

• Was it enough to change trajectory?

Impact

(It's really just the Scientific Method)

Theory of Action

- What are you trying to change?
- Methods and strategies?
- Monitoring mechanisms required?
- Is it necessary? Sufficient?

Implementation

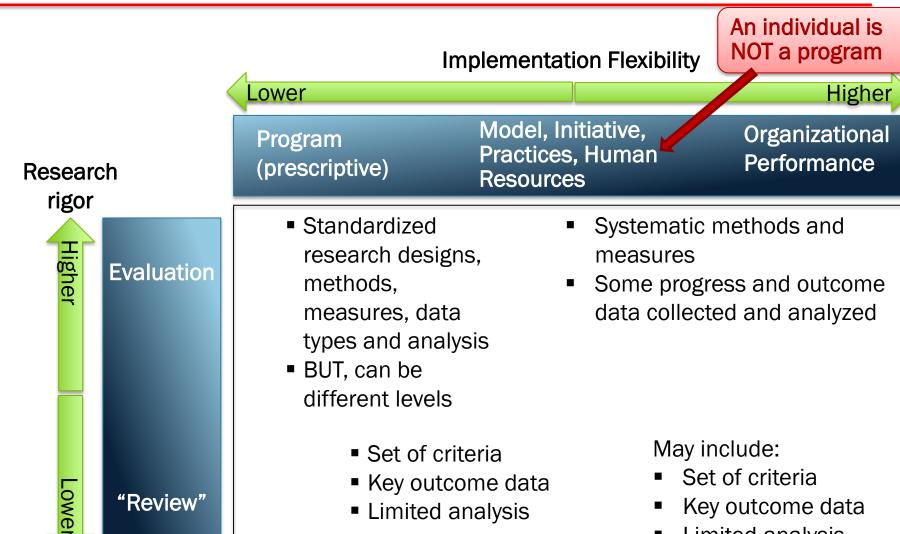
- Are you doing what you intended?
- Appropriate use of resources?
- Aligned activities and goals?



Does Everything Need An Evaluation?



Limited analysis



Example: "Gold Star" Program Evaluation



JCPS

Marty Pollio, Ed.D. Interim Superintendent

Restorative Practices

Evaluation Plan

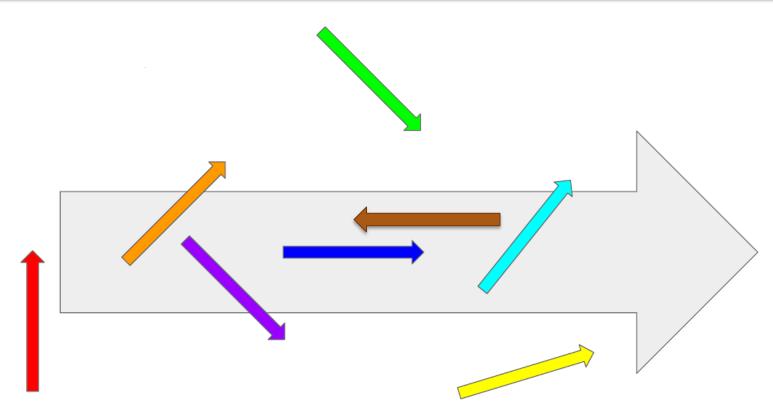
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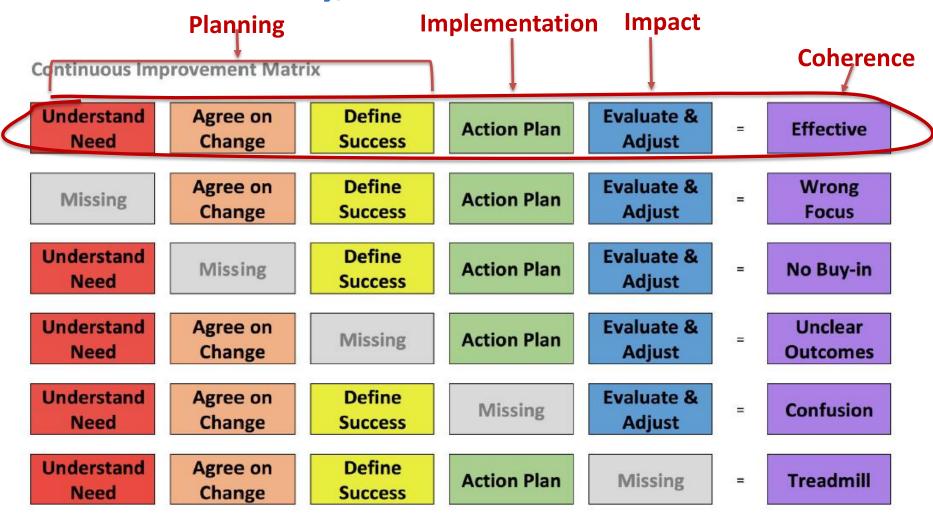
What Happens If You Don't Do Any Evaluation Or Review?





Lack of coherence

Or, more specifically from our colleagues in Jefferson County, Colorado...



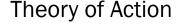
What Does Any Of This Have To Do With Finance?



Was it costeffective?

- Did it work? Why or why not?
- Was it more effective than alternatives?Was it applied impact
- Was it enough to change trajectory?

Planning



- What are you trying to change?
- Methods and strategies?
- Monitoring mechanisms required?
- Is it necessary? Sufficient?



Implementation

- Are you doing what you intended?
- Appropriate use of resources?
- Aligned activities and goals?

Are your costs on track?

What Does Any Of This Have To Do With Finance?



Was it costeffective?

- Did it work? Why or why not?
- Was it more effective than alternatives?Was it applied impact
- Was it enough to change trajectory?

How much **should** evaluation results drive funding continuation decisions?

- Evaluation research is about continuous improvement.
- Results may not lead to simple "keep or toss" funding decisions.
- Other criteria to consider...

Implementation issues?

External factors beyond control?

Still relevant work?

Change in needs?

Are people going to use results (aka. moral imperative vs political reality)?

What Does Any Of This Have To Do With Finance?



- Conversation:
 - How much should evaluation results influence funding decisions in JCPS?
 - What other factors and processes could be helpful?