

Evaluating SPP/APR Improvement Activities

The Need for Evaluation

- Provides an organized way of assessing work in progress and results obtained
- Assesses the impact of an activity on the area targeted for improvement
- Identifies strengths and weaknesses in the implementation of the improvement activity

Types of Evaluation

- Process evaluation
 - Evaluates the improvement process itself
- Impact evaluation
 - Evaluates the results produced by the process

Evaluating Process

- Assesses how well the improvement activity is being implemented
- Dictates whether or not adjustments need to be made
- Necessitates a review of data on a continuous basis

Process Evaluation Questions

- Process evaluation questions might answer
 - To what extent is the improvement activity being implemented as intended?
 - To what extent is the improvement activity reaching the target audience (i.e., children, staff, parents)?
 - Is everyone doing what they said they would do?
 - Are resources still available to adequately support this improvement activity?

Evaluating Impact

- Measures the effect the improvement activity has had on the identified area for improvement and indicator
- Indicates the extent to which the goals of the improvement activity have been met
- Assesses the effects of the improvement activity

Impact Evaluation Questions

- Impact evaluation questions might include
 - Did the improvement activity accomplish what it was supposed to?
 - Which parts of the improvement activity worked well?
 - Which parts of the improvement activity did not work well?
 - Should the agency continue the improvement activity?
 - What has changed as a result of implementing the improvement activity?

Reviewing Improvement Activities

- Improvement activities are aligned to the indicators, including if reflected across related indicators.
- Improvement activities reflect state priorities.
- Improvement activities are actionable.
- Improvement activities are realistic.
- Improvement activities include measures of performance.
- Improvement activities include timelines.
- Improvement activities identify responsibility for implementation.
- Improvement activities include technical assistance needs.

Categorizing Improvement Activities

- Training and Professional Development
- Improve Data Collection
- Improve Systems Administration and Monitoring
- Improve Collaboration and Coordination
- Program Development
- Clarify/Examine/Develop Policies & Procedures
- Provide Technical Assistance
- Increase/Adjust FTE
- Evaluation

Developing a Plan for Evaluation

- Identify the goal of the evaluation.
- Frame the evaluation questions to be answered.
- Identify evaluation methods and measurement options.
- Identify data sources.
- Determine data analysis techniques.
- Establish timelines.

Identify the Goal of the Evaluation

- Identify the goal(s) of the evaluation
 - Is the goal of the evaluation to implement with fidelity?
 - Is the goal of the evaluation to determine the impact of professional development initiatives?
 - Is the goal of the evaluation to determine the effectiveness of changes made in systems administration and monitoring?

Constructs for Evaluation Questions

- Planning and implementation issues
- Attainment of the goal
- Impact on participants or target audience

Methods and Measurement

- Choose methodology that will allow the team to get the most useful information
- Methodology needs to align with evaluation questions developed
- Be sure to collect the correct data to answer the evaluation questions
- May need to use combination of methods

Data Sources

- Depends on data type being gathered
- Determined by evaluation questions being asked and when information can be collected and analyzed
- Develop timeline for collection of evaluation data

Analysis Techniques

- Refer back to original questions to organize data and focus analysis
- Develop process that looks at both short-term benchmarks and monitors ongoing process

Evaluation Timelines

- Serve as management tool for evaluation process
- Develop realistic timeline to ensure evaluation process will move along efficiently
- Provide end date of evaluation to use for decision making processes