Evaluation Capacity 4.0

Taking the Long View

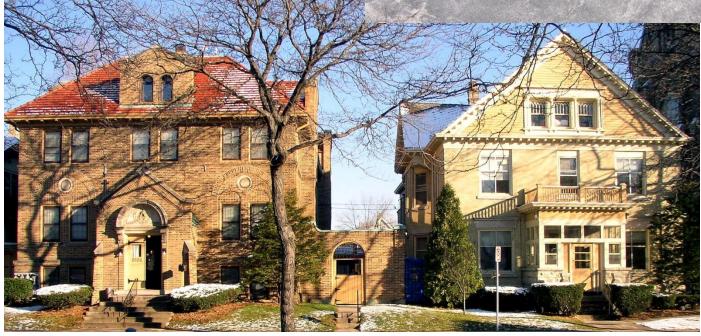
Lisa Larson, PhD Evaluation 2012



Meta House, Inc.







Overview

- What is the internal-external evaluation partnership model?
- What makes the partnership work?
- How has the partnership changed over time?

Evaluation Partnership Model

Internal Evaluation Strengths ★ Site-specific research and evaluation experience. Program ★ Access to real-time program information. Provides services to clients ★ Ability to closely monitor integrity of data. Ensures fidelity to program model ★ Understanding of program context and population. Manages program implementation ★ Credibility in eyes of program staff and administration. Collects evaluation data ★ Ability to provide useful formative feedback. Communicates program progress to clients and community stakeholders Study Team Evaluation Management Internal Evaluator Team · Oversees evaluation requirements **External Evaluation Team** Manages evaluation data · Conducts focus groups with clients Provides evaluation technical assistance Evaluation Provides formative feedback to program Supports adherence to evaluation requirements Team Builds evaluation capacity among program staff Liaisons with funder(s) · Provides independent analysis of program outcomes · Authors final summative evaluation report External Evaluation Strengths ★ Breadth of research and program evaluation experience ★ Independent perspective on evaluation design, implementation, and data. ★ Technical assistance to assure quality and usefulness of data.

★ Independent analysis of summative evaluation data.
★ Credibility in eyes of the funder and other stakeholders.

★ Ability to support evaluation capacity building.

What makes the partnership work?



- Close, intentional communication
 - Clear division of responsibility

- Embracing agency values
 - Respect for one another's roles

How has the partnership evolved?

Need for "hand holding" — Consultation as needed

External partner as "expert" Collegial, collaborative relationship

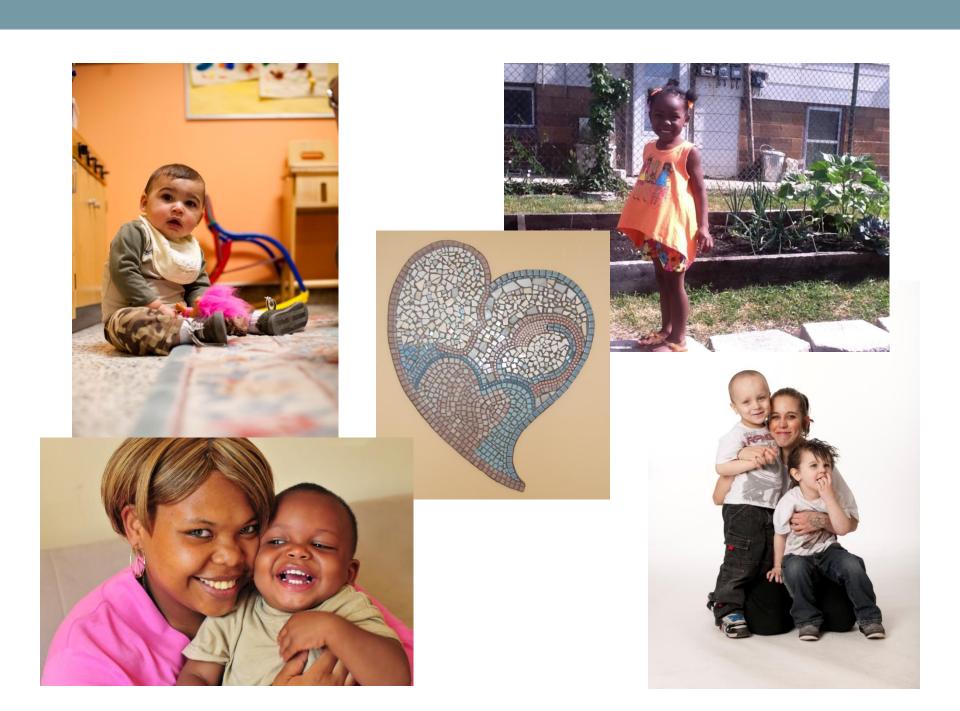
Focus on meeting basic — Freedom to explore new reporting requirements approaches and designs

How has internal capacity grown?

- Organizational commitment to evaluation
- Development of a core set of outcomes
- Routine collection and reporting of outcome data
- Commitment to outcomes among staff and leadership
- Use of outcomes to improve programming
- Leverage successes to support sustainability

Where is the partnership headed?

- Continued commitment to partnership, despite changes in context
- Ongoing need for credibility provided by the outside perspective
- Opportunities to leverage knowledge and expertise developed among external partners over time
- Long view may involve scaling down or transferring additional responsibilities



Thank You!

Lisa Larson, PhD llarson@planningcouncil.org

Phone: 414-224-3054 www.planningcouncil.org





Andrea Jehly, MS ajehly@metahouse.org

Phone: 414-977-5818 www.metahouse.org