# Building the (Data)base for Evaluation Capacity

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# Building the (Data)base for Evaluation Capacity

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#### Overview

- Volunteers of America of Greater Los Angeles (VOALA) implemented an organization-wide research database in 2012 with two piloted sites.
- This presentation reviews:
  - Challenges that lead to implementation
  - Implementation process
  - Outcomes of implementation

# Background: Girls Inc.®



- Inspiring young women to be strong, smart, and bold!<sup>SM</sup>
  - 1 Program Director
  - 1 Program Manager
  - 10 Program Specialists

#### Challenges:

- Randomized control trial studying the effectiveness of curriculum.
  - Recruiting participants
  - Tracking participants
  - Managing data quality

# Background: Hollywood Veteran Center (HVC)



- Residential facility helping veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars obtain:
  - Permanent housing
  - Financial security
  - Personal support system

#### Staff

- 1 Director
- 6 Case Managers
- 6 Monitors

#### Challenges

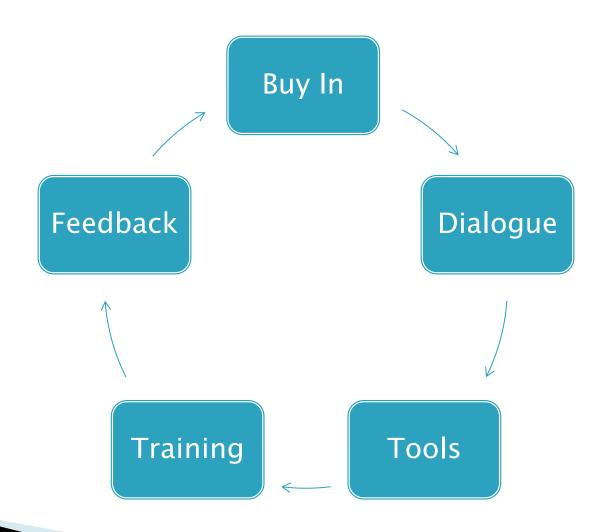
- Multiple funding sources/reporting requirements
- Cross over between programs clientele

# Implementation Goals

- Reporting improvements
  - Report data at all levels in real time
  - Access all data
- Improve Data Quality
  - Automated QA measures
- Program Improvements
  - Protect client privacy
  - Streamline internal processes
  - Save staff time
  - Access to complete client records
  - Comprehensive care for clients



# Database Implementation



# Buy In

- Involve staff
  - Directors
  - Case Manager
  - Monitor
- Engage users early, but be strategic about timing



### Buy In

- Understand what is wanted/expected at all staff levels
- Clearly define expectation
  - What is expected of them in the process?
  - What the outcomes will be?
    - What we can fix and what we cannot fix?
  - Communicating the changes
    - Encourage everyone to be flexible and accept change

# Dialogue

- Collaborate with staff to gain a real understanding of the program
- Create a safe place
  - 1:1 meetings
  - Role-specific group meetings



# **Training**

- Customize training strategies
- Engage staff when developing a timeline for implementation and training



# **Develop Tools**

- Technology
- Address inconsistencies in the protocol
- Bring the information to a collaborative group to come up with solutions

#### Repeat

- To be successful this must be a continuous cycle
  - As we created new tools and solutions we were willing to adjust and make correction
- Create a feedback loop
  - Implement a system for them to provide feedback
  - Schedule time to check in

#### Outcomes: Girls Inc.®

#### Improved data quality

- Decreased data entry errors with automated QA reports
- One point of data entry now that they can access records online while off site
- Eliminated duplicate client records

#### Reporting

 Ability to build reports and run analysis for all data points in the study

#### Outcomes: HVC

- Increased quality of client care
  - Case files can be shared securely between providers working collaboratively on a case
  - Complete client record was available in a secure database
    - Able to reference previous case notes quickly to
    - Assess treatment strategies
- Reporting
  - Automated reports for multiple funding sources

#### Outcomes: General

- Streamlined program processes
- Brought new voices into the program development process
- Developed a dynamic/interactive feedback loop

#### Limitations

- Cost of implementation
- Technology barriers
- Initial training was time intensive