



ROUNDTABLE: AN 'ACCIDENTAL' EVALUATOR'S JOURNEY

AEA 2019

Andrea Scallon, Miriam's Kitchen in Washington, DC

Kristin Lucero-Golden, Friendship Place in Washington, DC

ANDREA SCALLON

- Director of Measurement, Evaluation, and Learning at Miriam's Kitchen
- Started at Miriam's Kitchen 6 years ago as Data Manager in the Development department
- Knew I was an Evaluator two years ago after attending my first AEA conference



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KRISTIN LUCERO-GOLDEN

- Director of Impact & Risk Management at Friendship Place
- Started in nonprofit work as a Case Manager and worked in that capacity for ~6 years
- Became Friendship Place's 1st Director of Measurement & Evaluation in June 2018



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Ending homelessness
Rebuilding lives

ACTIVITY

- Yellow sticky: What is one specific resource that has helped you in your evaluation journey?
- Green sticky: What is a resource you feel is currently missing that would have helped you in your evaluation journey?

RESOURCES THAT HAVE HELPED YOU

- Urban Institute outcomes indicators project
- Experienced colleague was/is willing to informally mentor
- Internal team evaluation “brown bag” staff development –part of larger evaluation learning group
- Reading case studies – how evaluation goes from plan to how data is used to motivate and shape change and/or illustrate success/challenges
- Solid academic foundation in research methods
- The equitable evaluation initiative
- Great supervisors
- Consultants
- That I text book from that I grad school course
- Linked In learning platform
- Better Evaluation website: betterevaluation.org
- Other evaluators
- Reviewing previous evaluation reports
- Applied experiences
- YouTube
- Excel
- Prior experience
- Joining local evaluation association
- Online courses
- Networking
- Roundtable/brown bags
- Joining boards to meet other researchers and evaluators
- Taking an evaluation course in grad school –learning about theory, logic models, etc.
- Kotter –Heart of Change for Change management information

Anything missing?

RESOURCES THAT YOU WISH YOU HAD

- Cases/scenarios with different options/perspectives
- Organized resources e.g. templates
- Advanced training
- Meeting on a regular basis with outside evaluators
- Few formal education programs classes/certifications
- Eval 101 online resources – “here’s what every evaluator should know” checklist
- No idea about evaluation theory – does it even matter?
- Money/cost
- Change management how to –beyond IT
- Time to learn and implement
- Learn more about big data/AI
- More comprehensive systematic online training (non-grad program)
- Basics of evaluation – where to start, what lingo to use, how to form process and outcome questions
- Statistical analysis
- Simple resources that describes terms, strategies, concepts
- Common language/definitions from all sides/sectors
- Time
- A local network of people doing this work
- Space for peer feedback –challenging current thinking around logic models, findings, data visualizations, etc.
- Access to experienced evaluators through more formal mentorships

Any ideas how to fill these gaps?

SOME RESOURCES WE LIKE

- Measure4Change by World Bank and Urban Institute
- Performance Imperative by Leap Ambassadors
- Leap of Reason by Mario Morino
- The Four Tendencies by Gretchen Rubin
- Start with Why by Simon Sinek
- Coursera & Edx



THANK YOU!

LEAVE CONTACT INFORMATION AND WE WILL EMAIL YOU
TODAY'S DATA