Cost-Inclusive Evaluation in Health and Human Services

Program
Evaluation
Research
Laboratory

Department of Psychology
American University
Washington, DC USA

http://www.brianyates.net/PERL/

Chair & Discussant

Brian T. Yates, Ph.D.

Professor

Department of Psychology

American University

Washington, DC USA

brian.yates@mac.com

Objectives today

1. identify **pluses** and **pitfalls** to evaluations of human services

2. exacerbated by **cost-inclusive** evaluation

3. **solutions** found by 4 evaluators

Problems faced by all 4 evaluators

- Professor — graduate student research relationship

- Demand for cost-inclusive evaluation (by sites, by professor)

- Balance:

  - rigorous evaluation and problems of databases and clinical research

  - time for evaluation and clinical training hours

diverse human services

evaluator	human service evaluated
Lana Wald	cognitive-behavioral versus lightbox treatments for **Seasonal Affective Disorder**
Sarah Hornack	gender-sensitive intensive inpatient programs for **subtance abuse**
Katheryn Ryan	drug therapy versus psychotherapy for patients with **diabetes and depression**
Jay Gorman	Clubhouse programs for persons with **severe mental illness**

What unique problems in evaluation were faced by these evaluators

evaluator	advantages	problems
Lana Wald	well-funded clinical trial	static costs and benefits self-report questionnaire
Sarah Hornack	large data set, others' research	remote, multiple sites, nonrandom assignment, not designed for cost-inclusive evaluation
Katheryn Ryan	large data set already available	nonrandom assignment large large sample sizes
Jay Gorman	pre-existing database	remote, multiple sites, missing data, data collection over different time periods, different tools

Objectives today: achieved?

1. identify **pluses** and **pitfalls** to evaluations of human services?

2. exacerbated by **cost-inclusive** evaluation?

3. **solutions** found by 4 evaluators?

Questions!

Brian T. Yates, Ph.D.

brian.yates@mac.com
http://brianyates.net

Professor
Department of Psychology
American University
Washington, DC USA