



AMERICAN
EVALUATION
ASSOCIATION

Influencing Evaluation Policy and Practice: A Progress Report from AEA's Evaluation Policy Task Force

William Trochim *2008 President of AEA*

George Grob *Advisor to the AEA*

Evaluation Policy Task Force (EPTF)

Patrick Grasso *Chair, EPTF*

November 2009

Purpose

To influence evaluation policies that are critically important to the practice of evaluation

Members

- © Eleanor Chelimsky
- © Leslie Cooksy
- © Catherine Dawes
- © Patrick Grasso (Chair)
- © Susan Kistler
- © Mel Mark
- © Stephanie Shipman
- © William Trochim
- © George Grob (Advisor)

Public Presence Initiative

- ☉ **AEA Member Engagement**
- ☉ **Outside Meetings**
- ☉ **AEA Newsletter Articles**
- ☉ **Media Coverage**

Consultative Campaign

Federal Government

-  Office of Management and Budget
-  New Administration
-  Priority Legislation
-  Federal Regulations
-  Administrative Guidances

Accomplishments

July 2007 – July 2009

 Talking Points Webpage Priorities Ongoing Operations

AEA Members

- ☉ Presentations at Three AEA National Conferences
- ☉ Evaluation Policy Discussion List
- ☉ AEA Newsletter “Policy Watch” Column

Other Evaluators

- ☉ Federal Evaluators
- ☉ Washington Research Evaluation Network
- ☉ Eastern Evaluation Research Society
- ☉ OMB senior program assessment staff
- ☉ One-on-one meetings with senior evaluators

 Inspector Generals'
Evaluation Training

Debra Rog

 Department of State
Evaluation Conference

Stephanie Shipman
Patrick Grasso

 Environmental
Evaluators Network
Conference

Debra Rog
George Grob

 CDC Summer Institute

George Grob

Accomplishments—First Two Years

- ☉ Evaluation Roadmap
- ☉ Evaluation in Foreign Assistance Bills
- ☉ Health Care Reform Advice
- ☉ U.S. Global HIV/AIDS Budget Guidance
- ☉ Advice to OMB on PART Program
- ☉ Presentation to Federal Performance Improvement Council

Recent Accomplishments

July 2009 – Present

- GAO Review of International Food Assistance Program Using Criteria Developed from the Roadmap
- OMB Impact Evaluation Policy
- AEA Public Support for OMB Impact Evaluation Policy
- GovExec.com Coverage of EPTF Advice
- Initial Contact with Senate Budget Committee's Task Force on Government Performance



The Future

- ☉ New Chair—Patrick Grasso
- ☉ Two Year Continuation
- ☉ Develop Policy Vetting Processes
- ☉ Evaluation of EPTF Before Next Reauthorization

Challenges in The Policy World

The Mechanisms

- ☉ Legislation
- ☉ Budget
- ☉ Regulations
- ☉ Management Initiatives
- ☉ Grants

The Culture

- ☉ Short Time Frames
- ☉ Long Time Frames
- ☉ Chaotic Events
- ☉ Plain Language
- ☉ Key People and Networks

Staying In Touch

- ② **Email:**
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- ② **Website:**
<http://www.eval.org/EPTF.asp>
- ② **Discussion Group:**
<http://www.eval.org/EPTF.signup.discussion.asp>