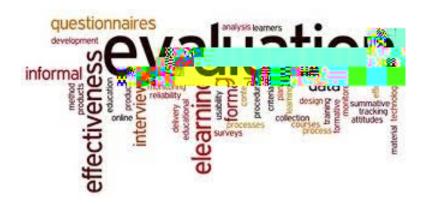# Roger A. Boothroyd, Ph.D.
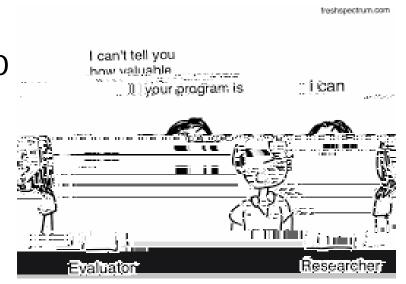
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute

Evaluation Defined

- Evaluation involves the *systematic collection of information* about the program characteristics, activities, and/or outcomes *for use* by people to *make decisions* about what the programs are doing and how to *improve* program effectiveness. (Michael Quinn Patton)

Evaluation versus Research

- Evaluators and researchers use many of the same designs and qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

- Evaluations are as rigorous and systematic in collecting data as traditional social science research.

- However, the primary purpose of evaluation is to provide timely and constructive information for decision-making about particular programs, whereas research is to advance more wide-ranging knowledge or theory.

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I can't tell you how valuable your program is

i can

Evaluator   Researcher

Evaluation versus Research

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- Required by funding source
    - Demonstrate the program is being effective
    - Justify our program expenditures
    - Provide support for continued funding

- Helps organizations manage limited resources

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- Allows documentation of program accomplishments

- Helps ensure successful program replications

- Improves decision-making

- Can be used for marketing and promotional purposes

- *Formative Evaluation* – involves gathering information during early stage of program implementation or when programs have undertaken major redesigns, with a focus on finding out whether your efforts are unfolding as planned, uncovering any obstacles, barriers or unexpected opportunities that may have emerged, and identifying mid-course adjustments and

- _**Summative Evaluation**_   involves gathering information once programs have been fully implemented (usually at the end of an operating cycle), to assess the impact and outcomes of the program

- _Process Evaluation_   allows an organization to examine
                                    in order to attain the outcomes everyone
wants it to achieve.

- In other words, process evaluation documents the process of a program's implementation. Process evaluations help stakeholders see   a program outcomes or impacts are (or will be) achieved.T.6 (r)-(t)12.4 TJ   4.221 0 T.2 37:

- Process evaluations examine the degree to which program activities are being: (1) implemented and delivered as planned, (2) if they are reaching the intended target audience(s), and (3) producing the desired outputs.

- Progress toward project milestones is successive, and therefore, data should be collected on an ongoing basis over the course of the demonstration to monitor and describe how well the established goals are being met. This information will enable grantees to demonstrate to the funding agency whether they were able to provide the services that they were funded to provide.

- Process evaluations are conducted periodically throughout program implementation and are useful in helping to make adjustments during implementation. Process evaluations are *formative* in nature.

- These examine program activities that are considered necessary but not sufficient conditions for intended outcomes to occur.

- Update MOU with current and new Bradford partners

- Hire a Forensic Recovery Specialist at Bradford County jail.

- Train Forensic Team in motivational interviewing.

- Train staff and implement use of RN assessment tools.

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- ***Outcome Evaluation*** – assesses the effectiveness of a program in producing change. Outcome evaluations (or impact evaluations) focus on the questions that ask what happened to program participants and how much of a difference the program made for them. Impact or outcome evaluations are undertaken when one wants to assess whether and how well the (o)1.6T.4her)t

- 65% reduction in number of jail days among program participants while in program compared to one year prior.

- 60% reduction in arrests among program participants within a one-year period following program discharge.

- 65% of program participants not employed and who express a desire to work at program admission are employed full or part time within one year of program admission.

- Evaluations require time, money, and technical skills: requirements that are often perceived as diverting limited resources from programmatic goals that are focused on serving clients.

- Program staff are often concerned that evaluation activities will inhibit timely accessibility to services or compromise the quality of the services clients receive.

- Data collection or data sharing can perceived as an issue (HIPAA).

- Evaluation may necessitate alliances between historically separate community organizations.

- There are no specific funds allocated for the evaluation.

- Often times no person is specifically in charge of the evaluation (no project evaluator).

Discussion Questions