



## **Presentation Goals**

- I. Discuss current demands and constraints of program evaluation for child mental health programs
- II. Provide examples of trends, challenges and opportunities concerning cultural sensitivity in program evaluations
- III. Provide strategies for ensuring cultural-sensitivity in evaluating child mental health programs

Demands and Constraints: Evaluating Child Mental Health Programs

## Demands for Evaluating Child Mental Health Programs

Current program evaluations are often required to incorporate cultural sensitivity by demonstrating:

- Impact
- Sustainability
- Generalizability

### **Constraints to Ensuring Cultural-Sensitivity**

- Institutional and Staff Capacity
- Limited Technological Savvy
- Limited Time
- Limited Expertise



II. Beech Acres Parenting Center

III.Center for Closing the Health Gap



## United Way

The Project

- Winning Beginnings promotes positive social, emotional and cognitive development in preschool children.
- Integrates coaching and mentoring with results from assessments including the Bracken Basic Concept Scale Receptive, Ages & Stages and Get-It-Got-It-Go to help teachers understand and support the healthy development of children.
- **INNOVATIONS** facilitates learning circle meetings and trainings for teachers, directors and administrators as well as provides technical assistance and consultation in collaboration with Success By 6, 4C, Cincinnati Public Schools and Cincinnati Early Learning Centers.

#### United Way SUCCESS BY 6

**Evaluation Trends** 

- Professional Development and Staff Training are often used as methods to ensure that programs improve services and programs.
- Winning Beginnings provides teachers and program administration with training that will directly impact the culture of the environments in which they serve children.

#### United Way SUCCESS BY 6

Evaluation Challenges

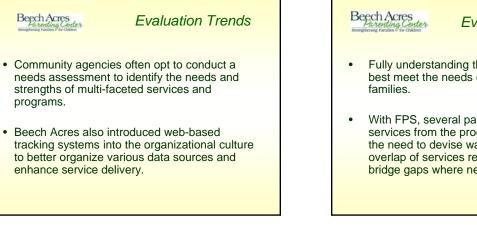
- Changing the culture of evidence-based instruction including compliance with data entry and aligning curricula or school programs.
- Developing common and/or shared outcomes across all participating sites, measures and databases, and aligning reporting cycles.
- Developing steps and finding the time to improve the culture of an environment after training.

#### United Way SUCCESS BY 6 EVa

## Evaluation Opportunities

- Training opportunities empower agencies to change culture while providing the most up-todate methods for administering programs.
- For Winning Beginnings, training opportunities have become so popular that the number of classrooms will double next year at almost every center.



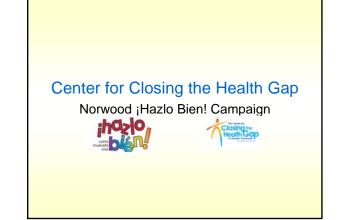


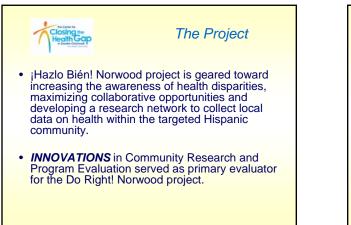
**Evaluation Challenges** Fully understanding the culture of programs to best meet the needs of the children and With FPS, several parents received multiple services from the program, which magnified the need to devise ways to examine the overlap of services received by parents and bridge gaps where needed.

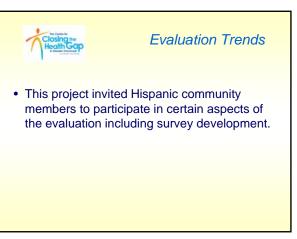
Beech Acres

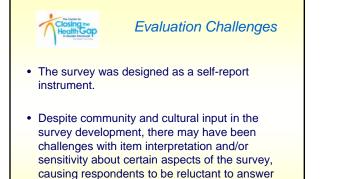
**Evaluation Opportunities** 

- · Needs assessments help to determine the true culture of program operations and effectiveness.
- Strengths, limitations, opportunities and threats to sustainability are all identified during the process, which can be designed to incorporate various evaluation methods and technology.











Strategies for Ensuring Cultural-Sensitivity in Evaluating Child Mental Health Programs

questions.



- 1. Determining the need and identifying the goals for a culturally-sensitive program evaluation
- 2. Soliciting the input of stakeholders of diverse, yet relevant backgrounds
- Developing an evaluation plan that will capture and highlight any key differences or nuances between and/or within groups
- Developing evaluative instruments that reflect the program as well as the cultural diversity (socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, language, customs, beliefs, communication styles, etc.) and values of the population served

Strategies for Ensuring Cultural-Sensitivity in Evaluating Child Mental Health Programs

- 5. Administering the evaluation instruments in a manner that is non-threatening to cultural differences
- 6. Analyzing and interpreting data using appropriate cultural contexts
- 7. Report findings to all stakeholders including funders, staff, parents and community members
- 8. Ensure that the data provides the context for developing and designing and effective culturally sensitive program

### Trends, Challenges and Opportunities Summary

- Conducting culturally-sensitive program evaluations for child mental health programs are tied to agency mission, vision, goals and funding requirements
- Demands and constraints on evaluating child mental health program programs establish trends, present challenges and provide opportunities for agencies to develop insightful ways to refine programming
- Culturally-sensitive program evaluations provide opportunities for maximizing impact and sustainability over time

Thank You!