

Reviewing Evaluation Activities at the AIDS Committee of Toronto



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AIDS Committee of Toronto

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Outline

- Introduction
 - AIDS Committee of Toronto
 - Evaluation Framework/Evaluation inventory
- Evaluation at ACT
 - Balancing the interests of multiple stakeholders
- Question

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

- Large AIDS Service Organization
 - Health promotion, HIV prevention, Support Services, capacity building programs

| RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE | COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING | COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION | SUPPORT SERVICES |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Research, evaluation, program development</p> <p>Knowledge exchange events (like ACT Research Day)</p> | <p>Employment ACTion</p> <p>Positive Work for Positive Women – now self-employment stream</p> <p>Volunteer Program</p> | <p>Outreach (bathhouse, bar, online, Portuguese-speaking)</p> <p>Positive Youth Outreach</p> <p>Women’s HIVAIDS Initiative</p> <p>Educational workshops and discussion groups</p> | <p>Counselling</p> <p>Case management</p> <p>Support Groups</p> <p>Lunch programs</p> <p>Other group programs (Women’s Coffee Night, WomenZone)</p> |

Evaluation Framework

Taking ownership over evaluation:

- Clarify ACT's approach to evaluation
- More clearly link program evaluation across agency and to strategic plan
- Identify agency-wide impacts or outcomes
- Develop monitoring and evaluation process

Evaluation Inventory - Activities

- Consultations with managers and staff
- Gather and review program documents
 - evaluation forms, intake forms, surveys, reports, etc.
- Review reporting and monitoring systems
 - OCASE, OCHART, ACT
- Review funder files
 - Proposals, logic models, reporting requirements, final reports

Evaluation Inventory

What did we try to answer?

- What do we know about our programs and services?
- How do we know what we know?

The Moving Target

- Structural
- Programs and Services
 - Changes, transitions, endings, new programs developed
- Staff turnover/leaves/changes
- Funders
 - changes to funding and reporting guidelines
- Evaluation work continues (and changes)

Initial Observations

- ASOs generate a great deal of knowledge about their programs and the communities they work with
- Draw from multiple sources to understand and assess programs
- Evaluation resources often in short supply (funding, tools, time)
- Monitoring work often feels tedious
- **Balance the interests and expectations of multiple stakeholders**



Multiple stakeholders – What's the big deal?

- Most programs/services do multiple things
- Ideas about what a program/services should do can vary among stakeholders

Employment ACTion

- Funder (ODSP)
 - Individuals accessing disability supports are able to find and maintain employment, indicators of success #
- service user
 - Goals vary, impact of working toward goals and/or meeting them broad,
- employers, environment
 - Advocacy and education in relation to HIV, increase knowledge about HIV, more employment opportunities for service users
- Volunteers
 - Goals vary, impact varies

And in terms of evaluation?

- Evaluate their program from multiple perspectives
- Need to access multiple sources of information
- Evaluation focused on improvement and learning
- Concern about the impact of monitoring and evaluation on programs

Questions

What do current evaluation practices tell us about what is valued within the sector?

Within your programs, how are decisions about what and how to evaluate made?

Thank You!

- Act Staff and Management
- Session Panel

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