HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using a Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-building

Webinar 4:

Cynthia Phillips and Rebecca Kruse (National Science Foundation [NSF])
Thursday, August 8, 2019
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. EDT
Webinar Logistics

- Mute phone, unless speaking
- Q&A
- Hand raising
- Closed captioning (multimedia viewer)
# Agenda

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<td>12:00–12:05</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Finkelstein (Mathematica)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05–12:15</td>
<td>Recap of webinar series and events to date</td>
<td>Dr. Amanda Cash (ASPE)</td>
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<td>12:15–12:45</td>
<td>Speaker presentation</td>
<td>Cynthia Phillips and Rebecca Kruse (NSF)</td>
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<td>12:45–12:55</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
<td>All</td>
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<td>12:55–1:00</td>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Finkelstein</td>
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Meet the Speakers

Dr. Dan Finkelstein, Senior Researcher (Mathematica)
Dr. Daniel Finkelstein leads a variety of mixed-method evaluation studies and provide evaluation technical assistance to government agencies, foundations, and community-based non-profits with designing and implementing evaluation studies and plans. The majority of Dr. Finkelstein’s evaluation work is in the areas of public health, education, and health services.

Dr. Amanda Cash, Acting Director, Division of Data Policy (ASPE)
Dr. Cash’s portfolio includes research on evaluation methodologies appropriate for complex federal programs, and she co-leads the Federal Task Force for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. Her office is coordinating implementation and leading implementation of Title I of the Evidence Act, which is focused on implementing Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans. She is an epidemiologist by training, but now she works primarily on evaluation, evidence, and antimicrobial resistance.
Meet the Speakers – Con’d

Rebecca Kruse, Evaluator (NSF)
Rebecca leads the design, management, and use of analytic and evaluative studies to inform agency-wide programs, initiatives, and policies. As a visual practitioner, she deploys human-centered design, strategic facilitation, and other co-creation approaches to support interdisciplinary and cross-functional teams in translating evidence into actionable insights and ultimately into decisions. Rebecca is the principal design thinker driving the learning agenda work at NSF.

Cynthia Phillips, Acting Chief Evaluation Officer (NSF)
Series’ Objectives

• The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) is the policy think tank for the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Our office is leading implementation efforts for Title I of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act).

• The webinar series aims to:
  – Consider the array of strategies to create and implement evidence-building and evaluation plans as required by the Evidence Act
  – Support an ongoing, readily accessible resource for federal agency staff and others who may be implementing evaluation planning efforts
  – Support the creation of a summary report that will draw from the webinar series and other relevant literature
Series’ Recap

Webinar 1: July 18, 2019 – NIH, Drs. Marina Volkov and Ajay Vatave

Webinar 2: July 23, 2019 - USDA, FAS, Ellie Morefield

Webinar 3: July 30, 2019 – CNCS, Dr. Mary Hyde
Polls: Baseline Data

- Learning interests
- Stage of implementation
National Science Foundation

NSF History Wall: https://www.nsf.gov/about/history/history-wall.jsp
Poll

What is your primary role?

A. Evidence consumer—I use evidence to make decisions
B. Evidence producer—I build evidence for decision makers
C. Evidence broker—I facilitate the flow of evidence between consumers and producers.
Agency Profile

“To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense...”
It Is More Than Data

Planned collection, analysis, and synthesis of data and experience

EAC
Informed decisions & actions

https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/guide-to-actionable-measurement.pdf
Focus on Building and Use

Planned collection, analysis, and synthesis of data and experience

+ Time and process devoted to development of insight

+ Willingness and ability to change

EAC

Informed decisions & actions

https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/guide-to-actionable-measurement.pdf
“... bold questions that will drive NSF's long-term research agenda -- questions that will ensure future generations continue to reap the benefits of fundamental S&E research.”
Start Where You Are

This research is really going to help move our field forward.

This evaluation is really going to help our program become more effective.

knowledge mobilization

learning agenda

freshspectrum.com
Put People at the Center
Poll

Which of our four principles most resonates with you?

A. Focus on building and use
B. Select high visibility, high priority
C. Start where you are
D. Put people at the center
IMPLEMENTATION
Stage of Implementation

Planning  In process  Fully implemented  Fully implemented and operational

Agency-wide
Socializing Learning Agendas

- Learning agenda self-study groups
- Workshop with other federal agency champions
- Strategic Review
- Present to Senior Management
- Present to National Science Board
- Workshop with scientific R&D agencies
Processes and Structure

- Study Option Menu
  - Landscape analysis
- Question storming & prioritization
- Decision Roadmap
- Theory of change
- Strategy development & refinement
Barriers and Strategies

- **Barrier:** Siloed agency and communities
  - **Strategy:** Infrastructure for collaboration

- **Barrier:** Limited, opportunistic stakeholder engagement
  - **Strategy:** Stakeholder engagement strategy and toolkit

- **Barrier:** Learning agenda for Science R&D
  - **Strategy:** Actionable questions about things we can control
Impact: Organizational Learning

“...it is not the data, per se, that add value, but their ability to tighten the feedback loop... that allows problem solvers to broadcast, receive, refine, and adapt solutions on an ongoing basis.”  

McGuiness & Slaughter, 2019
Lessons Learned

• Actionable questions yield action only if will and capacity exist for change
• Create a toolkit for stakeholder engagement across the learning agenda
• Demonstrate the value of learning to support improvement early on
• Learning agendas catalyzes appetite for more intentional use of evidence
What questions do you have for Cynthia and Rebecca?
Wrap-up

- Event materials- stay tuned!
- Registration links- Federal Evaluators’ Listserve

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<td>Webinar 5: Brittany Borg (SBA)</td>
<td>Tues., August 13, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webinar 6: Emily Schmitt (ACF)</td>
<td>Wed., August 28, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT</td>
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<td>Webinar 8: Tammy Tippie (DoD, Navy)</td>
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Webinar Evaluation

- Quality
- Expectations (objectives)
- Content
- Actionability
Thank You!

Please send feedback, comments, or questions to:
ASPE Evidence-Building Team
aspeevidencebuilding@mathematica-mpr.com