



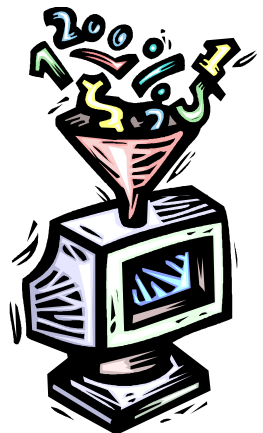
Designing and Using an Effective Data Management System: Components and Considerations for Tribal Home Visitation Programs

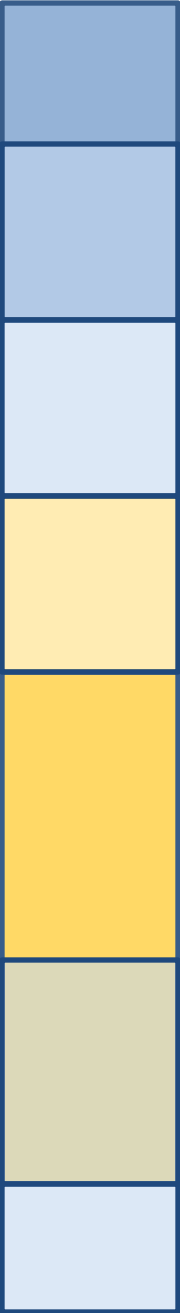
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DOHVE: Design Options for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Evaluation

- Working with US-DHHS to support the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- DOHVE:
 - ✓ Design options for a federal evaluation of evidence-based home visiting programs
 - ✓ Evaluation-related Technical Assistance (TA) for “promising approaches”
 - ✓ TA for grantees’ continuous quality improvement, Management Information Systems (MIS), and benchmarks

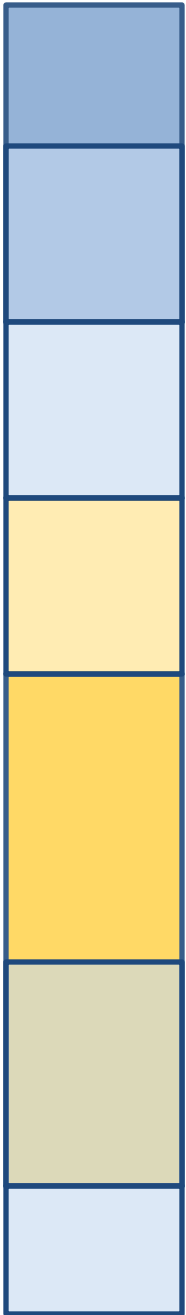


DOHVE Evaluation TA Team

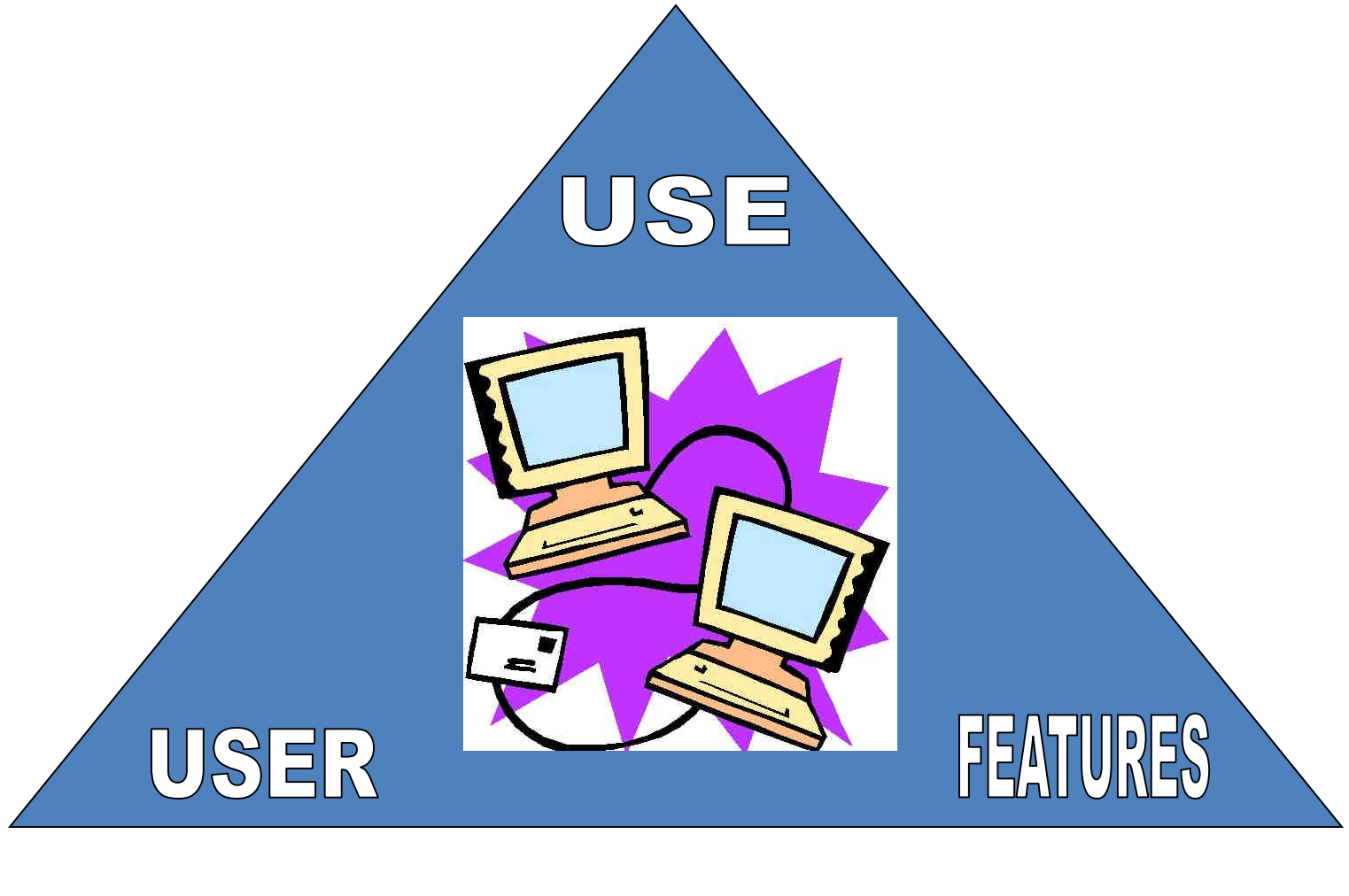
- James Bell Associates (JBA)
- MDRC
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center & Every Child Succeeds

Goals of Session

- Review why an effective data management system can be useful for home visiting programs
- Identify the components of an effective, useful, and value-added data management system
- Describe features of data management systems that are user-friendly



Data Management Systems: What's Important





Data Management Systems Should.....

- Help home visitors do their jobs more effectively
- Help home visitors do their jobs more efficiently so they have more time to devote to families
- Serve the needs of families, home visitors, and home visiting programs
- Provide options for collection of qualitative and quantitative data
- Assist management in supervision and meeting reporting requirements

Who Should Be Involved in Selecting or Developing a Data Management System?

- Families
- Home visitors
- Home visiting programs
- Community leaders
- Funders





Data Management Systems: Use

- Stores information about families, home visiting service, and outcomes that are important to the program
- Stores information about benchmarks
- Helps home visitors maintain fidelity to home visiting models
- Drives Continuous Quality Improvement
- Allows tying together of information from different sites, communities, and programs to promote learning

Data Management Systems: Essential Features

- Store data that are important
- Easy to use and accessible to all who need to use it
- Flexible
- Affordable
- Easily produce meaningful reports
- Be able to “talk” to other data systems





Users: What They Want from a Data Management System

- “Don’t make me think”
- Engaging and appealing
- Familiar features
- Easy—checkboxes, radio buttons, pull down menus
- Only enter data once
- Important information is “above the fold”



Users: What They Want from a Data Management System (cont.)

- Anything a user can do...she can easily undo
- Minimal penalty for making a mistake
- Interactive
- Provides useful information—red flags, etc.



Options and Sources of Data Management Systems

- Design your own [*more resources up front and for maintenance, more choice and flexibility*]
- Many home visiting models have their own systems [*fewer resources required, may be less flexible*]
- Commercially available software is available that can be used with diverse home visiting programs [*fewer resources required, may be less flexible*]
- There is an increasing desire for systems that can be integrated, although there are considerable challenges to consider



Checklist: What to think about in considering MIS options

- ✓ Flexibility and customizability
- ✓ Easy to use, intuitive
- ✓ Broad access, real time access
- ✓ Options for qualitative data collection
- ✓ Provides useful information that can drive service
- ✓ Creates useful reports that are important to you
- ✓ Affordability and maintenance needs



Next Steps

Stay tuned for additional webinars, individualized TA, and other information from the Evaluation TA team on:

- ✓ Selecting evaluation designs
- ✓ Selecting measurement tools
- ✓ And more...

Tribal perspectives on data management and reporting: learning from tribal child welfare agencies

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University of Minnesota Duluth
Center for Regional and Tribal Child Welfare Studies

Introduction

- “Today we are in the process of remembering. And we know it is true that only through ceremony, language, feasting, dancing, and listening will we recover ourselves. The retelling of these stories nurtures that process...”
– Winona Laduke
- My hope is that good data collection can help in the recovery process— that it can be a tool for ensuring that the families served have their stories told.

Goal

- Share some experiences, concerns, strategies, and successes related to data collection and reporting gathered through work with tribal nations undertaking similar projects.

The Process

- Contracted by National Congress of American Indians to produce resource for tribal child welfare programs pursuing Title IV-E child welfare reimbursement
- 2009 Summit at NCAI
 - Brought together experts in data reporting, technology, administrators from a diversity of tribal programs, and American Indian non-profit leaders

The Process

- Community of Practice Survey
 - 30 respondents from tribal child welfare agencies and partners
- Interviews
 - 9 individuals from 8 tribal child welfare programs
 - Tribal programs from ~1,800 enrollees to ~180,000 enrollees

What we heard: Concerns

- History of exploitation by researchers
- Cost
- Lack of clarity regarding federal requirements
- Challenging relationships with county and state agencies
- 'One size fits all' approach

What we heard: Strategies

Assess Need and Readiness

- Become educated about data collection and reporting
- Assess tribe's current capacity and need

Build Support

- Build political and grassroots support
- Create a community of invested stakeholders
- Contact advisors at the national level with experience in data system development

Planning

- Strategize resource development
- Identify data system “point person”
- Develop a data system implementation plan

Create or Adapt Data System

- Work closely with IT partners to develop a system that meets organizational needs
- Test system and provide feedback as a committee
- Train workers
- Collect data and report

Ongoing Assessment and Modification

- Reassess data system and training needs frequently
- Develop strategy for technology maintenance
- Participate in a national conversation about the needs of tribal programs around data collection and reporting

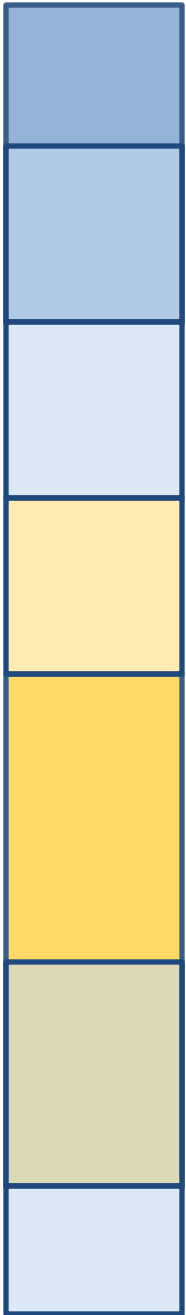
What we heard: Successes

- ① The development of a comprehensive, integrated, tribal data system
 - Drawing from the experience of an Alaska Native Community
- ① Utilizing State and tribal data systems to meet data collection needs
 - Drawing from the experience of a tribally-chartered child welfare program on the Pine Ridge Reservation

Conclusion

- Hopefully the experiences of other tribal programs offers useful information for home visiting grantees. Data collection and reporting can be an intimidating task but, with support and planning, offers an opportunity for tribal programs to gather the information they need to care for their children and communities.

Questions and Comments





Discussion Questions

- What are your experiences with data systems?
 - What data systems have worked for you in the past?
 - What challenges have you experienced?
- What are your concerns?
- How can TA providers support you in developing and modifying data systems?



For more information...

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