

“REALITY EVALUATION”

Evaluation in a
Collaborative Climate

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Criminal Justice Research Division

What Is SANDAG?

- San Diego Association of Governments
- A regional planning agency responsible for long-range planning in a variety of areas that pertain to quality of life issues, including transportation, land use, and criminal justice

More About SANDAG

- Governed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives from the region's 19 local governments
- SANDAG is one of the only council of governments in the country with a Criminal Justice Research Division
- Web site: www.sandag.org/cj

WINGS

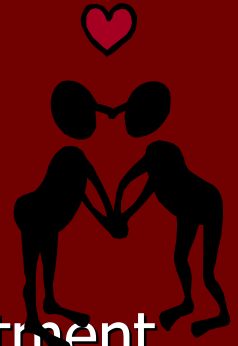
Working To Ensure and Nurture Girls Success

- State Funded Project (Challenge II Grant) – Required Evaluation.
- Players – San Diego Probation Lead Agency and 4 Community- Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Based on “Best Practices”
 - Home-Visiting Model
 - Center-Based Services
 - Located in the Community
- Goal: Reduce Involvement in Juvenile Justice System

"THE PERFECT WORLD"

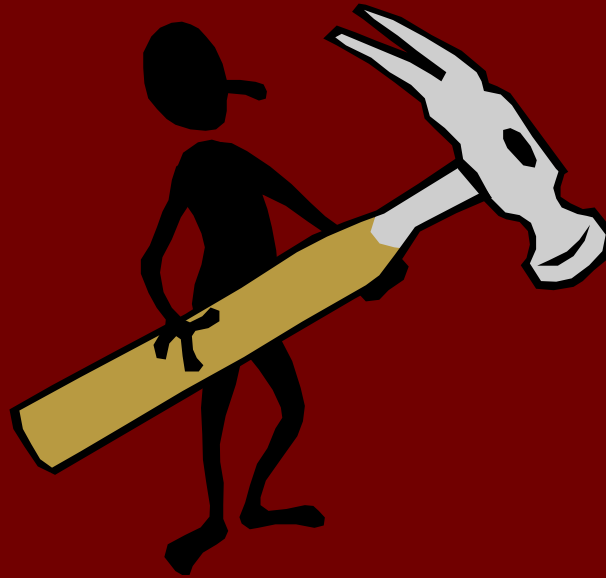


EVALUATION DESIGN

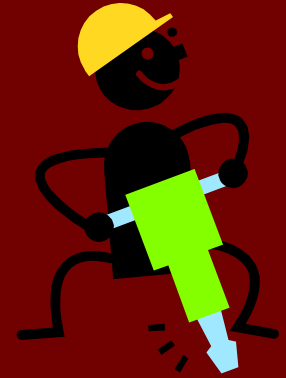


- Experimental Design (800 to comparison and treatment group)
- Process and Impact Evaluation
- Four Year Study
 - During, Exit, 6, 12, and 18 month Follow-up
- Multiple Measures and Sources of Data Collection
 - Assessments
 - Observation
 - Interviews
 - Surveys
 - Archival

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS



KEYS TO SUCCESS



- Establish Relationships
- Active Participation of Evaluator
- Buy-In by Lead Agency
- Educate/Sell Value of Evaluation to Providers
- Share Results with Program
- Listen to Providers' Input
- Centralize Data Collection (i.e. Designated staff)
- Be Flexible
- Clear Communication (Written when possible)

EVALUATION CHALLENGES

“REAL WORLD”



REAL WORLD CHALLENGES



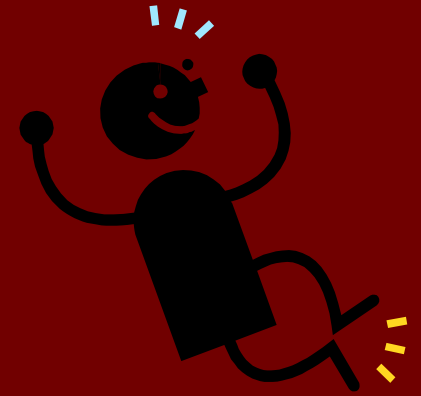
- Passionate Staff (Client centered)
- Individualized Program Design (Different styles and interpretations)
- Staff Turnover (Training issue)
- Dynamic Process (Affects design)
- Attrition (Clients leave)
- Maintaining Objectivity (Balancing relationships with role)
- Reporting Unpopular Findings
- Missing Documentation

REALITY SOLUTIONS: ADJUSTING TO THE SITUATION



- Understanding of CBOs and their Culture
- Document Differences
- Standardize Training Information and Process
- Document Reasons and Impact of Design Changes
- Plan for Attrition (Sufficient "n")
- Objective Measures/Clear Roles
- No Surprises

REALITY BASED



- Blending of Real vs Ideal
- Real Life Results
- Inform Local Policy Decision
- Paradigm Shift in Purpose
- Increase Access to Valuable Information
- Enjoyable

THE PERFECT COMPROMISE

