

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Principles & Practices for Federal Program Evaluation: a Workshop

Thursday, October 27, 2016

History of Federal Program Evaluation

Question for Discussants:

From your experience, both inside and outside the government, what have been the major challenges to the federal government of generating and using rigorous independent research and have circumstances changes over time that lessen or exacerbate those vulnerabilities?

Review of Present Principles by Topic and Agency Coverage

See presentations from:

- Naomi Goldstein (ACF)
- Jack Molyneaux (MCC)
- Ruth Neild (IES)
- Demetra Nightingale (DOL)

What More Do We Need to Understand/What's Missing from Current Evaluation Principles & Practices: A Discussion

Issues and Challenges for Implementing Principles & Practices: A Discussion

- Protect scientific quality
- Make evaluations useful
- Assure transparency
- Promote independence
- Meet ethical standards
- Obtain adequate funding

How Do We Institutionalize the Major Principles? (Discussion)

- Structures and processes internal to agencies in support of the principles
- External entities and their roles in institutionalizing the principles
- Independence of evaluator staff from political and other undue external influences:
- Independence of contractors from agency staff influences:
- Necessity for changes to authorizing legislation
- Ethical practices: Staff training in ethics and review/certification

Garnering Support and Maintaining Focus: A Discussion

- Stakeholder groups with vested interests in a P&P
- Salient aspects of a P&P that need protection and why
- Stakeholders likely to challenge these and the basis for challenging them
- Other “hot button” issues and suggestions for avoiding or mitigating them
- Examples of successful efforts to develop and promulgate acceptance and adoption

Future of Principles & Practices for Federal Program Evaluation: A Discussion about Next Steps