



## Evaluating Our Work: Do I Have the Right Data?

Teresa Grossi, Ph.D., External Evaluator,  
Indiana Institute On Disability and Community, Indiana University  
and  
Paula Sotnik, Evaluation Consultant, Institute On Community Inclusion,  
University of Massachusetts

 **ThinkCollege**  
**NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER**

### What We Hope to Accomplish



- Understand the key questions to collect data for evaluation
- Understand the key factors that need to be considered for a program review or data collection
- Use the right data to answer your key questions



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston.

The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## What happens when you don't collect data?



- Ineffective programs/practices are continued
- Effective programs/practices are discontinued



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## WHAT IF . . . . .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V017LCZxFbs>



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## What is the Intention of Evaluation or Program Review?



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## Key Considerations for Designing a Program Review or Evaluation

1. What's the purpose: **What questions are you trying to answer?**
2. Who is/are the audiences – e.g., funders, customers, management, boards, etc.
3. What **kind of information is needed** to make the decisions or answer your questions?
4. What are the **sources of your information?** EX: program documentation, funder feedback, outcomes, groups of people such as families, students, etc.
5. How will you **collect the data** or information? e.g., surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, examining documents, etc.
6. Do you have a **timeline** for collecting the information?
7. What **resources** are available to collect the information?



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## TRUE or FALSE

Evaluation is about proving the success or failure of a program

**FALSE** - It's about continuous feedback, improvement and adjusting as needed



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## Key Program Review or Evaluation Questions

1. What is the **need** for the program? EX: Needs assessments, identifying gaps
2. Is the program **relevant**? Based on priorities of the organization, Government, Board of Directors or other stakeholders
3. Is the structure of the program **appropriate**? Is it addressing a gap, problem or issue from a needs assessment or other means.

McDavid, Huse, and Hawthorn, 2013



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## TRUE or FALSE

Collecting data to evaluate or review programs can verify if the program is operating as planned

**TRUE:** Are you doing what you think you are doing? Plans change as you put them into place. Data can verify how the program is operating.



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## Key Program Review or Evaluation Questions

4. Is the program **implemented** as intended?
5. Is the program **technically efficient**?



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.





## Assessing Implementation and Technically Efficient

- Reviewing program components EX; Inclusive postsecondary education programs
- The activities and outputs from those activities
- Reviewing or comparing inputs with outputs to determine productivity of the program or costs (how can it be sustained)



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



**TRUE or FALSE:** Collecting and using data is a highly complex process

**FALSE:** We need to consider what information is needed to make decisions about the program issues or needs



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## TRUE or FALSE: Collecting and using data is a highly complex process

**FALSE:** We need to consider what information is needed to make decisions about the program issues or needs



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## Key Program Review or Evaluation Questions

6. Is the program responsible for the outcomes that actually occurred (**effectiveness**)?
7. Did the program achieve its intended outcomes/objectives (**effectiveness**)?
8. Is the program **cost-effective**?
9. Is the program **cost beneficial**?
10. Is the program **adequate**?



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



## Let's Take a Look at An Example



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



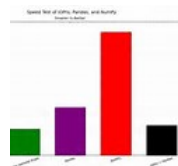
## So . . . What Data Do You Collect?

- It depends . . . on what information you need to make your decisions, to answer your questions, and on your available resources



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.





## Analyzing and Using the Data

- Summarize the data
- Show it in usable visualizations – tables, charts
- Look at patterns
- Consider the strengths and limitations



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



# THANK YOU!

Contact Information:

[tgrossi@indiana.edu](mailto:tgrossi@indiana.edu)  
[paula.sotnik@umb.edu](mailto:paula.sotnik@umb.edu)



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.

