PROGRAM EVALUATION FACT SHEET

Why is program evaluation important for social work practice?

Evaluation provides the information necessary to examine how well a program or initiative is being implemented and determine whether that program is achieving desired results. We all conduct program evaluation in some way.

Advanced Research and Program Evaluation

Students demonstrate the link between the design and conduct of practice-relevant research and practice of social work by exposing students to methods of evaluating practice with individuals, groups, families, and communities.

Field Practicum

Competency 4: "Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Master of Social Work Program

Alabama State University



PROGRAM EVALUATION FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW MSW Students completing their specialization field practicum will also be taking an Advanced Research and Program Evaluation course in which they are tasked with designing a program evaluation using a program they work with at their placement agency. The good news for you and the student is that time spent working on this project while they are at the agency can count towards their field hours.



In order to assist the student in selecting the best fitting program to evaluate, **students will be asked in Week 3 to interview you** using the following interview guide. In some cases, it might be appropriate to refer the students to the agencies program evaluator or CEO to discuss their existing data collection and reporting. Please feel free to reach out to the field instructor or research course instructor to brainstorm how to best support the student integrating program evaluation in their field learning contract. If possible and appropriate, we encourage you to have the students actually conduct the evaluation and present their findings to the program staff.

FIELD SUPERVISOR INTERVIEW ASSIGNMENT Prior to the interview, students will::

1. Identify all programs at the agency: *
2. Select no more than 2 programs in which they plan to work closely with during their placement.

They will also be asked to identify program goals and objectives.

Example:

Program Goal: Reduce recidivism

Program objective: 50% of Fathers who successfully completed a minimum of 75% of the program requirements will not reoffend as measured by not becoming reincarcerated over a 12 month time period post-program completion.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How does the agency keep track of the number of clients served in the program?
2. What data does the agency collect from program participants (e.g., intake forms, case notes, assessment measures, etc.)?
3. Is there anything that you want to know more about how the program is implemented (e.g., staffing, space, training, materials, etc.)
   a. What does the agency need to know about ways to improve how the program is implemented?
   b. What does the agency need to collect to determine whether the goals of the program were met?