
2018 Evaluation Key Findings
(a second, abbreviated session)

May 3, 2019

9:30 – 11 am

Cari Davis, Executive Director, CSHF

Thanks and Acknowledgments



- Vantage Evaluation



- Community Partnership for Child Development



- Community Partnership Family Resource Center

- The 25 participating funded partners

Thanks and Acknowledgments

CSHF Board, especially



Jamie Brown



Overarching Goals for CSHF Evaluation

- Inform Strategy
- Assess Alignment
- Drive Learning

(Reminder: It is impossible to tie CSHF grantmaking to a change in population health outcomes, like diabetes prevalence or the suicide rate. There are too many confounding variables at work.)

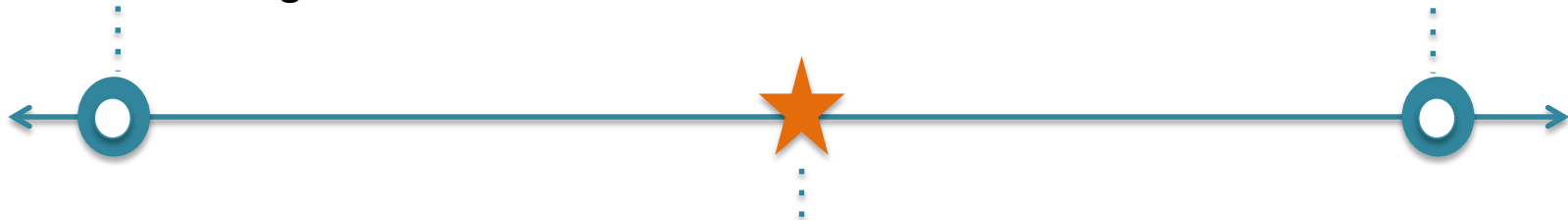
Evaluation Efforts To Date

2017

- Used mixed methods
- Gauged community needs vs. CSHF Funding Focus Areas to **inform strategy**
- Identified alignment between community need, funding focus areas and grant activities

2019

A Learning Collective



2018

- Explored five key areas of interest that influence funded partner effectiveness and CSHF grantmaking
- Used interviews and in-depth case studies
- Assessed understanding and activities to determine strengths and gaps
- Goal is primarily to **drive learning**

Key Interest Areas Explored

- Sustainability
- Collaboration
- Evidence-Based Services
- Culture of Learning
- Health Equity

Key Interest Areas Explored

Why Included?

- Sustainability
- Collaboration
- Evidence-Based Services

Key elements of CSHF's grant decision-making process

- Culture of Learning

A broad term that indicates some level of continuous quality improvement

- Health Equity

A key goal pursued in medicine, philanthropy + public health...the key to making real change in the public's health

METHODS & FINDINGS

Interview Methodology

- Vantage Evaluation conducted all evaluation work; CSHF not involved
- 45-minute structured phone interviews were conducted with 25 funded partners that received funding in the 2017 grant year
- Funded partners were asked questions about at least two interest areas – definitions & actions
- The interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim
- Interview data were analyzed by interest area using a rubric defining high/medium/low understanding and activity levels
- Individual data kept confidential and only reported out in aggregate

Key Findings: Interviews

- **Sustainability:**

Diverse funding sources vs. organizational roles and processes that support organizational and financial strength

- **Collaboration:**

An exchange of relational capital vs. a means to solve a larger problem that no one organization can solve alone

- **Evidence-Based Services:**

Scientifically researched and tested approaches vs. learning and improving from their own data-based evaluation efforts

Key Findings: Interviews (continued)

- **Culture of Learning:**

Individual staff training or understanding community needs vs. systematic process(es) to glean insights (good and bad) from clients, community and their work and learn/improve through it

- **Health Equity:**

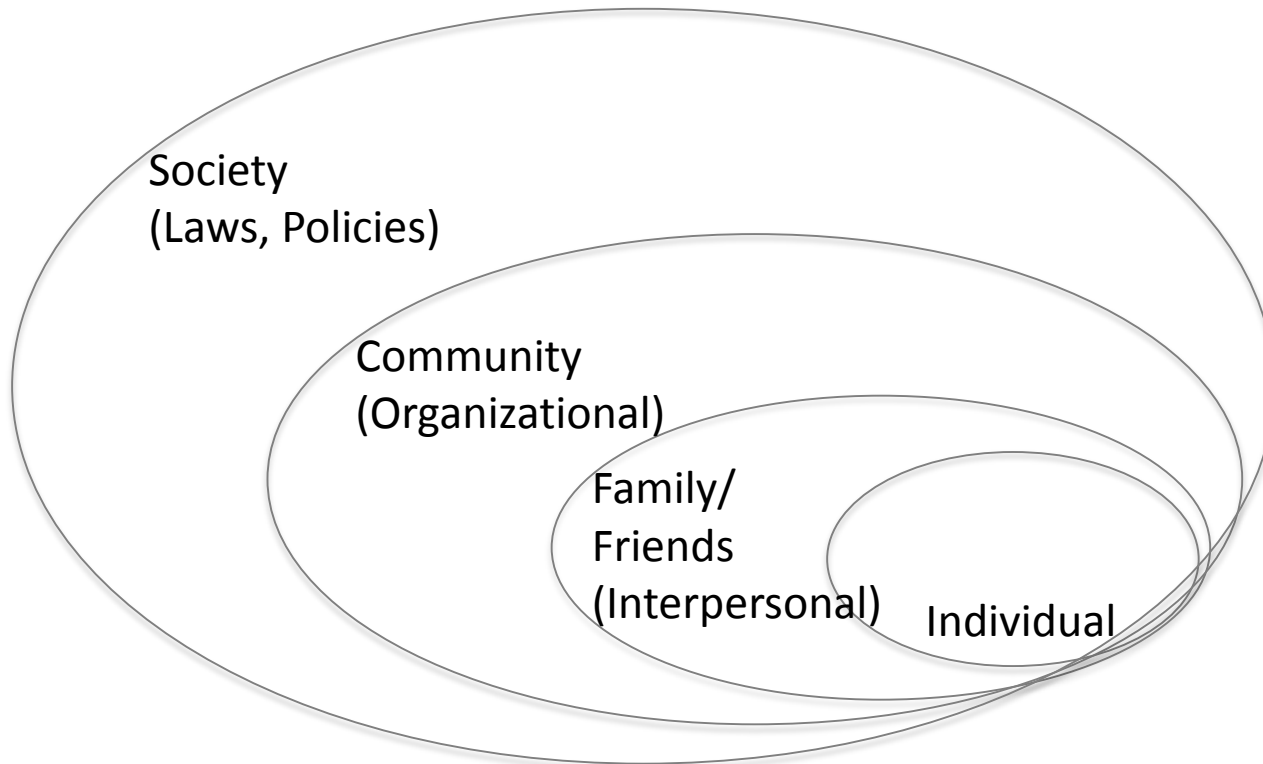
An individual concern, one defined as “equal access to care,” not necessarily one connected to broader systems or root causes

Transcendent Themes



[Hypothesis: The most impactful organizations are addressing **both** the individual and system levels, both the internal and external and everything in between.]

Social Ecological Framework



“A theory-based framework for understanding the multifaceted and interactive effects of personal and environmental factors that determine behaviors, and for identifying behavioral and organizational leverage points.”

- UNICEF

**“To address the world’s toughest challenges,
we will need to move beyond delivering
individual interventions to transforming
entire institutions and ecosystems.”**

- Ann Mei Chang, Lean Impact

In Summary...

- These five concepts are connected
- Regarding these five key concepts, there is a moderate weighting toward the individual vs. systems-level focus
- We believe that the ability to understand and apply these concepts at multiple levels is a meaningful differentiator in organizational impact.
- If this is true, how can CSHF help its funded partners and itself build both understanding and application at all levels, individual, system and everything in between?

Thoughts? Reflections? Questions?

CASE STUDY METHODS & FINDINGS

Methods: Case Studies

- Two in-depth case studies were conducted with:
 - Community Partnership for Child Development
 - Community Partnership Family Resource Center
- Reasons for these two?
 - Urban/suburban and rural
 - Large and small
 - Core funding differences (government vs. grant)
 - Both strong performers
- Vantage Evaluation conducted case study; CSHF staff not involved
- Explored all five concepts with each organization

Key Findings: Case Studies

- Both organizations are part of a larger “superstructure” that helps set performance expectations and provides resources, subject-matter expertise, and guidance
- Both organizations collect and analyze data to inform practice, both because they are required to but also because they find it valuable
- Both organizations rely on evidence-based practices to ground their work, and their “superstructure” organization helps them do this
- Both organizations understand the value and importance of a holistic approach (full family), and often seek partners to help provide holistic services
- Both organizations understand that meaningful adoption of key concepts requires investment (time, money, people) and institutionalization (philosophy, policy, practice)

Key Findings: Case Studies (continued)

Interesting Points Made:

- Use of a dedicated “champion” role for many of these concepts (both CPCD & CPFRC)
- One of the benefits of using evidence-based programs is that they usually come with an evaluation tool (CPFRC)
- “Nonprofit organizations can never achieve sustainability.” (CPFRC)
- No more fundraising events (CPFRC)

Thoughts? Reflections? Questions?

CSHF RELATIONSHIP FINDINGS

Key Findings: Relationship with CSHF

- All 25 funded partners were asked about their relationship with CSHF
- Strengths:
 - Building relationships with funded partners and maintaining open communication with them during the funding cycle (n=14)
 - Understanding the community and focusing resources to address the most important needs (n=6) and participating in learning activities for their own organization (n=4)
 - Providing inclusive funding opportunities that allow for some innovation and alternative approaches (n=5)

Key Findings: Relationship with CSHF (continued)

- Areas for Improvement
 - Diversify funding opportunities such as offering micro-grants (n=6)
 - Increase transparency around the grant process, funding lifecycles and expectations (n=5)
 - Expand the definition of health to be even more inclusive of services, such as funding to support basic needs (n=3)
 - “Help us come together”: helping funded partners engage in relationship building, collaboration and/or information sharing

Thoughts? Reflections? Questions?

Next Steps

- Pilot a “Learning Collective” with an emphasis on building a culture of learning and engaging in evidence-based practice
 - Fact sheet with details is available as you leave today
- Conduct a landscape analysis to better understand where organizations are already collaborating and connecting so we can help our funded partners and others link into these efforts and/or, if needed, help create something anew
- Explore the idea of having a shorter application and process for smaller grant requests
- Include information on the CSHF website regarding how grant decisions are made

2019 Learning Collective

- Focus: Building a Culture of Learning, to include applying evidence-based practices
- Open to 10 health-focused organizations
- Mid-August through December 2019 and will require a total of 84 hours/organization
- Vantage Evaluation will facilitate the Learning Collective
- Organizations must apply to participate. Applications will be available by May 16 and are due June 10. CSHF will notify selected applicants by June 28.
- Participating organization commitment:
 - Two people from the organization participate, and one must be a senior staff person
 - These two people commit to attending two half-days and three full-days of the program, with some homework between meetings
 - Participating organizations agree to send their exec. director and dev. director (or whoever fills the role) to the first and last sessions + a separate 2-hour session for each role.
- Fully participating organizations will receive a \$3,400 grant in recognition of the participating organization's investment
- Interested? Fact sheet available at the door or contact CSHF staff

Thoughts? Reflections? Questions?

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Thank You!

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