It's All About the Data!

Session 1

What is data? Why is it important?

Self-Assessment

Output Vs Outcomes

Data Journey

Data Tools

Questions & Responses

Session 2

Output Vs Outcomes: How to?

Becoming Data Driven

Reflection

Questions & Responses

For data to be meaningful we need to be thoughtful about what data we are collecting and why.



Grief What is Data? Why is it important?

What are your initial thoughts?	Write down any insights:
What is data?	
Why is data important?	How can data be most useful to you?

🕞 Self Assessment

Step 1: Complete the self assessment below.			
1. Have you identified the effect you want your Meals on Wheels program to have on the lives of your participants? (i.e., desired outcomes)			
No	Somev	vhat	Yes
2. Are you currently collecting data related to the changes you want to see? (i.e., desired outcomes)			
No	Somev	vhat	Yes
3. Are the decision-makers in your organization data-use champions?			
Not at all	Somewhat	Mostly	Completely
4. How frequently do people in your organization use data to improve your Meals on Wheels program?			
Never	Rarely	Often	Always
5. What types of obstacles do you see to using data to improve your Meals on Wheels program? (Indicate all that apply.)			
Relevant / Useful Data	Capacity Issues (e.g., time, skills, etc)	Lack of Support	Other
6. How easily accessible is data to staff and decision-makers within your organization?			
Very Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Somewhat Easy	Very Easy

Step 2: Reflect

Ask yourself the following questions as you consider your responses to the self assessment:

a) What areas do you want to improve to help your organization become more datadriven?

b) What would need to change so that your organization becomes more data-driven?

c) What do you have working in your favor?(i.e., Think about where the potential smallest steps for positive change exist.)

Step 3: Pair Share

Find a partner to discuss your reflections. Write down any insights you gain from your conversation.

G Mini – Theory of Change

Step 1: List Activities	Step 2: List outcomes	Step 3: Highlight Key Outcomes
Activities	Outcomes	Ask yourself the following questions:
What does your organization do? List your organization's activities, programs, and/or initiatives.	What are the most important short-term changes in knowledge, attitude, or behavior you expect?	a) Which outcomes are important to achieving your organization's mission?
		b) What are your deal-breakers? I.e., if you're not achieving these outcomes, you would change the way you do your work.
		c) Which outcomes are most important to your stakeholders?
		d) What outcomes could help you make decisions?
		Step 4: Identify Data Collection
		Put a checkmark [\checkmark] next to the outcomes you are already collecting data on.
		Step 5: Reflect
		What steps do you want to take to focus more of your data collection efforts on key outcomes?

🕞 Data Journey Map

Step 1: Participant's Journey

Consider what your participants experience with your program. Include: touch points, activities, and any other experiences.



Step 2: Current Data Collection

Insert comments to indicate when your current data





Data Collection Tools

Methods & Approaches	Details	To what extent is this a good fit for your organization?
Focus Groups	A group discussion designed to explore a topic.	
	Participants can build on each other's comments.	
	Good facilitation is needed.	
Documents Analysis	Review existing documents.	
	Helpful for gaining information about an organization's background or processes.	
	Information may be incomplete and unorganized.	
Interviews	One-on-one conversation designed to explore a given topic.	
	You can ask for clarification on the spot.	
	Can be time consuming and will require a facilitator.	
Participatory Mapping	Participants are asked to draw on a geographical map to explore a topic (e.g., where community resources are located).	
	Good facilitation is needed.	
Pre- / Post- Survey	Participants respond to questions before an intervention. Then, respond to the same questions afterwards.	
	Participants do not know what they don't know before your program. Responses may be skewed.	
Post-Survey	Participants respond to questions after the program.	
Observations	Data collector observes participants in their natural environment. Observer documents what takes place and often may use a rubric to guide their observation.	
	Time and resource intensive.	
	Analysis may be difficult.	
Reflective-Post Survey	Participants respond to questions that ask them to reflect on their beliefs, abilities, behaviors, etc., before the intervention and then after.	

Specific Examples of Existing Tools

ΤοοΙ	Description	To what extent is this a good fit with your key outcomes?
AARP Isolation Impact Assessment Tool	Assesses the extent to which someone is feeling detached physically or psychologically, or disconnected from support groups of family, friends, and community.	
Administration on Aging's Performance Outcome Measurement Project Toolkit	This toolkit provides surveys that are designed to evaluate services: Congregate Meals Survey, Home-Delivered Meals Survey, Physical Functioning and Health Module, Social and Emotional Well-Being Module, and more.	
Generalized Anxiety Disorder Questionnaire	This is a survey used to determine if an individual could have Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD).	
Hunger Vital Sign	Two survey questions used to identify families with young children who may be at risk for food insecurity.	
National Health and Aging Trends Study	This is an interview guide used to gather data from representative sample of Medicare beneficiaries ages 65 and older. Topics include: health conditions, home environment, community, mobility, self-care, economic well-being, facility questionnaire, and more.	
National Survey of Older American Act Participants	This is a national survey of programs aimed at helping seniors.	
Patient Health Questionnaire	This is a survey used to screen, diagnose, monitor, and measure depression.	
UCLA Loneliness Scale	A 20-item scale that measures one's feelings of loneliness and social isolation.	
USDA Food Insecurity Survey	Assesses financially based food insecurity and hunger.	

Tip: *Rigor resides in rigorous thinking not methods.* - Michael Quinn Patton Start with the path of least resistance. What does your organization have the will-power & capacity to do? Explore what others have done to collect data on the concepts (e.g., key outcomes) you're interested in.



Step 1: Listen & Take Notes

Becoming Data-Driven
Questioner
Questions:

Step 2: Reflect

What was the most useful idea or insight for you?

What next steps do you plan to take?

🕞 Our Resources

Join our mailing list: http://bit.ly/ConnectingEvidence

You're busy making the world a better place. I want to send you regular resources so that you can focus more time on what's important: helping your community.

Ask an Evaluator: http://bit.ly/AskEvaluator

Do you have a question about how to collect or use data? I will be creating a new series answering your questions.

Watch the YouTube Channel: http://bit.ly/CE_YouTube

I provide regular resources that are easy to access. This channel will provide regular tips, answer your questions, and clarify common data topics.

Learning Hub: http://bit.ly/CE_LearningHub

Connecting Evidence already has a number of resources that you might be interested in. For example, an outline on how to build a theory of change, how to conduct a stakeholder analysis and more.

Stay in touch!

Twitter: @ConnectingData Facebook: http://bit.ly/FB_ConnectingEvidence Linked In: http://bit.ly/Linked_CE Website: ConnectingEvidence.com

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