

Using developmental evaluation in health service research: A collaborative approach to qualitative data analysis

Gail V Barrington, PhD, Barrington Research Group Inc.; Steven Friesen, Bethany Care Society;

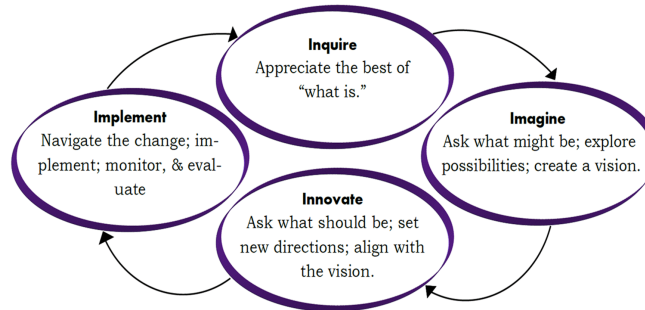
Sandra Woodhead Lyons, Institute for Continuing Care Education & Research; Sharla King, PhD, University of Alberta

“Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a form of action research that attempts to create new theories/ideas/images that aide in the developmental change of a system” (Cooperrider & Srivastva, 1987). This evaluation project adopted the AI model to evaluate Learning Circles in continuing care sites. Reflecting back on our evaluation team’s process, we realized we mirrored the AI evaluation approach by focusing on the strengths of each team member in a collaborative way.

This emergent, collaborative, and strength-based approach addressed the complexities inherent in the complex and distinct datasets and enhanced the richness of findings and the depth of study implications.

Team Complexity

- 1 Project Manager
- 1 Evaluation Consultant
- 2 Principal Investigators
- 2 Research Assistants
- 2 Cities for staff
- 9 Knowledge Users



Model adapted from Preskill and Catsambas (2006)

Project Complexity

- 8 Continuing care facilities
- 9 Learning circles
- 9 Case studies
- 12 Evaluation tools
- 14 Coaching journals
- 15 Site visits
- 15 Focus groups
- 16 Interviews
- 53 Tracking sheets
- 81 Self-assessment questionnaires

Team Approach

- Appreciative philosophy for the team
- Multidisciplinary
- Regular contact
- Monthly status reports allowed for quick action
- Support by team members for each other’s ideas
- Respect for our stakeholders
- Inclusive decision making

Evaluation Approach

- The logic model remained fluid.
- Study tools emerged as the team gained project knowledge and were tailored to individual sites.
- The diverse data sets were coded, themed, linked by research questions, and compiled into comprehensive workbooks.
- Workbooks were used as the main resource for a day-long data analysis workshop.
- The Evaluation Team’s validated discussions were added to the data mix.
- The Evaluation Team and site representatives met for a 1/2 day workshop to streamline and target the recommendations and conclusions.
- The workshop was recorded, transcribed, and summarized.
- The emergent conclusions were fed back to site sponsors and facilitators.

For more information on the Learning Circles study, go to: http://www.iccer.ca/cndrn_lc.html



For additional information on ICCEr:

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