



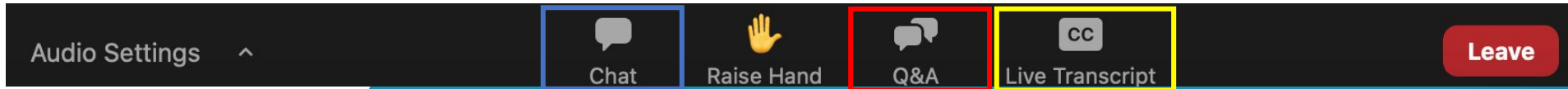
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# Program Evaluation for Mentoring Programs Working with Youth Impacted by Substance Misuse

**07/25/2023**

# Participate in Today's Webinar

- All attendees muted for best sound
- Type questions in the **Q&A** panel
- Type comments in the **Chat** box
- **Live captions** available in the panel by clicking on the “**CC**” at the bottom of the screen
- Respond to polls
- Who is with us today?
  - Type in the **Chat** to introduce yourself!
  - For all participants to see your message, change to “All panelists and attendees” in the Chat



# Good to Know...

**One week after the webinar, all attendees receive an email with:**

- Instructions for how to access a PDF of presentation slides and webinar recording

**Please help us out by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.**

**These materials will also be posted on the OJJDP NMRC website, at [www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org](http://www.nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org)**



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# National Mentoring Resource Center & Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- This project is funded through a cooperative agreement from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, & the U.S. Department of Justice.
- The NMRC builds on OJJDP's history, leadership, and investments in quality youth mentoring.



# National Mentoring Resource Center Overview

## Key Components:

- National Mentoring Resource Center Website
  - Great Practitioner Focused Blog
  - Grantee Dedicated Part of Site
  - Numerous Research Vetted Resources
  - Evidence Reviews on Programs, Models, and Populations
- Research Board
- Training and Technical Assistance!
  - No-Cost Assistance For Your Youth Mentoring Program



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# Who's in the room?

## Answer the poll!

What is your role in mentoring?

- Staff, mentor, program director, etc.



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# Agenda

- Introduction of panelists
- Our approach:
  - Why do we focus on programs for youth impacted by substance misuse?
  - Why is it important to do a program evaluation?
- Case example
- The SPR Evaluation standards
- Discussion: Feasibility of conducting program evaluation
- Q & A
- Resources & Closing



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# Meet Our Panelists!



**Gizem Erdem, PhD, I-LMFT**

Associate Professor Psychology,  
Koç University



**Nicholle Evans**

Director of Specialized Programs,  
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast



**Brooke Allen**

Director, Amachi, Knoxville  
Leadership Foundation



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# Substance Misuse & Mentoring Programs

- By senior year of high school, almost 70% of students in the U.S. will have tasted alcohol, about half will have taken an illegal drug and more than 20% will have used a prescription drug for a non prescribed purpose. 3.6% of adolescents aged 12–17 in the United States reported misusing opioids (primarily in the form of prescriptions) over the past year.
- 4/10 studies assessing general substance use reported a positive effect of mentoring, such as a decrease in the number of days of substance use, a protective effect regarding substance use concerns, less use in the past month or general reduction in use.
- A 2017 MENTOR study found that only about 3% of the nation's mentoring programs listed substance misuse as a top four focus for their matches.



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# The Significance of Mentoring Program Evaluation

## Why do we need program evaluation?


- Identify who needs what? How? How long?
- Understand impact of our work (above and beyond dissemination).
  - Does it work? How does it work?
  - Are there subgroups that benefit the most?
- Obtain funding & resources, recognition
- Making programs more cost-effective
  - identify key areas and allocate resources on them.
  - 'Less is more'



# The Significance of Mentoring Program Evaluation

- Output evaluation: activities, resources, deliverables, dissemination
  - i.e., number of youth & families engaged in the program, number of mentoring sessions, different types of activities & number of attendees, reception of the program (exit surveys), satisfaction, referrals, program resources (manuals, booklets, videos)...
- Outcome evaluation: understand the impact of the program via objective measures (surveys, archival data, digital data etc.)
  - i.e., obtain school records (GPA) before, during and after the intervention; collect surveys from parents & youth about internalizing & externalizing behaviors;
  - Trade off... research rigor vs. resources and feasibility



A group of diverse young people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are smiling and looking upwards. They are wearing colorful clothing like orange, yellow, and blue. A semi-transparent white box with a thin black border is centered over the image, containing the title text.

# **A Case Study: Mentoring Program Example**

# Youth Connect Mentoring Program

- **Community-based nonprofit** in operation since 1995 w/ budget of \$400,000 per year
- **Staff:** ED, Development Coord, 2 Match Support Specialists, Marketing Specialist
- **Mentees:** 250 13-18 years old boys referred to program by family members or teachers; youth frequently have substance-misusing parents. Mentees live in a very high crime neighborhood with few resources and high access to opioids.
- **Mentors:** Community members recruited from a variety of locations, with college students and retirees making up the largest groups of mentors. 60% of the mentors are male.
- **Program:** 12 month duration, group format (2 mentors for 10 boys), after school every Wednesday with occasional weekend outings
- **Program Goals/Mission:** Promotion of coping skills (social, individual, emotional regulation) to prevent misuse



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# An Example of Program Evaluation

- Target group: age range, define 'risk' group of substance misuse, inclusion vs. exclusion criteria
- Decide on sample size & control condition (wait-listed? assign resources? minimal case management?)
- Randomization OR groups should be as equivalent as possible at baseline
- Program components & mechanisms of change
- Program goals → dependent variables → measures (valid, reliable, age-appropriate, short...)
- Assessment (Baseline, mid-intervention, post-intervention, follow up; targeted completion 70%)
- Collect data regardless of program attendance, esp. at baseline
- Group comparisons: match, program completers vs. early dropouts vs. no shows
- Quality of program implementation:
  - Standardize manual, practices, training, mentor characteristics, matching
  - Assess & follow up adherence, fidelity, supervision



# Feasibility of Program Evaluation

- What are some hurdles you had to overcome while collecting data/feedback (Pre/post testing/surveys)?
- What strategies have you develop to ensure you are collecting accurate information?
- How do you fill in the gaps of missing data?
- How to you cater to a wide variety of personalities, stages, and learning types while collecting information?
- What are the low to no cost solutions?



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**Questions?**

# Resources

- Check out National Mentoring Resource Center website for more!
  - <https://nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org>
  - Resources  Measurement Guidance Toolkit
    - Assessment tools and scales
    - Evaluation tips
    - [Research Board Members](#)



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