

HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using a Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-Building

Webinar 6:

Emily Schmitt (Administration for Children and Families [ACF])

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

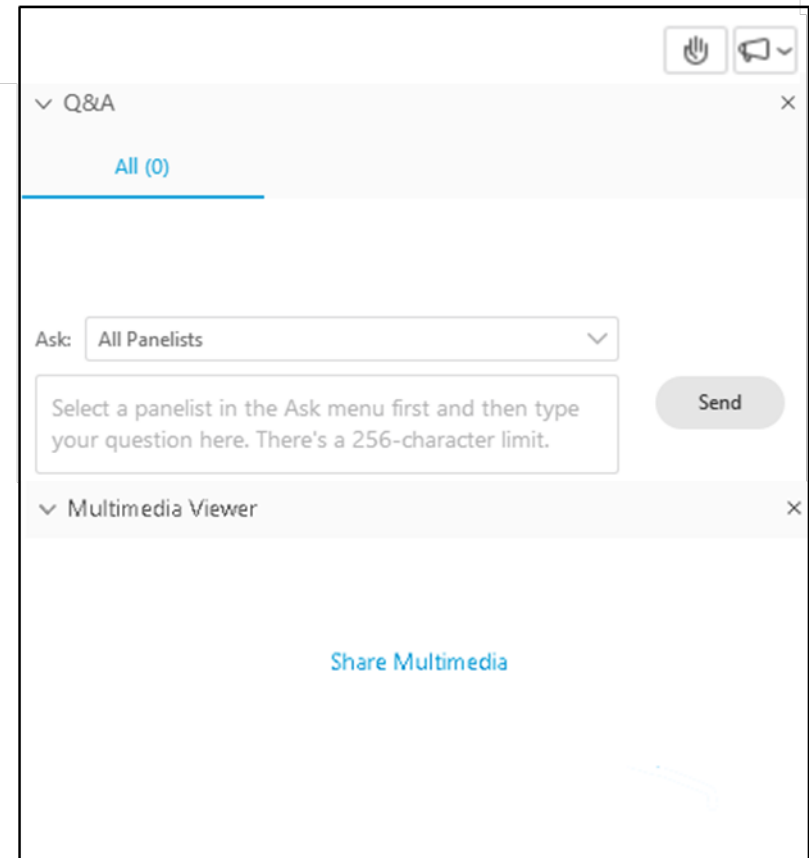
3:00–4:00 p.m. EDT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Webinar Logistics

- Mute phone, unless speaking
- Q&A
- Hand raising
- Closed-captioning (multimedia viewer)



Agenda

3:00–3:05	Welcome	Jessica McNab (Mathematica)
3:05–3:15	Recap of webinar series and events to date	Amanda Cash (ASPE)
3:15–3:45	Speaker presentation	Emily Schmitt (ACF)
3:45–3:55	Q&A	All
3:55–4:00	Wrap-up and next steps	Jessica McNab



Meet the Speakers



Jessica McNab, Researcher and Task Lead (Mathematica)

Jessica leads curriculum development and facilitates shared learning for technical assistance projects focused on quality improvement and delivery system reform. In previous roles, she led a team of improvement specialists at a managed care hospital system and directed technical assistance focused on rapid cycle improvement in hospitals.



Amanda Cash, Acting Director, Division of Data Policy (ASPE)

Dr. Cash's portfolio includes research on evaluation methodologies that are appropriate for complex federal programs. She co-leads the federal Task Force for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. Her office is coordinating and leading implementation of Title I of the Evidence Act, which is focused on implementing evidence-building and evaluation plans. An epidemiologist by training, Dr. Cash now works primarily on evaluation, evidence, and antimicrobial resistance.



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Meet the Speakers – Cont'd



Emily Schmitt, Deputy Director, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (ACF)

Ms. Schmitt works closely with ACF's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research and Evaluation to plan and execute OPRE's mission to build evidence to improve the lives of children and families.

Series Objectives

- The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) is the policy think tank for the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Our office is leading the implementation efforts for Title I of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act).
- The webinar series aims to do the following:
 - Consider the array of strategies to create and implement evidence-building and evaluation plans as required by the Evidence Act.
 - Support an ongoing, readily accessible resource for federal agency staff and others who may be implementing evaluation planning efforts.
 - Support the creation of a summary report that will draw from the webinar series and other relevant literature.



Series Recap

Webinar 1: July 18, 2019 - NIH, Drs. Marina Volkov and Ajay Vatave

Webinar 2: July 23, 2019 - USDA, FAS, Ellie Morefield

Webinar 3: July 30, 2019 - CNCS, Dr. Mary Hyde

Webinar 4: August 8, 2019 - NSF, Cynthia Phillips and Rebecca Kruse

Webinar 5: August 13, 2019 – SBA, Brittany Borg



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Polls: Baseline Data

- Learning interests
- Stage of implementation



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ACF

**EMILY SCHMITT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PLANNING, RESEARCH
AND EVALUATION**

Agency Profile - ACF

- ACF is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services. We promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals and communities with leadership and resources for compassionate, effective delivery of human services.
- ACF administers more than 60 programs with an FY19 budget of more than \$58 billion.
- Programs include: Child Care, Head Start, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Child Welfare, Child Support Enforcement, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Refugee Resettlement, and more.

Agency Profile - OPRE

- The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) builds, and disseminates knowledge about effective approaches to helping low-income children and families through rigorous research and evaluation projects including:
 - Evaluations of existing programs and innovative approaches to help low-income children and families
 - Research syntheses
 - Descriptive and exploratory studies
- OPRE also works to improve the quality, usefulness, sharing, and analysis of data to improve ACF programs and program participants' outcomes
- OPRE conducts research and other activities in the areas where Congress has given us authority and funds.

Agency Profile – Evaluation Policy

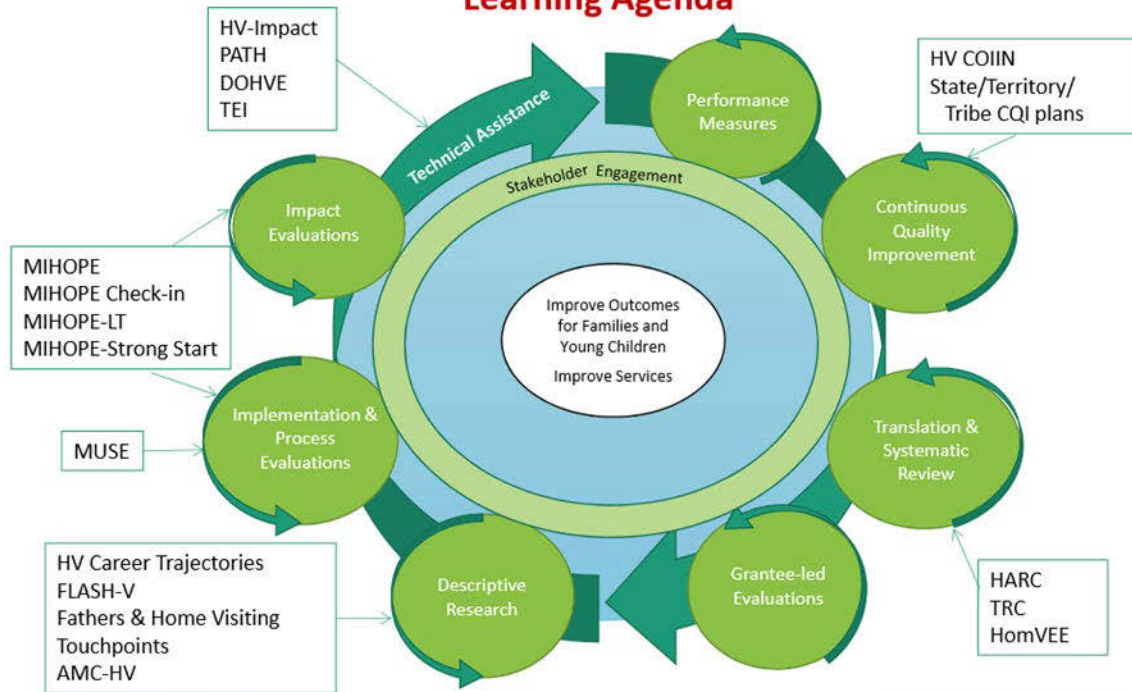
- ACF seeks to promote **rigor, relevance, transparency, independence, and ethics** in the conduct of evaluations. ACF's Evaluation Policy, which was established in 2012, addresses these five key principles to govern ACF's planning, conduct, and use of evaluation.

Current Approach

- Consult with Stakeholders
 - Internal Stakeholders – consulted at least annually during research planning process
 - External Stakeholders – example efforts
- Produce Annual Research Plan
- Produce Annual Research Portfolios
- Create Learning Agendas

Current Approach – Con'd

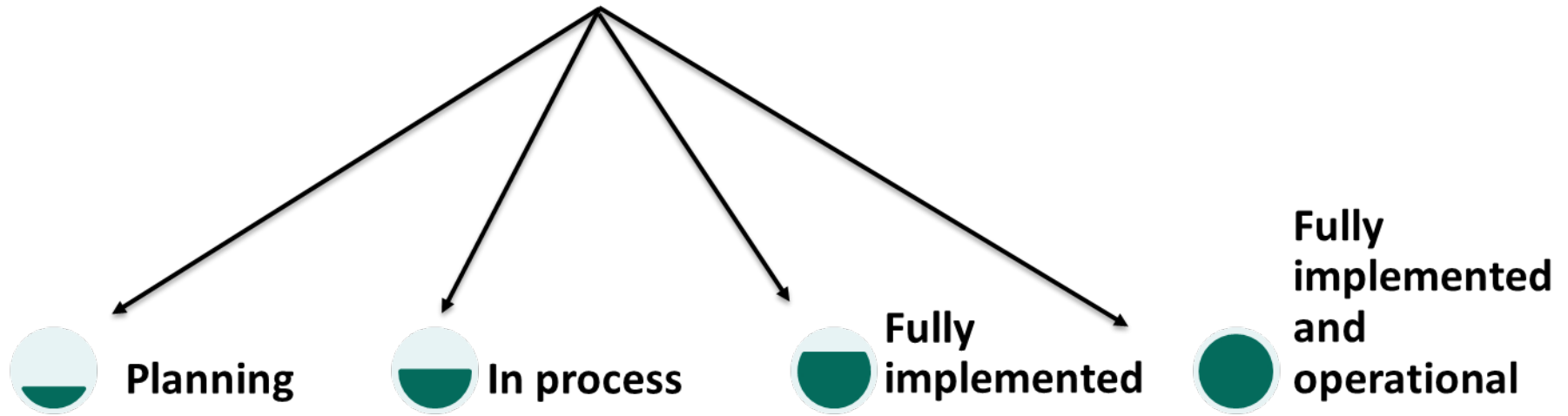
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Learning Agenda



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

HRSA
Maternal & Child Health

Stage of Implementation



Multiple stages of implementation

Next Steps

- Produce an agency-wide, multi-year learning agenda
 - Start by documenting what we've done to date
- Take stock and consider areas for improvement
 - Consider additional avenues for stakeholder outreach
 - Consider expanding to additional program areas
 - Consider expanding to additional types of learning

Challenges and Strategies

Challenge

Existing learning agendas → agency-wide learning agenda

Strategy

Need to balance flexibility and structure in agency-wide learning agenda

Challenge

Existing resources and authorities don't apply to all ACF program areas

Strategy

Take stock of where we are and ask for resources where needed

Challenge

Research Agendas → Learning Agendas

Strategy

Learn from program areas that are currently doing this well

Expected Impact

- Identify best practices and opportunities for improvement in our planning processes
- Better document how learning activities contribute to evidence-building over time
- Help identify gaps and priority learning questions
- Help communicate learning plans and priorities

Lessons Learned

- Learning is a helpful frame
- Learning agendas can help introduce ongoing activities to new program and agency leadership
- Learning agendas provide a useful framework for planning

Q&A

What questions do you have for Emily?



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Wrap-up: Access to Materials

The image shows a browser window displaying the Mathematica website. The address bar shows the URL <https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/>. The browser's address bar includes a search field and navigation icons. The website's header features the Mathematica logo with the tagline "Progress Together" on the left. On the right, there are links for "About", "Careers", and "Contact". Below these, a navigation menu includes "EVIDENCE", "INSIGHTS", "FOCUS AREAS", "SERVICES & PRODUCTS", and "EVENTS", along with a search icon. A red arrow points to the "EVIDENCE" link. The main content area has a green background with the text "Progress together" and a sub-headline: "Mathematica's expertise at the intersection of data, methods, policy, and practice helps improve well-being around the world. We collaborate with our partners to translate big questions into insights that enrich programs, refine strategies, and enhance understanding." Below this text is a "VIEW VIDEO >" button. At the bottom, there are two sections: "TOPICS IN THE NEWS" on the left and "Featured Evidence & Insights" on the right.

Wrap-up: Access to Materials – Cont'd

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the URL <https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/evidence>. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website header includes the Mathematica logo with the tagline "Progress Together" and a navigation menu with links for "About", "Careers", "Contact", "EVIDENCE", "INSIGHTS", "FOCUS AREAS", "SERVICES & PRODUCTS", and "EVENTS". A search icon is located to the right of the "EVENTS" link, with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the header, the page content is titled "Evidence" and includes a paragraph describing the organization's work. To the right of the main text is a dark blue sidebar menu with the heading "EVIDENCE" and three items: "Publications", "Projects", and "Working Papers", each with a right-pointing chevron. Two red arrows point to the "Publications" and "Projects" items. Below this menu is a green section titled "RECENT EVIDENCE" with a single item: "Value-Based Care Service for States". At the top right of the content area, there are links for "PRINT", "SUBSCRIBE", and "SHARE".

Wrap-up: Access to Materials – Cont'd

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Mathematica MPR website. The address bar shows the URL: <https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/evidence/projects?q=aspe&sort=relevancy>. The page header includes the Mathematica logo with the tagline "Progress Together" and navigation links for "About", "Careers", "Contact", "EVIDENCE", "INSIGHTS", "FOCUS AREAS", "SERVICES & PRODUCTS", and "EVENTS". The breadcrumb trail reads "HOME > EVIDENCE > PROJECTS". A search bar contains the text "aspe", with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the search bar, there are filters for "Content Date" (Nov 15, 2010 - Dec 31, 2019) and "Focus Area" (Health: 12, Human Services: 9). The search results show "Results 1-10 of 23 for aspe" and a sorting option "RELEVANCY DATE". The first result is titled "Webinar Series and Summary Report on Developing and Using Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans for Improved Decision-Making".

Mathematica
Progress Together

HOME > EVIDENCE > PROJECTS

PRINT SUBSCRIBE SHARE

aspe

Content Date
Nov 15, 2010 - Dec 31, 2019

Focus Area

- Health 12
- Human Services 9

Results 1-10 of 23 for aspe

RELEVANCY DATE

[Webinar Series and Summary Report on Developing and Using Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans for Improved Decision-Making](#)

This webinar series and summary report consider the array of federal agency strategies to create and implement evidence-building and evaluation plans (i.e., learning agendas) as a result of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (Evidence Act).

Wrap-up: Access to Materials – Cont'd

https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/projects/webinar-series-and-summary-report-on-developing-and-using-evidence-building-and-evaluation-plans-for

Webinar Series and Summa... x

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HOME PROJECT PRINT SUBSCRIBE SHARE

Webinar Series and Summary Report on Developing and Using Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans for Improved Decision-Making

2019–2019

Prepared for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

This webinar series and summary report consider the array of federal agency strategies to create and implement evidence-building and evaluation plans (i.e., learning agendas) as a result of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act ([Evidence Act](#)). These materials serve as ongoing, readily accessible resources for federal agency staff and others who may be implementing evidence building and evaluation plans. Please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation’s website to access a listing of select [federal evaluation resources](#).

Related Staff
Jessica Heeringa
[Read More](#)

Daniel Finkelstein
[Read More](#)

Leslie Foster
[Read More](#)

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Wrap-up: Access to Materials – Cont'd

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Mathematica website. The URL in the address bar is [https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/relatedcontent?itemID={648FE299-4205-4FA9-9041-551B80E12C52}&relatedcontent=Related Publications](https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/relatedcontent?itemID={648FE299-4205-4FA9-9041-551B80E12C52}&relatedcontent=Related%20Publications). The page features the Mathematica logo with the tagline "Progress Together" and a navigation menu with links for "EVIDENCE", "INSIGHTS", "FOCUS AREAS", "SERVICES & PRODUCTS", "EVENTS", and a search icon. The main content area is titled "Related Publications for Webinar Series and Summary Report on Developing and Using Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans for Improved Decision-Making". Two red arrows point to specific publication links: one to "HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-building (Webinar 5 Slides: SBA)" dated Aug 13, 2019, and another to "HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-building (Webinar 4 Slides: NSF)" dated Aug 08, 2019. Each link is followed by a brief summary and a "READ MORE >" button.

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EVIDENCE INSIGHTS FOCUS AREAS SERVICES & PRODUCTS EVENTS

Related Publications for Webinar Series and Summary Report on Developing and Using Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans for Improved Decision-Making

[HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-building \(Webinar 5 Slides: SBA\)](#)

Aug 13, 2019

On August 13, 2019, Brittany Borg from the Small Business Administration presented on the agency's approach to create and implement evidence-building and an evaluation plan, as required by the Evidence Act.

[READ MORE >](#)

[HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-building \(Webinar 4 Slides: NSF\)](#)

Aug 08, 2019

On August 8, 2019, Cynthia Phillips and Rebecca Kruse from the National Science Foundation presented on the agency's approach to create and implement evidence-building and an evaluation plan, as required by the Evidence Act.

[READ MORE >](#)

Wrap-up: Access to Materials – Cont'd

https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/publications/hhs-aspe-webinar-series-developing-using-learning-agenda-approach-to-evidence-building-video-2

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HOME • PUBLICATION

HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-building (Webinar 2 Video: USDA, FAS)

Publisher: Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Jul 23, 2019 Authors Eleanor Morefield, Amarida Cash, and Jessica McNab

On July 23, 2019, Eleanor "Elle" Morefield from the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff team, in the United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agriculture Service, Office of Capacity Building and Development, presented on the agency's approach to create and implement evidence-building and an evaluation plan, as required by the Evidence Act. Elle detailed the anatomy of the agency's learning agenda processes, current stage of implementation for rolling out the learning agendas, expected impact of the learning agendas, next steps in the process, and lessons learned to share with other federal agency staff and those who may be implementing evaluation planning efforts.

Series Objectives

The webinar series aims to:

- Consider the array of strategies to create and implement evidence-building and evaluation plans as required by the Evidence Act
- Support an ongoing, readily accessible process for federal agency staff and others who may be implementing evaluation efforts
- Support the creation of a summary report that will draw from the webinar series and other relevant literature

Senior Staff
Dr. Murtza Walker and Amy Vitale

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

[USDA Food for Progress Learning Agenda](#)

[USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Learning Agenda](#)

View the [slides](#) and [transcript](#) from the July 23 webinar.

Download Publication

Project
Webinar Series and Summary Report on Developing and Using Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans for Improved Decision-Making

FUNDERS
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

TIME FRAME
2019-2019

VIEW PROJECT >

Senior Staff
Jessica McNab
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Webinar Evaluation

- Quality
- Expectations (objectives)
- Content
- Actionability



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Wrap-Up

- Project page: <https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/projects/webinar-series-and-summary-report-on-developing-and-using-evidence-building-and-evaluation-plans-for>
- Webinar 7: Demetra Nightingale (Urban Institute, formerly DOL) - Thursday, August 29, 12:00–1:00 p.m. EDT



Thank You!

Please send feedback, comments, or questions to the following address:

ASPE Evidence-Building Team

aspevidencebuilding@mathematica-mpr.com



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