Lessons learned from Evaluating the Bounce Back League (BBL): Implications for Policy and Practice Moving Forward

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## Purpose

- To share the value gained from the adoption of a Utilization-Focused Approach to Evaluation
- To highlight the importance of a train the trainer model for fostering program sustainability within community organizations



BOUNCE BACK LEAGUE



- Coaches trained in psychoeducation of trauma
- Re-designing sport to be more intentional using trauma-sensitive philosophies
- Age group: 8 to 12 years old
- Predominantly at-risk youth



### Seasons of Play





Seasons of 8-10 weeks each

Variety of sports

Trauma-sensitive features

## Some Features of Sport in BBL



Body Awareness

**Unlimited Timeouts** 

The Zone

**Creative Play** 

# **Evaluating BBL**

#### Framework: Utilization Focused Evaluation

#### **Key Tenets:**

- Evaluations should be judged by utility & use
- Collaborative, facilitative and flexible process
  - Intended users are key partners
- Focus on priority research questions



Data Analysis: Quantitative & Qualitative



Surveys, interviews, observations, logbooks & report cards

Results shared in meetings, presentations and reports to BGCC

#### Learning From Our Experience: Adaptations and Adjustments

- Strong *partnership* and *focus on use* has led to positive program adaptations and evaluation practices that are feasible
- Integrate the BBL with existing sport/league programming
- Take the long view: No single season will get it exactly right
- Data collection is a challenge in non-profit sector and with youth
  Integration of evaluation activities with programming is key
  Creativity is needed with youth integrated & engaging activities

### Train -the-Trainer Model

#### Building the capacities of peer facilitators to train community staff



Orfaly et al. 2005; Weingarten et al. 2018

## **BBL** Train the Trainer Process



## **Results to Date**

#### **Challenges:**

- Anxiety in taking on new leadership roles
- Unclear expectations of roles moving forward

#### **Successes:**

- Improved confidence through practice
- Enhanced communication & instructional skills
- Positive intentions to continue and expand training
- Identity as champions of trauma-informed sport approaches

I feel we have some expertise or feel confident to be able to speak about what traumainformed practice is....Being people that other clubs could reach out to and say "hey, we wanna know more" or other organizations could know that we have a training plan

# Thank You Questions?

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