



# Institute for Community Health

A collaboration of the Cambridge Health Alliance, Mount Auburn Hospital, and Partners Healthcare

## 2007 AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION

### **Improving the evaluation of federally funded interventions requiring the use of government performance results act (GPRA) instruments: A participatory approach.**

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**Abstract:** This presentation highlights the value of utilizing a participatory evaluation approach when working with community agencies receiving federal funding for prevention and intervention services. Drawing from our experience as evaluators of a SAMHSA-funded substance abuse, HIV and Hepatitis prevention program targeting homeless young adults, we will describe the importance of and strategies for creating a participatory evaluation partnership with program implementers. By participatory evaluation we mean the active involvement of program implementers in defining the evaluation, developing instruments, collecting data, discussing findings, and disseminating results. There are a number of challenges faced when using this approach with federally funded programs that require the use of standardized measurement tools and data collection procedures. Strategies for assessing these challenges and striking a balance between federal requirements and local needs will be described. These strategies help to increase the support for evaluation requirements and the usefulness of evaluation data for program implementers.