

**SOUTHEAST EVALUATION ASSOCIATION
21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**THE WOLF IS AT THE DOOR:
ADDING VALUE IN LEAN TIMES**



AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION

**FEBRUARY 23-24, 2009
TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

About SEA

The Southeast Evaluation Association (SEA) is an affiliate of the American Evaluation Association. We represent evaluators and evaluation-related professionals from local, state, university, and private sectors. Our members come from a variety of backgrounds, including policy analysis, auditing, teaching, program evaluation, management analysis, and performance measurement.

SEA programs cover a wide range of topics: technologies, accountability, quality, multicultural evaluation, contracting, performance assessment, skill building, outcome measurement, and more. SEA's annual conference attracts nationally recognized speakers and participants from the entire southeast region. Many organizations use our programs and conferences, taking advantage of our low-cost training and networking opportunities for their staff.

Programs are open to SEA members and non-members, and are often free for members. Members receive periodic newsletters, a membership directory, and reduced conference fees.

For more information about SEA, please visit our website <http://www.southeastevaluation.com>, email us at seacoordinator@southeastevaluation.com, or write us at

SEA
P.O. Box 10125
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Past Presidents of SEA

Betty Serow 2007
Kaye Kendrick 2006
Fran Berry 2005
Gary VanLandingham 2004
Carolyn Herrington 2003
Yvonne Bigos 2002

Sahira Abdulla 2001
John Green 2000
Becky Lyons 1999
Barbara Foster 1998
Glenn Mitchell 1997
Linda Schrader 1996

Carole Massey 1995
Ora Kromhout 1994
Margarida Southard 1993
Flora Caruthers 1992
Mary Ellzey 1991
Meredith Papagiannis-Fossel 1990

Romeo Massey 1989
Constance Bergquist 1988
Garrett Foster 1987



AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION

February 23, 2009

Welcome!

On behalf of the entire Board of the Southeast Evaluation Association, I am pleased to welcome you to our 21st annual conference, THE WOLF IS AT THE DOOR: ADDING VALUE IN LEAN TIMES.

If your employer is anything like mine, you are concerned about eliminated positions and having to do more work with less people. This conference will give us some ideas about how to weather these tough times.

At the very least, our conference has always been a wonderful venue for sharing information, and a place to network with colleagues we do not get to see often.

The annual conference and the many workshops we have sponsored during the year are the ways the Executive Board meets its goal of helping you determine the best way to add value to your own organization. Use the next two days to share information, greet old friends, and meet new ones.

This year we are particularly honored to have Jonathan Walters as our keynote speaker and workshop presenter. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to gain insights that will help you improve your own practice.

I hope you will enjoy the conference and your stay in Tallahassee, and that you will continue to participate in SEA throughout the year. Check the registration table for a chance to sign up for our many volunteer opportunities, or to give us ideas about programs you would like us to host.

Again, welcome!

Susan McNamara
SEA President
Research Contracts and Evaluation Unit, Medicaid Quality Management
Bureau, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

SEA Executive Board

2008 Officers

President – Susan McNamara
President-elect – Kathy McGuire
Secretary – Connie Bergquist
Treasurer – Jennifer Johnson

Immediate Past President – Betty Serow

Committee Chairs

Program Co-Chairs – Mary Kay Falconer
Tamara Bertrand-Jones

SEA Liaison to the

American Evaluation Association

Linda Schrader

2009 Officers

President – Kathy McGuire
Results of elections will be announced at the conference.

Lifetime Members

Garrett Foster 1999
F.J. King 2000
Susan McNamara 2003
Christine Johnson 2006

Sector Representatives

Private (Profit) – Fred Seamon
Private (Not-for-Profit) – Gary Walby
State Government – Valerie Fitzpatrick
Local Government – Raoul Lavin
University – Lantry Brockmeier

2009 SEA Conference Committee

Conference Chair

Kathy McGuire

SEA Coordinator

Bernadette Howard

Committee Members

Tamara Bertrand-Jones
Jennifer Johnson
Raoul Lavin
Fred Seamon
Gary Walby

Thank You to Our Panel Moderators

Tamara Bertrand Jones
Yvonne Bigos
Byron Brown
Flora Caruthers
Kathleen Del Monte
Mary Kay Falconer
Sabrina Hartley
Wendy Holt
Jennifer Johnson
Farah Khan
Raoul Lavin

Steve Lize
Kathy McGuire
Heather Orender
Linda Schrader
Kelley Seeger
Fred Seamon
Betty Serow
Gary VanLandingham
Gary Walby
Vic Williams
Rich Woerner

We'd Like to Thank Our Contributing Sponsors



Monday, February 23, 2009

8:00-4:00 pm	Registration
8:30-11:30 am (Room 264)	Pre-Conference Workshop with Jonathan Walters (pre-registration required) "Evaluators as Allies" will focus on how evaluators and policy analysts can help managers use evaluation results in lean budget times to improve and retain quality programs.
11:45-12:45 pm	SEA Annual Business Meeting Lunch (Banquet Rooms 1, 2, and 3)
12:45-1:30 am KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Media Survival for Public Officials (Banquet Rooms 1, 2, and 3) Jonathan Walters
1:30-1:45 pm	<i>Cookie Break (hall outside banquet rooms)</i>
1:45-3:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions
READING (Room 114)	<p>The Impact of READ 180 as an Intensive Reading Intervention for High School Students in a Large Urban School District <i>Yakup Bilgili, Shultz Center for Teaching and Leadership</i></p> <hr/> <p>Students in grades 9 and 10 whose previous year's FCAT reading scores placed them in Levels 1 and 2 were scheduled into Intensive Reading classes for instruction during school year 2007-08. READ 180 is one of several reading interventions the district is using to improve the student performance of struggling readers. This study examines the impact of the READ 180 Reading program on the FCAT performance of high school Intensive Reading students in the school district.</p> <hr/> <p>Evaluation of Reading First Programs in Four States <i>Candice King, Melissa Clements, and Sean Friend, MGT of America, Inc.</i></p> <p>Reading First is a federally funded early reading program that supports the No Child Left Behind mandate that every child learn to read by third grade. MGT has conducted longitudinal evaluations of the implementation of state-wide Reading First programs in Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Nevada. Results have demonstrated the positive benefits of the program in each state evaluated.</p> <hr/> <p>Unpacking the Costs of Early Reading Interventions: A Cost-Effectiveness Study of Effective Strategies Identified by the Federal What Works Clearinghouse <i>Tammy Kolbe, Jovany Felix, Niu Gao, Rebekah Harris, Chiquita Hughes, Cathy Oakley, Juhyoung Park, Fred Sakon, Gillian Stewart, and Bruce Vineyard, Florida State University</i></p> <p>Five related studies evaluated the cost effectiveness of beginning reading interventions available to elementary schools interested in improving student learning and achievement. Each intervention was identified by the federal What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, as having met standards for "effectiveness" in boosting general reading performance in early elementary grades. However, very little information exists to guide education policymakers and leaders on the relative "costs" of implementing the selected interventions. This study evaluates the economic costs of implementing each intervention in a typical elementary school using the "ingredients approach." The resulting costs for each intervention are combined with existing measures of program effects, and the relative cost-effectiveness of each option will be presented and discussed.</p>

Monday, February 23, 2009

<p>HEALTH (Banquet 1)</p>	<p>Medicaid Reform <i>Yvonne Bigos, Rae Hendlin, and Jennifer Johnson, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability; R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D., University of Florida Research Foundation; Jeffrey S. Harman, Ph.D., University of Florida</i></p> <p>The 2005 Legislature authorized the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to reform Medicaid to improve health outcomes of beneficiaries and achieve budget predictability. AHCA obtained a federal waiver and legislative approval to implement a managed care pilot program in Broward, Duval, Baker, Clay, and Nassau counties. Several key components of Reform were developed in order to achieve specific objectives. Per federal waiver requirements, AHCA contracted with the University of Florida (UF) to conduct an ongoing evaluation of Reform. The Legislature also directed its Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to evaluate the pilot project during its first two years. The panel will present and discuss findings of the research conducted to date by UF and OPPAGA.</p>
<p>DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (Banquet 3)</p>	<p>VOICES in Sarasota County <i>Moya Alfonso, University of South Florida; Karen Bogues, Community Youth Development Project in Sarasota County, Florida; Keli McCormack Brown, University of Florida</i></p> <p>The VOICES project includes youth's voices in prevention programming. The project increased middle school youth's civic engagement and enabled them to impact issues that affect them. Youth were key stakeholders in the research process. Presenters will share strategies for partnering with youth, communicate research methods and results, discuss lessons learned, and connect research results to community-based actions.</p> <hr/> <p>Disproportionate Minority Representation <i>Bob Dale, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice</i></p> <p>This presentation will discuss new research by DJJ Research and Planning on minority disproportionate representation.</p> <hr/> <p>Civil Citation and Teen Court <i>Gary W. Walby and Samantha Marcus, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida</i></p> <p>This presentation will discuss a mixed methods evaluation funded by the Eckerd Family Foundation targeting civil citation and teen court. The focus of the discussion will be on promoting participation and trust in the evaluation, startup processes for establishing civil citation programs, description of populations served and supports available for the programs and recommendations.</p>
<p>LEADERSHIP (Room 264)</p>	<p>Communication Technology <i>Terry Rhodes and Alex Dudley, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida; Byron Brown, Claire Mazur, and Kathy McGuire, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability</i></p> <p>Explore new and cheaper ways to work electronically with people across town and across the country through new Adobe platform processes. Find out how to make narrated Power Point slides that can help deliver your message and learn more about how to save training and conferencing dollars using GoToMeeting.</p>
<p>3:15-4:30 pm</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p>
<p>TEACHING (Banquet 1)</p> <p>Continued on next page</p>	<p>Developing and Retaining Beginning Teachers Through a District Cadre Mentoring Program <i>Yakup Bilgili, Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership</i></p> <p>The Cadre Mentoring Program was designed to develop mentor teachers who would further train, support, and retain beginning teachers. The program aimed at creating a coherent, sustained, and organized set of strategies by which trained mentors can guide the overall instructional improvement and teacher quality in selected schools. The program incorporates research-based practices combined with dialogue, interaction and collaboration among program participants – cadre members, mentors, and novice teachers.</p>

TEACHING
(Banquet 1)

Principals' Beliefs About the Impact of High Stake Testing

Lantry L. Brockmeier, James L. Pate, and Don W. Leech, *Valdosta State University*

While high stakes testing continues as the centerpiece of education reform efforts to improve education, the impact of high stakes testing on principals needs further exploration. *The Principals High Stakes Testing Survey*, a 48-item instrument, was employed to collect data to describe the impact of high stakes testing on Georgia's principals' beliefs about education in their schools. Principals' responses were grouped into six domains: curriculum, teaching, work satisfaction, stress, accountability, and students. A stratified random sample of 650 principals from Georgia's elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools participated in the study. Presenters will report item-level responses and group-level responses by type of school and by principals' educational level, years of experience, gender, and race or ethnicity.

Class Size and Student Achievement: A Meta-Analysis Using a Hierarchical Linear Model

Jae-Young Chung, *Florida State University*; In-Soo Shin, *Florida Department of Education*

This research reviewed the effect of class size on student achievement. This research synthesis used a mean difference effect size based on a fixed-effect model, a random-effect model, a fixed-effect categorical analysis, and an HLM approach. We applied the categorical fixed-effect model to explain the heterogeneous effect sizes. In this study, we selected four moderator variables as grouping variables: subject, grade, publication, and STAR. The analysis showed that there were several subject test scores dependences within studies. Between study dependence and within study dependence should be considered in class size meta-analysis.

Funding and Delivering Social Services in Lean Times

Evaluating Results of Nonprofits

Kelly Otte, *The Oasis Center for Women & Girls*

In this time of economic strain there is an increasing focus by funders on mandating the ways in which nonprofits streamline their operations, reduce duplication and increase their capacity to deliver the services. One of the ways this is impacting the organizations is to increase demands for assessment and evaluation to prove the value and impact of services. While some of this is understandable, necessary and justifiable, the perspective that is overlooked is what the funders themselves could be doing to assist the organizations to get through this economic downturn. Now is the time for funders to work to reduce the administrative burdens they require in order to help the organizations deal with dwindling funding at every level. Several approaches for accomplishing this will be shared with the panel.

Funding and Evaluation Challenges for Nonprofit Agencies

Judith Barrett, *Ability1st*

With 16 years experience as an executive director, three different nonprofits and two distinctly different communities I have responded to the requests of many different funding sources i.e., private foundations, local United Ways, city, county, state and federal. Some funding sources work with our agency as partners while others establish unnecessary barriers to our success. My contribution to this panel will be to share the challenges we face with multiple funders and those requesting information from our agency.

The Community Human Services Partnership: An Innovative Approach to Funding Human Services

Thomas Jones, *City of Tallahassee, Department of Economic & Community Development, Human Services Division*

The Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP) is an innovative, community-based, and collaborative approach to funding human services. The partnership, comprised of the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, and the United Way of the Big Bend, provides approximately \$4.5 million annually to local, community-based non-profit organizations providing direct services to individuals and families. The collaboration began more than 10 years ago in an effort to offer a more coordinated, streamlined, and apolitical mechanism for responding to the local agency funding requests. The partnership is governed by a joint planning board consisting of representatives appointed by each partner, and uniquely utilizes community volunteers in the decision-making process. In the 2008-2009 award cycle the partnership mobilized more than 100 community volunteers to review 122 direct-service programs that requested funding.

SOCIAL
SERVICES
(Banquet 3)

Monday, February 23, 2009

LEADERSHIP
(Room 264)

Motivating and Rewarding Staff When Your Wallet Is Empty

Sabrina Hartley, *OPPAGA*; **Sharon Ofuani**, *City of Tallahassee*

Increasing morale in a slow economy is a familiar concern for employers and can be difficult to achieve in hard times. Nevertheless, morale is critical in any workplace, especially in poor economic times. Though it may be the first thing overlooked when times get tough, morale is not only the responsibility of the employer but also the employee. This workshop will identify mechanisms employees can use to motivate themselves as well as methods to have a positive effect on the morale of their workplaces. Whether you are an administrator, supervisor, support staff, or just one hard working employee, you can have a positive effect on your work environment and those in it even when your wallet is empty.

6:00 p.m.

Enjoy Old Friends and Make New Friends—Dutch Treat Dinner

Meet at 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Marriott Residence Inn (600 West Gaines Street) if you would like to join other conference participants in going out for a casual dinner.

8:30-9:20 am

Concurrent Sessions

**STUDENT
IMPROVEMENT**
(Room 114)

Out-Foxing the Wolf: Using the Stages of Change to Manage and Evaluate School-Based Prevention Programs

Catherine Brehm-Rain, *Rain & Brehm Consulting Group*

This presentation demonstrates the application of the Stages of Change construct to manage and evaluate school-based violence and alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention programs during tough economic times. The presenter will emphasize the utility of the model as a district-level, resource-teacher management tool as well as an evaluation method to assess readiness of 90 schools to implement fidelity-level programs. Year 2 results from an ongoing study of the application showed increased numbers of schools delivering research-based programs to the appropriate target populations, and increased numbers of programs achieving Action and/or Maintenance stages of change. Application of the model also contributed to resource teachers' ability to efficiently strategize workload, and evaluators' ability to link programs to state and district-level outcomes.

Evaluating the Effects of Art-Based Instructional Strategies on Student Achievement

Melinda Mollette, *North Carolina State University*

This paper presents interim results from years one and two of the *School Transformation: Character through the Arts* project presently implemented at three schools in north Georgia. The four key components of this project include: Transformational Leadership, Professional Learning Communities, Character Education, and Bernstein's Artful Learning. This evaluation utilizes a quasi-experimental design, involving pre and post-testing in both project and matched comparison schools. The implementation process, along with results from summative evaluation instruments, such as surveys and state achievement tests, will be discussed, along with plans for future evaluation measures.

SOCIAL SERVICES
(Banquet 1)

Improving Our Understanding of Social Diversity: Variations in Parenting Across Race and/or Ethnicity

Mary Kay Falconer, Rachael Alaniz, Christine King, and YunHoung Ling, *Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida*

In an effort to address the challenge of understanding social diversity using race and/or ethnicity, this paper presents an analysis of scores based on one parenting stress measurement tool among parent participants served during FY 2007-2008 in a statewide human services program. Statistical variations in measures of parenting stress are calculated across race categories, ethnicity based on country of origin, and selected covariates that are related theoretically to parenting stress. The measurement tool is a modified short form of the Parent Stress Index (PSI) which has been administered in the program for four years. The paper will discuss results that indicate differences in parental stress across race and/or country of origin. Recommendations for consideration in programs serving parents in which cultural differences may be important are highlighted.

Adding Value With an Expanded Evaluand: A Grounded Model to Strengthen Formative Evaluation of Contracted Social Service Programs

Christopher Horne and Tommi Paris, *University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*; **Margaret Stout**, *Bridgewater State College*

To better understand the increasingly common evaluation context of nonprofit social service programs provided under government contract, we conducted in-depth interviews with a broad range of government and nonprofit administrators in one city's contracting regime. Using a grounded theory approach to identify factors that affect respondents' program outcomes, we learned that some of the most important factors are specific to purchase-of-service contracting and would not typically be captured in conventional program logic models. The most important of these factors can be categorized as components of either the formal or emergent government-nonprofit relationship. If evaluators are to contribute to improvement of contracted social services, we should broaden program models to include these key factors, which may otherwise be overlooked. We present one such model accompanied by a list of focusing questions, both grounded in our data, that evaluators may use to better pursue program improvement goals in evaluations of contracted social service programs.

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

<p>SUNSET REVIEWS (Banquet 3)</p>	<p>Legislative Oversight through the Florida Sunset Review Process: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed...</p> <p>Gary VanLandingham and Emily Leventhal, <i>Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability</i>; Rick Mahler, <i>Florida Legislature Joint Sunset Committee</i></p> <p>The 2006 Florida Legislature created a Sunset Review process to examine all state agencies over a multi-year period. Sunset Reviews will examine each agency to determine whether the Legislature should continue, modify, or eliminate its organization and programs. The first cycle of Sunset Reviews examined six agencies during the 2006-2008 biennium. The panel will discuss the process, the role and functions of the Joint Legislative Sunset Committee and OPPAGA in the process, and outcomes to date.</p>
<p>LEADERSHIP (Room 264)</p>	<p>10 Things You Should Know About the Florida Code Of Ethics</p> <p>Virindia Doss, <i>Florida Commission on Ethics</i></p> <p>This presentation covers 10 things you should be aware of about the Code of Ethics and how they apply to local and state government employees.</p>
<p>9:30 am – 10:20</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p>
<p>PLENARY SESSION (Banquet 1-3)</p>	<p>Florida's Economic Forecast</p> <p>Amy Baker, <i>The Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research</i></p> <p>Ms. Baker, head of the office that provides the Governor and Legislature information on the current and projected economic condition of the state, will describe our current economic situation and the outlook for the next few years.</p>
<p>Writing (Room 264)</p>	<p>Effective Writing</p> <p>Connie Ruggles, <i>Agency for Health Care Administration</i></p> <p>Refresh your writing and editing skills in this participatory session on avoiding common mistakes and enhancing clarity.</p>
<p>10:20 - 10:30 am</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break (Hall outside the Banquet Rooms)</i></p>
<p>10:30 – 11:30 am</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p>
<p>INNER LIFE OF EVALUATORS (Room 114)</p>	<p>Internal Evaluations: Observations from a Non-Profit Organization that Supports Human Services Programs in Florida</p> <p>Robert Brunger, <i>Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida</i></p> <p>There is a unique balancing act required of internal evaluators. The classic "on the one hand, on the other hand" critique about internal evaluators is true: they do know (and care) more about the programs than an external evaluator, but there is also a risk that their findings will not be taken seriously because of a perception that they are simply "carrying water" for the program because of that organizational linkage. This presentation explores some of the realities and occasional ambiguities that have occurred in the working life of an evaluator who conducts both external and internal evaluations for a Tallahassee-based non-profit organization, the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. This presentation will include examples of procedural practices that help support the objectivity and credibility of these evaluations.</p> <hr/> <p>Public Service Motivation Among MPA Students</p> <p>Adrian Buckland and Chih-Wei Hsieh, <i>Florida State University</i></p> <p>Public sector motivation (PSM) is among the most important topics of investigation in modern public administration. The theory of public service motivation has significant practical relevance; however, the role of Masters of Public Administration programs in instilling and fostering PSM has largely been overlooked in the scholarly literature. This paper seeks to examine these very issues. Using a modified version of Perry's (1996) PSM scale, as well as other questions that address respondents' attitudes towards public administration education and public service, we surveyed students from MPA programs in three Florida universities. Based on our results, we discerned what PSM means to MPA students, and compared their views to those found in the extant literature.</p>

Teaching for Lifelong Learning: A Case Study of Graduate Student Self-Ethnography

Victoria Landu, *Argosy University*

According to the American progress report (2003), most of the American workforce is steadily becoming less educated even though better and more diverse educational opportunities are essential for the labor force to maintain productivity. It is therefore important to use strategies that will improve adult basic education and subsequently lifelong learning.

Mathematics Ability Grouping: The Practice, the Politics, the Results

Chuck Fuller, *Central Michigan University*; Eric Fuller, *Howard Middle School, Macon, Georgia*

The purpose of the study was to examine the findings of quantitative research studies that examined the impact of ability grouping on student achievement in mathematics. The belief in heterogeneous or ability grouping has often been accompanied by ethical and moral arguments. Some researchers argue that ability grouping goes against our democratic ideals by creating academic elites. On the other hand, some educators advocate ability grouping and tracking in order to equalize student opportunity. Other researchers argue that low-ability settings lead to low-quality teaching and is often characterized by teachers teaching down to the level of the student. Although the findings regarding the impact of ability grouping on mathematics achievement were mixed, a majority of the studies indicated that the degree to which ability grouping is successful depends upon several factors, including student ability level and socioeconomic factors. The majority of the research findings also addressed factors such as morality, ethics, and the political aspects of the practice.

Measuring the Effects of Technology Integration in K-12 Classrooms

Tricia Townsend and Melinda Mollette, *North Carolina State University*

This paper presents preliminary results from *IMPACT III and IV*, a model being implemented at 30 K-12 schools in seven different school districts throughout North Carolina. This evaluation utilizes a quasi-experimental design, involving both project and matched comparison schools. The implementation process, along with results from evaluation measures completed to date, will be discussed, along with plans for future data collection.

Success for All Students: What Works? Educational Best Practices in Maryland Public Schools

Candice King, Melissa Clements, and Hong Gao, *MGT of America, Inc.*

Maryland became the first state to comprehensively reform its school finance system including substantial increases in state aid through the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act in 2002. A three-year evaluation of the effect of increased state aid to local school systems on student, school, and district performance was conducted using qualitative and quantitative methods, including an innovative achievement gap closure measure. Researchers studied the relationship between implementation of educational best practices and student achievement to identify practices that consistently resulted in significant gains in student performance. Evaluation findings suggest that schools and school systems that use specific combinations of educational practices are more effective in improving the achievement of their students, including NCLB subgroups.

The Impact of Inmate Visitation on Re-Entry Success

Dr. Bill Bales, *Florida State University*

A possibly contributor to the successful re-integration of inmate into their communities after release that has not received any empirical assessment for decades is the opportunity for them to maintain close social ties to their families and friends while in prison through visitation. A study of whether visitation, the frequency of visitation, and the recency of visitation prior to prison release will be presented. This study of Florida inmates demonstrates that inmates who are visited are significantly less likely to recidivate, the more frequently visitation occurs the more successful inmates are in the re-entry process, and if visitation occurs just prior to release, inmates are less likely to re-offend. Against this backdrop, a policy that can reduce recidivism at minimal cost and that appeals to conservatives and liberals alike merits close attention.

Inmate Visitation in Public and Private Prisons

Linda Vaughn, *Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability*

This session addresses our review of family visitation practices in Florida public and private prisons.

SUCCESSFUL CLASSROOMS
(Banquet 1)

CORRECTIONS
(Banquet 3)

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

CORRECTIONS (Banquet 3)	<p>Inmate Disruption</p> <p>David Ensley, <i>Florida Department of Corrections</i></p> <p>The Florida Department of Corrections is developing a system to predict disruption on prison compounds, such as assaults, escapes, and uses of force. The Correctional Operational Trends and Analysis System (COTAS) monitors inmate-level and facility-level factors that influence disruption. By identifying and monitoring these factors on a regular basis, wardens and other administrators can determine if factors at their facility are in-line with comparable facilities. The prediction modeling involved the analysis of five years of inmate demographic, staffing, and disruption data.</p>						
LEADERSHIP (Room 264)	<p>Succession Planning Roundtable</p> <p>Sharon Ofuani, <i>Clenteria Drayton, City of Tallahassee</i>; Byron Brown, <i>Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability</i>; Vince Long, <i>Leon County</i></p> <p>This discussion will explore how to design and implement a succession plan and strategies to prepare for the wave of change as baby boomers retire.</p>						
11:45-1:15 pm	<p>Emerging Issues Roundtables/Lunch</p> <p><i>Grab a box lunch in the hall and then join others in your area of interest to discuss emerging issues and current research</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Education (Room 114)</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Brainstorming for Orlando AEA Conference</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Criminal Justice (Room 264)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">in November (Banquet Room 2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Health (Banquet Room 1)</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Social Services (Banquet Room 3)</td> </tr> </table>	Education (Room 114)	Brainstorming for Orlando AEA Conference	Criminal Justice (Room 264)	in November (Banquet Room 2)	Health (Banquet Room 1)	Social Services (Banquet Room 3)
Education (Room 114)	Brainstorming for Orlando AEA Conference						
Criminal Justice (Room 264)	in November (Banquet Room 2)						
Health (Banquet Room 1)	Social Services (Banquet Room 3)						
1:30-2:30 pm	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p>						
COLLABORATIVE EVALUATIONS (Room 114)	<p>Collaborative Evaluations: A Step-by-Step Model for the Evaluator</p> <p>Liliana Rodriguez-Campos, <i>University of South Florida</i></p> <p>This highly interactive session will outline key concept and effective tools/methods to help master the mechanics of collaboration in the evaluation environment. Specifically, the presenter will blend theoretical grounding with the application of the Model for Collaborative Evaluations (MCE) to real-life evaluations, with a special emphasis on those factors that facilitate and inhibit stakeholders' participation. Thus, each section will deal with fundamental factors in each of the six model components that must be mastered in order to succeed in collaborations. In addition, the workshop will provide practical tips and step-by-step suggestions on how to apply the information learned. The presenter will share her experience and insights regarding this subject in a precise, easy to understand fashion, so that participants can use the information learned from this workshop immediately.</p>						
EDUCATION (Banquet 1)	<p>Inclusion of Costs in K-12 Educational Program Evaluations: Accurately Reflecting the Program Costs</p> <p>Theodore Dwyer, <i>Polk County Schools</i></p> <p>This presentation is fueled by experiences with several internal evaluations from several large K-12 school districts. An analysis of cost for programs in the educational setting is often a question that is asked by policy makers and program funders. With the economic down-turn policy makers and program personnel have turned an increased interest to the bottom line. As evaluators we know that inclusion of program costs and some examination of the cost should be included. It is important to provide both an accurate and equitable cost reporting in the evaluation report. This presentation will discuss some areas of concern when considering the inclusion of cost information in an evaluation report (e.g. content, comparability, type of cost reporting).</p> <hr/> <p>Title III Evaluation Methods and Lessons Learned</p> <p>Dan Kaczynski, <i>Central Michigan University</i>; Gail Hartzog and Bonnie Smith, <i>Chipola College</i></p> <p>This presentation will discuss internal and external evaluation methods and results covering the first two years of a multi-year federal higher education grant award. Two grant components will be highlighted: the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and the First Year Learning Experience (FYLE). Of particular interest in this presentation will be the unique challenges the college has experienced due to the success and growth in student interest ACE has generated. The FYLE component, however, has failed to achieve an equal level of success. Programmatic and evaluation lessons learned from efforts to implement various FYLE delivery strategies over the first two years will be shared.</p>						

EDUCATION
(Banquet 1)

Evaluation of Charter School Policy

In-Soo Shin, Heesook Lee, and Jae-Young Chung, *Florida State University*

Charter school policy will be evaluated using meta-analysis and synthesizing qualitative studies. Charter school effect on student achievement was investigated using meta-analysis, but it is limited to evaluate charter school policy, so qualitative studies will also be synthesized for the overall evaluation.

MENTAL HEALTH
(Banquet 3)

Unequal Power: Detecting and Challenging Power Relationships Using Traditional and Unique Qualitative Strategies in an Empowerment Evaluation Involving a Disenfranchised Population of Individuals with Severe Mental Illness

Gary W. Walby, *Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida*

Multiple qualitative methods were used in an evaluation of a comprehensive community mental health program servicing individuals with severe mental illness. Focus groups, participant observation, content analysis of documents, and semi-structured interviews targeted service delivery processes. As empowerment evaluation is a highly participatory approach, additional steps were taken to fully include individuals with mental illness. Several unique strategies were developed to further enhance the participation of the client stakeholder group and to increase the acceptance of clients as peers by other stakeholder groups. These inclusion or equalization strategies can be adapted for use in other empowerment based evaluations and could benefit other evaluators seeking to balance power across participants. In addition, the presentation describes sequencing of qualitative methods in a complex and rich participatory evaluation environment as well as addressing validity in data collection and analysis.

Implementation of Medicaid Managed Mental Health Care in Florida: Strengths and Challenges

Patty Sharrock, *University of South Florida*

Implementation of managed care programs for Medicaid-funded community mental health services in Florida began in March 1996. Financing strategies employed in these programs have included Health Maintenance Organizations that provide health, mental health, and pharmacy benefits, and the Prepaid Mental Health Plan that serves as a mental health carve-out administered by a managed care organization. In studies conducted to examine the organizational, structural, financial, and operational features of these plans, stakeholders have reported experiencing a number of common challenges in their implementation efforts. This presentation summarizes these experiences and suggestions offered by stakeholders to begin to address the issues.

LEADERSHIP
(Room 264)

USING EVALUATION DATA TO SUPPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION

Why Do Municipal Governments Adopt Performance Measurement?

Ssu-Hsien Chen, *Florida State University*

This paper investigates factors influencing the adoption of performance measurement in municipal governments. The factors examined in this study are citizen accountability, number of public services, market approach governance, and whether strategic plans are linked to operation and budget process.

Local Government Performance Measures

Sam McCall, *City of Tallahassee*

The City of Tallahassee, requested by the City Commission and supported by City management, has identified community and organizational performance measures to be reported to the public. The intent is to better link citizens to their government through the reporting of efforts, accomplishments, and challenges. This session will address the effort, progress, hurdles, and how performance measurement reporting is grounded in public administration theory.

Performance Measurement on a Global Scale: Can Government Compete with the Private Sector?

Dale Weeks, *Florida Department of Revenue*

Can government compete directly with any world-class organization, public or private? Yes – this interactive session will demonstrate that a true public sector transformation is actually underway today yielding startling business results. It will highlight the enterprise-wide, Baldrige adventure of the Florida Department of Revenue, and will conclude with a discussion of other global performance excellence role model agencies in Canada, North America, Europe, and Asia where comparative levels of extraordinary performance are leading the world and changing our view of government. Government CAN compete with the private sector. This session will show you where and how it is occurring today.

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

2:30-3:20 pm	Concurrent Sessions
<p>ABSTINENCE (Room 114)</p>	<p>Evaluating Abstinence Programs: Lessons Learned from a Randomized Field Study Virginia Dick, <i>University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government</i>; Katrina Aaron and Robetta McKenzie, <i>Augusta Partnership for Children, Inc.</i>; Ann V. Peisher, <i>University of Georgia, College of Family and Consumer Science</i></p> <p>This presentation is based on the randomized field study evaluation of a comprehensive abstinence education effort. Challenges and lessons learned will be the primary focus of the presentation. The Augusta Partnership for Children, Inc. has initiated a comprehensive approach to reducing premarital sexual activity and resulting teen pregnancy. Parents will be offered Booster Clubs to build capacity for improved parental communication and involvement and leadership development. Community partners will be trained in positive youth and asset development to increase the opportunities available for the students. The purpose of this evaluation is to test hypotheses that students in intervention schools who receive the three programmatic aspects of the intervention over three years will experience higher levels of understanding of the positive health and emotional benefits of abstaining from premarital sexual activity and higher rates of abstinence intentions than students in comparison schools.</p> <hr/> <p>An Evaluation of an Abstinence Education Project Using <i>Sex Can Wait</i> Curriculum Melvin Franks, <i>Program Evaluation & Research Consultants, Inc.</i>; Susan T. Franks, <i>Georgia Southern</i></p> <p>This paper presents the evaluation results of the in-school component of The East Georgia Abstinence Education Project. Students attending a middle school completed a survey that measured program impact at two different times. Constant comparative analysis was used to identify eight common themes: Teen Sex; Drugs & Alcohol; Media Influence; Dating; Resistance Skills; Healthy Lifestyles; Sex and Marriage; and, Commitment to Sexual Abstinence. Significant differences were found between T1 and T2 for students completing the <i>Sex Can Wait</i> curriculum.</p>
<p>DATA SOURCES (Banquet 1)</p>	<p>Roundtable: Making Sense of Data Sources for Several Research Areas Steve Lize, <i>Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability</i></p> <p>This session will explore good sources of data, from the perspective of evaluation research, for criminal justice, education, human services, and general government.</p>
<p>QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS (Banquet 1)</p>	<p>Qualitative Data Analysis: Lessons From the Field Iskandaria Masduki, Melissa Evenson, James Fetterly, and Linda Schrader, <i>Florida State University</i></p> <p>Qualitative data yields rich descriptive information for understanding the impact of programs. Researchers conducting qualitative research studies are often bombarded with voluminous narrative data and struggle to synthesize the information into meaningful and valid results. Three case studies will be presented to illustrate the researcher's journey from developing research questions through data analysis and interpretation. Two cases investigate the experiences of international students and the role of instructors at the Center for Intensive English Studies at Florida State University. The third case examines the development of pre-service teachers in mathematics education. The presenters will discuss their research strategies for analyzing data and discuss lessons learned as they sieved through the many fragments of interesting details to develop a compelling story.</p>
<p>LEADERSHIP (Room 264)</p>	<p>Do You Get What You Pay For? An Analysis of Legislative Advocacy Strategy Effectiveness Melanie Tozzi, <i>Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida</i>; Doug Bailey, <i>Anheuser-Busch</i></p> <p>The Florida legislative budgeting process is a complex and highly political set of transactions influenced by a number of stakeholders – elected, voluntary and paid. Little, if any, ground level research has been undertaken to track a specific budget request throughout the legislative process. Even less significant research has delved into categorical analysis of legislative advocacy strategies to determine their effectiveness within this process. This paper will identify, track and chronicle the full population of individual community budget issue requests (CBIRs) from 2005-2008, cross referencing them with their funding outcomes, while detailing the various advocacy strategies associated with each.</p>

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

LEADERSHIP (Room 264)	<p>Do Ask, Do Tell Gary VanLandingham, <i>Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability</i></p> <p>As evaluators seeking to inform and influence policymakers, it is essential that we build effective networks with those who would use our work. However, many evaluation offices operate with a 'don't ask/don't tell' orientation that seeks to maximize their independence at the expense of relevance. This false trade-off all too often limits the use and impact of evaluation research.</p>
3:20 -3:30 pm	<i>Cookie Break (Hall outside the Banquet Rooms)</i>
3:30-4:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions
LOWER COST DATA COLLECTION (Room 114)	<p>Action Research Evaluation Methods Using NVivo Dan Kaczynski, <i>Central Michigan University</i>; Michelle Salmona, <i>University of Technology, Sydney, Australia</i></p> <p>This session explores the use of qualitative data analysis software (ODAS) using an action research approach. Since qualitative software now provides entirely new ways of handling data it has become increasingly important that evaluators explore innovations in the field. An interactive audience discussion will be facilitated to critically examine the role of NVivo software as a technological tool that promotes transparency of qualitative methodology and evaluation practice. Particular attention will be given in exploring the interaction of the software in an action research evaluation. The presentation will include the demonstration of NVivo for analysis of evaluation data.</p> <hr/> <p>Using Rapid Assessment Strategies and Secondary Data to Increase the Efficiency of Community Based Participatory Evaluation (CBPE) Gary Walby and Christine King, <i>Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida</i></p> <p>Community based participatory evaluation (CBPE) frequently raises concerns of time and cost investment. In the changing economic environment, it is becoming more difficult to convince funders to engage in evaluation even while funding of community initiatives continues, often with reduced resources. The result is the possible funding of initiatives with reduced efficiency and effectiveness. However, thanks to more consistent systematic data collection at community and neighborhood levels, techniques to fill gaps in necessary but absent data that can be rapidly and accurately utilized, as well as improved techniques to capitalize on the strengths of community coalitions and groups. There are several key strategies to enhance CBPE that are efficient in time and resources. This presentation provides a brief overview of CBPE and discusses the use of rapid assessment strategies such as concept mapping and meta-needs assessment. These strategies, combined with proper acquisition, generation and use of secondary community data, increase the impact of CBPE while lowering the time and resources commitment.</p>
PUBLIC HEALTH (Banquet 1)	<p>The Georgia Progress ✓ Check Reporting System Alberta Mirambeau, Jianglan White, and Michael Armstrong, <i>Georgia Division of Public Health</i></p> <p>This session will describe the development and implementation process of the Georgia Progress Check system and present how it is beneficial to monitoring and tracking the programmatic progress and performance of the organization and funded grantees, to actively guiding data-driven, result-driven decision-making. The session will also provide a demonstration of the system and illustrate how the system is beneficial to local and state level collaboration and the identification of best practice strategies in the local community.</p> <hr/> <p>Using Data to Improve Public Health Performance and Outcomes Toni DeWeese, Jan White, and Jackie Conner, <i>Georgia Division of Public Health</i></p> <p>G-Force is a performance management tool that uses data and hypothesis setting to engage program staff around issues of performance. The G-Force process is used to improve program performance, identify promising/best practices, and ultimately to achieve Continuous Quality Improvement in the field of Public Health.</p>

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

REFLECTIONS ON EVALUATOR ETHICS (Banquet 3)	Ethical Case Studies in Program Evaluation Scott Grubbs , <i>Valdosta State University</i> ; Linda Schrader , <i>Florida State University</i> There is little argument that program evaluators must adhere to a high standard of ethical practice in the execution of their professional responsibilities. Therefore, it is important to provide novice and experienced evaluation practitioners with not only a strong ethical foundation, but also with multiple opportunities to practice dealing with the various ethical dilemmas that may emerge during the course of an evaluation study. Case studies may provide evaluators with the flexibility required to present realistic ethical dilemmas across a variety of professional contexts. In our presentation, we will discuss and critically examine the ethical dilemmas in an unique evaluation case study.
LEADERSHIP (Room 264)	Cultural Transformation: From the People's Burden to the People's Company J.D. Lester and Kenisha Thompson , <i>Citizens Property Insurance Corporation</i> What does it take to effectively and efficiently transform organizational culture? In this session, we will discuss practical, cost-efficient ways to transform your organization's culture to meet the expectations and serve the needs of customers (internal and external).
4:30-5:00 pm (Room 264)	Meeting of SEA board and interested members to plan for the upcoming year. Your participation would be most welcome.

NOTES

NOTES

SEA 2008 CONFERENCE OVERVIEW – DAY ONE

Monday, February 23, 2009

8:00 – 4:00 Registration

8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Room 264)
Pre-Conference Workshop – Jonathan Walters
Pre-registration required

11:45-12:45	SEA Annual Business Meeting Lunch (Banquet Rooms 1, 2, and 3)			
12:45-1:30	Media Survival for Public Officials – Keynote Address (Banquet Rooms 1, 2, and 3)			
1:30-1:45	Cookie Break (hall outside banquet rooms)			
Time	Room 114	Banquet 1	Banquet 3	Room 264
1:45-3:00 <i>75 minutes</i>	Reading	Health	Delinquency Prevention	Leadership: Communication Technology
3:00-3:15	Break			
3:15-4:30 <i>75 minutes</i>		Teaching	Social Services	Leadership: Motivating & Rewarding Staff When Your Wallet is Empty
6:00 p.m.	Enjoy Old Friends and Make New Friends – Dutch Treat Dinner			
	Meet in the lobby of the Marriott Residence Inn (600 West Gaines Street) if you would like to join other conference participants in going out for a casual dinner.			

SEA 2008 CONFERENCE OVERVIEW – DAY TWO

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Time	Room 114	Banquet 1	Banquet 3	Room 264
8:30-9:20 <i>50 minutes</i>	Student Improvement	Social Services	Sunset Reviews	Leadership: Florida Code of Ethics
9:20-9:30	Break			
9:30-10:20 <i>50 minutes</i>		Plenary Session (Banquet 1, 2, and 3) Florida's Economic Forecast		Effective Writing
10:20-10:30	Coffee Break (Hall outside of Banquet Rooms)			
10:30-11:30 <i>60 minutes</i>	Inner Life of Evaluators	Successful Classrooms	Corrections	Leadership: Succession Planning
11:45-1:15	Emerging Issues Lunch <i>Pick up a box lunch and then join others to discuss emerging issues and current research</i> Criminal Justice: 264 Education: 114 Health: Banquet 1 Orlando AEA: Banquet 2 Social Services: Banquet 3			
1:30-2:30 <i>50 minutes</i>	Collaborative Evaluations	Education	Mental Health	Leadership: Performance Measurement
2:30-3:20 <i>50 minutes</i>	Abstinence	Data Sources	Qualitative Data Analysis	Leadership: Getting Results
3:20-3:30	Cookie Break (hall outside banquet rooms)			
3:30-4:30 <i>60 minutes</i>	Lower Cost Data Collection	Public Health	Reflections on Evaluator Ethics	Leadership: Cultural Transformation
4:30 -5:00	Room 264: Meeting of SEA board and interested members to discuss plans for the coming year. Your participation is welcome!			