

Evaluation of Addiction, Drugs and Everyday Life

Planning Session March 23, 2000

Purpose of Evaluation:

To allow time for systematic reflection on the outcomes and processes of the course.

research project

Background:

Edward and Anne believe that the course has been a worthwhile learning experience. But they need to find out how the participants feel about the course, whether they feel it has been valuable, and what has worked or not worked in the implementation of the course.

This course has been an innovation, in that both service providers and users of services have been learning together. There is a desire to get feedback from participants about how the course has worked for two reasons:

1. So that Edward and Anne have an accurate assessment of the course's success and,
2. So that they can use that assessment when making arguments about using a similar approach in future courses.

Proposed Approach:

Participatory—participants decide what issues the evaluation should focus on, collect the data, and validate the trustworthiness of the results.

Proposed Steps:

1. Today we identify the questions the group wants participants to consider.
2. Margo drafts an interview guide—questions to ask in personal 1:1 interviews to be done in the last class session
3. In the last class session, Margo gives a “quick and dirty” training session on how to do evaluation interviews and then participants pair up and interview each other using the questions identified today as the guide. One person plays the role of interviewer and recorder, while the other is interviewed, then participants change roles. Interviewees will have a chance to check the accuracy of the interviewer's notes.
4. Margo collates the data and give it back to participants (by e-mail or regular mail or through VANDU). Participants comment on the results and their validity and add more detail or richness as desired.
5. Edward and Anne and Margo put together a brief summary of the course.

What the evaluation is not:

- Not about judging the performance of any individual, not the facilitators or the students.
- Not being done to comply with or satisfy any external authorities—it is being undertaken because of a genuine desire to hear directly from participants about what worked and what did not work.
- Not being done by Margo. She is proposing a process that she has used before and found effective. She will facilitate the process, but is not taking on the role of evaluator.

Questions for today:

1. Do you agree with the proposed approach?
2. What questions should be asked in the interview?
3. How should Edward and Anne's input be obtained?
4. Should the interview pairs switch after the first round?

value?
do it again?
most liked?
most disliked?
what fears + anxieties
have not addressed.

3. What was it like for you being a social work student in a course with VANDU members? What was it like for you being a VANDU member in a course with social work students?

4. How do you think you have changed as a result of the course?

5. Do you think this course should be offered again? What changes would you suggest to make the course more effective?

have the police come.

6. Is there anything you want to add? (optional, if time permits)