


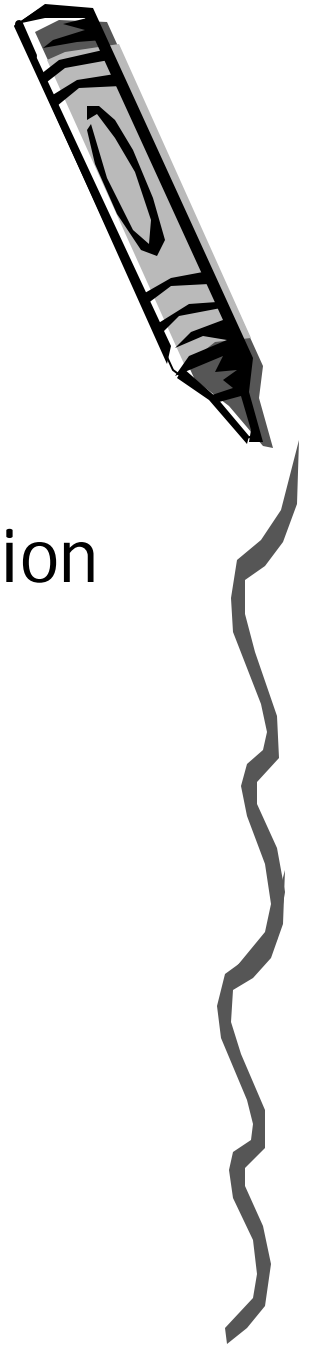
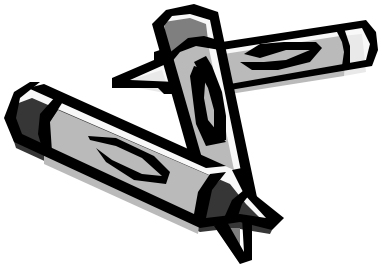
Lessons Learned in Building Capacity of a National Initiative for Children Exposed to Violence Through Evaluation

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Judith Simpson,
Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board



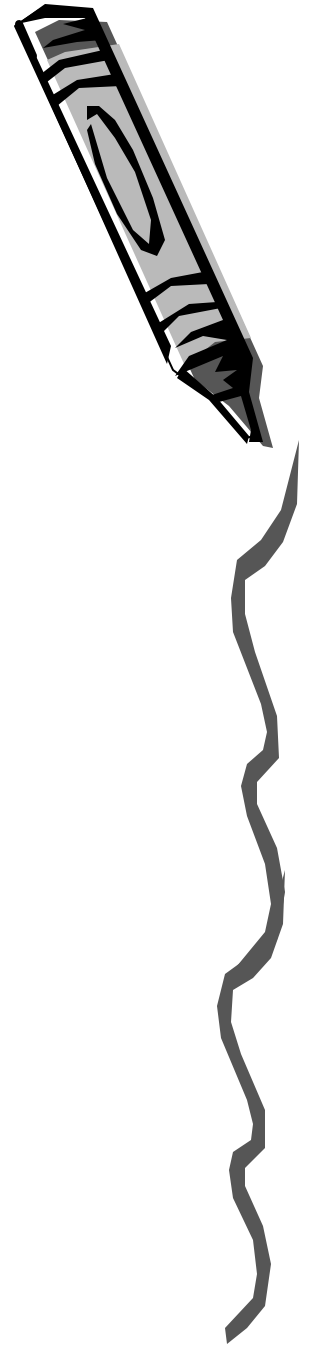
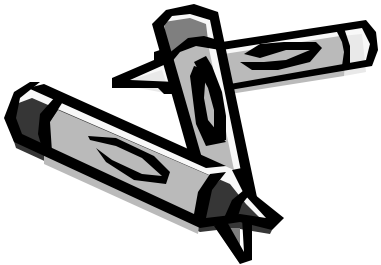
Two Types of Lessons

- Programmatic Lessons
 - Specific to the program implementation and outcomes
- Evaluation Lessons
 - Evaluation strategies for a dynamic, broad scope initiative
 - Sustaining evaluation efforts



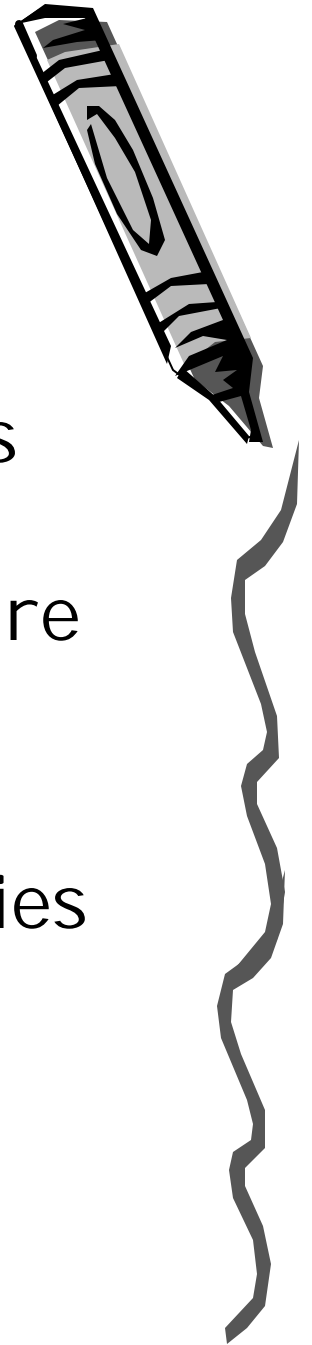
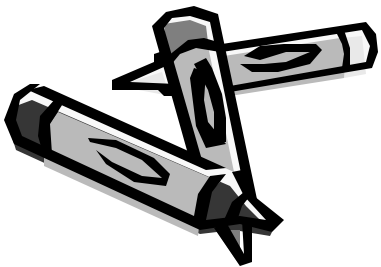
Programmatic Lessons Learned

- Crisis response and child development...building capacity to articulate what people should do when they respond



Programmatic Lesson

- The Safe Start community training is recognized and effective in building awareness of young children's exposure to violence.
- The Safe Start training is being integrated into the community agencies which will sustain Safe Start CEV efforts.



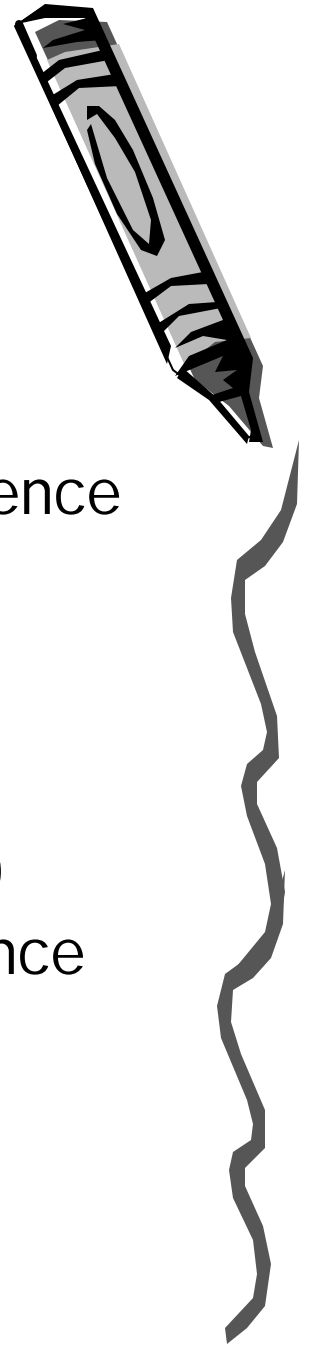
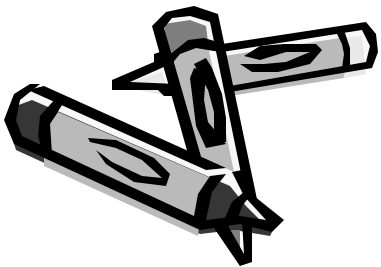
Programmatic Lesson

Although there was no significant change in knowledge related to children exposed to violence there was significant change in perception responses of training participants:

Perception Change: I have a clear idea of what ...

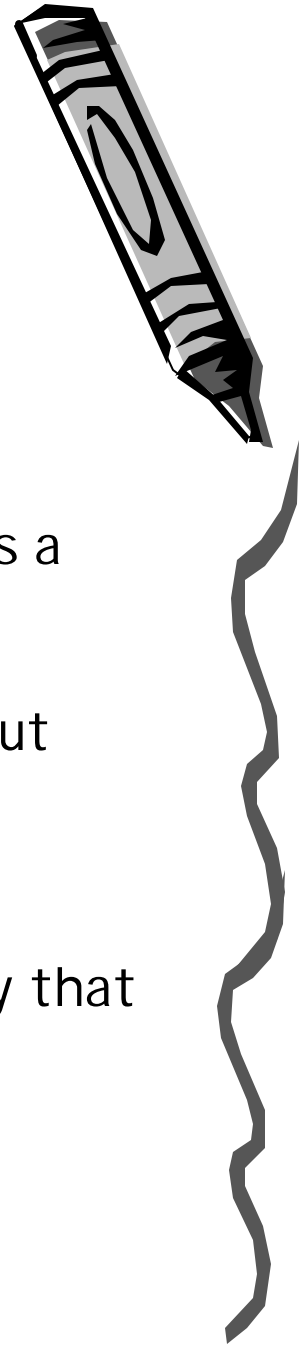
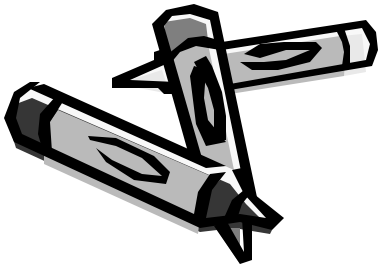
is considered exposure to violence (+19%)

I can do to help children exposed to violence (+31%)



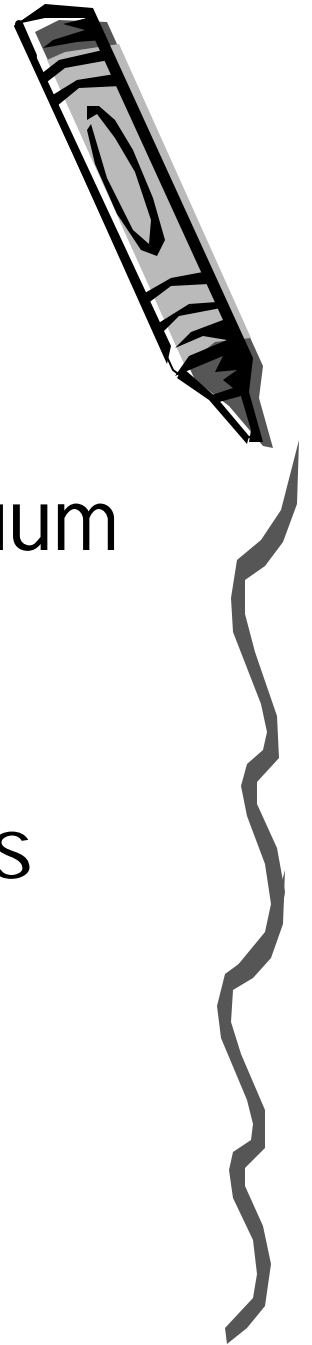
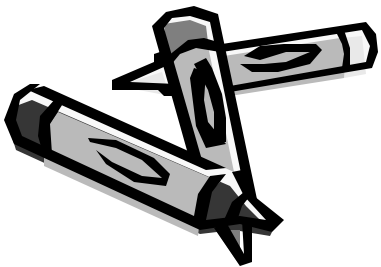
Programmatic Lesson

- Use established best practice literature for pilot projects
- Creating program & services at individual level takes a long time to get results
- Need to sustain a visible entity in the community to continue the mission after the initial funding runs out
- Funders & service partners need to make adequate resources available to accomplish the goals of the project
- Cross-site sharing promotes a supportive community that can create the openness needed for a learning community



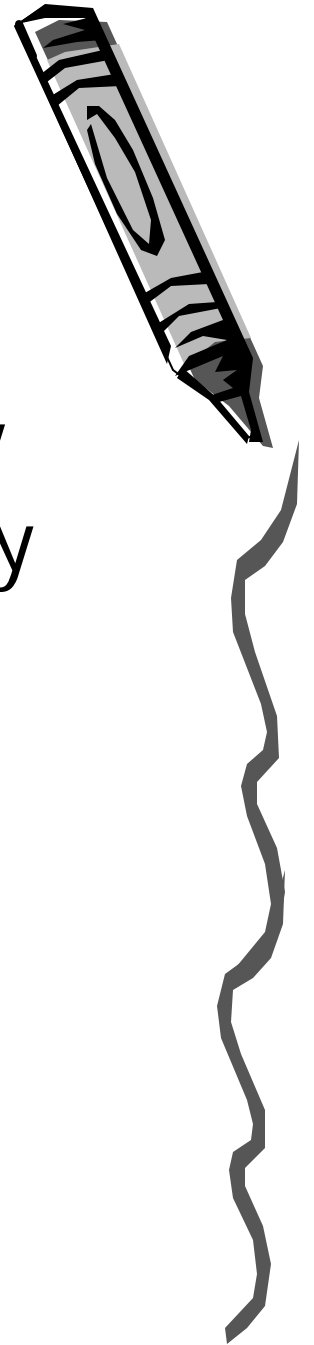
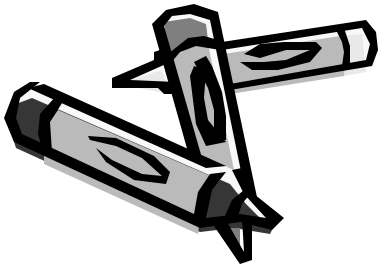
Evaluation Lessons Learned

- Evaluation does not occur in a vacuum
- Initiatives are dynamic and the dynamic nature has direct consequences on evaluation efforts



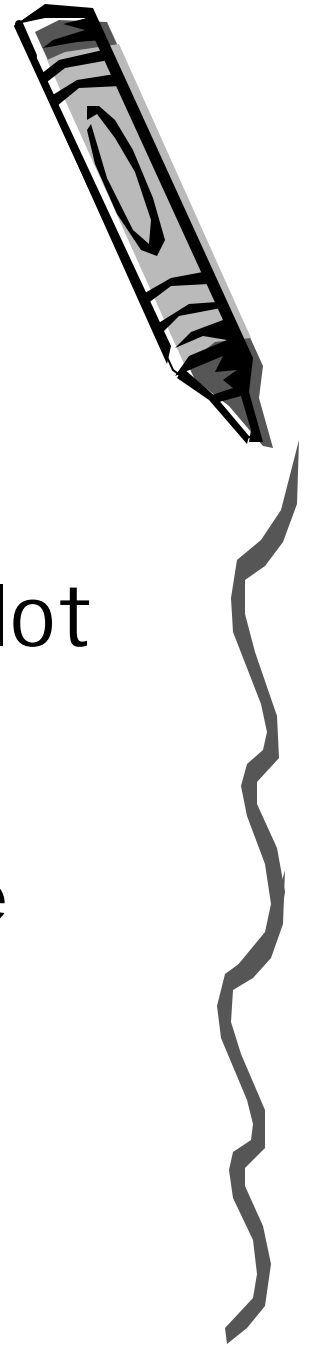
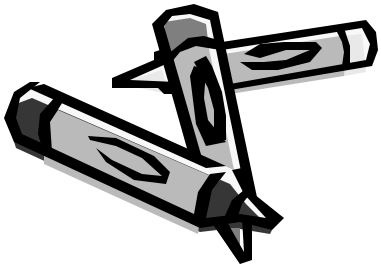
Evaluation Lessons

- Evaluation framework employed by Pinellas Safe Start is participatory
- Why participatory evaluation fits this project
- How participatory evaluation was implemented



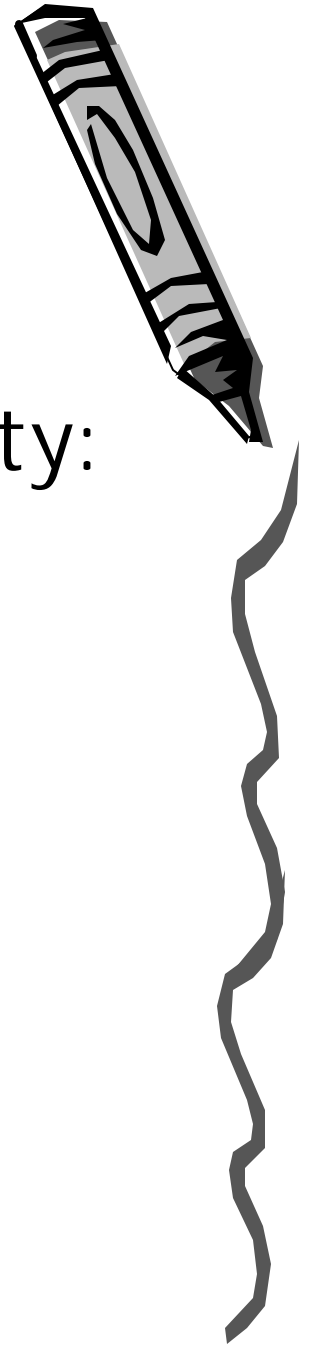
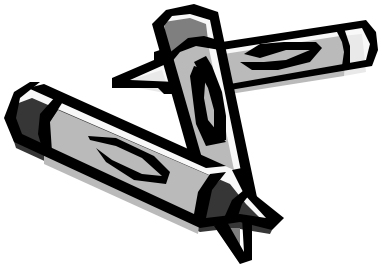
Evaluation Lessons

- Build mechanisms for knowledge transfer and learning communities...social service has a lot of personnel turnover
 - Mechanisms for knowledge transfer must outlive the person that is in the position today!



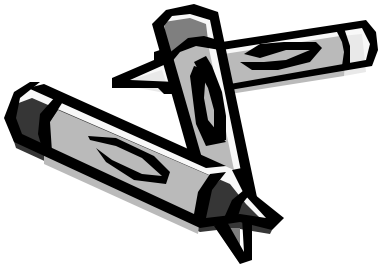
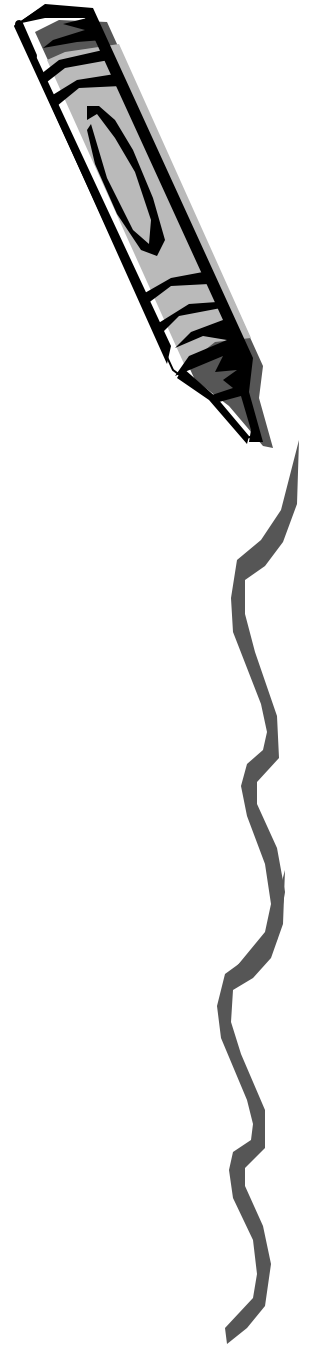
Evaluation Lesson

- The domino effect of accountability:
 - When bureaucracies become burdensome.



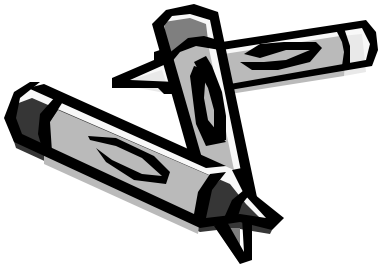
Evaluation Lesson

- The frenzy of sustainability



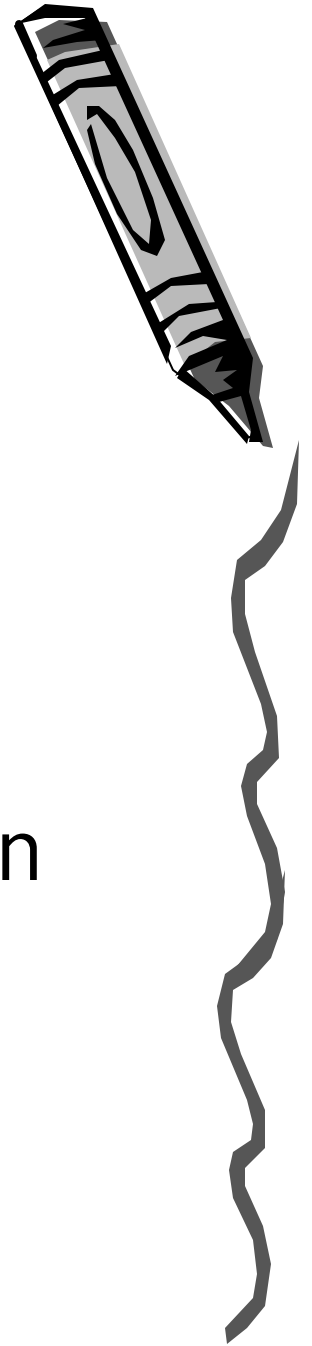
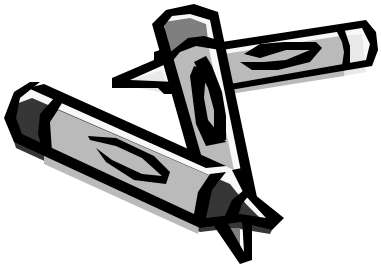
Evaluation Lesson

- Coinciding cycles of information flow & instituting a formal review process



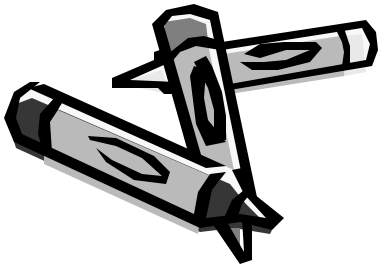
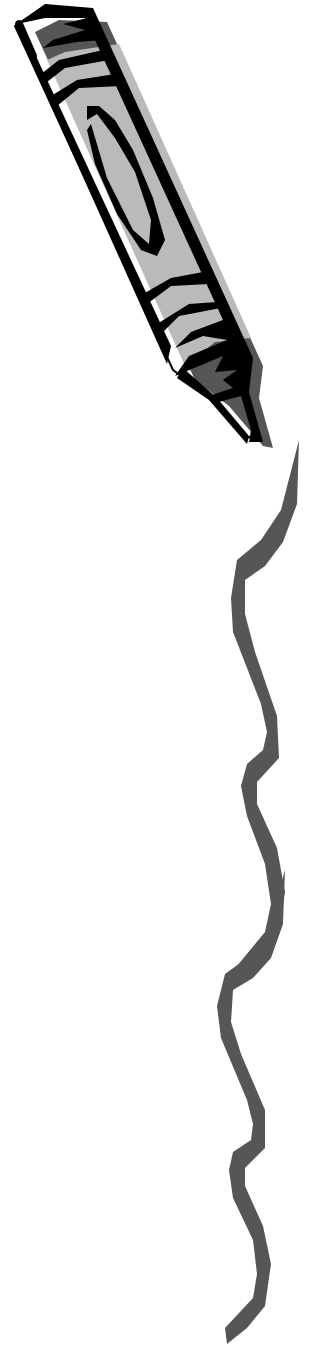
Evaluation Lesson Learned

- This type of evaluation is time consuming, but also can yield more valid results & increase use than those that do not include stakeholders at the project level in the evaluation



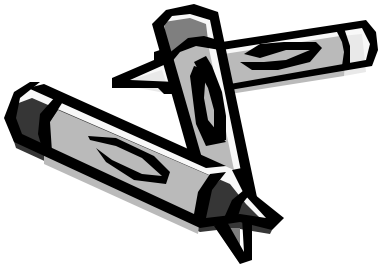
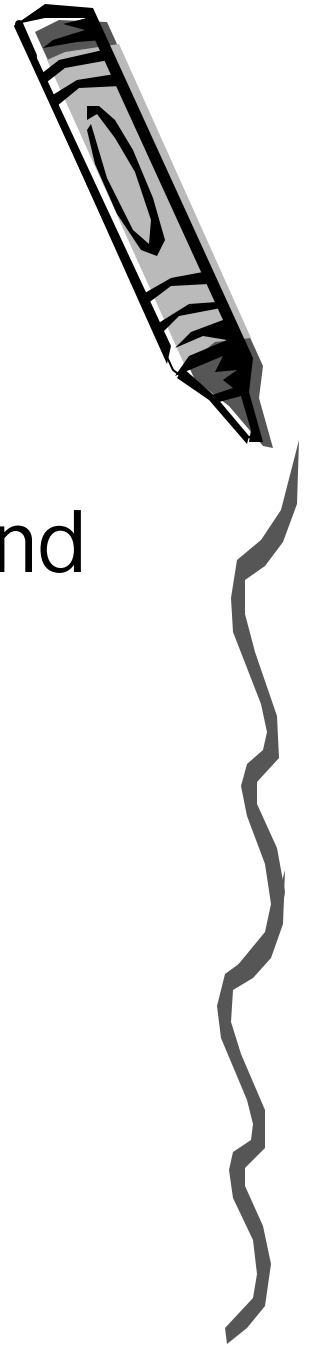
Evaluation Lesson

- A balanced approach is needed in determining roles of partners and evaluator



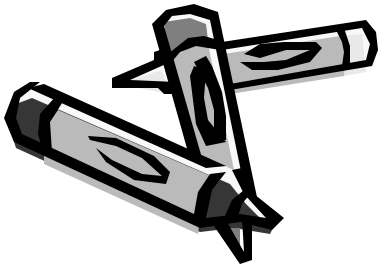
Evaluation Lesson

- Need to articulate assumptions so everyone understands processes and resources



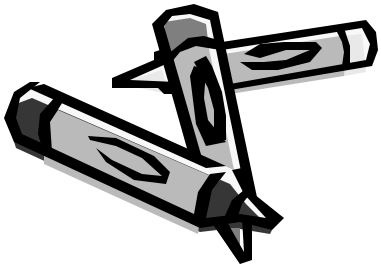
Evaluation Lesson

- Political context and levels of audiences for evaluation results reporting need to be considered ie: balancing accountability and compliance with "learning community" and using data for program improvement



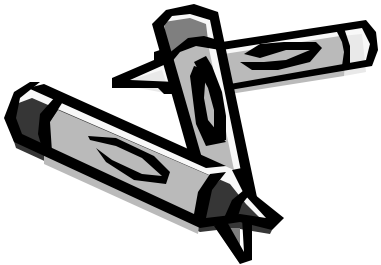
Evaluation Lesson

- The more partners, the more data sources, the greater need & difficulty in coordinating data sources
 - Continuous communication and feedback with site staff is critical for gaining access to data and developing appropriate evaluation tools
 - Inventory potential sources of data, develop plan for data collection and submission
 - Revisit the plan at least every six months to ensure it is still realistic and functional



Evaluation Lesson

- Stay in tune at the site meetings
 - some evaluators may think attending site staff meetings are superfluous,
 - I find them vital to being at the pulse of the information on daily practice that will impact the evaluation process

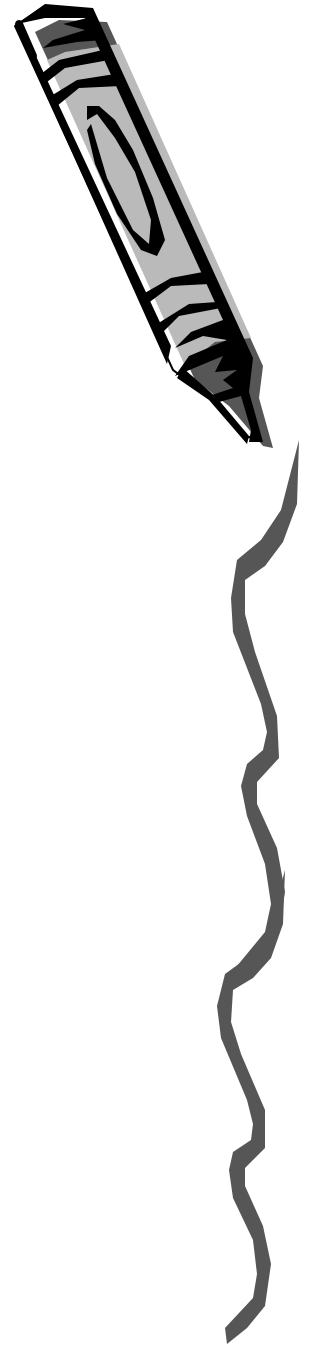
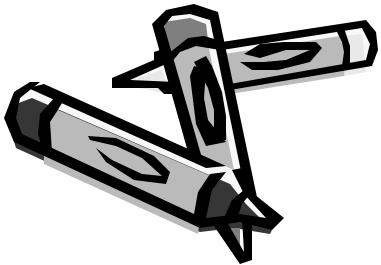


Evaluation Lesson

Program staff must be involved in the interpretation of the data

- Use on-site meetings to report out findings and to dialogue about what the evaluation findings mean

Need to provide information in a manner that facilitates a readiness for use



Evaluation Lesson

- Consistently 30% of the respondents indicated “don’t know” to the KIS questions, with the exception of the questions regarding the training component.
 - What does this mean for the evaluation?
 - Accuracy of sampling frame, the nature of a collaborative embedded within social services?

