



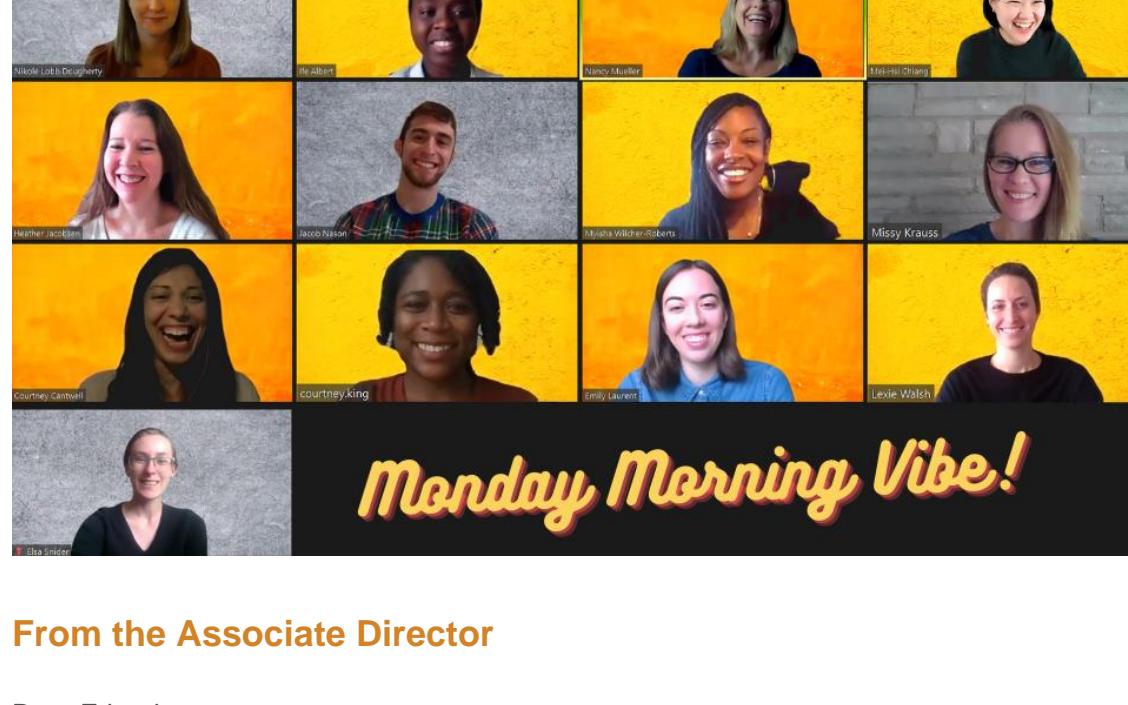
Evaluation Center

Brown School

Washington
University in St. Louis
BROWN SCHOOL

Evaluation Edge | Partnering for Impact

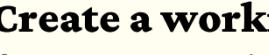
September 2020



From the Associate Director

Dear Friends,

It can be hard to prioritize evaluation when there is so much uncertainty and other big challenges in the world around us. However, at the heart of evaluation is building a capacity for learning – learning about our teams, participants, programs, data, impact, systems, ourselves. It's the start of a new academic year – a time when I find myself reflecting on learning, what to take into the future and what to leave behind. Recently, I have found myself thinking about learnings I would have shared with myself back in March of 2020 when we went "virtual."

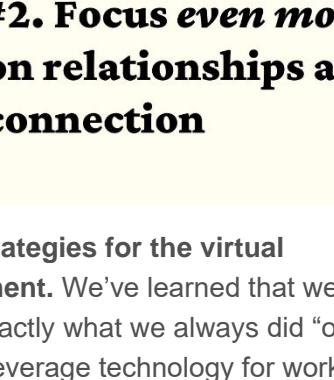


#1. Create a working environment at home

Focus even more on relationships, connection, and collaboration. At a time when we are physically distant from each other, this is the time we most need to be connected. We take a participatory approach to evaluation and believe in engaging stakeholders throughout the process. Evaluation systems were built over time through the engagement of our teams, partners, and stakeholders. Even if part of your evaluation or programming is put on pause, the people are still there.

Create a virtual working environment.

Easier said than done, but developing a routine and creating a space where you feel productive and focused can go a long way.



#2. Focus even more on relationships and connection



#3. Adapt strategies for the virtual environment

Adapt strategies for the virtual environment. We've learned that we can't just do exactly what we always did "on Zoom." Leverage technology for working virtually and PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. Prior to Spring 2020, many of us had barely used Zoom and Microsoft Teams – now both of these are woven into our every day. With any new skill, we have to put in the time to develop it and use technology in ways that help us do the work and connect with one another.

Evaluation Center staff and students share more detailed learnings in our blog post [Evaluation in a Virtual World: Six Months of Working Remotely](#). Moving fully virtual has required grace, creativity, and trial and error. We're learning and we know you are, too.

Interested in continuing your virtual professional development? We all want to learn to visualize and communicate data effectively and succinctly to tell stories. Check out our new fully remote [Post-Master's Certificate in Data Visualization & Communication launching early 2021](#) through the Brown School, led by [myself](#) and [Meihsia Chiang, Evaluation Manager](#).

In partnership,

Nikole

Nikole Lobb Dougherty, MA
Associate Director of the Brown School Evaluation Center



Featured Project



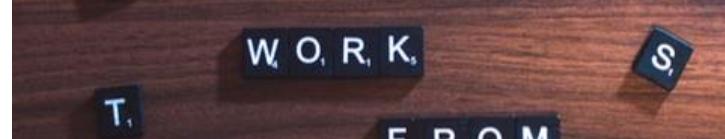
East Side Aligned Out of School Time System Evaluation

East Side Aligned is a collective impact movement within the greater East St. Louis area working to ensure all children and youth are healthy, safe, secure, ready to learn and work, and empowered to create change. Since September 2017, the Evaluation Center has partnered with East Side Aligned to build and implement a network-level evaluation for the Youth Development Alliance (YDA) – an out-of-school time network in Greater East St. Louis that works to ensure youth have access to high-quality afterschool and summer opportunities.

Throughout the last 3 years, the Evaluation Center has worked closely with the YDA to measure the impact of network activities, improve the network's capability for data-informed decision-making, and support providers' program quality and evaluation capacity. Our team worked closely with individual providers to improve capacity related to data-collection and data management and has led the development of data collection tools, systems, and protocols. We have also collaborated with the YDA to build capacity around utilizing available data to identify successes and opportunities for improvement in program reach, engagement, and outcomes. A key evaluation deliverable over the last year has been the production of quarterly provider-level reports and a quarterly system-level report on youth enrollment and engagement.

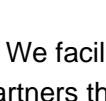


Evaluation in Action



See what we've learned after six months of working in the same house (or room) as partners, roommates, kids, and pets in our blog post [Evaluation in a Virtual World: Six Months of Working Remotely](#).

We facilitated five virtual logic model sessions with our partners this summer – [Beyond Housing](#), [Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education](#) and [Washington University Medical Campus](#), [Cigna Foundation](#), [Living Well Center](#), [Rung for Women](#).



New Partnership

The Evaluation Center is looking forward to working with our new partners:

We are the evaluation partner on a two-year grant with the [CARE \(Clinic for Acceptance, Recovery, and Empowerment\) in Pregnancy program at Barnes Jewish Hospital](#), which offers prenatal care, substance abuse treatment and extended postpartum support for pregnant women with opioid use disorder. The Evaluation Center will work with CARE Clinic to develop an evaluation plan, collect data from patients about their CARE experience, and collect and analyze CARE implementation data.

The Evaluation Center is part of a transdisciplinary team from Washington University (WU) that was recently awarded a two-year grant from the [Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human](#)

Join Our Team

We have [two open positions](#):

[Evaluation Coordinator \(job ID 49075\)](#)

[Research Assistant \(job ID 49076\)](#)

Upcoming Events

The [Evaluation Association of St. Louis](#) offers monthly evaluation workshops/events.

Check out the virtual offerings this fall and [EASL's](#)

[Twitter](#) @evalstlouis.

Register for these

upcoming EASL events:

October 7, 2020

[Evaluative Thinking: Understanding and Applying the Foundations of Evaluation with Thomas Archibald](#).

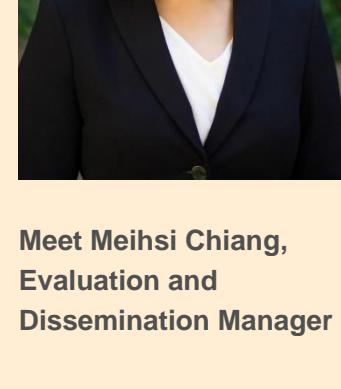
November 10, 2020

[Getting Started with Consulting: An Introductory Webinar for Evaluators Who Want to Start Consulting Practices](#).

December 3, 2020

[Journey Mapping](#)

Staff Spotlight



Meet **Meihsie Chiang**, Evaluation and Dissemination Manager

What is one resource that has helped you grow as an evaluator?

Asking for feedback from project partners and colleagues—it's also a great way to make connections. Receiving feedback also helps me reflect on my experience as an evaluator and recognize the strengths and areas of improvement that I need to work on.

What do you do to stay organized?

Start my day with a great cup of coffee. Also, outline my priorities and avoid multitasking

Development. The primary goal of the project is to enable successful implementation of a newly approved saliva-based SARS-CoV-2 test for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and school staff so that schools can operate as safely as possible. The team will be testing different strategies to maximize delivery of weekly testing at six St Louis area schools. In addition, we will be assessing national perspectives among parents of children with IDD and school staff regarding the impact of COVID-19 and the importance of testing. The WU team is led by the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center and includes members from the Evaluation Center, McDonnell Genome Institute, Institute for Informatics, Center for Implementation and Dissemination, and Health Communication Research Laboratory. The WU team is partnering with St. Louis County Special School District, University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute of Human Development and Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

■ We are the evaluation partner with the Cigna Foundation's Healthier Kids for Our Future (HKFOF), a global initiative committed to improving the health and well-being of children and aligned with three of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, and Good Health and Well-Being. The HKFOF initiative aims to connect dedicated local organizations with resources and volunteers to amplify their impact. We are working with the Cigna Foundation to develop and implement HKFOF initiative and program-level evaluation plans, assist with funding strategy development, and provide evaluation training and technical assistance to grantees across the United States.

■ The Living Well Center at Washington University Orthopedics coordinates interdisciplinary care to better meet patients' specific personal health and wellness goals, such as improving health for surgery or enhancing quality of life during cancer treatment. They are partnering with the Evaluation Center to design an evaluation plan that will help the Center better understand the implementation and outcomes of their innovative care model. The evaluation team will also lead the qualitative data component to learn from the interdisciplinary care team about the model implementation.

■ We're facilitating a virtual program-level logic model development process with Beyond Housing, a place-based organization weaving housing, civic engagement, and family support services together to build a community with the Normandy Schools Collaborative footprint.

■ Girls in the Know brings together pre-teen and teenage girls, along with their trusted adults, in the Empowerment Workshop Series, a four-part workshop series to promote positive behaviors, relationships, and support decision-making that facilitates a safe and thriving adulthood. They are partnering with the Evaluation Center to refine their post-workshop survey instruments to align with funder requirements and better understand participant satisfaction and change over time.

In the News

Most Influential Business Women 2020: Shawntelle Fisher, The Soulfisher Ministries
St. Louis Business Journal, August 13, 2020

New Nonprofit Opens Campus in St. Louis to Lift Women into the Middle Class
St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 31, 2020

Effective Community-Based Initiatives Are Needed to Curb the Opioid Crisis
PEW, July 15, 2020

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What are you watching on TV right now?

Aggretsuko. It's an anime series about a 25-year-old red panda and her office life.

What's the one thing you've waited in line the longest for?

The Nintendo Switch when it first came out. That was a long wait (mentally)!

What other languages do you know?

Taiwanese, Mandarin Chinese

Pumpkin Spice- yes or no?

No! No! And no!