


QRS Evaluations: Challenges and Opportunities



Annual Meeting of the
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Consortium
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Quality Rating Systems

- ❑ A rapidly increasing number of States are implementing quality rating systems (QRS) to
 - **assess** the quality of care delivered by individual child care providers
 - **communicate** this information to the consumers of care
 - **improve** the quality of care and education for children
- ❑ Programs vary meaningfully across States in their
 - designs
 - emphases and target populations
 - goals and objectives
- ❑ States are in need of information regarding the various approaches
 - Implementation (program design and goals)
 - Evaluation

Meeting on the Evaluation of State Quality Rating Systems

□ Goal

- To provide a common framework for identifying evaluation goals and approaches to State quality rating systems

□ Participants

- Teams of State Administrators and evaluators from 9 States, invited researchers, and Federal partners

□ Theme of discussions

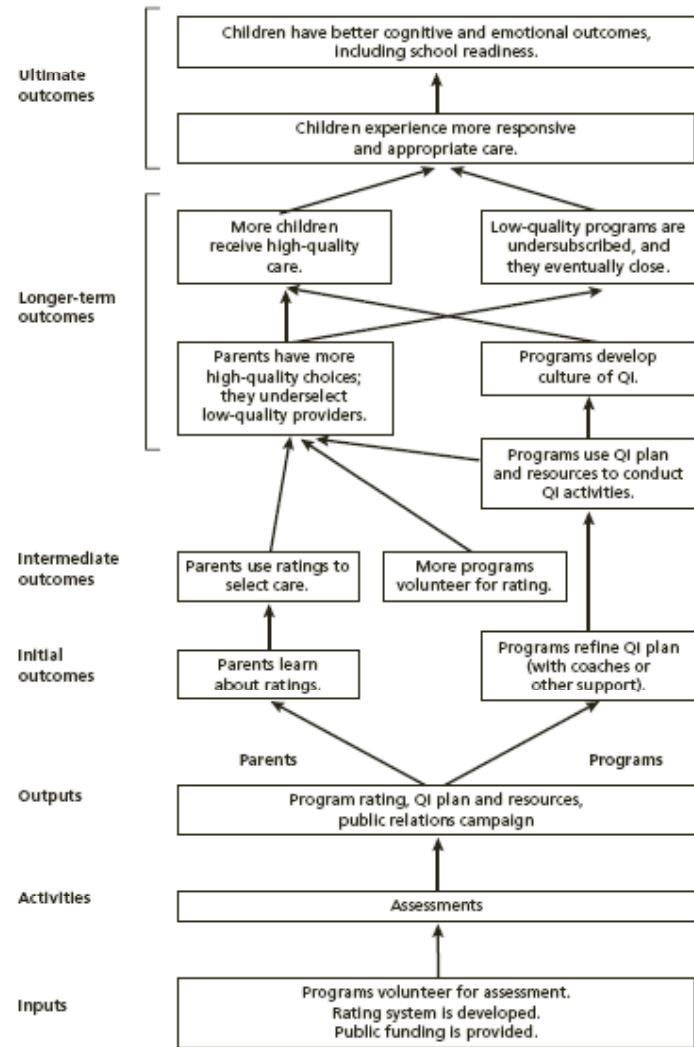
- Theory of change, with particular focus on **logic models** as foundation for evaluation

Highlights Regarding Current Status of QRS Evaluation

- ❑ States differ in the extent to which a logic model is **implicit** or **explicit** in their QRS evaluation
- ❑ Most States focus on **outputs** although some, even some new QRS, focus on **outcomes**
- ❑ States have used output data to **modify program design**; some have relied on pilot data for this purpose
- ❑ Many questions and methodologies are **similar across States**

Ultimate outcomes
 ↑
 Longer-term outcomes
 ↑
 Intermediate outcomes
 ↑
 Initial outcomes
 ↑
 Outputs
 ↑
 Activities
 ↑
 Inputs

Figure 1.1
 A Logic Model for QRISs



RAND MG650-1.1

Zellman, G. L., Perlman, M., Le, V-N, & Setodji, C. M. (2008). *Assessing the validity of the Qualistar Early Learning quality rating and improvement system as a tool for improving child-care quality*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

Issues to be Addressed and Discussed in Breakout Session

- ❑ Evaluation design and measurement options
- ❑ Measuring child outcomes in QRS evaluations
- ❑ Evaluating QRS as a market/system-level intervention vs. a program evaluation