Recall that TE is an approach to evaluating community development programs. The primary focus for TE is to facilitate deeper understanding of what really matters in community development, with emphasis on development programs as a vehicle for facilitating individual and social transformation from within a Christian worldview. Primary stakeholders, including representatives of faith groups in the community, participate with the evaluator in making major decisions throughout the exercise. The evaluation design and implementation are consistent with a constructivist paradigm for inquiry along with principles for thinking and acting holistically.

What is a principle?

A principle is a statement that is foundational for a body of knowledge; the statement is regarded by informed persons as trustworthy based on positive experiences over time by diverse groups. Practical principles guide action of some sort.

This paper describes tentative principles for reporting findings of a Transformative Evaluation exercise. Constructive criticism and suggestions are welcome.

Tentative principles

This is not a comprehensive list of principles for reporting evaluation findings along with a description of the exercise and the context for the program and the primary agency that designed and implemented the program. In general these principles highlight how features of the TE model influences reporting.

01. As much as possible TE reporting should be consistent with reporting principles in the American Evaluation Association Guiding Principles for Evaluators (2004). Examples include:

- Evaluators should communicate their methods and approaches accurately and in sufficient detail to allow others to understand, interpret and critique their work. They should make clear the limitations of an evaluation and its results.
- Before accepting an evaluation assignment, evaluators should disclose any roles or relationships they have that might pose a conflict of interest (or appearance of a conflict) with their role as an evaluator. If they proceed with the evaluation, the conflict(s) should be clearly articulated in reports of the evaluation results.
- Knowing that evaluations may negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.

02. Speak truth in love after discerning how God might work with the report in reconciling the fallen and hurting world to God's way. Prepare each audience to prayerfully engage in dialogue about the evidence, conclusions and recommendations.

03. Describe results of engaging in reflective practice throughout the exercise.

04. Make the case that this exercise was objective from a Christian worldview perspective.

05. Per Michael Scriven planning the products and processes for reporting is as complicated as planning the description of the program (EvalFrank.com, October 2014). See the resources below for ideas to guide your report planning, which should begin as the exercise is designed and modified as the exercise progresses. Review the reporting plan against the agency's evaluation framework for consistency.

06. Reporting should inspire hope, not despair, in the audiences. Consult with appropriate spiritual leaders about ways of presenting clearly stated findings such that people are open to using the findings to guide mission planning moving forward.

07. Reporting should include discussion of how the evaluation fits within the fact that sustainable community development is multi-generational.

Resources

American Evaluation Association. 2004. Guiding Principles for Evaluators. Available online at eval.org.

> Reporting principles are described throughout the text of the five guidelines.

Bamberger, Rugh and Mabry. 2006. RealWorld Evaluation: Working Under Budget, Time. Data, and Political Constraints. Pages 399-402.

> Advice for reporting efficiently and effectively.

www.EvalFrank.com. October 2014. Scriven's Key Evaluation Checklist.

Donna M. Mertens. 2009. Transformative Research and Evaluation. Chapter 10.

> Advice for reporting to achieve goals of social change and social justice.

Michael Quinn Patton. Latest edition. Utilization-Focused Evaluation.

> Approach to any form of evaluation that is focused on providing information desired by clients and other stakeholders in styles and formats that they prefer. The information is presented to facilitate improvement in the evaluand or critical decisions about the way forward.