



Institute for Community Health

A collaboration of the Cambridge Health Alliance, Mount Auburn Hospital, and Partners Healthcare

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Tips from our own evaluation trenches: Organizing an evaluation unit within a multidisciplinary organization.

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Last year at the AEA/CES conference Stan Capela and Gene Lyle presented "Tips from the Trenches," which provided advice on how evaluators can work more effectively with program stakeholders. This presentation also focuses on how evaluators can work more effectively, but within their own professional context and organizational structures.

A group of evaluators working within a small but growing research organization conducted a strategic planning process to clarify what was needed in order to create an evaluation unit and work more effectively together—hence the title, "Tips from our Own Evaluation Trenches." Issues raised during this process include defining what evaluators do, improving how evaluators work with data analysts and other staff, increasing communication, increasing the skills of the evaluators, and conducting evaluations using a shared approach. The lessons learned from this process will be presented in the form of "tips" that can be applied by evaluators working within their own professional contexts.