# National EA MDT TTA Center

National Elder Abuse MDT Training and Technical Assistance Center

# **Resource Brief | E-MDT Logic Models**

# Why focus on logic models?

Focusing on logic models can assist you with securing funding and assist you with developing a sustainable plan by providing stakeholders, funders, or new employees with a concise depiction of your program. Logic models are visual guides to a program's mechanisms, describing the theory of how a program addresses the problem of elder abuse. A well-thought-out evaluation enables determining to what extent the theory was correct and why.

A grant recipient may have already created a program logic model for funding applications, outlining the program inputs, outputs, and short- and long-term outcomes, which can be utilized and built upon for evaluation purposes.

# Components of a logic model

Logic models allow delineating a programs *Resources*, *Activities*, *Outputs*, *Short-Term Outcomes*, and *Long-Term Outcomes*.

- **Resources** What is needed to operate an E-MDT? This could include people, organizations, donations, physical space, and technology.
- Activities What does an E-MDT do, such as meeting, receiving referrals, reviewing cases, collaborative planning, or conducting victim assessments (medical, neuropsychological, or financial)?
- **Outputs** What does a team produce because of the activities, including service enrollment, criminal justice, legal interventions (such as prosecution, restraining orders, guardianship), gap, or needs assessments?
- Outcomes These are changes in the participants of a program, E-MDT. In E-MDTs, participants are team members, case referral sources, and the older or dependent adults whose cases are reviewed. Changes for members might be in terms of changes in a knowledge base or level of engagement with the team. Changes in victims might be increased safety and well-being. Some outcomes may take longer to achieve so that outcomes can be delineated between short-term, detectable at case closure, and long-term, which can be detected or maintained after six months or more.

By depicting these elements on a one-page graphic, it creates a snapshot of the theory underlying the program's services and an overview of the different elements involved.

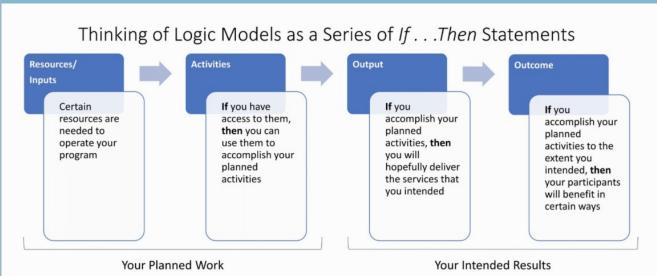
# **Example of Program Theory for E-MDTs**

Collaboration between APS, law enforcement, social services, mental health services, and prosecutors (resources) addresses complex cases of elder abuse (inputs) with the



prosecution, restitution, and creative solutions (outputs) and increases the safety of older adults (short term outcome) and results in improved well-being (long-term outcome).

One way to think about a program theory is as a logical statement. The figure below shows the relationship between each logic model element into *IF....* THEN statements.



Adapted from: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/evaluation\_resources/guides/logic\_model.htm).

#### The Connection between evaluation and logic models



Program evaluation is essentially testing the theory of a program. Therefore, a logic model will show what program elements need data collection. Using the above example, it would be useful to collect the following data:

- Which agencies participate in meetings and provide direct assistance in cases
- Client/victim characteristics (demographics, living situation)
- Case details (abuse types, perpetrator demographics and relationship to older adults, timeline, client goals/preferences)
- Services provided (enrollment in services for client and/or caregiver, prosecution, relocation, restitution granted, restitution amount)
- Client/victim outcomes (risk factors, quality of life, satisfaction, client/victim goal attainment)

Evaluation allows a coordinator to learn about limitations to their program and develop additions or adaptations to achieve the desired outcomes. For example, if a team has included forensic accounting services in an E-MDT, the coordinator probably observed that the financial exploitation cases were difficult to resolve and aimed to increase court-ordered restitution for victims.

With adequate data collection, the coordinator could show how many cases the team reviewed that involved financial exploitation, how many may have been eligible for restitution, and how many were granted restitution in what amounts.

## Conclusion

A logic model can be used as a living, breathing document that a coordinator can adjust along with the program and the understanding of the changes impacting the clients. Using a logic model to guide data collection and evaluation may require a closer look at how inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes may relate to one another ( theory of changes) and what data a coordinator might collect to represent the various processes, services, outputs, and outcomes (data collection plan). There are also additional supports in the elder justice field that coordinators can rely on, including peer leadership discussion platforms and national programs such as the National Elder Abuse MDT Training and Technical Assistance Center.



### **Additional Resources**

More information on program evaluation and logic models: <a href="https://victimresearch.org/tools-training/program-evaluation/https://www.cdc.gov/evaluation/framework/index.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/evaluation/framework/index.htm</a>

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