

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here!

We will get started shortly.
In the meantime, we invite you to intentionally enter this space.



Silence your cell phone



Stretch



Close the door



Take a few deep breaths



Close browser windows



Emotionally release your to-do list



Check your audio and video



Take a bio break

Increasing Evaluation's Transformative Impact

Breakout Session

Wednesday, November 3, 2021
3:00pm – 4:20pm ET

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center is operated by the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ). This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 1 UF5MC327500100 titled Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project.



Agenda

Housekeeping

Lina Barrett, Division of
Healthy Start and
Perinatal Services
(DHSPS)

Welcome &
Introduction

Lina Barrett

Increasing Evaluation's
Transformative Impact

Donna M. Mertens,
Gallaudet University

Q&A

All

Closing

Lina Barrett





This session is being recorded.



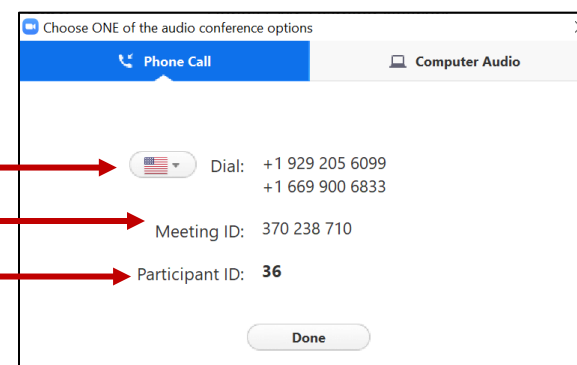
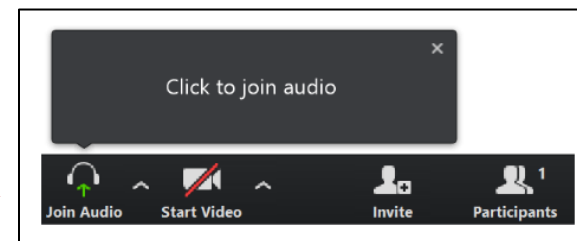
All participants are muted upon entry. We ask that you remain muted to limit background noise.



Participants are encouraged to share comments via the Chat module and ask questions via the Q&A module in Whova (on the mobile app or browser).

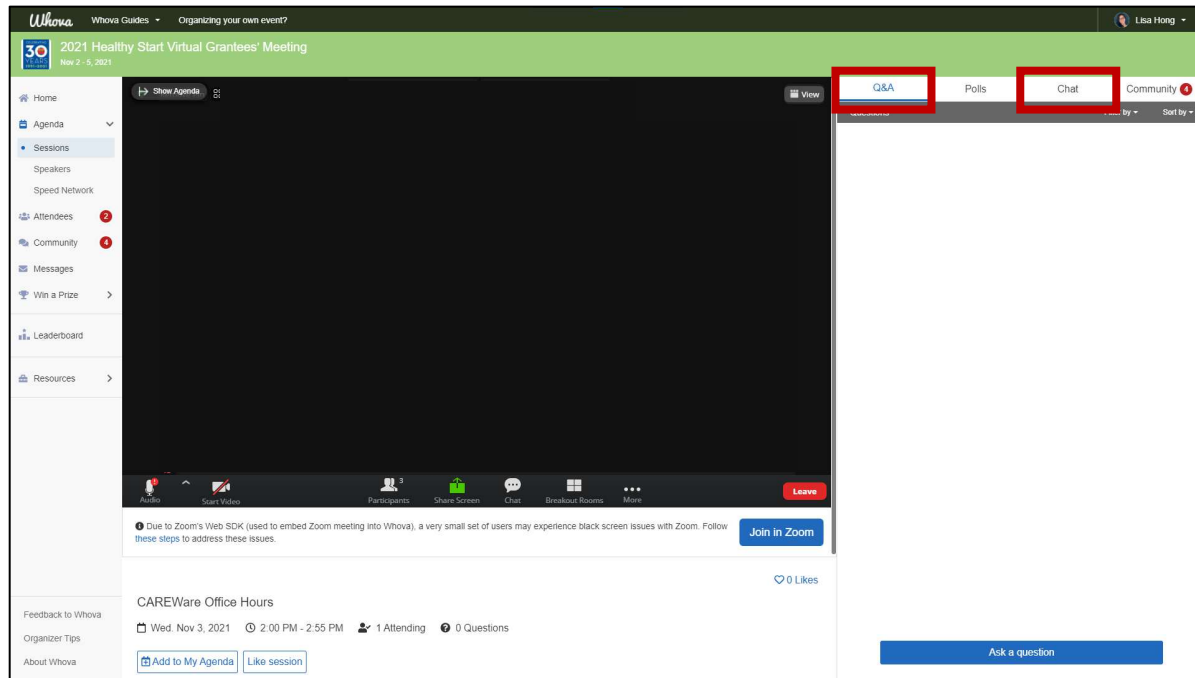
Audio

- After you join the Zoom session, an audio conference box may appear.
 - If you do not see the box, click **'Join Audio'**
- From the audio conference box, select **'Phone Call'** or **'Computer Audio'**
 - If using the phone:
 - Dial one of the given numbers next to **'Dial'**
 - You will be prompted to enter the **Meeting ID**
 - Then you will be prompted to enter the **Participant ID**

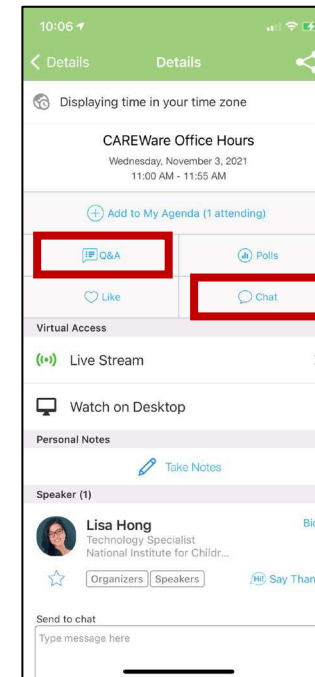


Chat and Q&A modules in Whova

Chrome Browser



Mobile Application



Like what you see?

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center is now active on social media!

1. Take a picture or a screenshot
2. Share on Instagram or Twitter!
3. Don't forget to tag @HS_TASC and @NICHQ and include hashtags #HealthyStartVGM2021 and #HealthyStartStrong

Technical Issues

If you experience any technical challenges with Whova, please email support@whova.com.



Welcome & Introduction

Lina Barrett

Division of Healthy
Start and Perinatal
Services

*Increasing Evaluation's Transformative Impact
Hosted by the Healthy Start TA & Support Center at NICHQ on November 3, 2021*

NICHQ
National Institute for
Children's Health Quality

HEALTHY
start
TA & SUPPORT CENTER

Welcome to the VGM!

We hope you have been
enjoying today's sessions
so far!

In this breakout, you will:

- Learn the role of transformative evaluation in addressing systemic discrimination and health inequities
- Learn to critically assess the principles of the transformative framework for their evaluation practice
- Learn to identify opportunities to put transformative principles into practice

Our Speaker

Donna M. Mertens, PhD
Professor Emeritus
Gallaudet University

#HealthyStartVGM2021
#HealthyStartStrong
@HS_TASC @NICHQ

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Questions during the session?

Use the Q&A module in the Whova platform and make sure to identify the speaker to whom you are directing your question(s).

Questions will be answered during the session if time permits. Otherwise, questions will be addressed post-session.

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HEALTHY
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Increasing Evaluation's Transformative Impact

Donna M. Mertens, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Gallaudet University

Virtual Healthy Start Grantees' Meeting (VGM)

November 3-5, 2021

My Background

- **Professor Emeritus, Gallaudet University**
- **Independent Consultant**
- **Former editor: *Journal of Mixed Methods Research***
- **Founding board member: Mixed Methods International Research Association**
- **Past President of the American Evaluation Association**



Zoom Poll 1

**Did you attend my presentation on
Transformative Evaluation in 2020?**

- **Yes**
- **No**
- **Can't remember**

Healthy Start Evaluation: Part of the Story

- **Risky behaviors: smoking, alcohol, drugs – infant mortality**
- **Solutions: education and employment**
- **Duke University: Works for White women**
- **‘For Black women, exposure to discrimination and racialized stress throughout the lifespan can negatively impact birth outcomes’**

Imari Z. Smith et al., *Fighting at Birth: Eradicating the Black-White Infant Mortality Gap* (Oakland: Duke University’s Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity and Insight Center for Community Economic Development, 2018). Available at: <https://socialequity.duke.edu/sites/socialequity.duke.edu/files/site-images/EradicatingBlackInfantMortality>

Zoom Poll 2

Check All that apply with regard to your evaluation in Health Start and systemic racism

- 1. It is not a relevant concept in our program.**
- 2. We are aware of it but we don't collect data.**
- 3. We recognize it is a problem, but we don't know what to do about it.**
- 4. We want to collect data about it, but we don't have the resources to do it.**
- 5. We do collect data, but we are not satisfied with the results.**
- 6. We are doing this on a regular basis and using it for transformative purposes.**

Racism, discrimination, bias: Mixed Methods

- **Online survey and in-depth interviews**
- **Racial concordance patient-healthcare provider: Connection**
- **Discouragement and misinformation: What works for me?**
- **Frustration: “did not listen”**
- **Excluded from decision making: My questions...**
- **Medical mistrust: Pressuring**
- **Lack of empathy: Anxiety and nervousness**

Health Disparities and History: Mixed methods

- **Healthy equity and social determinants of health**
- **Travel course for public health students in the South**
- **Journals, blogs, pre and post assessments**
- **History: HIV, TB and sanatoriums, disasters (hurricanes), oil spills, nuclear test sites, Tuskegee**
- **Barriers: mistrust, lack of funding**
- **Social determinants: social, economic and environmental (Katrina)**
- **Improvements: Collaborative partnerships, one-stop model of care**

Fifolt, M. & L. C. McCormick (2020). Advancing Public Health Education Through Place-Based Learning: “On the Road in the Deep South”, *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*, 6(20), 102-112.

Indigenous childbirth: Mixed methods

- **Pregnant Indigenous women from rural areas evacuated to hospitals**
- **Non-native health care providers**
- **Advisory committee: Indigenous and non-Indigenous government, nonprofits, midwives, and physicians**
- **Quantitative: Patient Data**

Qualitative Data

- **Evacuation stress: no family, need for childcare**
- **Hospital bureaucracy: long waiting time, repetition of information**
- **Stereotypes: Nonverbal communication style, “noncompliant, rude”**

Vang, Z.M. et al., (2018). Interactions Between Indigenous Women Awaiting Childbirth Away From Home and Their Southern, Non-Indigenous Health Care Providers, *Qualitative Health Research*, 28(12), 1858-1870.

Transformative
Change

Transformative
Evaluation

Answering the Challenge: Transformative Evaluation

<http://zendaofir.com/the-et-cetera-of-transformative-evaluation/>
Stephen Porter and Donna Mertens (2019)

- **Underlying assumptions that rely on ethical stances of inclusion and challenging oppressive structures;**
- **An entry process into the community that is designed to build trust and make goals and strategies transparent;**
- **Dissemination of findings in ways that encourage the use of results to enhance social, environmental and economic justice and human rights**
- **Addressing intersectionality when culturally responsive, feminist, critical race, equity-focused, and Indigenous theories are relevant in the evaluation context**

Evaluation Assumptions

Guba and Lincoln

- **Axiological: Nature of Ethics**
- **Ontological: Nature of Reality**
- **Epistemology: Nature of Knowledge & Relation Between Knower & That Which Would Be Known (Evaluators and Stakeholders)**
- **Methodology: Nature of systematic inquiry**

Transformative Paradigm

Assumptions	Beliefs
Axiology	Cultural respect; promote social, environmental and economic justice & human rights; address inequities; reciprocity; resilience; interconnectedness (living and nonliving); relationships
Ontology	Multi-faceted; consequences of privilege; historically situated
Epistemology	Interactive; trust; coalition building
Methodology	Transformative, dialogic, culturally responsive, mixed methods; policy change

Transformative Mixed Methods Design



Example: CREE Evaluation



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

- **Coalition built**
- **Power issues**
- **Context**
- **Data collection**
- **Action-oriented**
- **Attention to persons**

Miller, R.L., Rutledge, J. & Ayala, G. (2021). Breaking down barriers to HIV care for gay and bisexual men and transgender women: The Advocacy and Other Community Tactics (ACT) Project. *AIDS and Behavior*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-021-03216-w>

Future of Transformative Evaluation: If not now, when?

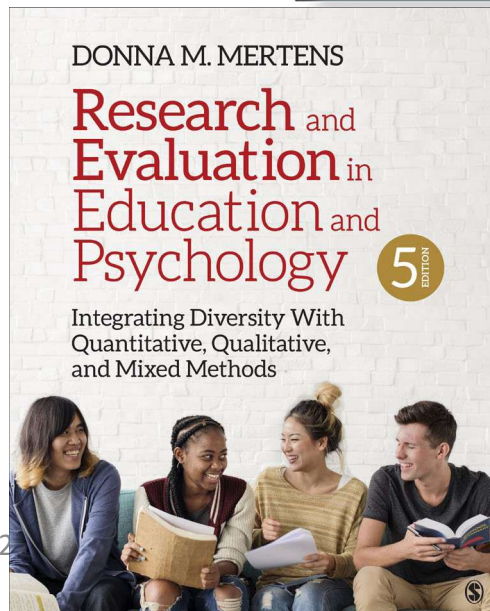
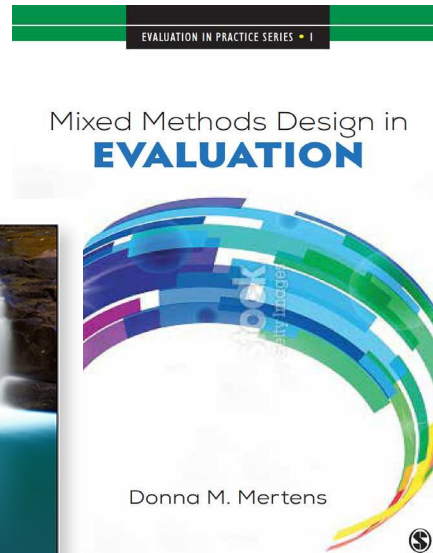
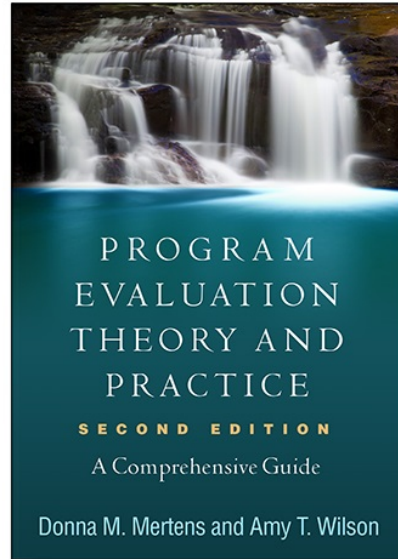
“The pandemic response reveals with stark and sobering clarity that current paradigms of global health equity are insufficient in counteracting structural oppression.” (p. 4)

Büyüm A.M., C. Kenney, A. Koris, L. Mkumba, and Y. Raveendran (2020), ‘Decolonising global health: if not now, when?’, *British Medical Journal Global Health*, e003394. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2020-003394

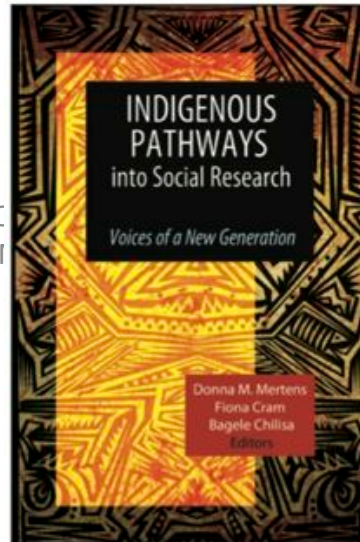
**What are your thoughts about using a transformative approach to evaluation in Healthy Start?
(Enter your responses in the Whova Chat module)**

- **Is there any hope that you could integrate some of the transformative principles into your evaluation?**
- **What would it look like if you did try to do that?**
- **What support would you need to move forward with this?**
- **How relevant are the ideas in transformative evaluation to the context in which you work?**

Resources



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- Mertens, D.M. (in press). *Mixed Methods Research*, Bloomsbury Press.
- Mertens, D.M. (2018). *Mixed Methods Design in Evaluation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Mertens, D. M. & Wilson, A. (2019). *Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide*. 2nd ed. NY: Guilford.
- Mertens, D. M. (2020). *Research and evaluation in education and psychology: Integrating diversity with qual, quant and mixed methods*. 5th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Mertens, D. M. (2009). *Transformative research & evaluation*. NY: Guilford.
- Mertens, D. M. & Ginsberg, P. (2009).(Eds.) *Handbook of Social Research Ethics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Mertens, D.M., Cram, F., & Chilisa, B. (Eds.) (2013). *Indigenous pathways*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

Contact information

Donna M. Mertens, PhD

Independent Consultant

Donna.Mertens@Gallaudet.edu

Transformativeresearchandevaluation.com

Q&A

Please submit questions using the Q&A module in the Whova platform.

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Thank you for joining us!

If you need any support...

Please email healthystart@nichq.org

Upcoming Session: 4:30 pm ET
**Collaborative Approaches to Addressing
Maternal and Infant Health Disparities**

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#HealthyStartStrong
@HS_TASC @NICHQ

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