

Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) Implementation Evaluation Project

Presented by
Deborah Mancini
Co-Principal Investigator

NGB Professional Development Conference
Atlanta, Georgia
April 24-26, 2012

O u t l i n e

- Project Overview
- Purpose of JFSAP Project
- Project Results
- Project Methodology
- Project Tasks and Timeline
- Progress of Project
- Evaluability Assessment
- Implementation Assessment
- Ways SFPDs can be Involved
- UGA Team Members



Project Overview

- Two year project (February 2011- June 2013) conducted by the University of Georgia
- Sponsored through the Department of Defense (DoD) Department of Agriculture (USDA) partnership

POCs:

- **Judith Dekle**, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth
- **Stacey L. Barnes**, Program Analyst, Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Military Community and Family Policy
Phone: [\(571\) 372-0869](tel:5713720869) (new number)
stacey.barnes@osd.mil



Purpose of JFSAP Project

- Determine if the JFSAP program is being implemented per legislative mandate (National Defense Authorization Act of 2007, Sec 675)
- Obtain information that can be used to guide the monitoring and future evaluations of the JFSAP program





Project Results

Final Products

- Results-oriented JFSAP program logic model
- Report on implementation of JFSAP nationwide and in four U.S. territories

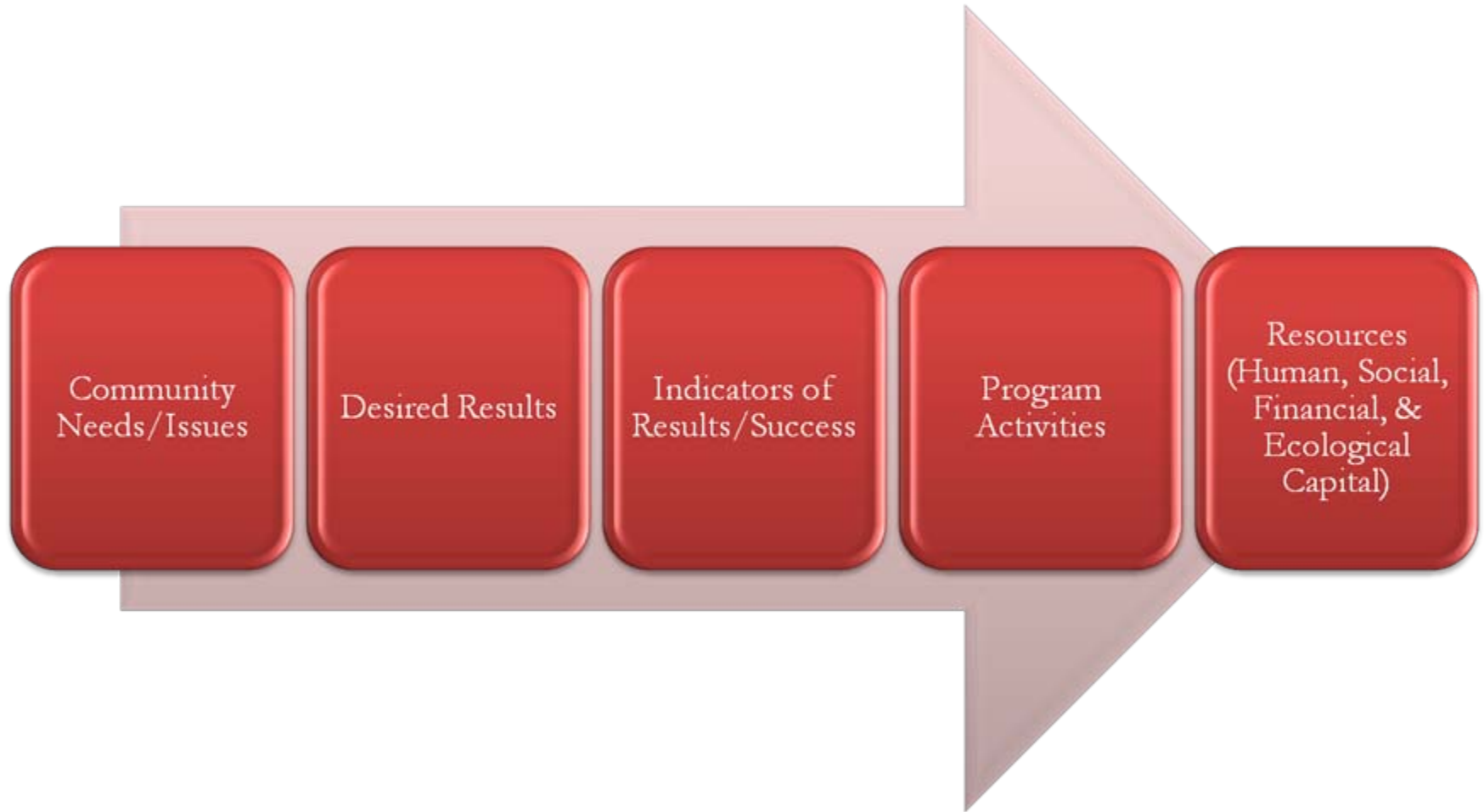
Potential Uses of Evaluation Information

- Reshape reporting efforts so that the information collected is useful to DoD and program staff
- Identify revisions to data collection needed
- Inform OSD/OFP on program management and assistance needed
- Have framework for future evaluation studies of JFSAP that may be aimed at assessing program results



Project Methodology

Results-Oriented Program Management





Project Methodology (cont.)

Evaluability Assessment (EA) – an evaluation planning and design tool to determine what parts of the program can be evaluated and what evaluation is feasible.

- An evaluability assessment is an exploratory, iterative process that examines:
 - Program structure and design (i.e., relationship between program activities and results) from both the perspective of how the program was intended and how the program is actually implemented
 - Indicators for results/success and what data are feasible to collect
 - Intended use of the evaluation information





Project Tasks & Timeline

Tasks

Timeline: 2011-2013

1. Clarify JFSAP program and discuss use of evaluation information and UGA project tasks with DoD → Ongoing
2. Conduct an evaluability assessment → May 2011-June 2012
3. Prepare and conduct an implementation assessment → September 2011-December 2012
4. Prepare and review report on JFSAP implementation → January 2013-June 2013





Progress of Evaluation Project

Evaluability Assessment

- ✓ Collected, reviewed, and analyzed extant JFSAP program documents
- ✓ Developed draft JFSAP program logic model
- ✓ Developed activity data indicators table
- Conduct interviews* with SFPDs and some Guard and Reserve leaders (April-May 2012)
 - Note: Interviews with SFPDs to be conducted at this conference



Evaluability Assessment: JFSAP Logic Model*

Needs/Issues

Geographically Dispersed Families

- Increased family, deployment and reintegration related issues that call for access to counseling, resources, and financial assistance
- Increased need for information and referral
- Increased need for awareness and knowledge of how to access family support programs offered to military families
- Need for outreach and alternative service delivery strategies

Desired Results

Total Force Families

- Know resources; Increased awareness of military and community services
- Know how to access resources
- Received information and referrals
- Use MOS and other resources when needed

JFSAP Activities

Families

- Conduct outreach
- Provide short-term solution focused counseling & psychoeducation and make referrals
- Provide child and youth counseling and referral resources
- Provide I & R
- Provide financial education and counseling
- Assist families at YRRP events
- Assess needs
- Publicize resources and 24/7 access to services



Evaluability Assessment: Interviews

Purpose

- Understand the implementation of the JFSAP teams in the field
- Determine what information can be collected via online survey

Interview Groups

- State Family Program Directors (SFPDs) (5-10)
- Reserve Family Program Directors (2)
- Guard and Reserve Leaders [e.g., Battalion & Brigade] (40-100)



Topic Areas of Interviews

SFPDs

- JFSAP team activities
- SFPD guidance to state teams
- Resourcing of program operations
- SFPD's use of reports
- Input on online SFPD survey

Guard & Reserve Leaders

- Awareness of and contact with JFSAP team(s)
- JFSAP team activities and collaboration with command
- Use of JFSAP team for deployment-related support
- Input on online Leader survey



Evaluability Assessment (cont.)

Other activities to be conducted for evaluability assessment process

- Conduct unit leader interviews
- Analyze interview data
- Prepare evaluability assessment report
- Discuss with DoD the information to be collected in the implementation assessment (based on interview results and determining what can be evaluated)





Implementation Assessment

Develop online surveys* to be administered nationwide in Fall of 2012

- **Survey Groups (by request)**

- All SFPDs
- A larger sample of Guard and Reserve leaders

- **Purpose and Topic Areas of Surveys**

- Collect quantitative and descriptive information about JFSAP program activities
- Note: same topic areas as the interviews, but with close-ended questions
- Note: will have a few open-ended questions



Ways SFPDs Can be Involved

- Participate in an interview, by request (April 2012)
 - Provide input on online survey
- Identify leaders to MC&FP and NGB for interview and online survey (April/May and Fall 2012)
- Complete survey once received (Fall 2012)
 - Identify lessons learned and success indicators, and make suggestions for program improvement (open-ended items on survey)



UGA Research Team

(Presenter's Contact Information)



Jay A. Mancini, PhD
Principal Investigator



Deborah Mancini, MS
Co-Principal Investigator
E-mail: mancinid@uga.edu
Phone: (706) 425-2977



Leslie A. Gladney, BS
Graduate Research Assistant



Deepu George, MS
Graduate Research Assistant

