Establishing a Research Committee at Your Organization

This document gives an example from an ARCC partner of an organization that developed a Research Committee and how it was structured, what it focused on, etc. Developing a group like this may be a good way for your organization to have a team that focuses on assessing and building the organization's capacity to conduct and participate in research and to track and evaluate this participation. *Relevant resource: Ideas for Building Organizational Support for Research*

LSNA   Logan Square
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Example (2011)

The Logan Square Neighborhood Association has a RESEACH/EVALUATION committee comprised or 5 staff members. Members include the executive director and primarily management level staff and meets once a month.

The committee was formed after a discussion with the whole staff on what has been has been their experience with research/evaluation. The one hour discussion was facilitated by a LSNA staff member who also served on the ARCC Steering Committee. At the end of the discussion, staff realized that LSNA needed to be more organized with when and how we engage in research/evaluation; that LSNA needs to learn more about how to develop our questions and draft a research/evaluation agenda that meets the need of the organization.

Agenda items have typically included:

- Sharing what type of research/evaluation each of our respective areas is involved in currently:
  - **There are 9 focus areas: housing, education, health, immigration, safety, etc.**
- Assess where we are with our data base systems: Some funders require unique data systems and databases. Discussions focus on how we can merge information to increase efficiency and tell a bigger story. Throughout focus is kept on how the data impacts our community.
- Discuss needs: Potential funding sources to support hiring or contracting personnel to enter and analyze data for example has been raised.
- Identify potential academic partners: Keeping projects and research agenda topics of concern moving forward means tending to academic relationships and continuing work to engage new community groups such as students to aid in future research.