



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB

COLORADO APPLIED RESEARCH AND ACTION NETWORK EVENT

The Colorado Lab's researcher networking event at History Colorado on September 14th was well-attended and many researchers and government partners made wonderful connections. There were representatives from 9 Colorado Institutes of Higher Education, 9 State Agencies, 2 Governor's Offices, agencies, 3 Local Government Agencies, and 9 Non-Profits.

The event started with an orientation to the mission of the Colorado Lab, given by Director Dr. Kristin Klopfenstein. As Dr. Klopfenstein emphasized, "The Colorado Lab wants to serve as a connector so that we prioritize work that wouldn't happen 'but for' The Lab."

Reggie Bicha, Executive Director of Colorado Department of Human Services, was the keynote speaker of the event. He spoke about the importance of balancing relationships, process, and outcomes so that organizations effectively serve Coloradans. Bicha acknowledged the challenges of measuring programs and processes that are already in place in the murky waters of social sciences research. He touted the role that the Colorado Lab can play in guiding government agencies through these murky waters: "We're so fortunate to have the Colorado Lab...for many years, we have focused on putting research into action, but the challenge we have [in government] is how to put action into research."

The next speaker, Jon Gottsegen, Chief Data Officer within the Colorado Governor's Office of Information and Technology, elaborated on the critical role of data and data sharing in making connections between government agencies and research partners. He quoted Herb Wilson, the original conceiver of CDHS' interoperability project, who frequently asked, "How do we get the right data to the right people at the right time for the right purpose?" Gottsegen also shared a plan for an Enterprise Linking Hub to facilitate research informed cross system collaboration.

Lastly, an excellent communications panel moderated by the Barton Institute's Director Rebecca Arno focused on translating research into action. The panel included Andrea Dukakis, Reporter and Producer at Colorado Matters; Christie McElhinney, Principal at Third Sector Communication Strategies; and, Lindsey Myers, Branch Chief in the Violence and Injury Prevention and Mental Health Promotion Branch at the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment. The panelists spoke to the importance of researchers reaching out to media and working with media and stakeholders alike to tell a compelling story about the research. As Christine McElhinney commented, "No one ever marched on Washington because of a pie chart...don't have the communications strategy [of your research] be an afterthought."

This event was a first step in formalizing a network of researchers interested in improving the lives with Colorado residents by partnering with state and local governments to strengthen coordinated and efficient person-centered services.

To apply for the Colorado Applied Research and Action Network (CARAN), please click here or visit:

 www.tinyurl.com/CARANApp



Dr. Kristin Klopfenstein
details the work of the Colorado Lab
with a room full of cross-sector attendees
at History Colorado on September 14th, 2018.

SPEAKERS



Reggie Bicha
Executive Director
Colorado Department
of Human Services



Jon Gottsegen
Chief Data Officer
Colorado Governor's
Office of Information
and Technology

A communications panel including CPR's Andrea Dukakis, Third Sector Communication Strategies principal Christie McElhinney, and CDPHE's Lindsey Myers came together to discuss the importance of researchers reaching out to media to tell a compelling story.



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