

# A decision-making resource for policy, system and environmental change strategies

November 5, 2013  
APHA 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
Boston, MA

This presentation was prepared by Altarum Institute, under contract to the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The findings and conclusions of this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of ASPE or HHS.

# Presenter Disclosures

Amanda Cash, DrPH

**(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:**

No Relationships to Disclose




# This presentation will address:

- ▶ Project background, rationale and process
- ▶ Policy, System, and Environmental (PSE) Strategies Decision-Making Resource
- ▶ Call for public comment

# Background

- ▶ HHS is increasingly investing in population-based strategies where the evidence-base remains
- ▶ OMB Memo from 2012 highlighted the need for using evidence and rigorous evaluation in budget, management, and policy decisions.
- ▶ The federal government is increasingly being asked to “do more with less” and be judicious in how we allocate resources thereby increasing attention to and understanding of “what works”

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2012/m-12-12.pdf>




EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 11, 2012

M-12-12

MEMORANDUM TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: JEFFREY D. ZIENTS   
ACTING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations

The Federal Government has a responsibility to act as a careful steward of taxpayer dollars, ensuring that Federal funds are used for purposes that are appropriate, cost effective, and important to the core mission of executive departments and agencies (agencies). From the beginning of this Administration, the President has been clear that wasteful spending is unacceptable, and that the Federal Government must strive to be more efficient and effective. That is why the President and the Vice President launched the Campaign to Cut Waste and charged agencies with going line-by-line through their budgets to identify areas of unnecessary spending or opportunities for greater efficiency or cost savings.

As part of this effort, on November 9, 2011, the President signed Executive Order 13589 “Promoting Efficient Spending.” In that Executive Order, the President directed each agency to reduce its combined costs in a variety of administrative categories by not less than 20 percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 from FY 2010 levels. Agencies have since developed plans for achieving these cuts, and the President’s FY 2013 Budget identifies \$8 billion in reduced costs as a result of Executive Order 13589.

To achieve these savings, many agencies have identified and implemented creative and innovative practices to reduce costs and improve efficiencies in such areas as travel, conference expenditures, real estate, and fleet management. There are also other practical steps agencies can take to improve operations, increase efficiency, and cut unnecessary spending. Accordingly, this memorandum describes a series of policies and practices related to activities and expenses in these areas, building on measures already in place at various agencies.

**Section 1 – Travel**

Travel is often necessary for Federal employees to discharge their duties effectively and the travel industry plays an important role in creating jobs and supporting local economies; however, as good stewards of Federal funds, agencies must do all they can to manage their travel budgets efficiently. Accordingly, in FY 2013, each agency shall spend at least 30 percent less on travel

1

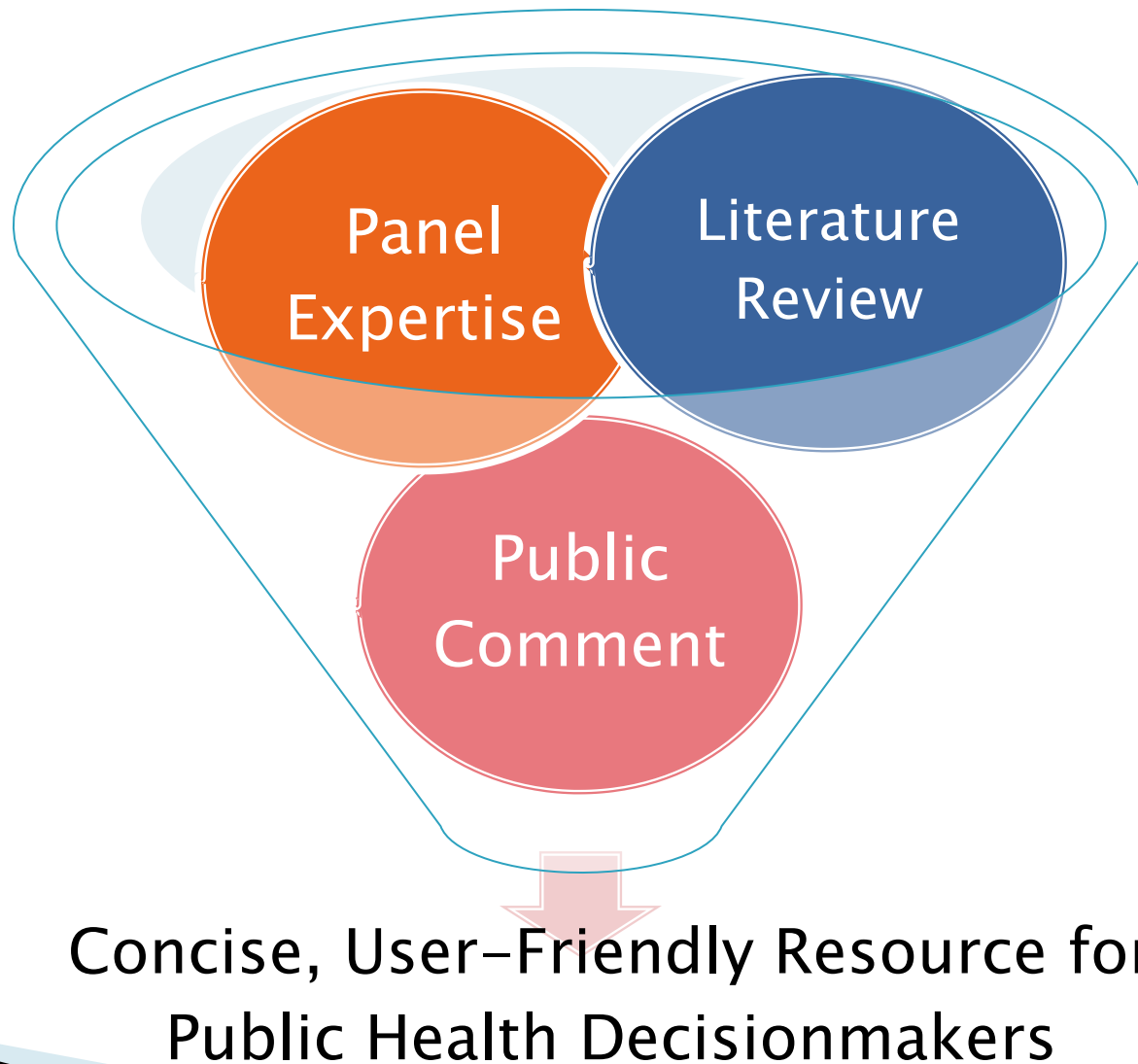
# Background Continued

- ▶ This inherent tension between drawing from the best available evidence rather than waiting or not acting on the best possible evidence, poses a challenge which plays out in big and small ways.
- ▶ It also poses an opportunity.....
  - In the absence of clear evidence, what can we create that will help decisionmakers, while also simultaneously building the evidence-base?*

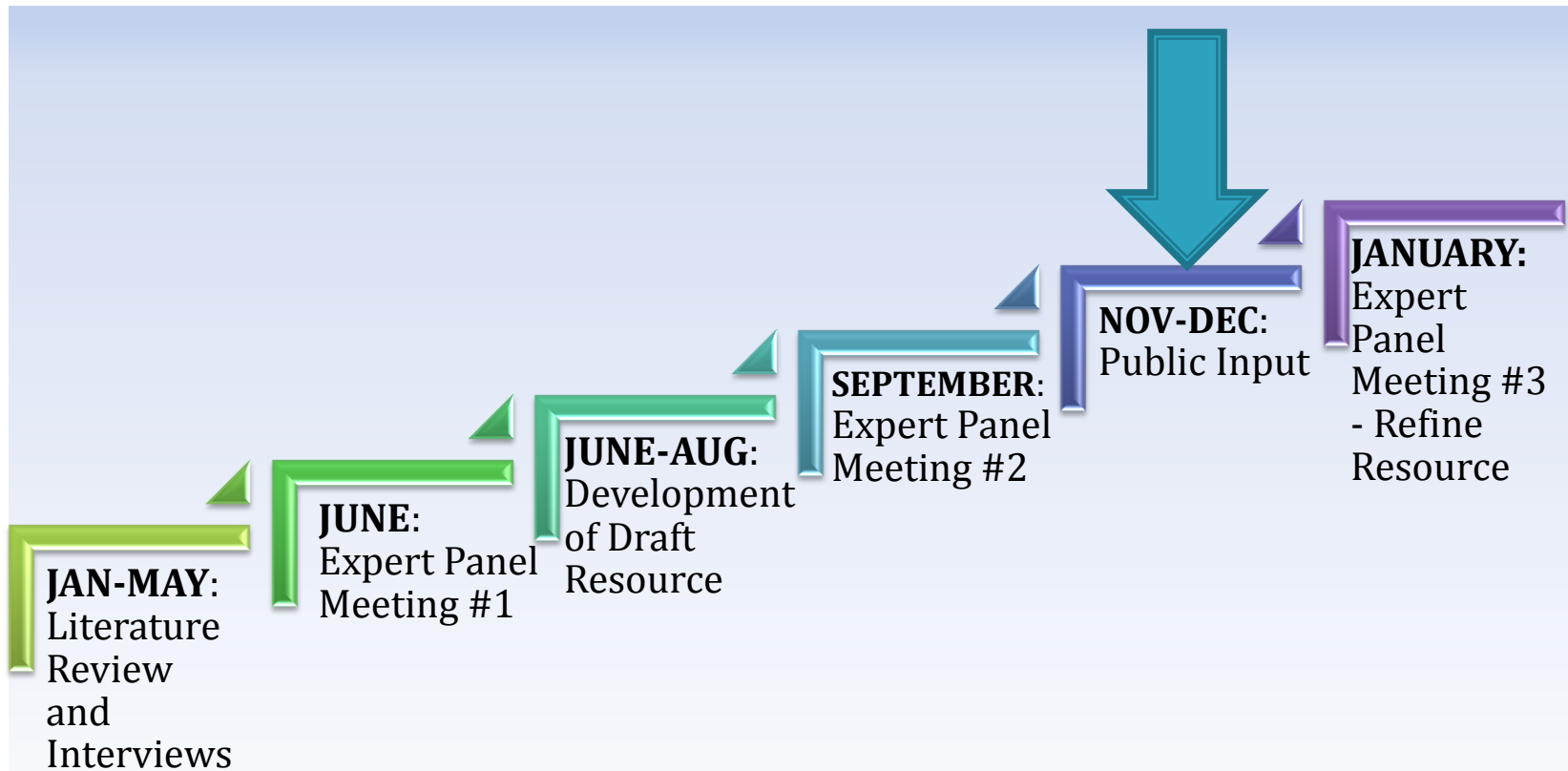
# Background Continued

- ▶ ASPE's unique purpose and role in furthering this discussion
- ▶ This panel is one of the first steps in helping understand, use, and contribute to the evidence for PSE
- ▶ Critical next steps include 'testing' the framework with State and local practitioners and/or decision makers

# Project process (Sept 2012 – March 2014)



# Timeline





# Methodology

- ▶ Key informant interviews
- ▶ Literature review using “snowballing” technique
  - Review of methodology of existing systematic reviews
- ▶ Expert Panel recruitment
- ▶ Public input

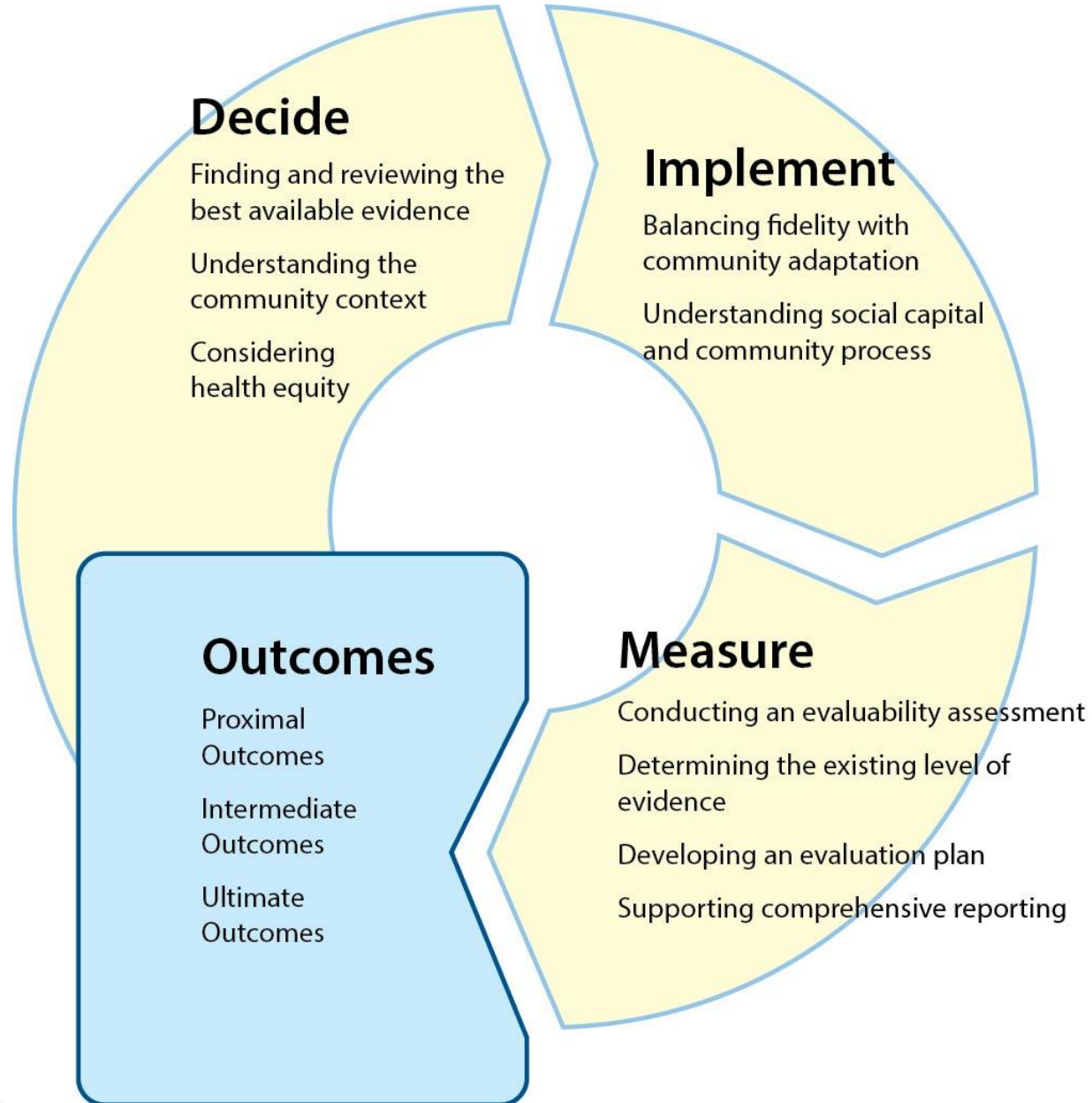
# Literature review findings

- ▶ PSE strategies are increasingly important tools for both communities and Federal partners to address pressing health concerns, but the evidence-base is young and underdeveloped.
- ▶ Assessment of existing systematic reviews found gaps in evidence:
  - Community context of strategies, including health equity and disparities
  - Information needs to translate research to practice

# Expert panelist and key informant input

- ▶ Need for a concise document that lays out decision-making principles specific to PSE strategies
- ▶ Focus on:
  - Health equity
  - Community context
  - Costs and resources
  - Adaptation and fidelity
  - Comprehensive reporting
  - Building the evidence base

# Policy, Systems, and Environmental Strategies Decision-making Framework



# Decide

- ▶ Finding and reviewing the best available evidence
  - Existing systematic reviews (*Guide to Community Preventative Services*, etc.)
  - What to look for when reviewing the evidence
    - Types of studies included and excluded
    - Presence of contextual information
- ▶ Understanding the community context
  - Key contextual factors for consideration
  - Assessing costs and resources
- ▶ Considering health equity

# Implement

- ▶ Balancing fidelity with community adaptation
  - Need for detailed information on the intervention and the context
- ▶ Understanding social capital and the community process

# Measure

- ▶ Conducting and evaluability assessment
- ▶ Determining the existing level of evidence
  - Evaluating practice-based and emerging strategies
- ▶ Developing an evaluation plan
  - Appropriate types of evidence and evidence sources for PSE strategies
  - Key measures for PSE strategies
- ▶ Supporting comprehensive reporting

# Call for public input and next steps

- ▶ <http://evidence.altaruminstitute.net/>
- ▶ Through December 30, 2013
- ▶ Public comment and invited expert comment will be synthesized into a final resource in early Spring 2013



# Thank you

- ▶ Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
  - Amanda Cash
  - [amanda.cash@hhs.gov](mailto:amanda.cash@hhs.gov)
  
- ▶ Altarum Institute
  - Sarah Lifsey
  - [sarah.lifsey@altarum.org](mailto:sarah.lifsey@altarum.org)