

# Some Thoughts about Data

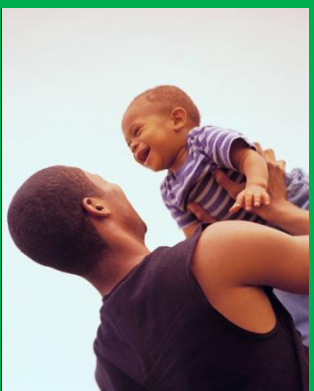
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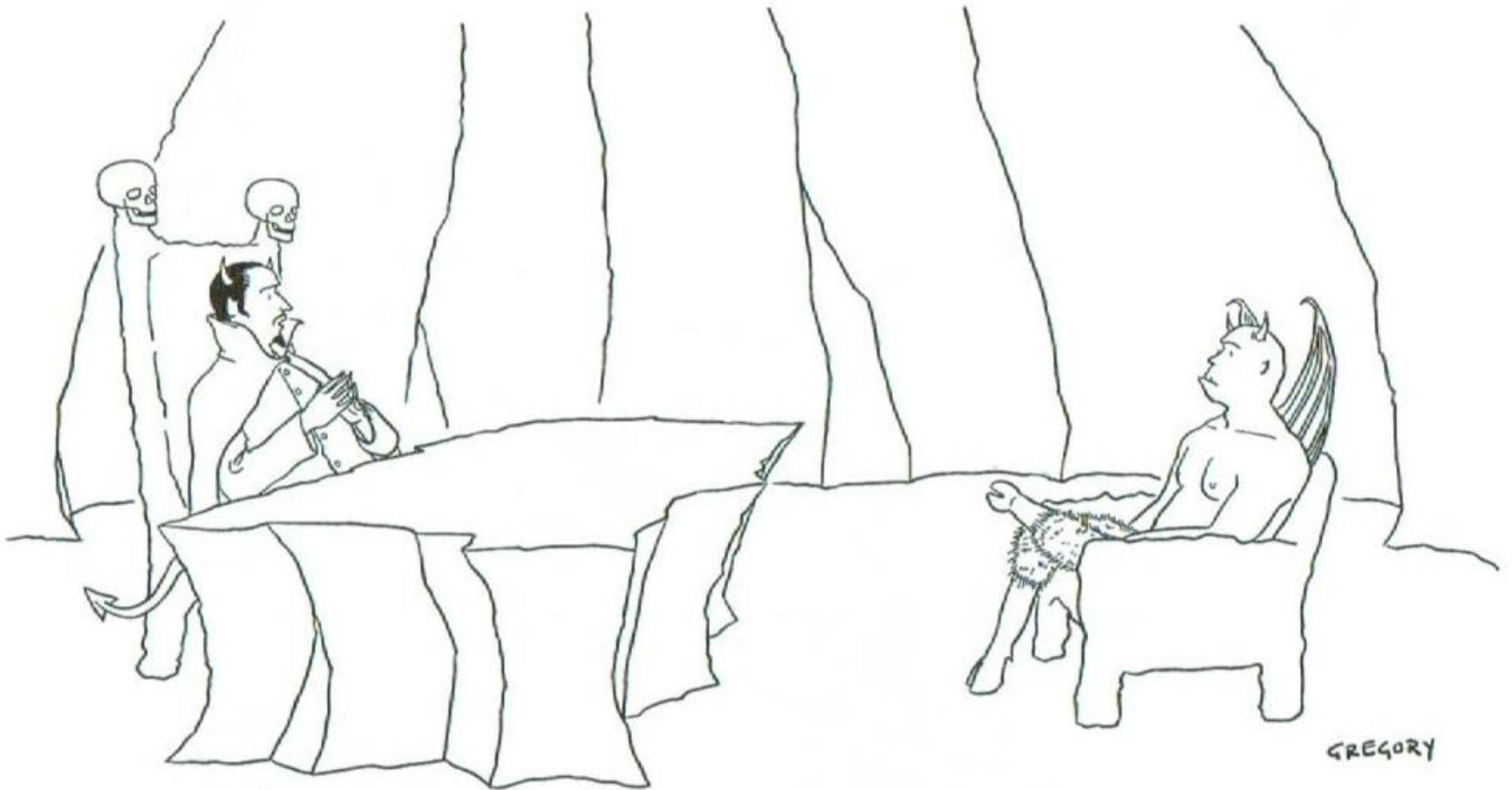


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*“I need someone well versed in the art of torture—  
do you know PowerPoint?”*

- Did **it** make a difference?
- What kind of a difference did **it** make?
- How much of a difference did **it** make?
- Was **it** worth it?

What is

it ?



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# Assumption 1. You've defined it.

- Services are identified that reflect assets, needs and priorities of the population served.
- You have good reason to believe that your services will result in positive outcomes (the strategies are evidence-based or evidence-informed)
- The strategies are documented well enough to pass the circus test.

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# Circus Test?



If key staff left to join the circus, others could pick up the manual and have a clear, comprehensive manual for providing services.

- the manual should describe the program's key components. (this program is this program *only* if the following things happen in this way at this time and to this degree . . .

# Assumption 2. You are doing **it**.

- You are providing services as intended.
- You serve the population identified
- Staff are trained to provide services according to your standards (identified in your manual)
- There are fidelity measures or quality assurance plans in place.
- You document deviations from the model

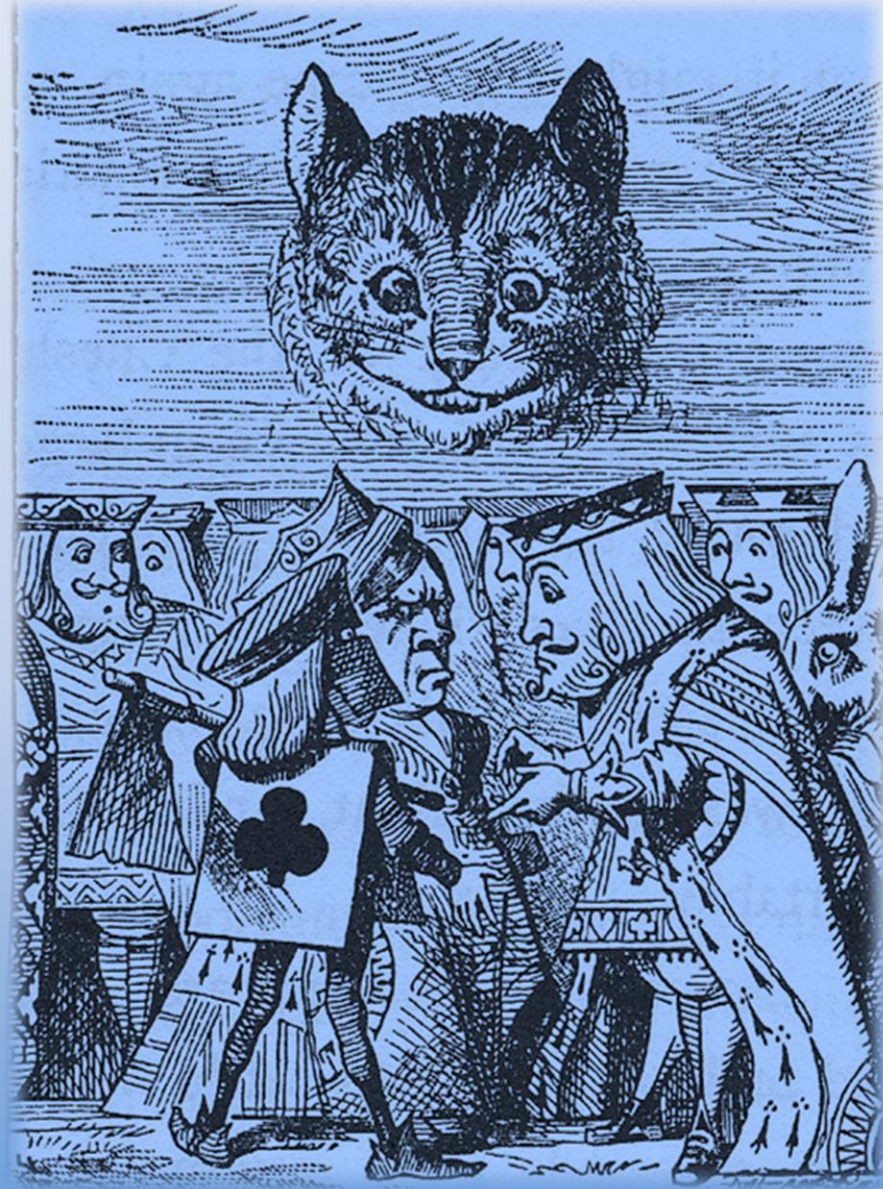


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“The horror of that moment,”  
the King went on, “I shall  
never, NEVER forget!”

“You will, though,” the Queen  
said, “if you don’t make a  
memorandum of it.”

Lewis Carroll,  
*Through the Looking Glass*



Okay, we know what **it** is. We know  
we are doing **it**.

Now we want to know . . .

- Is it *effective*?



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# What is effective ?



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# Evaluation Assumption 3

- Effectiveness is defined
- Outcomes and indicators of success are clearly articulated
- The outcomes are worth the resources needed to achieve them

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So. . . *it* is *effective* if families who receive the services also achieve positive outcomes?

So far, so good.

But how do I *really* know that the services resulted in positive outcomes?



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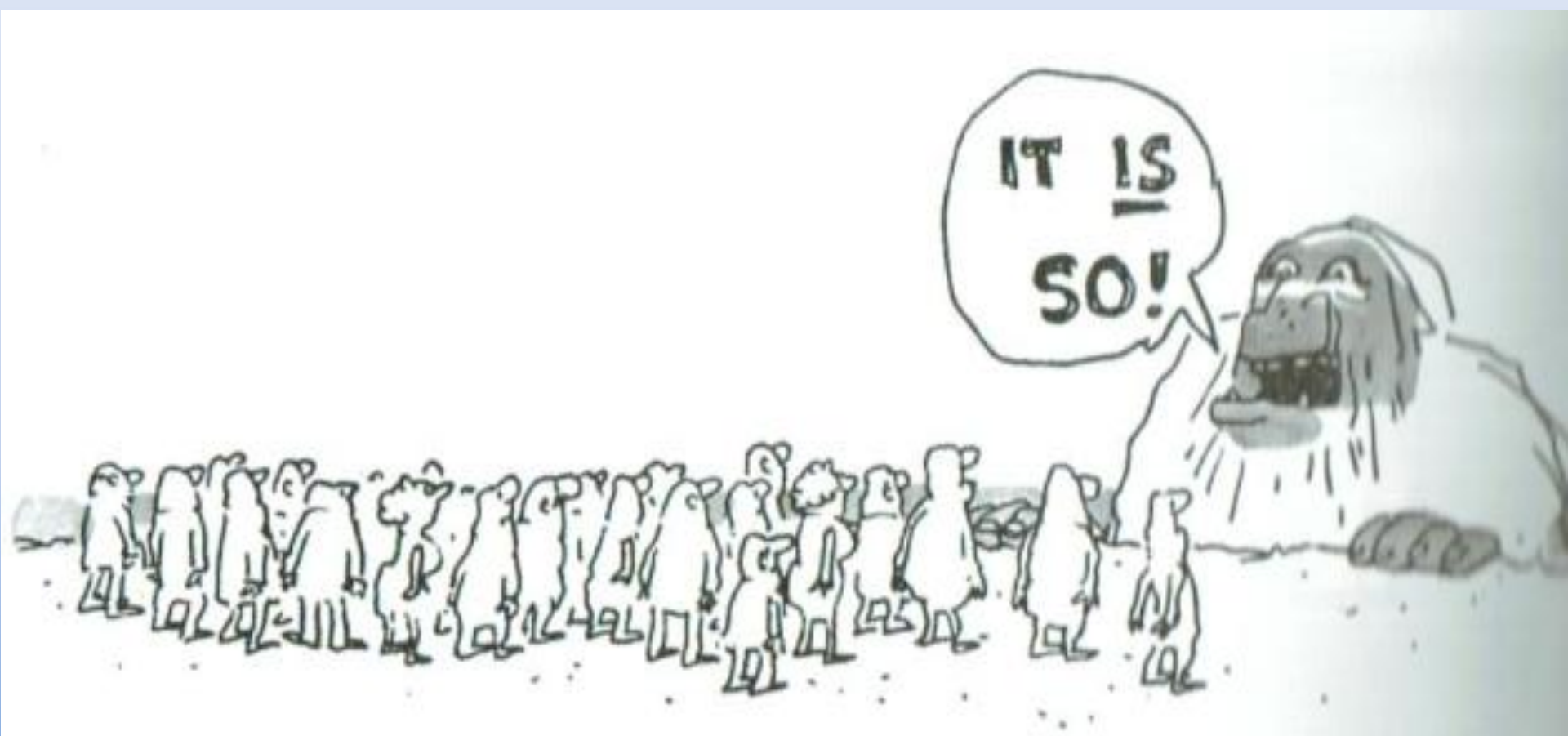


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**This will not be happening any time soon.  
We need data**

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# Evaluation Assumption 4. You have an evaluation plan

- Appropriate strategies for measuring outcomes are in place
  - You KNOW what you are looking for and have the right tools and resources to use them
- Evaluation is treated as part of service delivery
  - Staff are trained and comfortable with evaluation activities
  - Families are prepared and understand the purpose of evaluation activities



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The Right Tools. . .