Hi Karin,

Thank you for taking the time to pass along these comments on the Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Program Information Collection. We are collating and analyzing all input to determine changes for the data collection forms.

I will let you know if I have any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ACL Logo | ***Donna S. Bethge*** Aging Program Specialist Administration on Aging O: 202-795-7659 [Donna.Bethge@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:Donna.Bethge@acl.hhs.gov) [ACL.gov](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-us.mimecast.com%2Fs%2F9jpNCjR9lnFZA9cWObkA%3Fdomain%3Dacl.gov%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cnlindner%40betah.com%7C4ba5866831c642bbb3c308d9fe208056%7C45b91c92cbd0485499f906f7ba89644e%7C0%7C0%7C637820237821806989%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=dygw7w6k0SL2LUUwQcDHzDdEbKpl%2BKEwp8Sc6%2BxZ7C0%3D&reserved=0) | [Facebook](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-us.mimecast.com%2Fs%2FFKwBClY9npS6k7hyX28r%3Fdomain%3Dfacebook.com&data=04%7C01%7Cnlindner%40betah.com%7C4ba5866831c642bbb3c308d9fe208056%7C45b91c92cbd0485499f906f7ba89644e%7C0%7C0%7C637820237821806989%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=7V5T%2FmRzcxy7Jrcm1LVdd0WayoUVDtv8OjLfgG1VuqQ%3D&reserved=0) | [Twitter](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-us.mimecast.com%2Fs%2FGJrVCmZ9oEsk62S94w4Z%3Fdomain%3Dtwitter.com&data=04%7C01%7Cnlindner%40betah.com%7C4ba5866831c642bbb3c308d9fe208056%7C45b91c92cbd0485499f906f7ba89644e%7C0%7C0%7C637820237821806989%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=WmQgqw6mTnjLt841k9eVdvAwgwX2TIB5Jbu2mlQMvB0%3D&reserved=0) [Subscribe to ACL Updates](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-us.mimecast.com%2Fs%2F-cMxCkR0moFo4NCVbkHZ%3Fdomain%3Dcloud.connect.hhs.gov&data=04%7C01%7Cnlindner%40betah.com%7C4ba5866831c642bbb3c308d9fe208056%7C45b91c92cbd0485499f906f7ba89644e%7C0%7C0%7C637820237821806989%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=vMMD2S5SEoM%2FJDcgvTai8NjXBaXQwUgy8MlD61q2gNw%3D&reserved=0) |

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**From:** Karin Nevius <[knevius@info4seniors.org](mailto:knevius@info4seniors.org)>   
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2024 9:44 AM  
**To:** Bethge, Donna (ACL) <[Donna.Bethge@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:Donna.Bethge@acl.hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Data collection for falls prevention programming

Dear Ms. Bethge,

I reviewed the proposed data collection forms that would be used for falls prevention programming. My first response is that the forms are far too busy in text and boxes and options. These can potentially turn folks off from completing them and leaving the program because of it. My Agency collects similar data for Matter of Balance, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and three Self-Management Resource Center programs. More and more often, we encounter resistance from about 2-3 people out of every 10-12 registrants who consider the forms intrusive. Or they'll complete a few sections and leave the rest blank. Our goal is to help older adults' physical health and strength so we do not make completing the forms a requirement for attending; once a few registrants pull back, more do as well. We also see a variety of literacy and some folks are simply intimidated by too much text or too much data requested even on our far simpler personal information forms. People can use nicknames or just first names on these forms and we assure registrants of anonymity, but in this era of identity theft and scams people are simply leery.

An option would be for program leaders to sit down with each individual registrant to ask the questions and complete the forms for them as an initial interview.

I agree that having all this information listed on these forms is wonderful toward identifying various facets of who is attending and benefitting from EBPs. But I think streamlining these forms as much as possible with shorter sentences, fewer questions, fewer answer options, fewer checkboxes ('no' boxes aren't needed for the long list of health concerns - people can check 'yes' or leave blank), and an 'additional comments' section for anyone who doesn't fit the boxes.

Your site mentions the burden of data entry and that falls on the program coordinators. Burden is the very word because it takes hours to enter this much detailed data from 4-5 different forms per registrant into a database for 30+ workshops/year. Individuals at Agencies like mine wear a multitude of hats, don't have administrative assistance, and struggle to keep atop this much data entry while also maintaining separate in-house spreadsheets of basic (and simpler) EBP workshop data required for our quarterly reports and annual updates.

Would entering this level of data result in annual reports provided back to us for our specific regions? Could we retrieve the collected data to formulate our own reports from it?

I apologize for my long email. My overall impression is that simpler forms limited to the most important information only will be most helpful to workshop leaders and site coordinators. Plus help with data entry and capability of pulling reports afterward.

Thank you for your time and attention. I hope you have a nice day and weekend ahead, and appreciate your work helping older adults.

Sincerely,

​

**Karin Nevius**

Wellness & Communications Supervisor

Area Agency on Aging, PSA2

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