Becoming a Workforce of Everyday Scientists: Frontline Staff in Agencies and Tribes

Child Welfare Virtual Expo

Andrew Yost | Dana Weiner
Become An “Everyday Scientist”

What is an everyday scientist?

• A person who is curious, resourceful, and experimental.

How do I become an everyday scientist?

• Develop questions that can be answered using data and evidence.
• Identify reliable and valid data sources.
• Understand action implications of the answers to our questions.
• Incorporate tests using practice improvement cycles (Plan-Do-Study-Act).
Interact With Data and Evidence

Critically consume

Collaboratively interpret

Responsibly produce
Potential Challenges

1. Data might differ from our beliefs, values, or experience.
2. Data might not be clean and comprehensive enough for analyses that would answer our questions.
3. Implementation of changes can be slow, complex, and incomplete.
Everyday Scientist

Be curious  Ask questions  Collect data  Make observations  Implement a strategy
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Vanessa Amburgey | Anita Barbee
Characteristics of a Scientist

- Is curious
- Explores problems
- Tests hypotheses
- Implements strategies
- Disseminates information
What Can We Do to Become Everyday Scientists?

- Exercise curiosity
- Collect and enter data
- Try strategies
- Share discoveries
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Worker’s Role in Building Knowledge

- Know the strengths and weaknesses of the service provided.
- Understand families’ journeys and how your role impacts them.
- Be good stewards of data and contribute to the knowledge base.
- Think about changing practice to improve outcomes.
- Learn the specifics of Indian Child Welfare Act cases and tribal requirements.
Encouraging System-Level Change

- Assess challenges within the system.
- Be purposeful, brave, and reflective.
- Share information and data.
- Give feedback to leadership.
- Research different approaches to practice.
- Understand federal laws and regulations.
Encouraging the Use of Data

- Use informal Plan-Do-Study-Act process.
- Make changes to engagement techniques and strategies.
- Give child welfare professionals tools and knowledge.
- Make the connection between documentation and data.
- Use data in court reports.
Final Thoughts

- Have a 360 impact on your system.
- Be the voice of advocacy for families.
- Use data in practice and make data-informed decisions.
- Continue to learn about how to best serve families.
Thank you for your participation today!
Please explore the Virtual Gallery and chat with the speakers in the Networking Lounge.

The next session will begin at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time.