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

Each individual working in child welfare to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families is an everyday scientist and contributes to the greater understanding of how to become more effective in daily practice. This session explores how individual child welfare staff can innovate through small-scale altering and testing in the context of their everyday work instead of waiting for an evidence-based practice to be developed, tried, and tested. Participants also discover ways to become a more effective “scientist” by gathering, using, and applying data in a systematic and practical way to make a difference and improve effectiveness.

Session Resources

Being an Everyday Scientist: How to Make Personal and Policy Decisions About What Works for Peace, Productivity, Health, and Happiness
This report puts the power of observation in the hands of people of all ages and backgrounds to evaluate whether strategies work for them. Every day, people personally or professionally choose mechanisms of behavioral influence to change their lives and change the lives of people they love, their places of learning, their health, their work places, or their communities.

Child Welfare Information Gateway Evidence-Based Practice Resource Page
The resources and tools described throughout this resource page can help agencies make informed decisions about the implementation of evidence-based practice within the contexts of their communities.

Science of Improvement: Testing Changes
The webpage includes: the Model for Improvement: Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycles, the reasons to test changes, steps in the PDSA cycle, and examples of a test of change (PDSA cycle).

Guidelines for Implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act
These guidelines are intended to assist those involved in child custody proceedings with understanding and uniformly applying the Indian Child Welfare Act and U.S. Department of the Interior regulations (also referred to as “rules”).
State-Level Data for Understanding Child Welfare in the United States
This resource compiles critical data from a variety of sources on children, youth, and families who came into contact with the child welfare system in federal fiscal year 2017. High-quality data can provide public officials and advocates with crucial details about the populations they serve.

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