

LOUISIANA MfC BRIEF

Stakeholder Education and Awareness Regarding Evidence-Based Practices in Juvenile Justice

DESCRIPTION

Recognizing that successfully shifting towards a juvenile justice system built around evidence-based practices requires a comprehensive approach that addresses various challenges, Louisiana Models for Change adopted a multi-faceted education approach in its' reform efforts. Building long-term momentum for the implementation and expansion of evidence-based practices requires the buy in and support of policy makers, agency administrators, providers, youth and their families, and the community at large. Often times, the stakeholders so critical to such a movement have little, if any, knowledge about what is meant by the term "evidence-based practice (or "EBPs")," why the use of EBPs is so important, and what some of the critical considerations are in selecting and implementing EBPs. This knowledge gap, if left unaddressed, can frustrate the efforts of any reform. Conversely, the collective effort of a group of stakeholders who understand the benefits of EBPs, as well as the challenges of implementation, can eliminate many of the traditional barriers to EBPs and help pave the way towards reform.

As a result, Louisiana focuses much of its reform efforts on educating stakeholders at the state and local level about evidence-based practices and standardized, scientifically-sound screening and assessment instruments. *Stakeholder Education and Awareness* tools were designed to help build a culture supportive of evidence-based practices and include the following:

Evidence-Based Practice Brief

This tool consists of a two-page handout for targeting state and agency leadership, policy makers, providers, and stakeholders. It is an introduction to evidence-based practice in the juvenile justice system and links interested parties to a more extensive whitepaper entitled "Evidence-Based Programs for Juvenile Justice Reform in Louisiana" available through web-based dissemination at <http://publichealth.lsuhs.edu/lamc/>.

Based on the Evidence: Understanding the Core Components of Evidence-Based Practice

This tool is a PowerPoint presentation that can be utilized for stakeholder and leadership education and awareness regarding evidence-based practices. The slides are designed to enhance local discussions and guide education efforts. The materials cover a range of issues including what EBPs are; why EBPs are important; critical components of EBPs; and outcomes associated with EBP utilization. Once informed it is believed that educated stakeholders and decision-makers will continue to advance EBPs.

TARGET AUDIENCE

These tools are meant to reach policy makers, agency administrators, providers, and the community at large to advance evidence-based, promising, and research driven practices in their own area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

These tools are available at <http://publichealth.lsuhs.edu/iphj/default.html> or by contacting sphil2@lsuhsc.edu.