

## LOUISIANA MfC BRIEF

# Strategic Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices in the Juvenile Justice System

### DESCRIPTION

The Louisiana Models for Change project's research efforts and educational initiatives have culminated in a significant movement across the state towards the adoption of evidence-based screening, assessment and treatment policies and practices. While this movement is in many ways still in its infancy, it has already resulted in the implementation of a number of concrete changes that will improve the lives of youth and their families within Louisiana, as well as the community and the juvenile justice system. Deciding on which practice to implement and the feasibility of implementation can be a difficult task. To make that task easier, the *Louisiana EBP Selection Assessment Guide* was created.

This guide offers a framework for identifying and determining a community's and/or organization's readiness to select and adopt evidence-based practices. The readiness tool, which uses a structured questionnaire to map key readiness and implementation questions, helps to anchor discussions, capture priorities and key concerns of local decision makers, and focus the search for evidence-based practices (EBPs) that might fit local needs. In particular, the guide helps assess and discuss the following areas:

- Target Population
- Funding
- Level of collaboration
- Level of evidence
- Practice Recognition
- Practice Structure
- Family Involvement/Engagement
- Expected Youth Outcomes
- Cultural Diversity
- Workforce Requirements
- Feasibility of Implementation
- Organizational Experience with EBPs
- Organizational Readiness
- Leadership

### TARGET AUDIENCE

This tool is meant to assist Children & Youth Planning Boards, regional, community, and agency leadership make critical decisions regarding selecting and adopting evidence-based practices to meet local needs and gaps in services. It has also been utilized to help discriminate between competing requests for support of, and/or contracts with, area providers.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

The tool is available at <http://publichealth.lsuhs.edu/iphj/default.html> or by contacting Dr. Stephen Phillippi at [sphill2@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:sphill2@lsuhsc.edu).