



Evidence-Based Programming in the Context of Culture

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Portland, Oregon

Oregon Commission on Children and Families: Mission

Oregon's Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) provides progressive public and private leadership that works collaboratively to support and strengthen communities to improve the lives of children, youth and families. We are committed to locally-driven, results-oriented change through:

- informed and effective public policy;
- passionate voice and strong advocacy on behalf of children, youth and families;
- engagement of diverse communities to plan and develop shared action on children's issues and;
- wise investment of resources with a preventative focus on healthy families.

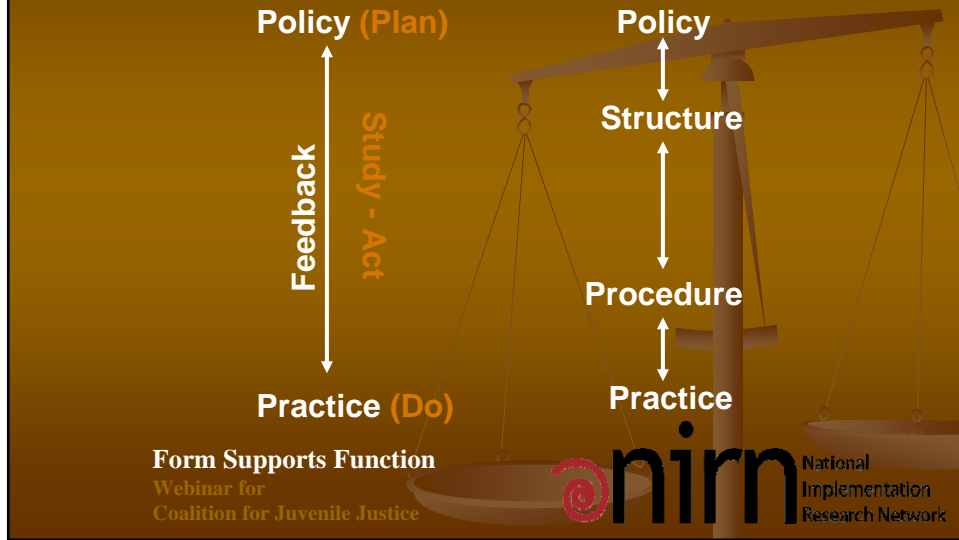
OCCF System

All 36 Oregon counties have a local Commission on Children and Families, which is responsible for a local coordinated comprehensive plan; community mobilization; and coordination among community groups, government agencies, private providers and other parties; and development and implementation of programs and initiatives for children 0-18 years of age and their families.

OCCF System (Cont)

- The Commission on Children and Families system facilitates local county-based planning efforts to identify the strengths, needs and barriers of children, youth and their families.
- ORS 417.790 requires that grants for services and initiatives to support children, youth or families be used at the local level according to the county's local coordinated comprehensive plan. Resources are therefore targeted to local programs and initiatives selected as priorities through the local decision-making process.

Policy - Practice - Feedback



SB 267 Evidence-Based Programming: Intent

- Increased accountability
- An emphasis on client outcomes
- Reliance on research as a tool for enhancing the provision of effective services
- Cost-effectiveness

Evidence-Based Program Definitions and Limitations

- SB 267 refers to a chosen intervention whose efficaciousness has been determined through two or more independent randomized clinical trials.

Unintended Limitations

- This approach may not be compatible with culturally diverse individuals, groups and localities.
- Implementing an EB Program may be infeasible in some communities.

*In theory, there is no difference
between theory and practice, but
in practice there is a great deal of
difference.*

– Anonymous

Challenges of Implementing Evidence-Based Practices with Youth of Color

- The 2001 Surgeon General's Supplement Report on Mental Health: Culture, Race and Ethnicity found very little empirical evidence regarding outcomes of mental health care for ethnic/racial groups (Miranda, et al., 2003)
- Most ESTs and EBTs are conducted with White, educated, verbal and middle class individuals and may not generalize to ethnic/racial groups and third world communities (Bernal & Scharron-del-Rio, 2001)
- We should be concerned about the "dogmatism of an exclusive ideology" Imposition of EBTs on another cultural group can be considered a new form of "cultural imperialism" (Bernal & Scharron-del-Rio, 2001)

National Juvenile Justice Network , October 7, 2008
Ken Martinez, Psy.D.

OCCF Definitions of Acceptable Practices

- Evidence Based Program (with Cultural Adaptation)
- Evidence Based Practice (with Cultural Adaptation)
- Practice Based Evidence
- Evidence Based Management

Evidence-Based Practice

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- Practitioners are asked to integrate the best available evidence, client values and expectations, available resources and their clinical expertise prior to making practice decisions.
- Evidence-based practice is a problem solving process in which the practitioner seeks to individualize care to the specific needs of the client as well as the agency context.
- In this approach practitioner seeks to establish a culture of experimentation and inquiry and allows for the use of many types of evidence.
- This perspective is compatible with cultural competence.
- This perspective includes a focus on the clients culture and value system and client participation in decision-making and practice.

Practice-Based Evidence

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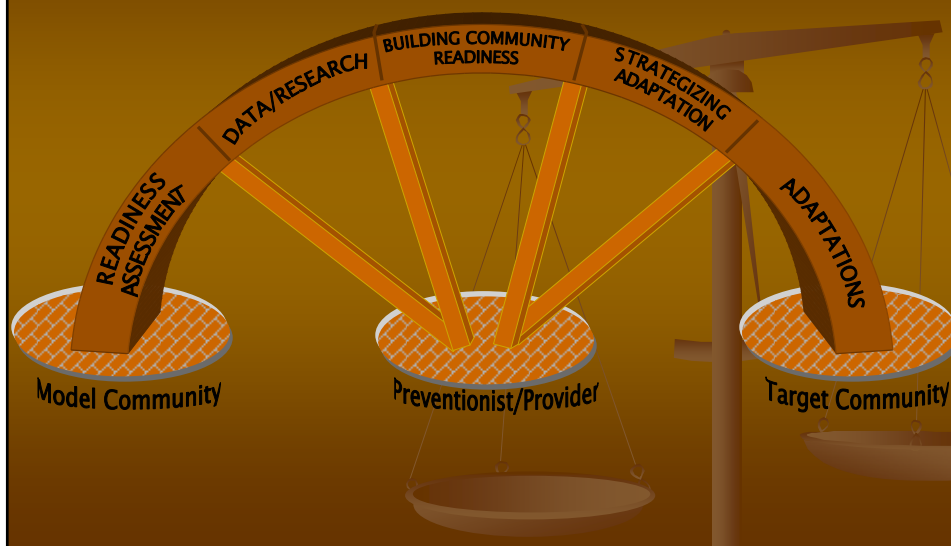
- PBE are indigenous community-based practices adopted on the assumption that they will yield desirable results.
- PBE is integrated with participatory action research methods as a means for establishing the empirical foundation which illustrates their usefulness and effectiveness.
- PBE is compatible with cultural competent practice.
- PBE promotes transparency, creativity, innovations and trial and error practice.

Cultural Adaptation

- Culturally equivalent model of a model program.
- Cultural adaptation has to be scientifically justified: Data/research and the community assessment will show what needs to be adapted.
- Target-Community input is vital to address what parts of the process need to be adapted and how to do it (*indicators should be relevant to their values: for example **family** as defined by their culture*).
- Fidelity to the model program is imperative: Effective cultural adaptation requires strategies to implement the principles of the model program in accordance with the values of the target community.

IPS Institute for Public Strategies

Cultural Adaptation Bridge



Evidence-Based Management

- EBM is the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best reasoning and experience in making decisions about strategic interventions.
- EBM is compatible with cultural competent practice.
- EBM promotes transparency, creativity, innovations and trial and error practice.

Harold E. Briggs, PhD
Portland State University
School of Social Work