Evidence-based Practice in the Context of Cultural Competence: Challenges and Next Steps

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Foundation for Planning

- What do we know now?
- What are our challenges?
State of the Art

- Accomplishment:

  There is some evidence available about what works in child welfare and somewhat less about what works in diverse communities.

- Challenges:
  - Current evidence not used in practice
  - Current evidence is underdeveloped
Methods of Research

- Accomplishment:
  - Methods are well developed

- Challenges:
  - Traditional methods do not support inclusion/participation
  - Does not reflect diverse cultural perspective
Administrative Data

Accomplishments:
- All states have some capacity to report on case dynamics
- This data provides tremendous capacity for evaluation

Challenges:
- Data not used to the extent that it could be
- Findings are not systematically shared with the community
Risk Assessment

- **Accomplishment:**
  - Great deal of research and development on developing risk assessment instruments that are valid and reliable

- **Challenge:**
  - Incorporate protective factors in risk assessments
Team Decision Making

- **Accomplishment:**
  - There is some evidence of effectiveness of group decision-making.

- **Challenges:**
  - Building capacity to use these approaches.
  - Making sure all groups have access.
Partnerships

- **Accomplishment:**
  - Getting partners to the table is effective in setting a common agenda and mobilizing resources

- **Challenges:**
  - Skills to do it
  - Leadership commitment
High Priority Challenges and Next Steps?

For highlights from the ensuing discussion, see “Participant Discussion of Challenges and Next Steps”

For a review of current challenges and proposed action for the future, see “High Priority Challenges and Next Steps”