Intent and Structure of the Original EBP/Cultural Competence Meeting
Held on June 11, 2007

Intent:
The meeting was planned to respond to the problem of increasing pressure to demonstrate positive outcomes in child welfare services coupled with rather sparse evidence on what works for the children and families most likely to be served by these agencies. In addition, while children of color are often disproportionately represented in foster care, there is little information about the actual effectiveness of culturally sensitive and culturally competent approaches to practice. The goal of the meeting was to produce a plan to address this problem nationally and to craft pragmatic strategies that could be immediately applied in practice and policy.

Purpose and Goals
To discuss the following:
- The current state of the art in the field
- Practice
- Policy
- Research
- Relevance and usefulness of the above to community members
  - Relevant lessons from related disciplines
  - Recommended guidelines for the future

Tasks and Results
Identify future directions in:
- Practice
- Policy
- Research
- Relevance and usefulness of the above to community members

Anticipated Results
- Written summaries of current evidence
- Written examples of implementation
- Written recommendations from the meeting for the future with respect to
  - Practice
  - Policy
  - Research
  - Relevance and usefulness of the above to community members
Structure:

The original meeting was an invitational, day-long conference with a continental breakfast, lunch and breaks. The invited participants represented various interest groups and regions, all with connections to child welfare. They were representatives of national/regional/local organizations, experts in the field, legislators/judges, child welfare administrators and supervisors, researchers, and representatives of the communities served by agencies. They came from various parts of the country including Minnesota, Oregon, California, Iowa, Texas and Washington State.

- The day opened with two presentations on the definition of evidence-based practice (EBP) and cultural competence, their importance in child welfare, and examples of their use in other disciplines and settings. See:
  - Opening Presentation – Susan J. Wells
  - Keynote Presentation - Carl C. Bell, MD

- After the opening presentations and discussion, there were two panel discussions. See:
  - Implementation Panel – Professionals addressing the implementation of evidence-based practices in the context of cultural competence within the child welfare community
  - Community Response Panel - Community representatives responding to the implementation of evidence-based practice/cultural competence in their respective communities

- At this point the large group of participants broke for lunch and to reconvene in smaller groups comprised of all those with a particular role in the child welfare system to discuss ways to implement and study evidence-based practice/cultural competence within their arena and were guided by suggestions found in the online document, “Guidelines for Small Role Group Discussions.”

- There was then a brief break and time to change meeting areas and to reconvene in different small groups comprised of those from a specific region or state to hold discussions on ways to use EBP in the context of cultural competence in their own areas using the guidelines found online at “Guidelines for Regional Group Discussions.”

- To end the day, the entire group of participants came together once again for a closing discussion focused on the current challenges in the study and/or implementation of EBP/cultural competence and the next steps to be taken.
  - Challenges and Next Steps Presentation – Carol W. Spigner
  - Large Group Discussion – Meeting participants

The views expressed by the speakers and participants in this meeting are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Minnesota, the School of Social Work, or any of the sponsors and hosts of the meeting.