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?

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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
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**Methods of Research**

- **Accomplishment:**
  - Methods are well developed

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

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**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

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**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
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**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

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**Partnerships**

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

- Challenges:
  - Skills to do it
  - Leadership commitment

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**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”