

## 4.7 Where do you search for best and promising practices?

Many resources, including websites, downloadable resources, and books, are available to help you find best and promising practices.

### Websites with Searchable Libraries

The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews: The Campbell Library

<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library.php>

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/>

The National Guideline Clearinghouse

<http://www.guideline.gov/>

Promising Practices Network on Children, Families and Communities

<http://www.promisingpractices.net>

SAMHSA'S National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

<http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/>

### Downloadable Resources

Wilson, C. & Alexandra, L. (2005). *Guide for Child Welfare Administrators on Evidence Based Practice*. Retrieved February 12, 2010, from:

<http://www.aphsa.org/home/doc/Guide-for-Evidence-Based-Practice.pdf>

### Targeted WebPages (some with resources list)

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare – Importance of Evidence-Based Practice

<http://www.cebc4cw.org/importance-of-evidence-based-practice>

Child Welfare League of America – Research to Practice Toolkit Series

<http://www.cwla.org/programs/r2p/toolkit.htm>

Health Youth Colorado – Resources List

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ps/adolschool/healthyyouthcolorado/resources.html>

National Association of Social Workers: Research webpage

<http://www.socialworkers.org/research/default.asp>

Keeping Up With New Research

<http://www.socialworkers.org/research/naswResearch/0108KeepingUp/default.asp>

Research in Practice: Supporting Evidence-Informed Practice with Children and Families. (n.d.). Finding research: A beginner's guide. Retrieved February 12, 2010, from: [http://www.rip.org.uk/research\\_resources/finding\\_research.asp#intro](http://www.rip.org.uk/research_resources/finding_research.asp#intro)

Social Programs That Work (website sponsored by the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy) <http://evidencebasedprograms.org/wordpress/>

### **Other Resources (for purchase)**

Newman T., Moseley A., Tierney, S., & Ellis, A. (2005). *Evidence-based social work: A guide for the perplexed*. Lyme Regis: Russell House Publishing. Paperback can be purchased online at: [http://www.russellhouse.co.uk/?state=pre\\_display\\_stockcode&session=&stockcode=978-1-903855-55-3](http://www.russellhouse.co.uk/?state=pre_display_stockcode&session=&stockcode=978-1-903855-55-3)

Do you want to base your practice on the best possible evidence of effectiveness? Know how to find information relevant to your decision making? Be able to tell the difference between stronger and weaker evidence? Enable your clients to feel confident they are being served by a well informed professional? If so, then you are working towards being an evidence-based social work practitioner. This book advises you how to: formulate practice questions; find information which can answer these questions; appraise the information for trustworthiness and relevance; build this process into your practice on a regular basis. Evidence-Based Social Work is aimed at professionally qualified practitioners and students. It addresses key aspects of the new three-year social work training program. Many of the procedures and principles discussed will also be relevant to the broader social care workforce, and to allied professions. This is a resource that explains not only the "what" of evidence-based practice, or the "why," but also the "how." Containing many practical examples and case studies, it is an eminently accessible introduction on how an evidence-based approach to social work can become a reality. As the Director of UK Services at Barnardo's, Dr. Chris Hanvey, and the Director of the Centre for Evidence-Based Social Services at the University of Exeter, Professor Brian Sheldon, say in their joint foreword: "Now we have a book which not only explains evidence-based social work but illustrates its importance in improving outcomes for those with whom we work. The authors' achievement is to have combined the best, that is, the most robust and bias-reducing research with a detailed knowledge of the demanding challenges of day-to-day practice. We regard this book as an essential guide to the practicalities of evidence-based practice, and we hope that practitioners and students snap it up."

Roberts, A. R. & Yeager, K. R. (Eds.). (2006). *Foundations of Evidence-Based Social Work Practice*. New York: Oxford University Press. Available for purchase online from: [http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/SocialWork/?view=usa&ci=9780195305586#Product\\_Details](http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/SocialWork/?view=usa&ci=9780195305586#Product_Details)

This concise introduction to evidence-based social work is a student-friendly overview of the issues and methods most frequently encountered while preparing for evidence-based social work practice. Part I defines terms and critical issues, introducing students to the language and importance of evidence-based practice and critical thinking. Chapters will explain how to search for and evaluate evidence, how to ask the right

questions, how to develop standards, and how to make use of the best research. Part II illustrates practical applications, including such topics as cognitive-behavioral approaches to suicide risks, manualized treatment with children, treating juvenile delinquents, and interventions for OCD, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, PTSD, depression, and recovery. This much-needed overview familiarizes students with the process and practice of evidence-based social work, teaching them to be critical thinkers and judicious decision-makers. The guidelines it distills are equally valuable to seasoned practitioners seeking to better serve their clients, making this an excellent foundation for the study and practice of evidence-based social work.

### **Implementing Best, Promising, and Evidence-Based Practices**

#### **Websites with Searchable Libraries**

Child Trends: <http://www.childtrends.org>

Child Welfare Information Gateway: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/>

National Implementation Research Network: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~nirn/>

#### **Downloadable Resources (free)**

American Psychological Association Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents. (2008). *Disseminating evidence-based practice for children and adolescents: A systems approach to enhancing care*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Retrieved February 12, 2010 from: <http://www.apa.org/pi/families/resources/evidence-rpt-full.pdf>

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2009). *Strengthening families and communities: 2009 resource guide* [Electronic version]. Retrieved February 15, 2010 from: [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res\\_guide\\_2009/guide.pdf](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res_guide_2009/guide.pdf)

Fixsen, D. L., Naoom, S. F., Blase, K. A., Friedman, R. M., & Wallace, F. (2005). *Implementation research: A synthesis of the literature* [Electronic version]. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, The National Implementation Research Network (FMHI Publication #231). Retrieved February 15, 2010 from: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~nirn/resources/publications/Monograph/>

Foster Family-based Treatment Association. (2008). *Implementing evidence-based practice in treatment foster care: A resource guide*. Retrieved February 10, 2010 from: <http://www.ffta.org/publications/EBPguideFinalWeb.pdf>

McCall, R. M. (2009). Evidence-Based Programming in the Context of Practice and Policy [Electronic version]. *Social Policy Report*, 23(3). Retrieved February 15, 2010, from: [http://www.srcd.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=654](http://www.srcd.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=654)

National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement. (2008). Implementing change at the local level: Strategies for success. *Child welfare matters, Fall/Winter 2008*. Retrieved February 15, 2010 from:  
<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/rcpdfs/cwmatters8.pdf>

The Urban Institute. (2004). *Using Outcome Information: Making Data Pay Off*. Retrieved February 15, 2010 from:  
[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311040\\_OutcomeInformation.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311040_OutcomeInformation.pdf)

### **Targeted WebPages (some with resources list)**

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare – Implementation Resources Section  
<http://www.cebc4cw.org/impresources>

Child Welfare Information Gateway – The Role of Evidence-Based Practice in System Reform  
[List of resources]  
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/reform/building/ebp.cfm>

National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement – Using Data in Decision Making  
[http://tatis.muskie.usm.maine.edu/pubs/pub2Wtemp.asp?SUBJECT\\_AREA=Using\\_data\\_in\\_decision\\_making](http://tatis.muskie.usm.maine.edu/pubs/pub2Wtemp.asp?SUBJECT_AREA=Using_data_in_decision_making)

National Child Welfare Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections – Evidence Based Practice Resources  
[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info\\_services/evidence-based-practice.html](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/evidence-based-practice.html)

The Results-Based Accountability Implementation Guide  
<http://raguide.org/>

### **Other Resources (for purchase)**

Austin, M. J. (Ed.). (2009). *Evidence for Child Welfare Practice*. New York: Routledge. Available for purchase online from:  
[http://www.routledge.com/shopping\\_cart/products/product\\_detail.asp?curTab=DESCRIPTION&id=&parent\\_id=&sku=&isbn=9780789038159&pc](http://www.routledge.com/shopping_cart/products/product_detail.asp?curTab=DESCRIPTION&id=&parent_id=&sku=&isbn=9780789038159&pc)

This book provides a “work-in-progress” that seeks to capture the micro (direct service) and macro (managerial) perspectives related to identifying evidence for practice within the practice domain of public child welfare. It is divided into two categories; namely, evidence for direct practice and evidence for management practice. In Part I, the articles are categorized in the areas of child welfare assessment and child welfare outcomes. Expanded versions of the chapters can be accessed at [www.bassc.net](http://www.bassc.net). In Part II, the focus is on organizational issues that relate to evidence for management practice. This section includes an overview of evidence-based practice from an organizational perspective, along with evidence related to the experiences of others in implementing

evidence-based practice. This book pushes the discussion of evidence-based practice in several new directions regarding: 1) the use of structured reviews to complement the systematic reviews of the Cochrane and Campbell Collaboratives; 2) the process of viewing the call for evidence-based practice as a goal or future vision of practice and evidence for practice provides a more immediate approach to promote evidence-informed practice; and 3) a recognition that evidence-informed practice is part of building agency-based knowledge sharing systems that involve the tacit and explicit knowledge needed to improve the outcomes of social services. This book was published as a special issue of the *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*.

Corbett, T. & Lennon M. C. (Eds.). (2003). *Policy into action: Implementation research and welfare reform*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press. Available for purchase online from:

<http://www.urban.org/uipress/publications/210781.html>

The sweeping changes of 1996's welfare reform legislation are more than just new policies. They represent a profound transformation of the character and structure of social policy institutions in the United States, a shift from a bureaucratic, centralized mode for income transfer, to a "professional" mode aimed at complex behavioral change. The evaluation community has responded with a shift from traditional impact analyses to implementation studies that get inside the skin of this new, more flexible structure. Implementation research explores the translation of concepts into working policies and programs, and evaluates how well the administrative and management dimensions of these policies work, and how the programs are experienced by all involved. *Policy into Action* offers state-of-the-art thinking on implementation research from leading policy researchers and evaluation practitioners.

Research in Practice. (2006). *Firm foundations: A practical guide to organizational support for the use of research evidence*. Dartington: Research in Practice. Available for purchase online (paperback or electronic version) from:

[http://www.rip.org.uk/publications/handbook\\_detail.asp?pub\\_id=39](http://www.rip.org.uk/publications/handbook_detail.asp?pub_id=39)

## References

Bernstein, P. (1997). *Best practices of effective nonprofit organizations: A practitioner's guide*. New York: Foundation Center.

Bies, A. (2002, Spring). Accountability, organizational capacity and continuous improvement: Findings from Minnesota's non-profit sector. *New Directions in Philanthropy*, 31 (Special Issue), 51-80.

Keehley, P., Medlin, S., MacBride, S., & Longmire, L. (1997). *Benchmarking for best practices in the public sector: Achieving performance breakthroughs in federal, state and local agencies*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.