

Evidence-Based Practice in Virginia:

Are you ready to turn data into wisdom?



As we prepare to move into the next decade, Virginia's child and family serving systems are undergoing dramatic change. Do these phrases ring a bell?

- The Family First Prevention Services Act
- Behavioral Health Redesign
- Juvenile Justice Transformation
- Virginia Tiered Systems of Support
- High Fidelity Wraparound
- System Transformation Excellence and Performance (**STEP-VA**)

Embracing schools, social services, juvenile justice, behavioral health and CSA systems, all of these initiatives involve the identification and installation of evidence-based practices (EBP) – a wide set of interventions that have established effectiveness in improving outcomes for children, families, and communities.

Becoming a more evidence-based system doesn't "just happen" and will require extensive partnerships and lots of work. If you ever look into the heart of "collaboration" you'll find the word "labor." In the public sector, state agencies and local partners will need to learn together and work together to realize the potential benefits of these changes and to assure they are installed with sensitivity to local and individual youth and family needs.

In recognition of this, representatives of the Commonwealth's child-serving agencies and their local partners (Children's Services Act, Education, Social Services, Juvenile Justice, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Medical Assistance Services (Medicaid)) are planning a series of **FREE** Regional EBP Learning Collaboratives facilitated by the National Implementation Research Network. The purpose of these events is:

To bring together local teams in the children's services system(s) to build leadership capacity, learn about evidence-based practices (EBP), current Virginia EBP initiatives, and to begin/continue local level planning for successful EBP implementation and sustainability.

These events will not focus on specific EBPs, but about getting ready to think about and implement a variety of new practices with youth and families at the locality level.

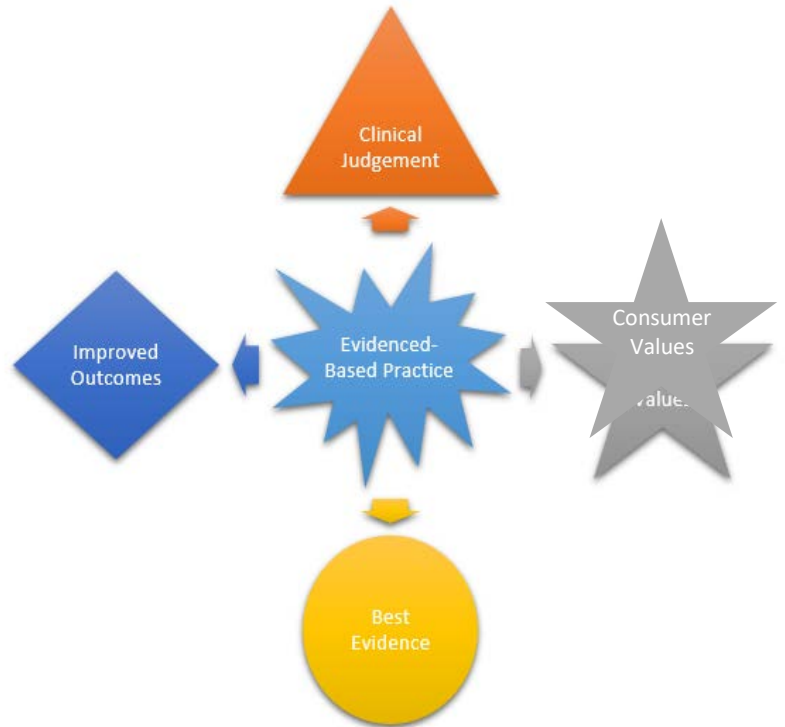
Localities, or if more practical and appropriate, regional teams of representatives from the child-serving systems (think about for example, the agencies on your CSA teams or who might be a local "agent of change") are invited to come together for a day of learning, self-reflection, team building, and planning to enhance your local/regional readiness for the adoption, implementation and long-term sustainability of the new and excited approaches.



Locality teams would include a single jurisdiction and are most appropriate for larger jurisdictions where agencies only “cover” that locality (e.g., the CSB and the CSU serve only that locality). Regional teams might be most appropriate for a group of smaller or more rural localities, those where the CSU and the CSB are multi-jurisdictional, or regions where several smaller localities might work with a larger locality in a collaborative approach. Regional teams need not adhere to traditional regional boundaries such as planning districts, DSS region, etc., but rather, should reflect the reality of services on the ground. It may be, for example, that a jurisdiction in one planning district/CSB catchment area is actually closer to and have a history of access to a different jurisdiction/district for the types of services and service providers most relevant to their population.

This free training is open to all localities and will take place in April 2020 in a variety of locations throughout the Commonwealth:

- Northern Virginia – April 15
- Richmond – April 16
- Abingdon – April 23
- Lynchburg – April 24
- Tidewater – April 30



Local or regional teams should identify their team members and submit the application no later than February 14, 2020. Local/regional teams will receive confirmation of attendance on or before March 13, 2020.

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