

2012 CCPRC Annual Meeting  
Plenary Session 5  
October 24, 2013, 5:10-5:40 p.m.

## Sharing of Cross-Cutting Insights across Sessions and Topics

### Description

This plenary encouraged cross-cutting sharing of key insights by participants and provided an update on proposed activities under OPRE's new contract with BLH Technologies, Inc.; sign-up sheets were available so that participants could choose to continue informal discussions over dinner.

### Facilitator

Karen Tvedt, BLH Technologies, Inc.

### Scribe

Nina Chien, Child Trends

### 1. Documents in Session Folder

- “Plenary 5: Sharing of Cross-Cutting Insights;” Karen Tvedt

### 2. Brief Summary of Presentations

- **Summary of Presentation #1:** Karen indicated that this brief plenary is intended to provide an opportunity to talk in a cross-cutting way across sessions and topics, share emerging findings heard throughout the day, talk about innovative methodologies and identify possible followup activities and directions.
  - Calvin Moore, new Office of Child Care Deputy Director, noted the importance of mixed methodologies and power of qualitative research in bridging the gap between theory and practice.
  - We’ve come a long way over the past decade and are looking forward to results from the National Survey of Early Care and Education. INQUIRE is doing important work focused on validation, child outcomes, etc.
  - More needs to be done on the issue of child outcomes; Marty Zaslow’s questions about conceptual models and the need for resources to build the evidence base are important.
  - The importance of supporting evaluation work when relying on administrative data and other data not initially collected for research purposes was noted. How do we ensure funders help support evaluation efforts?
    - Rick Brandon indicated mixed feelings about the use of administrative data. We need to mine all data we can, but we can’t be shy about collecting new data.
    - The amount of money spent collecting administrative data on students, children, programs is vastly more than what we spend on research.
  - Application of behavioral economics to child care—this session sparked interest and the desire to explore further applications in the early learning and child care field, e.g., hassle factors, etc.

- Sue Wilson: legislatures want to know about best practices and the impact of policy changes. We should consider building toward a compendium of best-practices. In lieu of this compendium, States are making decisions based on a wing and a prayer.
- Jim Elicker: thinking about the ghost outcomes Marty talked about. In light of all the focus on child outcomes, we have neglected important correlates and outcomes of quality. Conversations with administrators are needed to make these priorities explicit.
  - Kathryn Tout: State administrators are tracking child outcomes. What should the other outcomes be?
  - Dina Castro: one area relates to child outcomes in ELL and diverse children; how do we measure outcomes and quality in programs with high diversity?
- Innovative Methodologies: Deb Cassidy noted that data collection is constrained by insufficient funding. Is there a way to collaborate across State and university efforts, even in terms of staff use as a way to lower costs?
  - Need to revisit the history of State-university partnerships (which is where the CCPRC started).
  - OPRE has funded many waves of Partnership Grants (and the relationships developed have persisted over time and beyond the originally funded projects)—however in recent years, the National Survey has used most of the funding for child care research through ACF. There is now interest in reinvesting in Partnerships in the future.
  - Child care scholar grants require partnership with policy makers and administrators
- Cross-cutting issues: application of behavioral economics to child care research.
- Possible follow-up activities
  - Isabel Bradburn: Technical assistance--how to calculate return on investment to evaluate QRIS and integrated data systems
  - Role of mental health and trauma mental health in families' uptake of services and child outcomes and behaviors
- Future ACF research directions and priorities: possibility of post-doc fellowships that support researchers in partnering with policymakers (Ivelisse).
- **Supports available through OPRE and the CCPRC: Karen**
  - Karen indicated that the CCPRC was started in 1995 by the Child Care Bureau (prior to the Office of Child Care) and the purpose was to bring researchers and policymakers together to use research to answer questions of concern to policymakers.
  - During the early meetings, everyone could fit around one table and much of the initial research was related to learning about subsidies in the context of welfare reform.
  - Now an increasing amount of the work of the consortium happens in work groups such as INQUIRE, Subsidies and PD...often based on issues that surfaced during annual meetings.
  - The activities of the CCPRC are supported by several organizations with roles that are interrelated and synergistic.
    - Child Trends is focused primarily on content development;
    - Research Connections on dissemination; and

- BLH on facilitating the efforts of the CCPRC.
- On a competitive basis, OPRE has just awarded a new 5 year contract to BLH Technologies. It is under that contract that folks like Patricia Strong, Lu Gao, Barbara Saunders and many others support the work of the consortium including the CCPRC SC, the meeting planning process, and all of the logistics that go into meetings like this.
  - With budget challenges and advances in technology, OPRE is asking us to communicate more efficiently to reach a wider audience through use of webinars, video, social media, etc.
  - OPRE also wants us to do more to leverage what we learn through the work of CCPRC, e.g., identifying follow-up activities; summarizing what we are learning in meetings like this one; and implications for future ACF directions and funding.

### 3. **Summary of Key Issues Raised by Participants**

- The importance of qualitative research and mixed methodologies in bridging the gap between theory and practice.
- The need for more work on the issue of child outcomes including honing our conceptual models and resources to build the evidence.
- Making resources available to support evaluation work based on administrative data as well as the collection of new data.
- Further exploration of the application of behavioral economics.
- The need for a compendium of best practices.
- The importance of working with State administrators around a broader set of correlates and quality outcomes (characterized by Marty Zaslow as ghost outcomes).
- Need to support research partnerships among States and universities including the possibility of partnership grants and post-doc fellowships funded through ACF.
- Need for technical assistance around calculating return on investment related to QRIS evaluation and integrated data systems.
- Consider the role of mental health issues in families' uptake of services and child outcomes.