

**Moving From Evidence-Based Programs to Evidence-Based Practices:
How Policymakers are Scaling Success**

August 22 at 1-4pm ET

2100 M. St NW Washington, DC 20037

Large Conference Room

Agenda

1:00-1:20 Welcome, Introductions, and Framing the Meeting

- *Adam Gamoran*, W.T. Grant Foundation
- *Beadsie Woo*, Annie E. Casey Foundation
- *Karen Pittman*, Forum for Youth Investment

1:20-1:50 Example 1: Improving the Quality of Brand-Name and Home-Grown Juvenile Justice Programs

The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) wanted to help judges select which programs to refer youth to. While resources such as the Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development and OJJDP's Model programs Guide have shown the juvenile justice field which specific brand-name programs have been effective in reducing recidivism, OJJDP wanted to go further, helping judges also decide which home-grown, grassroots programs they should refer youth to as well, even when, as is often the case, these programs haven't been rigorously evaluated. The agency also wanted to find a way to help all juvenile justice programs, both brand-name and home-grown, to improve over time.

In 2013, OJJDP launched the Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JRRI), a three-year demonstration program that aims to reduce recidivism and enhance cost effectiveness by improving existing services for youth in the justice system.

You will hear how the speakers identified the characteristics of effective juvenile justice programs, developed a tool to assess and improve existing programs for youth in the justice system and are helping Delaware, Iowa and Wisconsin implement this approach.

Presenters:

- *Benjamin Adams*, Social Science Analyst, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Department of Justice
- *Mark Lipsey*, Director, Peabody Research Institute, Vanderbilt University
- *Shay Bilchik*, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.

1:50-2:10 Example 1: Q&A

Attendees will have the opportunity to address the three presenters and ask any questions they may have.

2:10-2:40

Example 2: Improving a the Quality of a Wide Range of Types of Afterschool Programs

The federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding stream supports a wide range of types of afterschool programs – from tutoring programs to sports programs to arts programs and more. How can a state responsible for implementing these programs put in place incentives to improve the quality of such a broad set of grantees?

This was the challenge faced by the Oklahoma State’s Department of Education: They wanted to make sure that their statewide afterschool accountability and evaluation policies incentivized and communicated both shared purposes and a shared way of talking about that purpose. That purpose, briefly, was to recruit academically at-risk students and provide those students with high quality instruction to improve academic and other outcomes. This was a particular challenge because different 21st CLCC programs serve students with different needs in communities with very different circumstances. A one size fits all program design, or a one size fits all evaluation approach, would not be successful.

In 2010, the Oklahoma Department of Education launched the *Oklahoma Afterschool Improvement Process*, a multi-year initiative to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of the state’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers. The Oklahoma Afterschool Improvement Process was anchored by the *Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI)*, an evidence-based program designed to improve the quality of instructional practices across the full range of afterschool program designs used in the state.

Presenters:

- *Dr. Charles Smith*, Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality
- *Sonia Johnson*, Executive Director for Family/Community Engagement, Oklahoma State Department of Education

2:40-3:00

Example 2: Q&A

Attendees will have the opportunity to address the three presenters and ask any questions they may have.

3:00-4:00

Group Discussion: How Could Additional Agencies Use this Approach?

Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the evidence-based practice approach with the presenters and other guests. Some questions worth considering include:

- How can agencies use this approach to support their own evidence-based work?
- How does this approach allow for effective scaling of best practices?
- Are there any challenges with this approach that agencies should anticipate?
- How does this approach balance accountability and continuous improvement?
- What did you hear during this session that you can use to inform your work?

Moderator

- *Thaddeus Ferber*, Forum for Youth Investment