



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE:

A UNIVERSITY/AGENCY PARTNERSHIP FOR CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 22, 2006

Interactive Session #2 | Instructions for Facilitators

Goals of the session:

- ▶ To review the focus group data collected from child welfare staff, foster care providers, former foster youth, and parents involved in the system.
- ▶ To refine and prioritize the research questions identified in the focus groups.
- ▶ To identify additional research priorities from the researchers and practitioners.
- ▶ To produce a list of the highest priority research questions that can inform California's research agenda (This list is the outcome of the session)

Instructions:

1. Have the group review the research focus group data for your group's area of focus (i.e. safety, permanence, or well-being). **THIS IS THE BLUE DOCUMENT MARKED *FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES – RESEARCH ONLY*.**
 - ▶ The material has been classified into themes that particularly interested the groups.
 - ▶ Note both the content of the questions *and* which group was interested in it.
 - ▶ **HAVE EACH PERSON THINK ABOUT AND DETERMINE WHICH QUESTION THEY THINK IS OF HIGHEST PRIORITY. REMIND THEM THAT THEY WILL GET TO ADD *THEIR* PRIORITIES LATER – THEY SHOULD FOCUS ON THE FOCUS GROUP RESPONSES.**

Discussion Questions for the group:

- ▶ What strikes you as most significant about the responses? About who made the responses?

▶ What seems to be the priority for research amongst these groups?

2. After the brief discussion, go around the room and have them identify the focus group question that they thought was most important. Chart them on the flip-charts. There should be duplicates.
3. After you have the list from the focus groups, ask the group to add their ideas for the highest priorities for research *in this outcome area*. They may (or may not) be similar to or build upon the focus group data. Try to make them formulate their responses in the form of a question that might potentially be researched. (Tell them it is like Jeopardy.) Start with practitioners, and then
4. We will now prioritize the list of chosen focus group responses and the additional questions identified by the group.
 - ▶ Pass out 3 dots to each person in the group. Have them place a dot next to each question that they think is most critical.
 - ▶ They can vote for one question twice if they think it is particularly critical.
 - ▶ The 2 highest vote-getters will be used as a base to build upon in step 5. (All of the questions in this list will be saved, but we will work more today on the highest priority questions.)
 - ▶ Once everyone has voted, quickly count up the dots to identify the top 2 vote getters
5. Now we will refine the top 2 vote-getters on your list into viable research questions. *These will be reported to the larger group at the end of the day.*

Discussion questions for the group:

- ▶ What is the research question?
- ▶ How might you design a study to research this question?

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ONE OF THE FACILITATORS DESIGNATED TO REPORT OUT ON THE 2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS TO THE LARGER GROUP. ALSO MAKE SURE THAT STUART OR BARRY GET THE PRIORITIZED LIST OF OTHER QUESTIONS.