

F F T A



Foster Family-based Treatment Association

Position Statement on Evidence-based Practice

Evidence-based practice and policy (EBP) have rapidly become core concepts contributing to new program development and systems improvement in Treatment Foster Care.

The Foster Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA) recognizes that EBP is essential to providing the best possible treatment foster care services and to facilitating positive outcomes for children and families. Thus, FFTA strongly encourages member agencies to use evidence-based practices, policies and tools when available, feasible, and appropriate for their service participants.

Providers are now working within a funding environment that increasingly expects programs to have an established evidence base. FFTA recognizes that EBP is evolving and incomplete and the integration of proven strategies has its limitations. FFTA members who want to contribute to or implement EBPs are oftentimes challenged by the restrictive criteria and the limitations in the available repertoire of EBP. Many agencies don't have access to the resources and funding necessary to implement and sustain EBPs with fidelity. In addition, to be successful with an EBP requires application of specialized implementation science, knowledge of which is not widely distributed. Finally, there are concerns that an overreliance on EBP criteria can stifle innovation and differentially impact subgroups for which EBPs have not yet been established.

FFTA members can address these limitations by accepting a collective responsibility to advance practice and seek continuous quality improvement in the services our clients receive. FFTA encourages its members to make an ongoing commitment to monitor agency performance and outcomes and apply data to tailor and improve services. Members should continually strive to develop evidence-informed practices within their programs through rigorous practice supervision and quality improvement processes to assure the outcomes of service delivery meet or exceed identified benchmarks.

Finally, irrespective of agencies' use of formally established EBPs, FFTA encourages members to contribute to the evidence base for practice and policies. This can be achieved by refining and improving emerging EBPs or by being a field-based collaborator and a source for moving innovative, promising practices to established EBPs.

FFTA will continue to monitor the field's use of evidence-based practices and may revise this statement as more is learned about evidence-based practices in treatment foster care.

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