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Children and Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention

CALIFORNIA EVIDENCE-BASED CLEARINGHOUSE FOR CHILD WELFARE

Online resource provides easy access to scientifically tested practices in child welfare

In January 2004, as part of the state's child welfare improvement strategies, the California Department of Social Services' Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) partnered with the Chadwick Center for Children and Families in cooperation with the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center to award a grant to create an evidence-based clearinghouse for child welfare practices in California. The current grant cycle began July of 2015 and will conclude June of 2016.

The California Evidence Based Clearinghouse (CEBC) for Child Welfare is an online resource for child welfare professionals; researchers; policymakers; staff of public and private organizations and academic institutions; and others who are committed to improving outcomes for children and families. It is a key tool for identifying, selecting, and implementing evidence-based child welfare practices that will improve child safety, increase permanency, increase family and community stability, and promote child and family well-being. The average number of visitors per month over the 2014-2015 year was 21,734

The CEBC does all the homework - comprehensive scientific review of program literature, tools, methodology and evaluation - so child welfare professionals can focus their efforts on what they do best and apply their limited resources to most effectively meet community need. It provides simple, straightforward access to reviews and ratings of evidence-based practices relative to child welfare. The scientific rating scale is a 1 to 5 rating of the strength of the research evidence supporting a practice or program. The rating of 1 represents a practice with the strongest research evidence and a 5 represents a concerning practice that appears to pose substantial risk to children and families. The CEBC has been acknowledged both nationally and internationally as a vital resource for those who serve children and families.

The statewide clearinghouse is guided by two main bodies, which include representatives from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention:

- A statewide Advisory Committee comprised of state and local child welfare leaders, supporting organizations, and nationally respected authorities on child welfare
- A national Scientific Panel comprised of five core members who are nationally recognized as leaders in child welfare research and practice

Each year since its launch in June 2006 new topic areas have been added to the clearinghouse in the following categories: Anger Management, Domestic Violence, and Substance Abuse; Behavior Management including Parent Training; Core Child Welfare Services including Placement and Reunification; Engagement and Parent Partnering Programs; Mental Health; and Support Services for Youth in the Child Welfare System. As of June 30, 2015, there were a total of 338 evidence-based programs included on the CEBC.

In 2014-2015 two new topic areas were added to the CEBC: Primary Prevention and Interventions for Abusive Behavior. The Interventions for Abusive Behavior topic area went live in March of 2015 with 11 programs included in its launch. The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect topic area launch followed, going live in April of 2015 and included 14 programs.

In 2015-2016, the CEBC will continue to maintain the website and expand efforts to advance the effective implementation of evidence-based practices for children and families involved with the child welfare system. A technical assistance model including a minimum of 5 concrete tools and resources for program implementation is also planned for development. These tools will be designed to assist county, state, and community-based organization staff on the principles of implementation and the exploration and planning process for implementing evidence-based practices.

For more information, please visit the CEBC Web site at www.cebc4cw.org.