



Reflection Worksheet

Becoming a Workforce of Everyday Scientists: Frontline Staff in the Legal Community

This year's Child Welfare Virtual Expo is designed to be an interactive virtual learning experience where you can hear from experts, identify successful strategies to incorporate into your work, and make connections with others in the child welfare community.

Legal professionals play an important role as contributors to critical thinking, knowledge building, research and evaluation, and ways to improve outcomes for children and families. This session explores how lawyers and judges can change practice and culture and support improved outcomes by being innovative in altering and testing how they do their work outside of waiting for an evidence-based practice to be developed, tried, and tested. Participants will explore a method for making those changes and learn how to become more effective "scientists" by gathering, using and applying data in a systematic and practical way to make a positive difference.

Participants attending this session will:

- Identify how legal and judicial staff can be innovative in their practice with agencies and families, applying information and data available to test different strategies that will positively impact outcomes without waiting for evidence-based practices
- Explore the cycle of gathering useful information and incorporate it into daily work efficiently
- Increase knowledge of how rapid cycle feedback loops (Plan-Do-Study-Act) supports change in practice working with families
- Identify opportunities to conduct Plan-Do-Study-Act feedback loops
- Understand the process of monitoring and adjusting
- Distinguish between target effects and unintended consequences

Linking what you hear and see in this session to your everyday work will help you identify where you want to realize change in your agency and the techniques that can help you along the way. Use the table below to keep track of your thoughts during the virtual reflection session.



Guided Thought Experiment

1. Identify practices in your jurisdiction that are missing or need to change on which you can have an effect.	
2. Choose one of the items on your list. Formulate a hypothesis for the identified problem.	
3. Develop a list of data that you can collect to address the problem.	

Virtual Reflection Questions

1. Were you able to identify practice changes that are missing or need to be changed in your jurisdiction? If so, what were these changes?	
2. How did you prioritize your choice given the multitude of issues that exist in child welfare?	



<p>3. What was the hypothesis you created during the session? What went into your thinking about designing the hypothesis? Do you think others in your system or jurisdiction would come to a similar hypothesis?</p>	
<p>4. Did you identify any data gaps in the list of data you intended to collect to address the problem? What were those gaps? Why do you think those gaps exist?</p>	
<p>5. Is there additional data that might be helpful to review? Who might you invite to help you synthesize and interpret this data?</p>	
<p>Additional thoughts:</p>	

