



# HKU Faculty of Social Sciences & Hong Kong Council of Social Services

*April 2012*

USC School  
of Social Work

University of Southern California



## How Can Evidence-based Clearinghouses Support Day-To-Day Work of Child Welfare Agencies

*Haluk Soydan, Ph. D.*

*University of Southern California*

*School of Social Work*

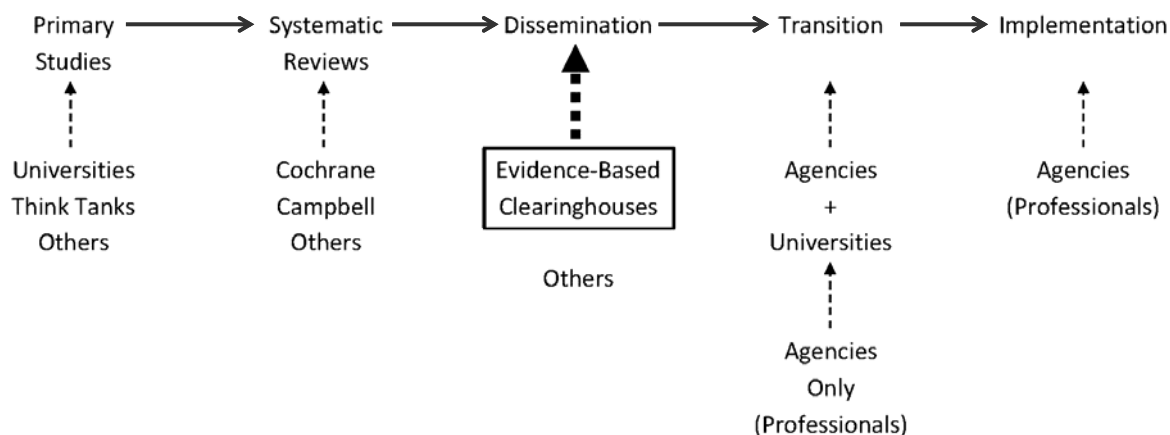
*[soydan@usc.edu](mailto:soydan@usc.edu)*

USC School  
of Social Work

University of Southern California



# FROM BENCH TO TRENCH



## Sources of Information

- Primary research articles
- Research reviews
  - Cochrane reviews; [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org)
  - Campbell reviews; [campbellcollaboration.org](http://campbellcollaboration.org)
- Repackaged scientific evidence for dissemination
  - Manuel based treatment packages
  - Best practice guidelines – recommendations or mandatory
  - Expert consensus guidelines



## Sources of Information

- High quality clearinghouses

An evidence-based clearinghouse is an Internet-based site (portal, database) that aims to make accessible information on evidence-based interventions in human services to an group of users.



## Quick History

- Historically, the idea of evidence-based clearinghouse has its origins in the development of web-based databases which have been around for decades.
- They have been growing increasingly sophisticated, especially for the last 6-8 years.




## Quick History

- The word “clearinghouse” is borrowed from financial systems where financial transactions gather on one place (for example a national central bank), are controlled and cleared, and transferred to receivers.



## Important Characteristics of Evidence-based Clearing Houses




- Targeted user groups
- Topic area
- Scientific rating scales
- Transparency
- Context pertinence
- User-friendliness
- Cutting-edge information
- Sustainability



CEBC

HOME SEARCH TOPIC AREAS RATING SCALES ASSESSMENT TOOLS IMPLEMENTATION ONLINE TRAINING RESOURCES FAQs ABOUT US CONTACT CEBC EMAIL ALERTS

Sitemap | Limitations & Disclosures

Search for a Program:  Go

## Welcome to the CEBC:

### California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare

#### Information and Resources for Child Welfare Professionals

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC) provides child welfare professionals with easy access to vital information about selected child welfare related programs. The primary task of the CEBC is to inform the child welfare community about the research evidence for programs being used or marketed in California.\* The CEBC also lists programs that may be less well-known in California, but were recommended by the Topic Expert for that Topic Area.

How do You Use the CEBC? What's New on the CEBC?

What is Evidence-Based Practice? How are Programs on the CEBC Reviewed?

How is Culture Related to Evidence-Based Practice? Sign-up to get Email Alerts!

\* Please note that the CEBC was created for informational and educational purposes and as such does not endorse any of the programs listed on the website.

Information presented on the CEBC website is considered public information and may be distributed or copied. When using information obtained from the CEBC, we ask that you please use the following acknowledgment: Material/Image/Information obtained from the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC) at [www.cebc4cw.org](http://www.cebc4cw.org).






The CEBC is funded by the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Office of Child Abuse Prevention and is one of their targeted efforts to improve the lives of children and families served within child welfare system.


© copyright 2006-2012 The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare ([www.cebc4cw.org](http://www.cebc4cw.org))





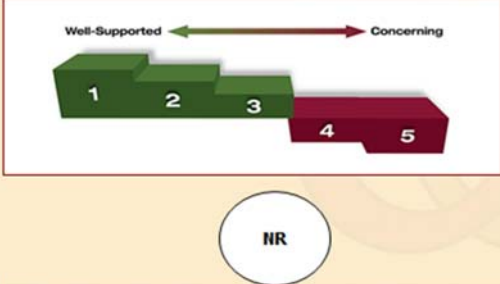
### CEBC Process

- Identify 5 topic areas 
- Narrow down program list 
- Review research on each program 
- Work with program representative to gather information 
- Review and rate each program 



### Scientific Rating Scale


[\*\*Based on a Continuum\*\*]



Well-Supported ← → Concerning


1 2 3 4 5

NR







### The Solidness of Evidence



- 1 = Rock
- 2 = Gravel
- 3 = Sand
- 4 = Water
- 5 = Gas
- NR = Unknown Foundation



Adapted from Rick Barth, April 2010



### The Solidness of Evidence



- 2+ rigorous randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
- Published, peer-reviewed literature
- One RCT has shown practice to have sustained effect of at least one year beyond the end of treatment


1 = Well-Supported by Research Evidence

**Rock**






### The Solidness of Evidence




- 1+ RCTs
- Published, peer-reviewed literature
- One RCT has shown practice to have a sustained effect of at least six months beyond the end of treatment

2 = Supported by Research Evidence

**Gravel**




### The Solidness of Evidence



- One study utilizing some form of control has established the practice's benefit over the control
- Published, peer-reviewed literature

3 = Promising Research Evidence


**Sand**








### The Solidness of Evidence




- Has not resulted in improved outcomes when compared to usual care
- Preponderance of evidence does not support the efficacy of the practice

4 = Evidence Fails to Demonstrate Effect

**Water**




### The Solidness of Evidence



- Intervention has a negative effect upon clients served
- The practice constitutes a risk of harm to those receiving it


5 = Concerning Practice

**Gas**







### The Solidness of Evidence




- Lacks published, peer-reviewed research on comparison studies
- The practice is generally accepted in clinical practice as appropriate for use

NR = Not able to be Rated  
Unknown foundation...




### Reviewing the Relevance to Child Welfare



**High:**  
Designed or commonly used for child welfare clients.

**Medium:**  
Designed or is commonly used for populations similar to child welfare clients

**Low:**  
Designed for populations with little apparent similarity to the child welfare services population.





### Topics Currently on the Website

- Anger Management (Adult)
- Anxiety Treatment (Child & Adolescent)
- Behavioral Management for Adolescents in Child Welfare
- Bipolar Disorder Treatment (Child & Adolescent)
- Casework Practice
- Child Welfare Initiatives
- Depression Treatment (Adult)
- Depression Treatment (Child & Adolescent)
- Disruptive Behavior Treatment (Child & Adolescent)
- Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence: Batterer Intervention Programs
- Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence: Services for Women and their Children
- Family Stabilization
- Father Involvement Interventions
- Higher Level of Placement
- Home Visiting for Child Well-Being
- Home Visiting for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Infant and Toddler Mental Health (0-3)

 **CEBC** 218 programs in 33 Topic Areas as of March 2012



### Topics Currently on the Website (continued)

- Interventions for Neglect
- Motivation and Engagement
- Parent Partner Programs for Families Involved in the Child Welfare System
- Parent Training
- Placement Stabilization
- Post-Permanency Services
- Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Secondary)
- Resource Parent Recruitment and Training
- Reunification
- Sexual Behavior Problems in Adolescents, Treatment of
- Sexual Behavior Problems in Children, Treatment of
- Substance Abuse Treatment (Adolescent)
- Substance Abuse Treatment (Adult)
- Supervised Visitation
- Trauma Treatment (Child & Adolescent)
- Youth Transitioning Into Adulthood


 **CEBC** 33 Topic Areas as of March 2012



### Using the Website

- Basic information is provided in the brief outline
- More detailed information allows user to drill down to get further information:

```
graph TD; A[More detailed information allows user to drill down to get further information:] --> B[Research]; A --> C[Information that helps plan implementation strategy  
(Training, Identified Resources, Minimum Provider Qualifications)];
```



### Finding Information Fast




- Using the Search Tools
  - Allows one to quickly identify programs by:
    - Topic Area
    - Rating
    - Maltreatment Types
    - Age of Child





**Direct Service Providers**

- Learn more about different EBPs
- Links to information about training



## Would What Works in California Work in Hong Kong?? Transportability!



- The ultimate way of knowing an existing evidence based intervention may work in a new country is to test the intervention in the new country!
- What to do when this luxury is not available??

# Would What Works in California Work in Hong Kong?? Transportability!



## Organization

- Organizational Culture –norms, values, behavioral expectations
- Organizational climate –perceptions and affective responses to work environment, job characteristics

# Would What Works in California Work in Hong Kong?? Transportability!



## Country-Level Variables

- Political variables, e. g. locus of social service agencies
- Social, educational, historical variables, e. g. appropriateness of stating opinions
- Geo-economic variables, e. g. disparities
- Social problem variables, e. g. centrality of certain social and mental health problems

# Would What Works in California Work in Hong Kong?? Transportability!



Globalization

- Increasing globalization of lifestyle preferences

# THANK YOU

