**A Call for Champions**

I am writing to alert you to a unique opportunity that may be of interest to you or others in your state that would like to see more progress in improving outcomes for at-risk and delinquent youth through the adoption and successful implementation of effective evidence-based programs. The MacArthur Foundation is providing support for a number of state or local jurisdiction policy teams to participate in a special Evidence-Based Practice Academy. The Academy is being planned and organized by the Institute for Public Health & Justice at LSU and Advancing EBP. Participating teams will be selected on the basis of how well their applications reflect the involvement of key stakeholders and their commitment and capacity to bring evidence-based programs to scale in their jurisdiction.

The Academy curricula is designed to acquaint delegations with the issues they are anticipated to face in expanding their use of EBPs to improve outcomes for the youth and families they are trying to serve. It will also provide role specific knowledge they will need to play a leading part in this endeavor. In addition to reviewing the critical tasks and decisions involved in identifying and implementing a new program model, delegations will review the strategies and tools adopted in Louisiana, a state that has been identified as leading the way in evidence-based system reform of their juvenile justice policies and practice.

The Academy will be held in Lafayette, Louisiana on September 10-12, 2014. It will involve presentations by key local and national leaders who have championed and participated in the expansion of EBPs. As delegations are exposed to the key components and strategies of the Louisiana Model, they will in turn begin to draft their own EBP implementation and/or expansion plan. Delegates will be actively engaged, encouraged to ask questions, present their ideas, and receive direct feedback from Academy Faculty. Teams with the most promising plans will receive further TA to assist them implementing their plans after they return home.

**I would strongly encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity** by helping to organize an appropriate stakeholder team and submitting an application. All Academy instruction and tuition costs will be covered by the MacArthur grant. Travel expenses and lodging costs are to be covered by each team, and arrangements have been made for affordable lodging (see details in application).

I am really excited about this opportunity to help a number of states and local jurisdictions advance their use of EBPs, and I hope yours will be one of them. Planning for this Academy has been underway for more than a year and we are hoping to see some strong teams become involved.

Warmest regards,

Peter Greenwood

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**FALL 2014 EBP ACADEMY APPLICATION**

**ACADEMY- Expanding EBPs in Juvenile Justice Settings using an Efficient**

**and Effective Model for Implementation**

**WHEN- September 10-12, 2014**

**WHERE- LAFAYETTE, LA (University of Louisiana, Picard Center)**

**COST- Your Team Travel & Lodging (COSTS FOR TUITION, SEVERAL MEALS, and SPEAKERS IS COVERED)**

**OVERVIEW**

This EBP Implementation Academy will work with selected locals, regions, and states that express interest, via their response to this call for applications, in expanding their use of EBPs for at-risk youth involved in the juvenile justice, criminal justice, mental health and social welfare systems. Those selected will send delegations of key stakeholders to attend a 2.5 day EBP Implementation Academy that will expose groups to the successful Louisiana Model of expanding EBPs for justice involved youth.

This academy is designed to acquaint delegations with the issues they are anticipated to face in expanding their use of EBPs and programs to improve outcomes for the youth and families they are trying to serve. It will also provide role specific knowledge they will need to play a leading part in this endeavor. In addition to reviewing the critical tasks and decisions involved in identifying and implementing a new program model, delegations will review the strategies and tools adopted in Louisiana, a state that has been identified as leading the way in evidence-based system reform of their juvenile justice policies and practice.

Specific topics to be covered will include; the basic body of EBP knowledge to be mastered; the identification and role of “champions”; enlisting the support of key stakeholders; data-driven decision making; community mobilization; selecting and piloting new models; the role of intermediary organizations; methods of funding EBPs; critical training for local communities; implementation science; quality assurance and communication strategies. Participants will be provided with descriptive material, tools, and resources that have been found to be most useful in expanding the use of EBPs for juveniles.

The workshop will involve presentations by key local and national leaders who have championed and participated in the expansion of EBPs. As delegations are exposed to the key components and strategies of the Louisiana Model, they will in turn begin to draft their own EBP implementation and/or expansion plan. Delegates will be actively engaged, encouraged to ask questions, present their ideas, and receive direct feedback from the team. Teams will also be evaluated during the academy and the team with the most promising plan will receive further TA to assist them implementing their plan post academy (dependent on funding). The selected delegation will have the opportunity through bi-weekly conference calls to go into greater depth on initial implementation steps, including stakeholder recruitment, consensus building, capacity strengthening, and the development of detailed implementation plans and lines of accountability.

The major goal of the workshop will be to motivate each delegation and get them started on developing their EBP implementation/expansion proposals. All delegates will complete the academy with at least a first working draft of initial plans to move forward in their dissemination of EBPs. Post academy, all participants will be kept abreast of their fellow academy members’ progress, challenges, and solutions via a listserv and a special section of the IPHJ website.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

Leadership teams that represent city, district, regional, or state level implementation groups will be selected. There will be a minimum of five teams (maximum ten) working together in both their team group and discipline specific groups. Delegations will consist of teams of at least 5 members. Teams should include a champion/leader of practice implementation and a representation of leadership that offers input/support such as local/state division of juvenile justice, judge, prosecutor, juvenile public defender, probation chief/supervisor, university partner, funder/foundation person.

**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION**

The Fall 2014 EBP Academy will be limited to a maximum of 10 delegations and delegations will be admitted only if they can meet minimum requirements for team make-up. Priorities will be given to teams that show strength of leadership and diversity of roles in the juvenile justice system. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. Central Time. Applications received after that time will ONLY be considered if space is available.

Please follow this link to apply:   <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=xhgvZj22CDsrPgUwSvLLyw>

In selecting participants, we aim to fill the academy with a broad group of disciplines representing different facets of the juvenile justice system’s program delivery, utilization, and management.

Thank you in advance for your interest. Please help us spread the word about this outstanding opportunity and share this information with colleagues that might be interested. Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Stephen Phillippi at (504) 234-3899 or email sphill2@lsuhsc.edu .

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

A block of rooms have been reserved for September 9, 2014 - September 12, 2014.  The special room rate ($109.00 + taxes) will be available until August 19th or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.  Booking a reservation is simple.  To begin the process, click on the link below:

<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/L/LFTCDGI-IPHJ14-20140909/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG>

**or**

Call (337) 291-1977 and ask for the Institute of Public Health block of rooms.