

## Definitions for the Children's Administration effort to implement evidence-based programs.

In order to effectively discuss and implement evidence-based programs, the Children's Administration has established a definition. An **evidence-based program** is a model program that has:

- A sound theoretical basis in generally accepted psychological or sociological principles for treatment of the identified population and service needs
- A manual that specifies the components and characteristics of the service, so it can be replicated
- Strong research support with at least two randomized controlled outcome studies or two comparison-group studies that established the program's effectiveness. The sample size for the two studies must be no less than 100 in both the control/comparison group and the study group (unless there are three or more studies on the same population and outcomes, and then the sample size may be as small as 60)
- A quality assurance plan that allows for measurement of whether the service is delivered according to the model design

The Children's Administration has also established a definition of "**promising practice.**" A **promising practice** is a program that has:

- A sound theoretical basis in generally accepted psychological or sociological principles for treatment of the identified population and service needs
- A manual that specifies the components and characteristics of the service, so it can be replicated
- One study that indicates it effectively addresses the outcomes of the targeted population **or** substantial clinical literature that suggests that the service is effective with the targeted population
- A quality assurance plan that allows for measurement of whether the service is delivered according to the model design

The definitions above are based in part on the "Treatment Classification Criteria Used by the Office for Victims of Crime's (OVC's) Guidelines for the Psychosocial Treatment of Interfamilial Child Physical and Sexual Abuse" *Citation: Saunders B, Berliner L, Hanson R. (2004). Child Physical and Sexual Abuse: Guidelines for Treatment (revised report 4/26/04). Charleston, SC: National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center.*

In most cases, if available, the Children's Administration will adopt existing **evidence-based programs** for a given population. **Promising practices** may be implemented by Children's Administration, especially when there is not an **evidence-based program** available for the target population.

(over)

May 25, 2006

The primary goal of the effort is to effectively serve clients and match services to the targeted population. The use of **evidence-based programs** and **promising practices** is intended to improve outcomes for children and families, particularly in the areas of safety, permanency, and well being. Specific outcome measures will be matched to the intended purpose of each service. Initial outcomes will be measured by the numbers of clients participating in the service and how well the model is implemented (model fidelity). Eventually, long term outcomes will focus on improvements in safety, permanency, and well being for participants.