

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2017

This update on evidence-based policymaking and budgeting is prepared by the [Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy \(IMRP\)](#). The IMRP manages the [Results First Initiative in Connecticut](#) – an evidence-based approach to policymaking and budgeting sponsored by the Pew-MacArthur collaboration. This letter intends to provide you with an interesting and useful avenue for news on the practice of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting. We intend to bring you information from a variety of sources and at various levels of government.

CONNECTICUT ACTIVITY

The IMRP group testified before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Accountability on March 28, 2017. We presented a [video](#) and discussed on the general purpose and function of the Results First Initiative and its application in Connecticut thus far. The group of legislators were oriented to our evidence-based approach and how it can aid them in budget and policy decisions.

Also, a representative from the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch spoke favorably about their experience with the Results First Initiative and how it has become an important part of financial management and policy planning. This approach has been used not only to determine and accomplish budgeted savings, but to improve contractor performance.

NATIONAL-FEDERAL BRIEF

A couple of new publications were recently highlighted by the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative and could be very helpful to state agencies seeking to improve their abilities in cost analysis in support of developing evidence to inform decisions, especially in the program areas of Children, Youth and Families. However, the techniques are undoubtedly helpful with other human services.

The Children's Bureau (an office of the federal Administration for Children and Families) published [Cost Analysis in Program Evaluation: A Guide for Child Welfare Researchers and Service Providers](#) (2014). Pew states that this brief guide sets up a framework for systematically estimating program costs.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published [Advancing the Power of Economic Evidence to Inform Investments in Children, Youth, and Families](#) (2016). According to Pew, this book also sets out a framework and technical guidance for producing high-quality economic analysis of child welfare programs. It is similar to the Children's Bureau's, but the book engages more deeply in methodological and theoretical considerations.

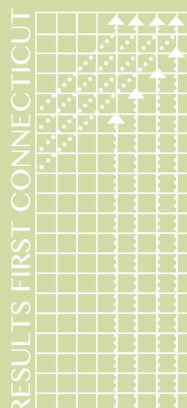


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[Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking \(CEP\)](#)

The CEP held its seventh meeting on March 13, 2017, in Washington, D.C. and you can see the presentations [here](#). This meeting included discussions addressing the federal statistical and partnership infrastructure for evidence-building: opportunities and limitations." It featured testimony on the US statistical system, using statistics to inform evidence and observations on changing federal executive agency culture towards data-driven performance improvement.

No future meeting is scheduled and we are trying to determine the future schedule of possible meetings and the report date for the commission. We will include whatever we learn in the next letter.



Thank you for your interest in this work and taking the time to read this issue. We hope to continue to provide fresh updates and insights periodically in the future. Please let us know if this is a valued resource in enhancing your understanding and use of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting practices. Visit our website: www.resultsfirstct.org.