

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, MARCH 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 Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative will be updating the model's "analysis engine," i.e., what makes it run. This work is expected to be completed by early March, 2017. It will require some amount of work to save reports and re-enter data by Connecticut IMRP staff. After this, the model will be compatible with Washington State's Institute for Public Policy's restructuring of its model which, in part, informs the Results First model.

The IMRP group has been meeting with legislators to orient them to the Results First Initiative in Connecticut and how it can aid in budget and policy decisions. We have continued to focus on updating the marginal operating and capital costs pertaining to the Juvenile Justice policy area and are always interested in any new submissions or updates to agency program costs. Also, we are available to meet with any interested parties to describe this initiative in more detail.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF)

During recent testimony before the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families stated:

"The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 builds upon the many improvements the department has made since January 1, 2011. Utilizing evidence based practices and services that have been evaluated as providing the best outcomes for children and families, these changes have resulted in:

- 441 fewer children in care -- a decrease of 9.2%;
- Growth in the percentage of children in care who live with a relative or someone else they know from 21% in 41.7%;
- A decrease in the percentage of children in care who live in congregate (group) care from 29.8% to 11.2% -- a reduction of 938 children or 65.9%; and
- 358 fewer children in out of state care -- a decrease of 98.9%. The number stood at 4 as of January 1, 2017, compared to 362 when the administration began.

These are dramatic improvements, achieved through policy and practice shifts that place Connecticut on the forefront of national best practice."

As intended, the use of evidence-based decision-making is proving itself in agencies such as DCF.



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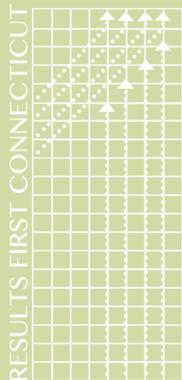
[MetroLab Network](#)

The MetroLab Network is a "City-University Collaborative for Urban Innovation" of 35 different partnerships that aims to "bring data, analytics and innovation to city government." It is sponsored by Carnegie Mellon University, the MacArthur Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Its purpose is to forge multi-agency partnerships (cities and universities) based on "research, development, and deployment (RD&D) projects that offer technological and analytically-based solutions to challenges facing urban areas." The website describes the projects and partners that use data-driven decisions to produce more scientifically-founded results. The Advisory Council is led by Martin O'Malley, former Governor of Maryland and Mayor of Baltimore.

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

The CEP's fifth meeting was held on January 13, 2017, in Washington, D.C. and you can see the presentations [here](#). This meeting included discussions on international and state models for managing data. It featured testimony from representatives of a German bank, a research network in the UK, a French research center as well as Washington State and three American universities.

The next meeting will be on February 24, 2017, in Washington, D.C. This will be a public meeting to ["Consider Legal Standards and Technology for Maximizing Data Security and Privacy."](#)



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.