



<http://socialworkleadership.org>

Presentation Prepared for the
**National Council on Aging and the
American Society on Aging**

March 15-19, 2010
Chicago, Illinois

***Expanding the Boundaries of Social Work
in the Aging Arena:
Evidence Based Social Work Practice (EBSWP)***

Patricia J. Volland, MSW, MBA Jeannine Melly, MPH
Edward Mullen, DSW Joseph Shuluk, BA



The New York
Academy of Medicine

At the heart of urban health since 1847



The New York Academy of Medicine's Social Work Leadership Institute

The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM)

The New York Academy of Medicine is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit institution that has been advancing the health of people in cities since 1847.

The Social Work Leadership Institute (SWLI)

A national program that supports healthy aging by ensuring America's older adults receive the care they need to stay independent and in charge that of their lives.



Evidence Based Practice (EBP):

An Overview

- The paradigm originally developed in medicine (1992).
EBM: “the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients. The practice of EBM means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research... (Sackett, 1999) and patient values” (Sackett, 2000).
- EBP “is a way of doing practice, a way of assessing, intervening, and evaluating.” (Mullen, 2008)
- IOM has Named EBP as a core competence for health professionals (Grenier and Knebal,2003)

Sackett, D. *Evidence based medicine: What it is and what it isn't*. BMJ 1996;312:71-72.

Sackett, D. *Evidence based medicine: How to practice and teach EBM* . New York: Churchill Livingstone 2000.

Mullen E. *Implementing Evidence-Based Social Work Practice*. Research on Social Work Practice, 2008;18(4), 325-338.

Grenier, AC., *Health Professions Education: A bridge to Quality* 2003, Institute of Medicine Quality Chasm series. Washington, DC, National Academies Press.

Evidence Based Practice

Locating EBP

3 Circle Model for making an evidenced-based clinical decision



Evidence Based Practice (EBP):

Six steps to EBP

- Convert information needs into an answerable question
- **Identifying the best evidence**
- Critically appraise the evidence
- Integrate appraisal with practice experience, and client.
- Evaluate effectiveness and efficiency.
- Teach others this process

Gibbs, LE Evidence-based practice for the helping professions: A practical guide with integrated multimedia. Pacific Grove, CABrooks/ColeThompson

Mullen E. *Implementing Evidence-Based Social Work Practice*. Research on Social Work Practice, 2008;18(4), 325-338.

Evidence Based Practice (EBP):

Identifying the Best Evidence

- Importance of systematic identification in searches
- Awareness of diverse production of literature in social sciences (not just peer-reviewed RCT's)
- Familiarity with database variety
- Review of terminology (case manager, care coordinator, etc.)
- Need skills in searching, evaluating results
- Results relevant to topic?

Grayson, L., *A difficult business: finding the evidence for social science reviews*. ESRC UK Center for Evidence Based Policy, Working Paper 19, 2003

Boaz A., *Fit for Purpose? Assessing research quality for evidence based policy and practice*. ESRC UK Center for Evidence Based Policy, Working Paper 11, 2003

Evidence Based Practice in Social Work:

Challenges to implementing EBSWP

- Adopting and effectively implementing evidence-based practice in social agencies: “evidence-based social work is a concept awaiting implementation”
- EBSWP requires:
 - Educating for evidence-based practices
 - Training in search techniques
 - Training in critical appraisal
 - Computer resources
 - Electronic resources
 - Time

Mullen, E., et al. *From Concept to implementation: challenges facing evidence-based social work*, Evidence & Policy, 2005;1(1), 61-84.

Mullen and Shlonsky, 2004 Faculty Research & Insights: A Series Featuring CUSSW Faculty Research

Soydan, H et al, *Evidence-Based Clearinghouses in Social Work*. Research on Social Work Practice (in press).

EDAC Evidence Database on Aging Care

EDAC: Support for EBSWP

- Clearinghouses support EBP:
“In terms of the process from ‘knowledge production’ to ‘knowledge utilization,’ clearinghouses are designed to bring high-quality knowledge to end users in an easily accessible way (Soydan, 2010).”
- EDAC supports evidence-based practice by providing a standardized repository of reviewed studies, gathered through a systematic search procedure, and by encapsulating each study in a condensed format, thereby eliminating this labor for the user.

EDAC Evidence Database on Aging Care

Development, Audience, Goals of EDAC

- Developed by an interdisciplinary team of professionals based at the New York Academy of Medicine's Social Work Leadership Institute
- Designed to provide access to available evidence on social work intervention outcomes, particularly as related to serving the aging population
- Its targeted user audiences are public policy makers, academics, researchers, students, clinicians, and advocacy groups
- Assist in translating research into policy, practice, and procedure
- Assess the overall strength of a body of evidence

This work is funded by a generous grant to NYAM-SWLI from the Atlantic Philanthropies



EDAC Evidence Database on Aging Care

Capturing the Evidence

The review forms captured the information necessary to make informed assessments of the relevance, quality, and outcomes of the interventions reported and to allow the user to assess the internal and external validity

- Sample Characteristics
- Participant Flow
- Research Methods
- Randomization
- Follow-up periods
- Study limitations

EDAC Evidence Database on Aging Care

Examples of utilizing EDAC

- New York State Department of Health and State Office on Aging, (Berenson and Howell, 2009)
- The National Coalition on Care Coordination (N3C), (Brown, 2009, Social Work Leadership Institute, 2009)
- CSWE's Advanced Gero Social Work Practice for Competency-Based Education (Council on Social Work Education and Social Work Leadership Institute, 2009).
- Reviews of recent social work intervention outcomes in general show that approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of clients benefit in measurable ways from services received. Social work is now well positioned to engage in, and benefit from, comparative effectiveness research.

EDAC Evidence Database on Aging Care

Population of EDAC

Topics:

While the database focus is specific to interventions with older adults we considered it important to first examine what is known about the ***general effectiveness of social work interventions***

The second topic populating the database, ***care coordination***, is specific to interventions with older adults

Currently available on EDAC website:

- *Social Work Effectiveness:*

- 2103 studies retrieved from searches
 - 19 systematic reviews identified
 - 317 abstracts posted
 - 115 reviews completed and posted

- *Care Coordination:*

- 4767 studies retrieved from searches
 - 986 abstracts posted
 - 191 reviews completed and posted



EDAC Evidence Database on Aging Care

Supplementary Support Features for EBP

- Links to NYAM's Grey Literature collection
- Links to web sites contributing to evidence-based practices that are relevant to aging and social work outcomes
- Resources from conferences and proceedings
- Basic, advanced, and scoping search options
- A glossary of controlled vocabulary (thesauri) to assist with search strategies

Evidence Based Practice:

Challenges to clearinghouses

- Question remains:

Whether and how evidence-based clearinghouses fulfill their primary purpose: that is, whether they bring high-quality knowledge to end users in an easily accessible way.

Evidence Based Practice (EBP):

Sources of Evidence

- California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare
www.cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org
- Campbell Collaboration
www.campbellcollaboration.org
- Evidence-Based Behavioral Practice (EBBP)
www.ebbp.org
- National Working Group on Evidence-Based Health Care
www.evidencebasedhealthcare.org
- Research and Empirical Applications for Curriculum Enhancement in Social Work (REACH-SW)
www.danya.com/reach/about.html
- NASW Research Web Page on Evidence-Based Practice
<http://www.socialworkers.org/research/naswresearch/0108evidencebased/default.asp>
- SWLI's Evidence database on Aging Care (EDAC)
<http://www.searchedac.org/>

SWLI Group:

Patricia Volland, MSW, MBA, Director of SWLI

Jeannine Melly, MPH, Project Director

Edward Mullen, DSW, Chair, Advisory Committee

Joseph Shuluk, BA, Project Coordinator and Reviewer

Elizabeth Taylor, MLS, Reference Librarian and Reviewer

Lin Fang, PhD, Reviewer

Colleen McGinn, MSSW, Reviewer

Nathan Hutto, MSSW, Reviewer

Mashura Akilova, MSW, Reviewer

Angela Ghesquiere, MSW, Reviewer

Jennifer Torres, MSSW, MPH, Reviewer

Emma Barker, MSW, Reviewer



EDAC Evidence Database on Aging Care

www.SearchEDAC.org

Standing Advisory Committee

Robert P. Connolly, MSW, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Edward J. Mullen, DSW, (Chair) Columbia University

Victoria M. Rizzo, PhD, Columbia University

Aron Shlonsky, PhD, University of Toronto

Haluk Soydan, PhD, University of Southern California

Joan Zlotnik, PhD, Institute for Advancement of Social Work Research

Founding Advisory Committee

Candyce S. Berger, PhD, Stony Brook University

Robert P. Connolly, MSW, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Kristin Day, LCSWM, VA Central Office

Scott Geron, PhD, Boston University

Julia Littell, PhD, Bryn Mawr College

Edward J. Mullen, DSW, (Chair) Columbia University

Enola Proctor, PhD, Washington University in St Louis

Victoria M. Rizzo, PhD, Columbia University

Aron Shlonsky, PhD, University of Toronto

Haluk Soydan, PhD, University of Southern California

Ronald Toseland, PhD, State University of New York at Albany

Joan Zlotnik, PhD, Institute for Advancement of Social Work Research

