But it looked great on paper! How implementation science can help social work turn good ideas into good practice.

by

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Workshop Description: Whether your social work practice is clinical, case management, or advocacy; whether you are a line worker, supervisor or administrator; whether you work in education, child welfare, economic support, elder issues, or any other social work role, you may have experienced a common phenomenon. Someone decides that your organization will implement the latest and greatest evidence based practice. Much planning takes place to decide how this practice will be implemented in your organization. Then there is the training, and finally the implementation day arrives. How much does practice really change? Too often, the answer is, “not much!”

A field of research known as implementation science has examined what we can do to increase the likelihood that an evidence based practice will actually be implemented as designed. Social workers can draw on this rich body of research to approach implementation in new ways. In budget-lean times, we simply must make sure our investment in practice change really changes practice.

This workshop will introduce participants to some of the key ideas from implementation science, and illustrate their application through several case examples of implementations that were designed with this science in mind.

About the presenter: Dr. Freitag is Director of the Children’s Research Center and Director of International Projects at NCCD. Dr. Freitag joined NCCD/CRC in 1997 as a senior research associate and was promoted to senior researcher in 1999. In 2005 she became director of the Children’s Research Center (CRC). She is an MSW with many years of experience as a child protective services worker, supervisor, and child interview specialist. She has also worked in law enforcement and mental health. Dr. Freitag has a Ph.D. in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin with an emphasis in social service systems.

Dr. Freitag has managed numerous projects during her tenure at CRC, including Structured Decision Making® (SDM) systems in California, Queensland, South Australia, and New South Wales. Her interests lie in continual strengthening of the SDM® tools and in pursuing ways to strengthen the implementation of the model so that its value can be fully realized. She is currently developing advanced curriculum models that situate SDM assessments within complementary practice frameworks.

As Director of International Projects, Dr. Freitag seeks opportunities for international collaboration and research partnerships. Her primary goal is to find ways that NCCD can assist jurisdictions in integrating the best research-based practices and dissemination of innovation.

Dr. Freitag serves on the board of WIPSAC, the Wisconsin chapter of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, and the board of the Wisconsin chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

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