

**Evidence-based Practice...  
Practice-based Evidence:  
What Do They Mean for My  
Organization?**

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Services are Provided Under Grant Number  
2004-WT-AX-K007 – Office on Violence  
Against Women (OVW), United States  
Department of Justice

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**Research & Practice  
in the Domestic Violence Field**

- Brief History
- Current Trends

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### Research Findings...

- Potential for
  - Improving services
  - Maximizing resources
- Limitations due to
  - Lack of context
  - Ensuing applicability

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### What is "evidence-based"?

- Origins
- Uses and misuses
- Appropriateness for our field

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### Who defines "evidence"?

- Presence/absence of
  - Advocates
  - Survivors' voices
  - Children's perspectives and voices
  - Culturally & linguistically specific populations

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**Relevance to our own work...**

- Importance
  - Documentation
  - Enhancement
- Limitations
  - Lack of context
  - Appropriateness for generalizing to different settings, conditions, populations

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**Ongoing need for rigorous evaluation of our work...**

- Our communities need and deserve our best work.
- The field benefits from increased understanding and knowledge.
- Funders are increasingly expecting it.

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**Very importantly...**

- Our programs already collect key information!
- Need to
  - Continue documenting our work
  - Think through what our program considers effective practices
  - Bring our voices to discussions about evaluation issues

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**Integrating context into evaluations**

- Importance of
  - Lived realities
  - Political/social conditions
  - Cultural mores/values/expectations
- Research/evaluation as
  - Tools for enhancement
  - Defined by program/community affected
  - Potential source of collaboration w/academia

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**Looking to the future...**

- Evaluating our work will be necessary
- HOW we do it will depend on
  - Size of organization
  - Community/group served
  - TA, resources available

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**Ultimate Goal**

To become active participants in determining what constitutes and how to show "success" for the people with whom we work in our programs and communities

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