

December 19, 2012

Board of Advisors

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Robert Boruch

University of Pennsylvania

Board of Advisors of the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy

Jonathan Crane Coalition for Evidence-Based

Policy

FROM: Jon Baron

David Ellwood

Harvard University

RE: Update on our work

useful, and welcome any comments or suggestions.

Judith Gueron **MDRC**

Ron Haskins

Brookings Institution

Blair Hull

Matlock Capital

Robert Hovt Jennison Associates

David Kessler

Former FDA Commissioner

Jerry Lee

Jerry Lee Foundation

Dan Levy Harvard University

Diane Ravitch

New York University **Howard Rolston**

Abt Associates

Isabel Sawhill **Brookings Institution**

Martin Seligman University of Pennsylvania

Robert Solow Massachusetts Institute of

Technology Nicholas Zill

President

Westat, Inc.

Jon Baron

jbaron@coalition4evidence.org (202) 683-8049

1725 I Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006 www.coalition4evidence.org

We're pleased to announce the launch of an open online workshop in evidence-based policy, and other practical, easy-to-use Help Desk assistance, as described below. We hope this is

Happy holidays.

Jon

Open Online Workshop: How to Read Research Findings to Distinguish **Evidence-Based Programs from Everything Else**

User-Friendly Tools for Policy Officials and Stakeholders to Become Experts, Offered by Recognized Leaders in Evidence-Based Reform

Our workshop teaches the core skill needed to be an effective practitioner of evidence-based policy: The ability to read a study and readily assess whether it produced credible evidence.

This core skill is needed, for example, to –

- <u>Distinguish</u> the few programs that are backed by valid evidence from everything else that claims to be, without having to rely on outside "experts" whose biases and capabilities are unknown;
- Sponsor a study capable of generating valid evidence about a program's effectiveness: and
- Explain research results to key colleagues and stakeholders in a clear and persuasive way, so as to enlist them as partners in your efforts.

Acquiring this core skill is straightforward: Two short video series, available online at no charge, followed by eight optional weekly conference calls providing hands-on experience reviewing actual studies. (The total cost for all eight follow-up calls is \$150 per participant, to cover our expenses.) Read more...



Enhanced Help Desk: The Coalition Offers Impartial, Expert Advice in Evidence-Based Reform

Consistent with our nonprofit mission, we offer brief expert advice, without charge, in three general areas:

- Sponsoring or carrying out rigorous evaluations of program effectiveness.
- Assessing existing evaluation studies, to determine if they comprise credible evidence of a
 program's effectiveness. We systematically monitor and review the literature of rigorous
 evaluations in all areas of social policy, and maintain a comprehensive internal database of
 studies and programs reviewed. We are happy to share the results of such reviews and/or examine
 new evaluation findings, upon request.
- <u>Developing evidence-based provisions</u> for legislation, government grant solicitations, and other policy documents.

We provide quick-turnaround assistance, via phone or email, that is practical and easy to understand. **Read more...**

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Coalition

A defining feature of the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy – and key source of its credibility as a national leader in evidence-based reform – is that we are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with no affiliation to any social program, and no financial interest in the policy ideas that we support. This enables us to serve as an objective, independent resource to Congress and the Executive Branch on evidence-based programs, and helps account for the important impact we've had on federal policy and enacted legislation since our launch in 2001 (as summarized on our homepage).

Funding contributions from individual donors and philanthropic foundations enable us to serve in this unique role. If you support our work, and have no financial or professional affiliation with any social program or intervention, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Coalition, as described on our donation page.

The Coalition is grateful to the MacArthur Foundation for its funding support for our work in this area.