



MAY 21-23, 2013

UNIVERSITY CLUB, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH CAMPUS,
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

INVITATION

MEASURING PERFORMANCE: HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOUR TRAINING IS MAKING AN IMPACT?

We are pleased to announce that the **16th Annual National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium** will be held at the University Club on the University of Pittsburgh campus, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from May 21 through May 23, 2013. The Symposium is co-sponsored by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the National Staff Development and Training Association (NSDTA) of the American Public Human Services Association.

You Are Invited...

The members of the *National Human Service Training Evaluation Collaborative* are pleased to invite you to attend the **16th Annual National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium**. The theme for the 2013 three-day invitation-only symposium is **Measuring Performance: How Do You Know That Your Training Is Making An Impact?** which is in support of child welfare programming, including mental health, drug abuse prevention, and early intervention components.

We invite you to attend this symposium, which will bring together 40 to 60 national and international training evaluators in the human services field with a focus on child welfare, to share your evaluation struggles, ideas, challenges, and methodologies in an atmosphere of collaboration and support. The symposium is a unique opportunity for child welfare training evaluators to learn new methodologies, discuss evaluation strategies and issues that permeate our work, and craft tested, research-based solutions to improve training quality and training transfer. The symposium is specifically designed to meet the creative needs of human service training evaluators with a focus on child welfare.

The symposium will address a spectrum of training evaluation issues to improve the quality and effectiveness of our current or future child welfare training evaluation projects. Special emphasis will be on building a robust evidence base using multiple and varied data collection and analysis strategies and methods that lead to improved programming and professional practice, and therefore more positive outcomes for families and children.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

This year's theme is **Measuring Performance: How Do You Know That Your Training Is Making An Impact?** Facilitated discussions will take place throughout the symposium, and provide an opportunity for participants to share information about the evaluation projects with which they are involved.

Discussions may focus on (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Updates on projects that have been presented at prior symposia (looking for updates on subsequent stages of a project's existence)
2. Discussion/small group activities to facilitate problem-solving on projects. This year, people who have a specific problem they are working on can be given a forum in which they receive feedback. Feedback can be provided either via small table groups, or via a series of "workshopped" projects with the larger group.
3. Measuring Performance: How do you know that your training is making an impact (*list of sub-themes which proposals may address*):
 - ☐ Evaluation designs that measure and ensure training fidelity
 - ☐ The impact on measurement instruments when training is used as an implementation strategy for an evidence-based program model
 - ☐ Role of training evaluation when implementing and evaluating evidence-based practices and program models
 - ☐ Using evaluation data to inform curriculum development
 - ☐ Designing theories of change that guide training evaluation
 - ☐ Transfer of learning
 - ☐ Evaluating training beyond the classroom (mentoring, coaching)
 - ☐ Measuring performance

The success of this symposium depends on the full participation of all attendees at all programs regardless of whether you directly present or facilitate a workshop or simply attend. Therefore all participants are expected to attend the entire program. We welcome your curiosity, experience, and wisdom to enliven and deepen our animated discussions.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Although the complete symposium schedule and programming have yet to be determined, the 2013 symposium will have a pre-conference program starting in the afternoon of Tuesday, May 21st with the full symposium beginning the morning of May 22nd. *Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided during both days.* Participants are responsible for their own dinners.

Tuesday, May 21 (1-5pm): Pre-symposium workshop and networking session. Registration begins at 12:00pm and continues until 5:00pm. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in in-depth exploration of a given topic during the pre-symposium workshop. After the workshop, a networking session will be held. Participants are on their own for dinner.

Wednesday, May 22 (9:30am-5:00pm): Registration and breakfast begins at 8:30. The program begins at 9:30am and ends at 5:00pm. Lunch will be provided. The official welcome to the symposium will occur in the morning and a series of facilitated discussions on a variety of topics will follow.

Thursday, May 23 (9:30am-2:30pm): Registration and breakfast begins at 8:30. The final day of the symposium begins at 9:30am and ends at 2:30pm. Lunch will be provided. A series of facilitated discussions on a variety of topics will be held. We will conclude the Symposium with a wrap-up discussion to distill what we have accomplished in our gathering. We also want to know what worked regarding the format and content this year, and what could be improved for the next.
