

NCSL Legislative Summit

August 4, 2015

NCSL Standing Committee on Health & Human Services

“Evidence-Based Policymaking: Achieving Efficient & Effective Programs”

(Handout from Representative Herb D. Frierson, Mississippi)

7 Elements of Quality Program Design

1. Program Premise

What is this program supposed to accomplish? What do you want it to do? What problem is it supposed to address?

2. Needs Assessment

Is the problem you're trying to solve quantified? What's driving your premise of the need for a new program?

3. Program Description

What service efforts characterize your program; i.e., what activities will you be doing to achieve desired program outcomes? How many will be served? Is there a cost per unit? How will you measure investment? What's an ROI we can expect? How will this accomplish your agency's strategic plan, and thereby, the state's strategic plan?

4. Research and Evidence Filter

Is there an evidence-base, research base, promising practice or best practice type model on which your agency is basing its proposed new program?

5. Implementation Plan

Are there training and startup requirements? What will be the ongoing operational requirements? Can you do this with current resources, or will you need additional resources?

6. Fidelity Plan

How will you make sure your the program is implemented faithfully according to the evidence/research/best practice on which it was based?

7. Measurement and Evaluation

How can we quantify success? What does it look like? What metrics will your agency use to track program results compared to current benchmarks? How often will you measure and evaluate? How will you report these results to the Legislature?