Evaluation Focus Group (Facilitator: Patrick Leung, University of Houston; recorder: Abigail, North Texas University)

Date: May 25, 2011

Place: Galveston, Texas

What is new?

In Louisiana: seven school consortium collecting data on IV-E students. The project is in collaboration with the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

Data on why they stay; why they leave (pre-post data for 5 years; data are collected in each year).

Qualitative data about success and failures in case outcomes.

Only IV-E students are currently being hired in LA.

The LA Project is part of the national longitudinal study (coordinated at the University of Denver). Denver does the quantitative instrument, LA added the qualitative piece.

In Texas:

• Identify graduates who are still employed.

• How did they complete payback-through employment or monetary?

• Those who left, what happened?

• What is the system to enforce/regulate the payback system? – CPS does track payback

• What is the turnover rate for Title IV-E, based on the current state definition of turn over?

• For those who left, did they transfer to different part of DFPS or if they left are they still working in child welfare? If so, where?

• What percentage of Title IV-E graduates are promoted?

In California: Workforce Study (6th time). Compare IV-E with non-IV-E turnover rate; ;promotion; lateral moves.

We are the only study to collect social work information.

CA State mandates training and the universities implement them.

In MN: Counts turnover rates between countries due to differences in approach.

No state mandated training.

What is needed?

Examine the differences between urban and rural areas.

Compare the turnover rate in association with the unemployment each year.

Compare non-social work as well as social work graduates.

What is next?

How do we assess the organizational memories? It appears that we are re-spinning the wheels.

Examine the turnover rates in urban and rural areas.

Examine the turnover rates and unemployment rates each year.

Look at the “aging out syndromes” in CPS

Look at the economic downturn in association with the turnover rates