Advanced Analytics Management Seminar

*The Advanced Analytics Management Seminar is a two-day course that introduces child welfare managers to the principles of evidence-based policy and practice decision-making in a Continuous Quality Improvement context. Participants gain tools and techniques for recognizing best practices in performance measurement that can be applied to ongoing agency efforts to strengthen agency capacity for evidence-based decision-making. **This course is targeted to mid-level managers responsible for shaping policy and practice and improving outcomes for children and families.***

Purpose of the Course

The Advanced Analytics Management Seminar is designed to **strengthen managers' capacity for evidence-based decision-making.** Specifically, the seminar builds skills in generating evidence about performance and applying that evidence to decisions and actions at various points in the cyclical process of improvement. Participants learn how to ask mission-critical questions about the performance of the child welfare system and how to use administrative data to generate and interpret the answers to those questions. These skills are critical to using evidence to craft and evaluate local/state-level improvement efforts.

Who Should Attend

The Advanced Analytics Management Seminar is targeted to **public and private agency child welfare managers** who are responsible for asking actionable questions about their child welfare system's performance and moving their system toward improved outcomes.

"[The Advanced Analytics Management Seminar] has been one of the most practical, useful courses I have had the opportunity to participate in during my tenure with my organization. The instructors were phenomenal at taking relatively high level analytical concepts and translating them into applicable skills that I was able to begin utilizing immediately. I feel more capable and confident in my ability to understand the type of data to analyze, and most importantly, I'm able to help my staff recognize the stories that exist within the numbers"

– Greg Phillips, Manager, Conferencing & Teaming, Allegheny County PA, DHS OCYF

Course Structure

- One 2-day, in-person course
- Capacity of 15 to 20 participants
- Incorporates classroom-style learning, interactive exercises, small group activities, and self-tests.
- Wherever possible, course content makes use of jurisdiction-specific data, enabling participants to reflect on actual trends in their systems.

Content Overview

This seminar is a condensed, manager-oriented version of the Data Center's longstanding 5-day *Advanced Analytics for Child Welfare Administration* course and can be adapted to address your system's programmatic priorities. Whereas the longer course focuses on technical aspects of performance measurement, this 2- to 3-day version covers the following concepts and associated techniques from a management point of view:

- **Building a theory of change.** Participants are introduced to a four-part template for problem solving using administrative data analysis to support decision-making.
- **Starting the process of improvement with a question.** We focus on analytic questions designed to provide evidence about system-level performance, with regard to both the CPS and foster care systems. Examples include:
  - What proportion of CPS substantiations result in placement in foster care?
  - How long do children typically stay in foster care? How does duration vary by child age?
  - What is the speed and likelihood of exit to permanency? How has this changed over time?
- **Matching analytic methods to articulated questions.** At its core, this material involves teaching participants to differentiate between entry cohorts, exit cohorts, and point-in-time populations and to understand the implications of each.
- **Interpreting reports.** Exercises call on participants to interpret reports on core child welfare outcomes. We use the system's own child welfare data as much as possible to understand actual system trends and discuss how the system's existing performance reports align with the course's priority concepts.

For more information, contact analytics@chapinhall.org.