RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT
NEWSLETTER, MAY 2017

This update on evidence-based policymaking and budgeting is prepared by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP). The IMRP manages the Results First Initiative in Connecticut – an evidence-based approach to policymaking and budgeting sponsored by the Pew-MacArthur collaboration. This letter intends to provide you with an interesting and useful avenue for news on the practice of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting. We intend to bring you information from a variety of sources and at various levels of government.

NATIONAL-FEDERAL BRIEF

MINNESOTA

A very poignant piece on Minnesota's experience with the Results First Initiative was written by the Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota, Tina Smith. In it, she reflects on its two-year-old effort and the success that it has had. Writing in Governing Magazine, she says "This spring our administration is working with the legislature to create a budget for the next two years. It's an exciting opportunity to implement what we've learned through our Result First Initiative. By relying on evidence instead of anecdotes to make budget decisions, we are well positioned to invest in high-impact strategies for delivering a range of public services for Minnesotans while reducing government waste." See the article here.

Effectively communicating findings is of paramount importance. In pursuit of better ways for users to understand and use the data, Minnesota has published two reports recently, one pertaining to Adult Criminal Justice and the other Mental Health. Both were also represented with the Tableau software which allows for interactive data visualization of some policy areas such as: prison, supervision and adult mental health. To read a summary of the Benefit-Cost Analysis report click here, and to give the interactive visualization a try, click here.

ROUTE FIFTY

Route Fifty, a unit of Government Executive Media Group, wrote recently about the momentum of evidence-based policy in state and local government as discussed at a Roadshow series held in Denver, Colorado. Michael Kalin, Senior Advisor at the Behavioral Insights Team attending meeting said "If you are basing your policy on anecdote or intuition, then all perspectives can seem equally plausible." The Director of the Results First Initiative, Sara Dube, also spoke at this meeting. She challenged the audience to "Be the person who asks, 'How do I know this is effective?'" The article "State and Local Evidence-Based Data-Driven Policy Movement Plows Forward" can be read here. The next stop in the Roadshow series is Seattle, WA.
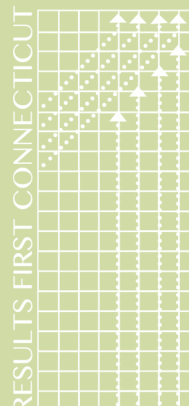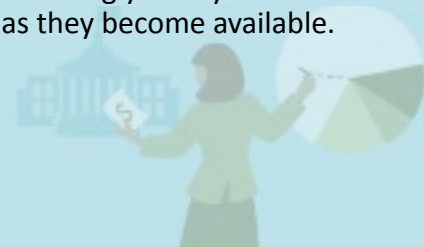
Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking (CEP)

The CEP has held all the meetings and hearings that it plans to hold. No further public meetings are scheduled. The CEP will be discussing what it has learned and focusing on writing its report which is due to be published in September 2017. The commission was established by the bipartisan Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-140), jointly sponsored by Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), and signed by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2016. The Commission is composed of 15 members, appointed by the President, the Speaker of the House, the House Minority Leader, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader. Members include individuals with experience as academic researchers, data experts, program administrators, and privacy experts.

We will be sure to bring you any developments as they become available.

Thank you for your interest in this work and taking the time to read this issue. We hope to continue to provide fresh updates and insights periodically in the future. Please let us know if this is a valued resource in enhancing your understanding and use of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting practices. Visit our website: www.resultsfirstct.org.

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