**Executive Summary**

**Problem Statement:** Research findings are ready to be implemented - how to accomplish this better and faster

**Solutions Development and Impact:**
- The field of Implementation Science has been used to analyze program root causes and develop systematic, robust models to move from science to service. (Fixsen et al., 2005; Fixsen et al., 2009)
- Systematic approach to implementation is critical due to complex environment of federal, state, community, and organizational elements in which agencies operate (Dermen, 2014)

**Practice Implications:** Intermediaries are increasingly relied upon by providers and policy makers to help navigate the complex, shifting terrain of multilevel systems change (Goff et al., 2010)

**Policy Implications:** Governments are increasingly using implementation science to inform policy and budgetary decisions.

**Improved outcomes**
- Better outcomes for clients and community
- Better use of taxpayer dollars

**Research Question**
What actions can agencies take to adopt evidence-based practices for treating juvenile offenders and other clients in a more timely and effective manner?

**Methods**
A case study of Nebraska youth under-incarceration was examined within an overall context of juvenile justice reform in Nebraska, and led to the research question.

A literature review was conducted using PSYCHINFO, ProQuest Premium Social Sciences, and AcademicSearchComplete with the following keywords: research to practice gap, translational research, implementation, purveyor; evidence-based practice, dissemination.

**Results**

**New research findings are ready to be implemented - how to accomplish this better and faster**

**Evidence-Based Policymaking is used to:**
- Reduce wasteful spending
- Expand innovative programs
- Strengthen accountability

The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative works with state and local governments to implement cost-benefit analyses to support budget and policy decisions. Pew-MacArthur recognized implementation support centers’ role to ensure program investment benefits are realized (Pew-MacArthur, 2017).

During 2012 and 2013, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont have used the Results First model to target $61 million in funding to more effective programs that the model shows would achieve higher returns over time.

Currently, 23 states and 8 counties are participating in Pew-MacArthur’s Results First Initiative (Pew-MacArthur, 2015).

**Core Implementation Components**

**Core Implementation Components are delivered within a Multilevel Environment**

**Better Outcomes:**
- effectivley-implemented programs had 2 to 3 times greater mean effect sizes compared with programs not as effectively implemented, according to 5 meta-analyses covering nearly 500 studies (Goff et al., 2010)

**Better Use of Taxpayer Dollars:**
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) conducted cost-benefit analyses of the Functional Family Therapy program, and found, for each dollar spent:
  - $10.69 in benefits (paid-as-you-go cost) when delivered with fidelity to the program model.
  - $4.18 of extra cost to taxpayers when not delivered with fidelity

**Higher Return on Investment (ROI):**
EPISCenter helped secure an estimated $24 million from Evidence-Based Programs in Pennsylvania for FY 2013/2014

**Implementation Drivers Analysis is used to:**
- Help support and maintain high-fidelity (true to research) implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed programs
- Recommend ways to strengthen and sustain evidence-based models in preventive services

**References**
Complete references are available in separate handout

**Conclusions**
- Evidence-based programs can fully reach community members only if they are implemented with fidelity
- Agency practitioners operate within complex environments, making policy changes challenging to execute and maintain.
- Policy changes are well supported when practitioners use structured, robust methods of implementation science
- Implementation centers and other intermediaries have demonstrated success in connecting research to practice through implementation science, and offer valuable solutions to achieve positive community outcomes in cost-effective ways.
- State and local governments, and funders, can execute their responsibility to administer taxpayer and donor funds wisely by requiring agencies to select and implement evidence-based treatments using proven methods that leverage implementation science.

**Acknowledgements**
Thanks to Dr. Peter Sitzo for his expert mentoring and support.
Thanks also to Dr. Jeanette Harder, Director of UNO’s Support and Training for Evaluation of Programs (STEPs), and Pam Ashley, Tova Hettinger, and Natalie Scarpì, also from STEPs, for encouragement and advice.