



33rd Wisconsin Family Impact Seminar

Helping Foster Kids Succeed

State Strategies for Saving Lives, Saving Money

February 4, 2015

Seminar Speakers

Hilary Shager, *Overview of the Child Welfare System and Foster Care in Wisconsin*, Associate Director, La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW-Madison

Mark Courtney, *Do the Benefits of Extending Foster Care to Age 21 Outweigh the Costs? Evidence from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin*, Professor, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, and Affiliated Scholar, Chapin Hall

Patricia Chamberlain, *Strong Parenting, Successful Youth: The Parent Training 10 States are Providing to Foster Families*, Science Director and Senior Researcher, Oregon Social Learning Center

Mary Dozier, *Offsetting Toxic Stress by Training Parents of Infants and Young Children in Foster Care: The ABC Program Operating in 11 States*, Amy E. Dupont Chair of Child Development, University of Delaware, and Director of Research, Early Learning Center

Attendance Facts

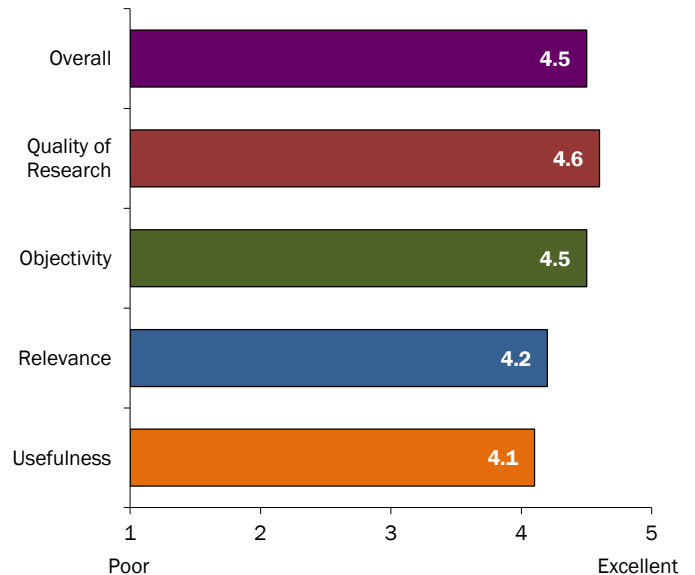
- 32 legislators and 22 legislative aides attended the seminar; 18 legislators participated in a discussion session for a total of 36 different legislators participating in the seminar or a discussion.
- 45 different legislative offices were represented at the seminar or the luncheon discussion session.
- 19 Republican and 17 Democratic legislators attended the seminar and/or lunch discussion.
- 8 people including participants from two state agencies, the Governor's office, and the court system attended the afternoon discussion session.

Seminar Attendance

Total	105
Legislators	32
Legislative Aides	22
State Agency Staff	22
Legislative Service Agency Analysts	7
Governor's Office Staff	2
Court System	3
UW & UW-Ext. Faculty/Staff	5
Others	12

Participant Ratings of the Seminar

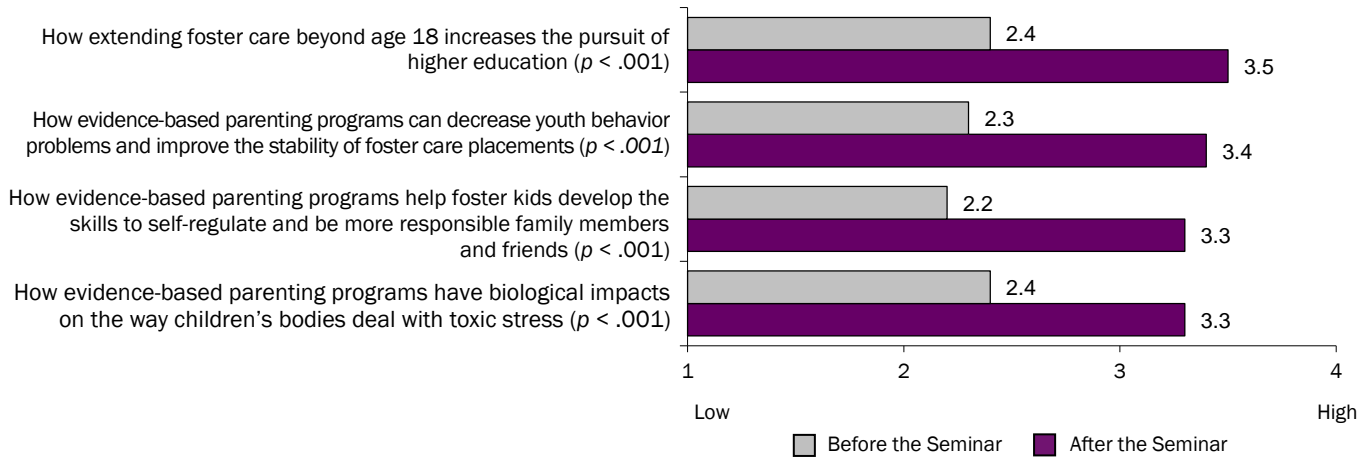
Participants reported that the seminar provided high-quality research that was objective, relevant to their needs and interests, and useful in their current role.



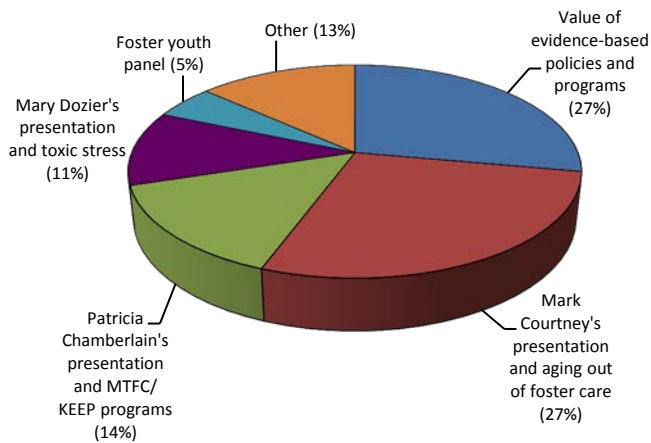
Note: Based on responses from 72 participants (69% response rate).

Did the seminar increase participants' knowledge of helping foster kids succeed and were policy options presented? Yes. The 72 participants who completed an evaluation (69% response rate) reported significant increases on each of the following items. Considering responses from legislators only, 78% said a policy option was presented. On a scale of 1 (*poor*) to 5 (*excellent*), legislators rated the policy options as practical (4.3), innovative (4.2), politically feasible (3.6), and economically feasible (3.3).

How Participants Rated Their Understanding of:



What ideas presented at the seminar did participants say were most useful?



“Training foster parents can reduce placement disruption.” *State Agency Staff*

“How cortisol and ABC intervention [program] affect foster children.” *State Agency Staff*

What did participants like best about the seminar?

“Good presentation of compelling and practical research that could lead to policy changes.” *Legislator*

“Breadth and depth.” *Legislator*

“Really enjoyed the presentations that went deeply into interventions that improve the foster care experience for parents and children.” *Legislative Aide*

What did participants like least about the seminar?

“Not enough time for questions.” *Legislator*

“[Wanted] more on preventing the need for foster care.” *Legislator*

“How providing evidence-based parenting can have better children outcomes.” *Legislator*

“Opportunities to invest in programs that increase/provide resiliency.” *Legislator*

“Training foster parents makes a huge difference in outcomes of foster kids.” *Legislative Aide*

“The comparison between states on extending foster care.” *Legislative Aide*