April 14, 2010

Session Topic: Family Engagement

How does this research connect to practice? How could it be used?

➢ This research provides support that early learning programs and early interventions focused on family engagement do have an impact on important outcomes for children and families.

➢ The program evaluation research on Early Head Start provides some important indicators of what leads to success for children and families in the program that can be used to inform future practice.

➢ The intervention models presented (Getting Ready & CBC) could be useful in practice settings. More information is needed regarding the training and resources required to implement them in authentic practice.

How does this research connect to policy? How could it be used?

➢ Research in the area of early intervention and programming is still evolving. We are just beginning to identify what works, but more research is needed to help us understand the pathways by which interventions impact young children and for what children and families and under what conditions interventions are most effective.

➢ Although early intervention programs are showing important positive outcomes, children are still not currently meeting national norms. Continued research and funding efforts in the area of early intervention will help us to further understand how and where to focus efforts to close achievement gaps.

What information from the practice/policy community might inform research in this area?

➢ Who could implement these intervention models in practice settings? What training and supports would be needed to ensure that these interventions would be effective when implemented by practitioners?

➢ Collaboration among researchers and key stakeholders in the practice and policy community is needed to help translate the early intervention and program evaluation research into practice and policy efforts. Doing so would inform future research questions and would allow for scale up of research to take place in community settings.