



June 11, 2009

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Advisors of the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy

FROM: Jon Baron

RE: Update on our work

As an important development in our work, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Peter Orszag has written an excellent summary of the Obama Administration's commitment to evidence-based policy in his [blog](#) earlier this week. Among other things, he describes the Administration's two-tiered approach, funding (i) the expansion of program models meeting "Top Tier" evidence of effectiveness (models which the Coalition's [Top Tier Evidence initiative](#) has helped OMB identify); as well as (ii) models with supportive but not strong evidence, whose replication will include a rigorous evaluation to assess effectiveness.

Also, as you'll note, his essay links to the Coalition's new [website](#) (click on the word "smarter" in his second paragraph).

Peter Orszag's clear understanding of and commitment to evidence-based reform may represent a major development in evidence-based policy. As you know, OMB plays a central role in developing the President's budget and assessing federal program performance; thus his commitment holds the potential to greatly accelerate the pace of evidence-based reform across the federal government.

I hope this update is helpful. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information. I'll continue to keep you posted on developments.