

MODULE 6 – COMMENTS ON THE READINGS

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In the National Federation workbook, the premise is to help you become better informed to make decisions and to affect policy on family-centered issues. The key point it makes from our perspective is the emphasis on credible sources and a thorough understanding of the topic under discussion. Whether you comment a policy issue through an analytical, evaluative lens, a critical lens, or a rhetorical lens, we cannot stress enough the importance of the definitions, the frames, and the concepts used by all the stakeholders, including institutional and legislative reports.

Fielding and Briss, on the other hand, offer a more policy-oriented approach in their discussion on how to best promote evidence-based public health policy. They clearly establish a working definition for evidence-based public health, and then state how they are classing each evidence across three categories. We particularly like their assessment of tools to inform and support analyses on evidence-based public health policy.

Admittedly, Health Impact Assessments-- or HIAs-- systematic reviews, economic evaluations, and decision-modeling and/or simulation may be beyond the everyday knowledge of the general public, but it is our responsibility to make sure we understand the tools well enough that we can make the findings understandable to the general public, as well as to policymakers. Then, the findings can be incorporated into other decision factors, such as available or future resources, innovative reallocation strategies, as well as community or government priorities.