Four Questions that All State Legislatures Should be Asking to get Results*

1. How is our state doing on each respective result?

- For each indicator, what is the historic baseline and what is your forecast (factoring in trends and any anticipated changes but otherwise assuming no significant additional changes in our current level of effort in our state).
- What other data (i.e., indicators) might we need in order to measure progress toward this result?

2. What is the story behind the historic baselines and forecasts for the indicators?

- Given what we know or can surmise about the result, what are the causes and forces at work (contributing and restraining) that explain our state's current situation?
- We are especially interested in your identification of the most significant "root causes" and in your prioritization of those causes in order of significance.

3. What will it take to improve the current situation on the respective result?

- What has worked elsewhere?
- What do you think would work in our state (including actions of governmental and non-governmental partners and no cost and low cost actions)?
- What could the legislature do?
- What would be the most important elements of an integrated, multi-year strategy across agencies and in collaboration with national, state, and local partners in the public and private sectors?

4. What do you propose to do to "turn the curve" of the indicators?

- What is your integrated, multi-year strategy?
- How will your strategy address the most significant root causes you identified in your analysis?
- What will you be doing that is different?
- How will you collaborate with your peers and community partners?
- What is your timeline, deliverables and performance measures for the key elements of the strategy?
- How much will it cost?

*Used by the Maryland Joint Committee for Children, Youth and Families

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Appropriations Budget Hearings

Generic RBA Questions for All Agencies

Program

1. To what quality of life result does the program makes the biggest contribution?
2. What is the purpose of the program?
3. Who are the program's major customers?
4. What measures do you use to tell if you are delivering your services well?

   What is the baseline for the most important of those measures?
5. What measures do you use to tell if your customers are better off?

   What is the baseline for the most important of those measures?
6. Who are the partners with a major role to play in doing better?
7. What works or could work, to do better?
8. What do you propose to do over the next two years, including no-cost and low-cost actions and reallocation of existing resources?

Procedure for Connecticut Appropriations Committee

1. All state agencies will receive the generic RBA questions with a cover letter from the Appropriations Committee before the end of October. The letters will include a brief explanation of what each question requires, as well as information about RBA training and technical assistance that will be available to all agencies that want them.
2. All programs should be prepared to answer any of the generic questions at their budget hearings and work sessions.
3. Each sub-committee will identify two programs that will be expected to respond to specific RBA questions at their budget hearings. OPM will be asked for input on the identification of the two programs and the specific questions before the program are notified. The identified programs will receive the specific questions on or about January 9, 2009.
4. The identified programs will be expected to answer the generic questions during the first 5 minutes of their hearings. Specific questions will be asked for another 10-15 minutes.
5. The identified programs may be asked follow-up questions at their work session and may be asked to provide additional information in writing after their hearings or work sessions.
6. The identified programs will be asked to give feedback on the RBA process to the Appropriations Committee after the Committee has completed work on the budget.