



Alternatives/Community Corrections Workgroup

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Agenda

- Progress to date
- Discuss recommendations for consideration (with specific data as available)
 - Diversions
 - Technical violations
 - Continuum
 - Assessment
 - Earned Compliance
 - Future work
- Next Steps

Mandate and Mission

- Legislative Mandate
 - To recommend guidelines for legislation for offenders for whom traditional imprisonment is not considered appropriate.
- Workgroup Mission Statement
 - To recommend cost effective and incentive based strategies to strengthen South Carolina's community corrections system and improve public safety through evidence based strategies for reducing recidivism and ensuring victim restoration.

Workgroup Guiding Principles

- All impacted agencies are responsible for the safety of our communities and to reduce recidivism and victimization in the state. (Put the community back in to community corrections.)
- Collaboration with stakeholders will ensure that varying perspectives are heard and considered during the development of legislative recommendations.
- Treatment programs and other services may be accessed prior to adjudication, as part of sentencing, and/or as part of community supervision.
- Swift, certain and graduated responses to positive and negative behaviors are essential.

Workgroup Guiding Principles

- Impacted state agencies, treatment programs and other service providers must utilize data to drive decisions and demonstrate effectiveness.
- The costs and benefits of the work group's legislative recommendations will be given careful consideration.
- The totality of the work group's recommendations will address a holistic and well-informed approach to increasing the effectiveness of community corrections in South Carolina.

Evidence Based Practices

- To **reduce new crime & new victims** in our communities
- To know if what we are doing works - relying on facts
 - *Better **return on investment** of limited resources*
- To be held accountable for public safety outcomes
 - ***Ethical commitment** to do public good and not do harm*

What are the 8 Principles of EBP?

1. Assess Actuarial Risk/Needs
2. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
3. Target Interventions (Risk, Need, Responsivity, Dosage and Program Integrity)
4. Skill Train with Directed Practice
5. Increase Positive Reinforcement
6. Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities
7. Measure Relevant Processes/Practices
8. Provide Measurement Feedback

*See Integrated Model as developed by CJI and NIC <http://cjinstitute.org/>



Recommendations for Consideration

Fiscally Responsible Concepts to Improve Public Safety

#1 Diversions

- Increase diversions and avoid criminal proceedings for particular offenses and/or low risk offenders
 - For example, adult mediation – an adult version of juvenile arbitration or pretrial condition requirements
 - Currently unable to show the impact due to limited access to pretrial data
 - This is a safe and inexpensive way to keep people out of prison/system, involve the community and empower victims.

#2 Updated Risk and Need Assessment

- Comprehensive tool to assess risk and needs for all offenders on probation and returning from prison
- Allows PPP to focus resources on moderate and high risk
- Serves as the foundation for evidence based practices to improve public safety
- Assessments should:
 - Prioritize resource allocations
 - Drive case plans to target risks and needs

Current Assessment Process

- PPP utilizes a risk management assessment tool with 11 items
- Done at admission to place offenders into one of two risk categories
 - 0 to 15 = Standard (74%) 16+ = High (23%)
- Excludes sex offenders, criminal domestic violence offenders, supervised furlough IIA offenders and those placed on intensive supervision

PPP Risk Assessment Factors

- Address changes
- Employment
- Alcohol use
- Drug use
- Attitude/Responsibility
- Age at first conviction
- Prior periods of probation/parole
- Prior probation/parole violations
- Prior convictions (assaultive or property)



Criminogenic Risks and Needs (EBP)

- Antisocial behavior*
- Antisocial personality*
- Criminal thinking*
- Criminal associates*
- Family/marital
- Employment/school
- Leisure/recreation
- Substance abuse

*Most strongly linked to criminal behavior

FY 09 Risk Management Example

- Total Population Unsuccessful
 - 37% Standard (0-15)
 - 63% High (16+)
- Total Population Unsuccessful
 - 22% Administrative (1-13.5)
 - **34% Moderate (13.6 – 27)**
 - **44% High (27.1 – 40.5)**
 - 55% Very High (over 40.5)

*Data from Dr. Speir's analysis of the SCDPPPS risk assessment database

Active PPP Population

- 52% reported they were employed less than six months in the previous year
- 40% reported some or serious disruption of functioning due to alcohol use
- 23% reported serious disruption of functioning due to drug use (e.g., arrest, loss of job, relationship issues)
- 42% had a prior period of probation or parole supervision
- 56% had two or more prior convictions

*Data from Dr. Speir's analysis of the SCDPPPS risk assessment database

FY 09 PPP Unsuccessful Terminations

- 58% reported they were employed less than six months in the previous year
- 45% reported some or serious disruption of functioning due to alcohol use
- 66% reported use or serious disruption of functioning due to drug use (e.g., arrest, loss of job, relationship issues)
- 51% had a prior period of probation or parole supervision
- 66% had two or more prior convictions

*Data from Dr. Speir's analysis of the SCDPPPS risk assessment database

FY 09 DOC Admissions

- Education: 68% reported completing 11th grade or less and 28% completed 9th grade or less
- 27% reported being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the crime
- 68% reported having at least one child
- 14% reported having experienced mental health issues

*Data from Dr. Speir's analysis of the DOC database

Risk and Need Assessment

Requires:

Use of a validated assessment tool which includes criminogenic factors

Significant training, experience and quality assurance

IT resources and evaluation systems to determine predictive validity, effectiveness and accuracy

Clarification of role in classification, case planning and treatment

Funding for all the above

Risk and Need Assessment

Benefits:

Conserves resources for a greater impact on public safety (diverts low risk, treats moderate and high risk, provides more bed space for those that need intensive services and/or incarceration)

Increased opportunities for collaboration among law enforcement and provider agencies

Increased professionalism among correctional personnel (DOC and PPP)

Institutes the foundational element for any/all risk reduction strategies

#3 Revocation Alternatives

- Establish a system to respond to violation activity in an efficient and effective manner
- This can be done through legislatively mandated administrative procedures to improve public safety
- Responses should be:
 - Imposed quickly as possible
 - EBP consistent and continuum accessible
- Note: Recent Supreme Court Ruling

SC Revocation Facts

- In FY09 PPP revoked 3,205 offenders to prison (24% of all prison admissions)
 - 2,109 were for technical violations (66%)
- Example, a reduction by 10% reduces the prison population by 300 by the 2nd year
 - A 20% reduction reduces it by 600+
- Additional analysis to be done

*Data from Dr. Speir's analysis of the SC data

Revocation Alternatives

Requires:

A set/grid of intermediate sanctions and rewards that are swift, certain and proportionate

Various levels of authority to assign and reassign offenders to sanctions without delay

An array of institutional and community based options for responding to violations (e.g., treatment and punishment)

Significant training, experience and quality assurance

Evaluation systems to determine consistency and impact

Clarification of role in supervision and sanctioning

Funding for all the above

Revocation Alternatives

Benefits:

Swift, certain and proportionate sanctions can improve compliance and change behavior

Reduces the number of violators sent to costly cells (before and after revocation proceedings) and frees up space for more dangerous inmates

Avoids delayed responses to violations which can give offenders the idea they do not have to comply

An administrative structure enhances the likelihood of timeliness and effectiveness of the sanction

Increases consistency in how offenders are sanctioned and prioritizes limited resources

Decreases the amount of time officials spend on revocations

#4 Earned Compliance

- Implement earned compliance credits
 - Reduce time on active supervision by X days for each month of full compliance with conditions, including payment of restitution to crime
 - Conservatively, if after 2 years recently admitted offenders were given 20 days credit for every 30 days the total PPP population could be reduced by 15% in 5 years
- Could also begin upon admission or after specified lengths of time
 - Further analysis and parameters required

#5 Continuum of Community Based Options

- Require evidence based services that can appropriately address criminogenic factors
 - Can be done in conjunction with community providers (much more cost-effective)
 - Build continuum to match risks and needs of offenders
 - Prioritize hardest hit areas
 - Vital to combat criminal activity and improve public safety

Continuum Examples

- EBP in supervision practices
 - Assessment
 - Case Planning
 - Cognitive Behavioral Methods (in-house CBT)
 - Appropriate Use of Sanctions and Rewards
 - Data and Feedback
- An array of interventions that are evidence-based and other necessary services
 - Cognitive Behavioral, Substance Abuse, Anger Management and Mental Health Treatments
 - Employment, Educational, Vocational Services
 - Residential Services
 - Data and Feedback

Multidimensional System

Changing from a Two-dimensional System

Incarceration – SCDC Custody

Incarceration – Local Detention Centers

Secure Facilities (these can be utilized as an alternative to incarceration or a step down between prison and the community)

Residential Facilities (treatment, halfway houses, transitional programs, etc.)

Community Based Services (Provided by PPP and/or Private Provider Treatment and Services)

Administrative Options (fines, restitution, community service)

Pre-adjudication Diversions (existing options, mediation or others)

Community Programming Examples

- Recidivism Reduction Centers
- Substance Abuse Programs
- Cognitive Behavioral Programs
- Educational/Vocational Programs
- Anger Management Programs
- Family Services
- Reentry Support Services

Offender Population Map by County



Requirements

Requires

A clear statement of recidivism reduction as a public safety goal.

Clarification of role of supervising authorities and community programs in the continuum

An array of community based options for treatment and services

Evaluation systems to determine consistency, quality and impact

Use of a comprehensive assessment tool which includes dynamic and static criminogenic risk and need factors

Organizational development, prioritization of resources allocations on moderate and high risk offenders, and training

Funding/Reinvestment for all the above

Benefits

Benefits

Increased opportunities for collaboration among law enforcement and provider agencies

Increased professionalism among correctional personnel (DOC and PPP)

Builds a continuous continuum focused on improving public safety

Conserves and reinvests resources for a greater impact on public safety (diverts low risk, treats moderate and high risk, provides more bed space for those that need intensive services and/or incarceration)

Institutes strategies that will positively impact public safety in a fiscally responsible way



#6 Fiscal Incentives

Use reinvestment/realignment of resources to gradually invest in the building the capacity of community corrections to implement evidence based practices (EBP)

- Require the use of a validated risk and need assessment tool to assign supervision and develop individual case plans within Y years
- Require the provision of employee training and development on EBP within Y years
- Require research on effectiveness
- Require X% of offenders to be supervised in accordance with EBP within Y years
- Require X% of state funds be spent on interventions that are evidence-based within Y years

#6 Oversight

- Permanent, independent Commission to oversee implementation, monitoring and evaluation of enacted policies
- Necessary to achieve public safety goals
 - Non partisan
 - Data driven
 - Accountable



Thank You!