Applying Risk, Need, Responsivity & Fidelity Principles with Correctional Clients

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Reduce recidivism by promoting offender change through proven strategies during safe and secure incarceration and effective community supervision.
Eight Guiding Principles of Evidence-Based Practices

1. Risk/Need: Assess Actuarial Risk
2. Target Intervention
3. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
4. Skill Train with Directed Practice
5. Increase Positive Reinforcement
6. Engage On-Going Support in Community
7. Measure Relevant Practices
8. Measurement Feedback

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK</th>
<th>NEED</th>
<th>RESPONSIVITY</th>
<th>FIDELITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• WHO</td>
<td>• WHAT</td>
<td>• HOW</td>
<td>• HOW WELL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deliver more intense interventions to higher risk participants</td>
<td>Target criminogenic needs to reduce risk for recidivism</td>
<td>Use CB approaches</td>
<td>Deliver services as designed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Match mode/style of service to participant</td>
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Why The Principles of Effective Intervention?

• Put Research into Practice
• Organize Our Resources
  • Understand Dosage
• Focus on the Individual
• Reduce Risky Thinking and Behaviors
The Risk Principle

Risk tells us “who” to target

• Determine risk level through validated risk tool
• Most tools categorize offenders into low, moderate, or high risk for reoffending
• Match risk level to appropriate interventions and supervision level
• Remember: it’s the risk of reoffending not the severity of the crime
What is the MnSTARR 2.0?

- A fully-automated, gender-specific recidivism risk assessment that has been developed and validated on the Minnesota prisoner population.

- Used to predict 4 types of recidivism:
  - Felony
  - Non-violent
  - Violent
  - Repeat sexual offending (only for males)
What are some of the areas considered by the MnSTARR 2.0?

- Prior criminal convictions
- Type of Admission to Prison
- Discipline convictions in prison
- Involvement in Security Threat Groups
- Age at Release
- Discharge Type
What are some of the areas considered by the MnSTARR 2.0?

• Participation in prison-based programming:
  • Thinking for a Change
  • Chemical dependency and/or sex offender treatment
  • EMPLOY
  • CIP
  • Prison Fellowship Academy,
  • Work Release

• Prison Visits
Three Elements of the Risk Principle

• Target those program participants with higher probability of recidivism.

• Provide most intensive intervention to higher risk program participants.

• Intensive intervention for lower risk program participants can increase recidivism.
We Can Make Lower Risk Clients Worse!
Low Risk
- Fewer and less intensive programs
- Less restrictive supervision
- Fewer areas of risk
- Are likely to “self-correct” behavior

High Risk
- More likely to reoffend
- More restrictive and structured supervision
- More areas of risk
- Interventions and services should be longer in duration
Dosage

- Dosage is the amount of structured intervention a participant receives.
- How much dosage is enough?
- Can you get too much dosage?
- What counts as dosage?
Dosage Research

- Studies started in 2013
- Dosage hours examined by increments of 50
- Looked at low/moderate, moderate, and high risk participants
Dosage Guidelines

• Dosage guideline recommendations:
  • 100-150 hours for moderate risk
  • 200+ hours for high risk
  • 100 hours for high risk will have little effect

• Dosage includes EBP interventions

• Work/school are the result of dosage (not counted as dosage)
Sally Seekingchange

35 years old
Homicide
Life sentence
No documented mental health concerns and no past suicidal or self-injurious behavior

*Low Risk*
Paul Secondchance

23 years old
12 criminal convictions, 6 felony, 4 violent offense convictions
Completed CD Treatment
2016 suicide attempt
No known STG status
High School Diploma acquired in 2018

*Very High Risk*
Table and Large Group Discussion

• Discuss one thing you learned today

• Discuss how you/your organization currently uses risk to plan for services for correctional clients

• What is one way you/your organization could/will use the risk principle after today
Thank you!

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