

Criminal Justice and Substance Abuse Treatment – We Can Make it Work.

Felesia Otis B.S., CADDC II
Volunteers of America
Oregon, Inc.

Adapted from the Criminal Justice and Substance Abuse Cross Training:
**Working Together for Change (Adapted for the Serious and Violent
Offender Reentry Initiative –2005)** Re-written and adapted by Edna Salcedo
Talboy, MS

Making Substance Abuse Treatment Work for Offenders

- As many as 80% of offenders in prison use drugs and alcohol.
- Alcohol involved offenders are more likely to commit violent crime.
- Drug and violent offenses account for increased incarceration among juveniles.
- Substance use is a challenge for 3 of 4 parolees.
- Inmates with substance abuse disorders are the most likely to be re-incarcerated.

Challenges to Making Substance Abuse Work for the Offender Population

- Treatment models are usually developed around the needs of non offenders.
- Many *offenders have multiple deficits.
- Prison culture reinforces anti social behaviors.
- Lack of integration between the criminal justice system and treatment system.

*(women and youth with additional needs)

From “Nothing Works” to “What Works”

Lipton, Martinson and Wilks

“With few exceptions, the rehabilitation efforts that have been reported so far had no appreciable effect on recidivism.”

“The field of corrections has not as yet found satisfactory ways of reducing recidivism by significant amounts”

Lipton et al, 1975. The Effectiveness of Correctional Treatment

Andrews, Gendreau, Palmer’s reinterpretation of the studies:
Review of 230 studies - conclusion:

“Some programs are working with some offenders, some of the time”.

The Roots of “What Works”

- Martinson’s conclusion stimulated researchers to search for programs that are effective.
- What Works researchers have identified programs that produce positive results.
- These programs share the same characteristics known as the “Principles of Effective Intervention.”

The Principles of Effective Interventions for Offenders

Risk Principle

- Criminal behavior is predictable.
- Intensity of treatment services should be matched to the level of client risk. High risk clients require more intensive services while low risk clients require little or no intervention.

Need Principle

- The need principle focuses on the appropriate targets for intervention.
- Focus on targets that have been shown to be related to criminal behavior and those are:
 - Attitude/orientation, peers/associates, substance abuse, education, employment, family/martial, emotional/personal, housing, and pro-social leisure activities.

The Principle of Effective Interventions for Offenders

Responsivity Principle

The delivery of effective treatment programs and services in a style and mode that is consistent with the abilities and learning style of the clients.

Internal Factors

Motivation

Personal characteristics

Intellectual ability

Demographic characteristics

External Factors

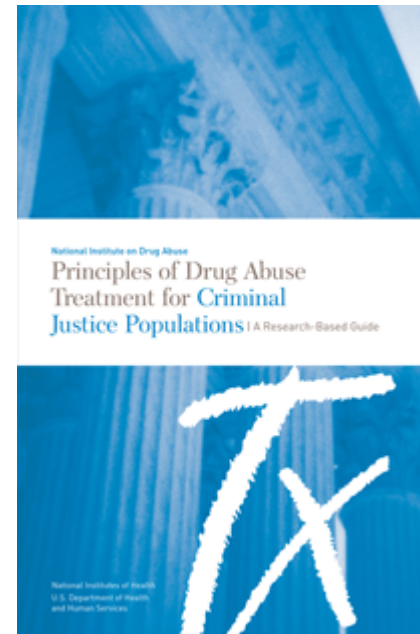
Counselor characteristics
(personality, experience)

Setting characteristics
(Institution vs. community,
individual vs. group)

Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for the Criminal Justice Population

National Institute on
Drug Abuse (NIDA)

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/>



Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations

1. Drug addiction is a brain disease that affects behavior.
2. Recovery from drug addiction requires effective treatment, followed by management of the problem over time.
3. Treatment must last long enough to produce stable behavioral changes.
4. Assessment is the first step in treatment.
5. Tailoring services to fit the needs of the individual is an important part of effective drug abuse treatment for criminal justice populations.

Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations

7. Treatment should target factors that are associated with criminal activity.
8. Criminal justice supervision should incorporate treatment planning for drug abusing offenders, and treatment providers should be aware of correctional supervision requirements.
9. Continuity of care is essential for drug abusers re-entering the community.
10. A balance of rewards and sanctions encourages pro-social behavior and treatment participation.

Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations

11. Offenders with co-occurring drug abuse and mental health problems often require an integrated treatment approach.
12. Medications are an important part of treatment for many drug abusing offenders.
13. Treatment planning for drug abusing offenders who are living in or re-entering the community should include strategies to prevent and treat serious, chronic medical conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and tuberculosis.

Common Components of Working with Substance-Abusing Offenders

- The common components can be applied to both institutional (prisons/jails) and in community-based settings.
- In order for treatment to be effective, both criminal justice and treatment systems need to coordinate their efforts.

Screening

- Substance Abuse- Initial screening yes / no for drug related problems.
- Criminal Justice – Initial look at criminal behavior and eligibility for programming.

Assessment

Substance Abuse

- History and severity of the problem
- The affects it has on the individual
- Factors that contribute to the problem
- Resources that may assist with changing the behavior.

Criminal Justice

- Risk assessment what puts the offender at risk of re-offending.
- Pre sentence investigations providing recommendations for sentencing.
- Classification as it relates to the level of supervision and programming as needed.

Case / Treatment Planning

- Substance abusers involved in the criminal justice system will often have both a treatment plan and a case plan.
- It is critical that both the criminal justice agency and treatment provider share those plans with each other.
- Expectations and activities should be consistent and realistic for the offender.

Characteristics of Effective Plans

- Individualized
- Comprehensive
- Specific and measurable
- Realistic and achievable
- Respectful of the client's culture and personal preferences

Case Management

Case management serves the essential function of assessing, planning, connecting, monitoring and advocating for critical services that support clinical and other ancillary needs of the substance abusing offenders.

- Health care
- Mental health
- Childcare
- Parenting skills
- Housing
- Transportation
- Education/vocational training
- Legal aid

Integrating Sanctions with Substance Abuse Treatment

- Provide offender with incentive to enter and complete treatment.
- Increase motivation for treatment
- Gives offenders needed feedback to help them change their behavior.

Integrating Criminal Justice with Substance Abuse Treatment

The integration of both substance abuse and criminal justice systems allows for the sharing and achieving of these end results:

- Behavior change resulting in improved function of the individual and reduced negative impact on others.
- External intervention and control will eventually be replaced by the internal motivation and self governed behavior of the offender that meets both individual needs and community values.