



The Re-engineering of the Community Corrections Division DOC Evidence Based Program Implementation

The economic downturn and the advancement in evidence based program implementation in the criminal justice system have aligned to provide an opportunity in the Department of Corrections. Re-engineering the Community Corrections Division (CCD) provides the opportunity for reinvestment in programs that work to reduce recidivism for long term savings and data-driven public policy.

Using an investment strategy that uses savings from reduced length of supervision and violator confinement, the CCD re-engineering is grounded in using risk and needs assessment to match the right offenders to the right programs at the right time. Risk and needs scenarios can be used to determine which level of risk and need is prioritized to improve public safety, offender change, and long term results.

The Right Programs

Implementation of evidence-based programs (EBPs) requires DOC to target effective interventions that reduce recidivism. In re-engineering CCD, DOC is analyzing EBPs that include the following:

Evidence-Based Programming Options
Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
Thinking for a Change
Chemical Dependency/Relapse Prevention
Mental Health Services
Vocational/Educations Programming

According to the WSIPP only certain evidence-based programs are known to reduce recidivism with adult offenders. The Department is evaluating CBT programs such as MRT, Thinking for a Change and Reasoning and Rehabilitation for state-wide use with offender/inmates. The program(s) will be mandated in prisons, work releases, field offices, and violator programs. To ensure program fidelity the Department will work with model developers, WSIPP, and other quality assurance experts to develop Quality Assurance measures. The Offender Program and QA Manager is taking a lead role in this work, and we are beginning to develop action plans to implement these programs. By providing CBT programming in DOC facilities, the Department will ensure rehabilitative consistency and continuity thus reducing recidivism.

The Right Population

DOC is evaluating what we know about the offenders we supervise and how we currently use resources for those offenders. By reducing expensive violator beds and reinvesting in evidence-based services in the community we believe we will better match the right offender to the right program. The use of assessment and data to identify offender risk and criminogenic need will assist in program selection.

Data on domains of criminogenic need and risk is being used to assist in determining caseload and program match to get the best results in crime effect.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are being used to help determine reinvestment details including program selection. These principles include:

- Use programs that work to reduce recidivism for all offenders on supervision
- Use data from risk and needs assessment to drive program selection and priority of resources
- Treat offenders in their community whenever possible. Services for offenders should be provided as close to their home as possible to increase accessibility of needed services and connections to the community needed when supervision ends.
- Risk, need, and clinical assessment of program needs should lead to the right person, getting the right treatment, at the right time. Services should not be delivered as a "one size fits all."

Service Delivery and Successful Re-Entry

As final decisions are made about funding and programs, the Department will work to implement these changes as quickly and effectively as possible. Program change and quality assurance systems will be put in place, strengthening the continuum of care and matching to our principles and performance expectations. A system of risk and needs assessment will drive service delivery. For offenders releasing from prison, CCD will utilize this assessment data, provide an update to address community risk, and build upon the skills and programming the offender received in prison, to provide an efficient continuum of services. Where needed, the RFP process will be used to purchase services that are evidence based and ensure our ability to meet performance expectations. Grounded in the Department's work to strengthen successful re-entry, the use of assessment and adherent evidence based program delivery will continue to move Washington State forward in implementing a model corrections system and provides a sound investment for the future.