

## EBDM Decision Point: Community Supervision

### Why this Decision Point is Important:

- Probation and parole decisions are crucial in assessing the risk of offenders to the community and for identifying their needs to enable a successful reintegration back into the community.
- Probation and parole decisions provide an opportunity to enhance public safety and promote harm reduction.
- Probation and parole offers an opportunity to help offenders succeed in the community while also providing support and services to crime victims.
- Probation and parole decisions offer opportunities to engage offenders in behavior change.

### What Should Happen at this Decision Point:

1. Only medium and high risk offenders are placed on probation.
2. Dosage needs of offenders are met.
3. DOC staff is culturally competent and highly skilled in evidence-based community supervision practices.
4. Agents are provided manageable caseload sizes to effectively implement evidence-based practices with offenders.
5. Interventions and conditions are matched with offenders' risk/needs.
6. Resources are available to meet offender treatment needs, and treatment is evidence-based and based on the four primary criminogenic needs
7. Offenders are able to obtain stability in important life areas, such as employment, housing, and supportive relationships.

### Selected Research:

- Gender-responsive assessment (and treatment) strategies are recommended for female offenders so as to tap into the unique contextual factors surrounding their criminal conduct. In turn, this will serve to improve the prediction of criminal outcomes and the identification of appropriate treatment targets for women. *Primary Citation:* Van Voorhis, Wright, Salisbury, & Bauman (2010)
- Ongoing reassessment can help identify progress in key domains reflected in parolees' case plans or, conversely, the presence of new criminogenic needs. Reassessment information can then be used to adjust supervision levels to reflect the current likelihood of recidivism exhibited by an individual. *Primary Citation:* Jones, Brown, & Zamble (2010)
- Intensive supervision and services are most effective when directed to higher risk offenders. *Primary Citation:* Lowenkamp & Latessa (2004)
- Correctional interventions that are grounded in the principles of risk/need/responsivity produce recidivism reductions in the most cost-effective manner. *Primary Citation:* Romani, Morgan, Gross, & McDonald (2012)
- Training probation officers to adhere to the principles of RNR can effectively serve to reduce recidivism rates of clients under community supervision. Improved outcomes are evidenced when supervision officers spend the majority of their time (i.e., at least 15 minutes per session) working with offenders on criminogenic needs rather than focusing on conditions that are non-criminogenic, and use appropriate cognitive behavioral techniques (e.g., reinforcement, modeling, etc.). *Primary Citations:* Bonta et al. (2011); Bonta, Rugge, Scott, Bourgon, & Yessine (2008)
- Recidivism is more likely reduced when the justice system focuses on criminogenic needs, uses a cognitive behavioral approach, reserves more intensive services for the higher risk offender, and uses aftercare services. *Primary Citation:* Andrews (2007)
- Emphasis should be placed on treatment targets (i.e., criminogenic needs) using a variety of interventions, especially cognitive behavioral programming. *Primary Citations:* Aos, Miller, & Drake (2006a); Aos, Miller, & Drake (2006b)
- Both maintaining a high level of treatment integrity and adhering to a human service treatment philosophy increase program effectiveness. It is recommended that agencies implement periodic assessments such as the CPAI so as to ensure continued program integrity. *Primary Citation:* Lowenkamp, Flores, Holsinger, Makarios, & Latessa (2010)
- Research indicates a relationship between the integrity with which a correctional program is implemented and recidivism outcomes. *Primary Citation:* Lowenkamp & Latessa (2004)

### Resources:

Further resources on the topic

