

# Keeping the Train on the Tracks

Measuring Our Progress toward  
Implementing Evidence Based Practice

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APPA Summer Training Institute

# What EBP Means to NIC

Progressive organizational use of direct, current scientific evidence to guide and inform efficient and effective correctional services.

# Risk Reduction

...a Special Emphasis area that delivers assistance to state and local systems and agencies through:

- Cooperative Agreements with two statewide systems: Illinois & Maine
- Publications, white papers, organizational development tools
- Short term targeted technical assistance

# The Integrated Model



# Just the Facts...

“You absolutely cannot make a series of good decisions without first confronting the brutal facts.” (Jim Collins, Good to Great, HarperCollins, NY, NY, 2001, p. 70.)

# Management by Sloshing Around

...managing by emotions,  
perceptions, or common sense is  
not really managing at all.

(Abrey Daniels, Bringing Out the Best in People,  
McGraw-Hill, Inc., 2000, pp. 3 & 6)

# Levels of Measurement

- Interim or Long Term
- Individual, Organizational, Systemic
- Focus on Behavior; or Knowledge; or Skills; or Attitudes

# Intermediate Measures: Signals of Success

- Monitoring progress toward overall risk reduction or recidivism reduction goals
- Indicators that positive change is occurring
- Watching trends/ spotting patterns or clues
- What information is immediately available; or what information is immediately *accessible* that can be collected in addition to recidivism or risk reduction?

# Examples of Intermediate Measures

## Assessment:

- % of population with completed r/n assessment within your policy's guidelines
- % of population with completed reassessments within your agency's timeline
- Gain Scores: Changes in protective measure scores

# Examples of Intermediate Measures

## Case Plans:

- % of medium/high risk offenders with case plans developed within agency's time frame
- % of case plans that address the top 3 identified criminogenic needs according to assessment

# Examples of Intermediate Measures

Average Length of Supervision, sorted by risk level.

# Examples of Intermediate Measures

## Revocations:

- Number of technical violations resulting in revocation to jail
- Number of technical violations resulting in revocation to prison

# Examples of Intermediate Measures

## Treatment:

- % of high risk offenders referred to Tx
- % of high risk offenders that attended Tx
- % of total population that attended treatment that are high risk

# Discussion: Where do you get your brutal facts?

- What do you see regularly? Where do you get it?
- How often do you get new numbers?
- Are you getting the right numbers? (i.e., Are they relevant to your goals?)
- Are you requesting different information than you used to?
- How do you disseminate the information?
- \*\*What do you *want* to know that you don't know now?

# [www.nicic.org](http://www.nicic.org)

- Core Papers on the Principles, Organizational Development and Collaboration
- Special correctional applications of the Core Papers: Community Corrections and Prisons
- Implementation Checklist
- Outcome/Process Measures Matrix
- Quality Assurance Manual

# Other Information-based Resources

- Overview of cog programs
- Motivational Interviewing: Review of concepts and correctional applications
- Tools of the Trade (case management for supervisors)
- Topics in Community Corrections: Assessment Issues for Managers

# Coming Attractions

- Research methods & executive-level decision making based on information, program evaluations & research (Curriculum from JSAT & NIC)
- Lessons Learned from Maine & Illinois Risk Reduction Efforts
- Gender-specific risk and case management
- Core Papers for: Judiciary, Prosecution, Jails, Defense, Pretrial & Private Treatment

# Total System Change

- Community Corrections
- Prisons
- Jails
- Courts
- Pretrial agencies
- Prosecutors
- Public Defenders