

# Social Distancing



**Community Supervision:**  
Promoting Public Safety and  
Ensuring Accountability While  
Providing Supporting Recovery  
Using Virtual and in Person  
Strategies



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# Session Objectives

- Identify the essential components of effective supervision and understand why effective community supervision helps treatment court participants achieve personal goals.
- Understand the necessity for on going client contact.
- Identify technology driven solutions for providing virtual meetings with clients.
- Learn effective strategies to continue community supervision while complying with restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Treatment Court Community Supervision

- Community supervision is the effort to proactively monitor the behavior and program compliance of a court participant outside of the court room.
- Community supervision is an element of case management services delivered to a treatment court participant.
- In a treatment court, a primary goal of community supervision is to facilitate behavior change instead of mere compliance monitoring.

# Balanced Approach

- Dual roles of Probation, enforcement and rehabilitation
- Enforcement role includes ensuring participant compliance with laws, court orders, and programs rules.
- Rehabilitation role includes case planning, supporting treatment, linking participant with community services. Acting as a “coach”.
- Both roles are applied evenly based on the assessed risk and needs of the participant.

# Case Management Components

- Assessment
- Planning
- Linking
- Monitoring
- Advocacy

# CORE Correctional Practices

Research has identified a number of dimensions of effective correctional intervention.

They are called, CORE Correctional Practices:

- Effective use of authority
- Effective use disapproval
- Effective use of reinforcement
- Cognitive Restructuring/skill building
- Prosocial modeling
- Relationship Skills/Motivational Interviewing

# Community Supervision in Treatment Court

- Protect Public Safety
- Deter non compliant behavior
- Provide accountability for the participant
- Support progress of the participant
- Detection and early intervention
- Serve as an adjunct to treatment
- Extend the team into the community

# Practices in Treatment Court Supervision

- Validated Assessment and reassessment
- Office and court contacts
- Field/home visits
  - To assessment the home and recovery environment
  - Engage family
  - Support participant progress
- Periodic searches ( as allowed by the terms of the program)
- Frequent and random drug testing
- Attendance and participation in staffing



# Risk Need Responsivity Principles

- **Risk Principle**

Match the level of service to the participant's risk to reoffend

**Risk-** Who to target

- **Need Principle**

Assess criminogenic needs and target them in treatment

**Need-** What to Target

- **Responsivity Principle**

Maximize the potential success of rehabilitative intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the participant.

**Responsivity-** How to Intervene

# Working with Treatment

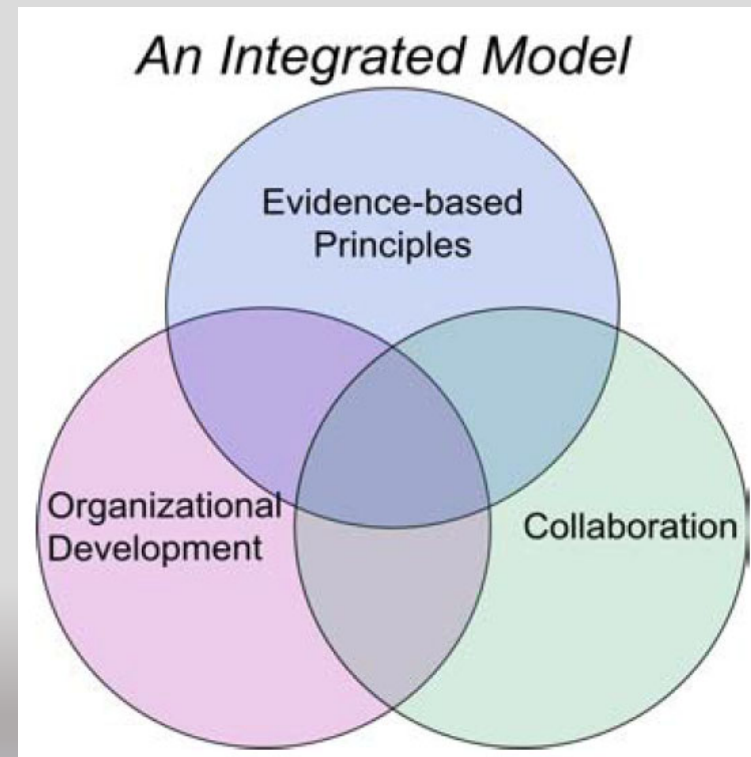
- Relation must be as seamless as possible.
- Establish and maintain regular communication.
- Ensure appropriate release of information forms are place.
- Have a general understanding of the treatment modality ( harm reduction vs. abstinence).
- Agree on the information to be exchanged, i.e. drug tests, general progress in treatment, criminal history, etc.).
- Must present a “united front” to the a participant.

# Integrated Model

Integrated model is to reduce recidivism through implementation of systemic integrated model that focuses equally on

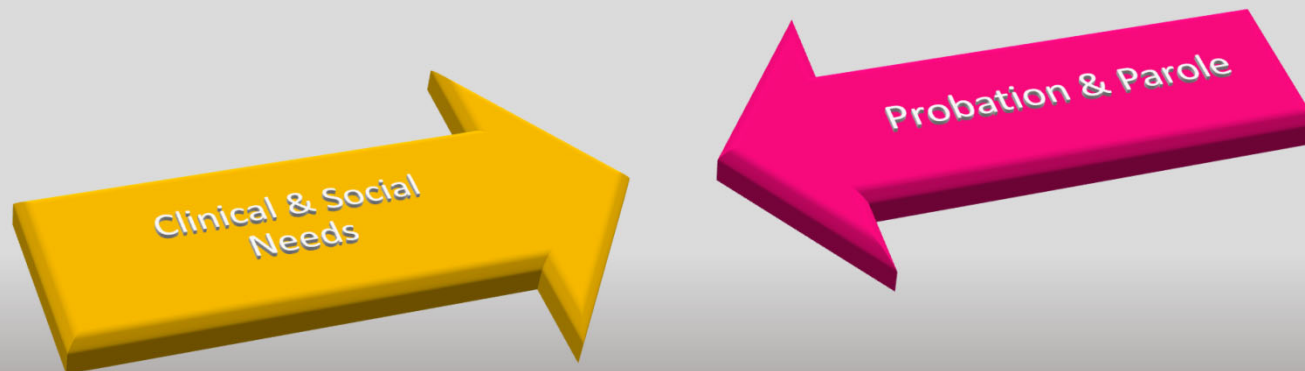
- Evidence Based Principles (EBP)
- Organizational Development
- **Cross-system Collaboration**

<http://static.nicic.gov/Library/024107.pdf>



# Cross-System Collaboration

**Cross System Collaboration** between community providers and criminal justice professionals is essential for ensuring *continuity of care* and *care coordination* during transitions and sustaining treatment and supports both in correctional settings and in the community.



# Beyond Compliance Monitoring

- Research shows that probation officers can have a significant impact on individual outcomes through personal interactions with them (Bonta et al., 2011; Bonta, Rugge, Scott, Bourgon, & Yessine, 2008; Robinson et al., 2012).
- Studies show that when probation officers spend at least *16 minutes* with participants employing behavioral techniques and focusing on criminogenic needs, recidivism rates drop significantly (Bonta, Rugge, Scott, Bourgon, & Yessine, 2008)

# Case Plans & Case Management

- Case Plans are written structured tools that direct the participant's and the community supervision officer toward targeted activities and outcomes.
- Case management is the process used by the supervision officer to monitor the participant, ensure that the court order is met, and make any appropriate referrals.

# Virtual Community Supervision

- Carefully administered case plans can address not only the targeted interventions on individual cases, but also the management of case priority.
- Individualized case planning has been shown to reduce recidivism and technical violations of justice involved individuals in community-based programs (Taxman, 2008).

# COVID-19 Impact

Traditional supervision and treatment transitioning to remote services so that business-as-usual conditions can be maintained under alternate operating procedures:

- Remote Supervision
- Teletherapy
- Evidence Based Practices
- Fidelity



# Community Supervision & COVID-19 Restrictions

- **What should our priorities be?**
  - Officer Safety
  - Client Safety
  - Community Safety
- **What are the restrictions and their effect on community supervision?**
  - Social distancing
    - In person meetings are discouraged
    - Officers are encouraged to work from home
    - Usual forms of drug testing may be dangerous
  - Shelter in place orders
    - Staff and clients under orders not to report to office settings
    - Client access to in person treatment settings is likely unavailable
    - Home visits have stopped
    - Drug Testing has been halted
    - Self help groups cannot meet in person

# Challenges and Suggestions for Solutions

**Challenge:** Effective Supervision of Clients

**Solutions:**

- 1) Phone Calls/Text Messaging/Emails (Match to need)
- 2) Video conferencing (Face to Face)
- 3) Social Distancing Appointments (Drive by, Parking lot and tent visits)
- 4) Virtual Home Visits

\*Make sure you check your policies to ensure modified contact methods are allowable.

# Challenges and Suggestions for Solutions

**Challenge:** Drug Testing

**Solutions:** Sweat Patches  
Oral Swabs  
Collection Companies  
Alcohol Monitoring Devices (Remote Breath, CAM, etc.)

**Challenge:** Fee Collections

**Solutions:** 3rd party collectors (credit card companies)

**What are your challenges?**

# What do you need for virtual supervision?

- **Minimum**

- Smart phone with video chat capability
  - Face Time
  - Google Duo
  - Zoom
  - GoToMeetings
  - Skype

- **Helpful**

- Mobile Workstation
  - Laptops
  - Notebooks
  - Surface Pros, etc.

- **Ideal**

- All of the above plus:
  - Phone apps for clients
    - Allows for basic client check-ins
    - Ability to drop a pin with client's location
    - Instant messaging
    - Check with EM Companies for these
- Remote access to client database
  - Can you remote in to your desktop?

# How do we get what we need?

- **Creative Budgeting**

- Travel
- New Programs you can't start due to restrictions

- **Grants (Current and New)**

- Check with program managers to see if you can use money for different purposes.
- Numerous new grants specific to Covid-19 needs

\*Always make sure you have permission to move funds!

# What should our new normal look like?

- **Advantages of using technology in supervision**
  - Reduces barriers such as transportation, child care, missing work, etc.
  - May be better for victims of trauma
  - Opportunities for instant use of reinforcement and disapproval
  - Reduces the “walk of shame” and why that’s helpful
  - Clients often willing to share more through text, email, etc.
- **Advantages of technology for officers**
  - Ability to work from home. Can this be helpful in the future?
  - Mobile access to client information
  - More tools for you to utilize when working with clients.

# TIPS

- Have meaningful conversations with clients.
  - Ask if they are ok.
  - What struggles are they experiencing?
  - Don't just pull out a checklist of questions and go down the list.
  - Remember the balanced approach.
- Don't be afraid to admit that we are not sure what we are doing.
- This is new for **EVERYONE** and there was no plan.
- We are all figuring this out together.
- Think outside the box. Be creative and be adaptable.
- Reach out to other departments and share information.
- Put your oxygen mask on **first!**