

# Evidence-Based Practices Colorado Probation

Commission on Criminal  
and Juvenile Justice

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# Evidence-Based Practices

- Why it Matters
- What it Is
- What Exists within Colorado Probation

## Potential Impact

*“We find that if Washington successfully implements a **moderate-to-aggressive portfolio** of evidence-based options, a significant level of future prison construction can be avoided, taxpayers can **save** about **two billion dollars**, and **crime rates** can be **reduced**.”*

*Evidence-Based Public Policy Options to Reduce Future Prison Construction, Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime Rates, October 2006, Washington Institute for Public Policy*

# EBP: What is It?

- Rigorous Research Demonstrating Effectiveness
  - CU Center for the Prevention and Study of Violence
  - Washington State Institute for Public Policy
- Programs and Practices

# Not Everything is EBP

- Best Practices
  - Gaps in services
  - Problems that need to be addressed now
  - Rigorous research not available
  - Room for innovation
- Business practices

# EBP Overview

- Initiatives
  - White Paper
  - Research in Briefs
  - Evidence-Based Committee
  - Performance Review and Quality Assurance
  - Program Evaluation
  - Best Practices

# Evidence-Based Practices: Colorado Probation

- Risk, Need and Responsivity Based Assessments
  - CYO-LSI
  - SUS1A
  - LSI
  - SSI
  - ASUS
  - DVSI
  - SARA
  - DUI Evaluations
- Motivational Interviewing

## **Evidence Based Programs: Colorado Probation**

- Intensive Supervision Probation with Therapeutic Components
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Multi-Systemic Therapy
- Functional Family Therapy



# Evidence-Based Practices: Colorado Probation

- Change Agent Practices
  - Client Factors 40%
  - Relationship 30%
  - Hope and Expectancy 15%
  - Model/Technique 15%

Source: *Change-Focused Youth Work, The Critical Ingredients of Positive Behavior Change*, Michael D. Clark, Journal of the Center for Families, Children and the Courts, 2001

# Evidence-Based Practices: Colorado Probation

- Probation Officer Skill Strategies
  - Form collaborative working relationships that help build internal motivation for change
  - Applying cognitive-behavioral treatment interventions
  - Reward pro-social behavior/punish anti-social behavior
  - Develop pro-social identity and expand pro-social networks

Source: “*Combining Officer Supervision Skills: A New Model for Increasing Success in Community Corrections*,” Brad Bogue, Jennifer Diebel, & Tom O’Connor, Draft 2008

# **“Best Practice” Programs: Colorado Probation**

- Intermediate Sanctions and Incentives
- Offense-Specific Programming
  - Female Offender Program
  - Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Program
  - Mental health
  - Domestic violence
- Problem-Solving Courts
  - Drug
  - DUI
  - Mental Health

## **“Best Practice” Programs: Colorado Probation**

- Mentoring Programs
- Employment Programs
- Restorative Justice Initiatives
  - Victim Offender Mediation
  - Community Accountability Boards

# **“Best Practice” Programs: Colorado Probation**

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- **Personnel Management**
  - Appropriated FTE
  - Hiring Practices
  - Colorado Probation University and Local Training
  - Quality Assurance
  - Pay for Performance

# Evidence-Based Programs in Colorado Probation

- Questions?