


Specialty Courts, Detention Diversion, and Best Practices


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Evidence-Based Principles for Effective Interventions

DOJ NIC – Crime & Justice Institute

- Assess Risk/Need
- Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
- Target Interventions
- Skill Train with Directed Practice
- Increase Positive Reinforcement
- Engage Natural Supports
- Measure Processes/Practice
- Provide Feedback



Detention Diversion Efforts Assessment

- Standardized and Valid
- Focuses on Dynamic and Static Factors
- Comprehensive Training
- Ongoing Support/Monitoring
- Collect Assessment Data to Guide
Program Development/Modification

**Detention Diversion Efforts
Targeted Interventions**

- Risk Principle
 - Prioritize Supervision/Resources for Higher Risk
- Need Principle
 - Target Interventions to Criminogenic Factors
- Responsivity
 - Be Responsive to Individual Factors
- Treatment
 - Integrate Treatment in Supervision/Sanction

Detention Diversion Efforts

- Home/Community Detention
 - Tight Curfew
 - Limited Activities
 - Frequent Contacts
 - \$10 per day
- Day & Evening Reporting Centers
 - 6-12 Hours of Supervision
 - Participate in Educational/Recreational Activities
 - \$30 per day
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
 - www.aecf.org

**Detention Diversion Efforts
Children's Crisis Intervention Training**

- 40 hour Training
 - 2/3 Didactic
 - 1/3 Reality-Based
- Officer Tactics and School Safety
- Active Listening
- Verbal De-escalation

**Detention Diversion Efforts
Children's Crisis Intervention Training**

- Psychological, Learning, and Developmental Disorders and Substance Abuse
- Psychotropic medications
- Family Perspective and Community Resources
- Legal Issues Related to School Environment, Minors, and Emergency Detention
- Role Play Scenarios – Specific to Students Experiencing a Mental Health Episode/Crisis

**Specialty Court
Drug Court Key Components**
National Criminal Justice Reference Service

- Integrate alcohol/drug treatment services with justice system case processing
- Promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights
- Participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
- Access to a continuum of alcohol and other drug and related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Abstinence is monitored frequently

**Specialty Court
Drug Court Key Components**
National Criminal Justice Reference Service

- Coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
- Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant
- Program goals and effectiveness monitored
- Promote effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations through training.
- Generate local support and enhance drug court effectiveness through partnerships

**Specialty Court
Mental Health Court Model**

- Problem-Solving Focus
- Judicially Supervised Treatment
- Treatment Plan Developed Jointly by Court and MH Professionals
- Challenge – How to measure compliance?
 - No “drug test” measure

**Specialty Court
Mental Health Court Model**

- Administered by:
 - Court
 - Probation Dept
 - Family Service Agency
 - Separate Docket
- Funding:
 - Federal/State Dollars (redirected placement costs)
 - Health Insurance Reimbursement
 - Foundation Donations
- Multidisciplinary Team Approach:
 - DA, Defense Atty, MH Provider, Case Manager, Probation Officer, Judge

**Specialty Court
Mental Health Court Model**

- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Wide Range of Charges: Misdemeanor to Felonies
 - Some Focus on Serious Mental Illness
 - Usually exclude Conduct Disorder or Oppositional Defiant Disorder ONLY
- Point of Referral:
 - Some After Adjudication Before Disposition
 - Others PreAdjudication
 - Others Post Placement

**Specialty Court
Mental Health Court Model**

- Monitoring Compliance:
 - Judicial Review Hearings
 - Home/School Visits
 - Collaboration with Provider
- Length of Court Involvement:
 - Varies: 3 months to 2 years
 - Average 10-18 months
- Caseloads: 5-75

**Specialty Court
Mental Health Court Model**

- Using Rewards/Incentives
 - Expunge Records
 - Drop Charges
 - Recognition Ceremonies – Phase Advancement, Graduation
 - Gradual Reduction in Judicial Reviews
 - Curfew Modification
 - Termination Probation
 - Tangible Incentives – Gift Cards, Treats

**Specialty Court
Mental Health Court Model**

- Using Consequences/Sanctions
 - Problem Solving Sessions
 - Written Assignments
 - Presentation Assignments
 - Curfew Modification
 - Community Service
 - Office Reporting
 - House Arrest

**Specialty Court
Mental Health Court Model**

- Resources:
 - Bureau of Justice Assistance Consensus Project
 - www.consensusproject.org
 - Criminal Justice/Mental Health Information Network
 - www.cjmh-infonet.org
 - National Council for Mental Health & Juvenile Justice
 - www.ncmhji.com

**Specialty Court Issues
Distinct To Adolescents**

- Include Parent/Guardian
- Address Needs of Family
- Collaborate with Other Systems
 - Schools
 - Foster Care
- Comply with Confidentiality Requirements

**Specialty Court Issues
Distinct To Adolescents**

- Motivation Strategies Different
- Counter Negative Peers, Gangs, Families
- Identify & Respond to Developmental Issues

Other Specialty Court Models

- Domestic Violence Court
- Veterans Court
- Prostitution Court
- Re-entry Court
- Targeting Dependency Court Families

Contact Information

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