

Linking Offenders to Services Evidence- Generating Practices



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Objectives

- Understanding how to implement a new practice
- Three concerns
 - Time
 - Patience
 - Repetition





Clinical Practice Guidelines

From the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Examples from *Principles of Effective Drug Treatment* (1999)

- No single treatment is appropriate for all
- Effective treatment attends to multiple needs of the individual
- Individual's treatment and service plan must be assessed continually and modified as needed
- Substance abuse and mental disorders treated in integrated way
- Treatment does not have to be voluntary to be effective
- Recovery from addiction can be long-term and can require multiple episodes of treatment



Research into Practice: Case Study

Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS)

- Research-based, risk and needs assessment tool
- Assists criminal justice practitioners in the placement, supervision, and case management of offenders in community and secure settings



Conditions for Change

- Organizational readiness/climate for change
- Endorsed by California Corrections Dept.
- New and dynamic Chief of Probation
- Comprehensive training schedule
- Buy-in from stakeholder agencies



Implementation Challenges Require Time, Patience, Repetition

Staff Variables

- Staff buy-in – attitude change over time
- Skill levels vary
- Staff turnover

Training Issues

- In-person – most expensive
- Webinars, manuals, video conferencing



Strategies for Success

- Develop standards committee with key stakeholders
- Introduce ideas gradually
- Determine process and timeline
- Commitment to adopt new practice
- Write research briefs (Standards Document)
- Constant trainings



Reference:

Evidence-Based Practices: An Implementation Guide for Community-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Agencies, The Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation, 2003



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