

JUSTICE INNOVATION IN TIMES OF CHANGE

New Challenges, New Opportunities

Quinnipiac University School of Law
North Haven, CT - September 30, 2016

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Smarter Assessment: The Risk-Needs-Responsivity Framework

Research has shown that the systematic use of validated screening and assessment tools, together with clinical and judicial decision-making, can result in more individualized and effective mandates and reduce resource drain. This session will review risk-need-responsivity (RNR) principles and discuss the challenges and limitations presented by the application of RNR principles.

Learning Objectives

- Review risk-need-responsivity principles
- Outline strategies for implementing validated assessment tools
- Consider some of the questions surrounding the challenges and limitations presented by the application of RNR principles

Enhancing Justice System Legitimacy: Race and Procedural Justice

Research has shown that when people perceive that they are treated fairly by justice system actors, they view the system as more legitimate and are more likely to complete mandates and follow the law in general. And while this principle holds across a range of demographics – including race – this session will address such questions as: what is the relationship between perceptions of fairness and actual unfairness, such as racial disparities? What can individual justice system professionals do to enhance perceptions of fairness within their own spheres of influence? In addition, this presentation will highlight initial findings from a 2016 public trust and confidence survey conducted among justice system participants in Newark, New Jersey.

Learning Objectives

- Outline the definition and research basis of procedural justice
- Examine public perception survey data from a specific community

- Explore the extent of racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system, and consider policies to address them
- Brainstorm best practices for implementing the key elements of procedural justice: voice, understanding, respect, and neutrality

Innovations in Police and Prosecutor-Led Diversion

In recent years, state courts across the nation continued to face large caseloads. Combined with shrinking budgets and already crowded jail populations, many jurisdictions are seeking alternatives to traditional adjudication as early as possible in the process. Both police and prosecutors have stepped up to craft diversion responses that simultaneously offer accountability and assistance. This session will include a presentation on a national survey of prosecutor-led diversion programs, as well as discussion with law enforcement officials and prosecutors who have implemented diversion programs within their respective agencies.

Learning Objectives

- Learn preliminary findings from a recent nationwide survey on prosecutor-led diversion
- Compare various police and prosecutor-led diversion models
- Hear from practitioners about the lessons learned from the planning and implementation of diversion models

Alternative Sentencing: When Jail, Fines, and Fees Aren't the Answer

The age-old justice system responses of incarceration or fines and fees are under review across the country. Local jurisdictions – as well as national influences such as the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the MacArthur Foundation – are investing time and resources to identify the scope of the problem and possible solutions. With both of these conversations, there is a growing need for a better understanding of alternative sentencing options. In this session, panelists will discuss their roles in these conversations locally and nationally, as well as anticipate what's next in this arena.

Learning Objectives

- Understand jail reduction and monetary sanctions reform in the U.S.
- Explore strategies for implementing alternative sentencing efforts without compromising public safety
- Consider the perspectives of frontline practitioners about the challenges and opportunities presented by their own efforts

The Latest in Addiction and Drug Treatment

With more and more courts, prosecutors, and other justice system actors seeking to link defendants with substance use disorders to treatment programs, it can be challenging to stay up-to-date on the latest research on brain science and addiction treatment. This session will explore new research findings on drug and alcohol addiction and their pharmacologic treatment, and provide participants with a better understanding of how to address and approach these challenges within the justice system.

Learning Objectives

- Review the latest research findings on the neuroscience of addiction and pharmacologic treatment
- Explore ways to apply this research to justice system practices