

What Works?

Principles of Effective Criminal Justice Practices

Overarching Objectives

- Wherever possible, prevent further penetration into the criminal justice system (Deflect and Divert)
- Prevent reoffending (Correct and Restore)

Four Core Principles

- Risk Principle
- Need Principle
- Treatment Principle
- Fidelity Principle

Risk Principle

- Right Person, Right Dosage
 - Target intensive treatment for those with a higher probability of recidivism
 - Continue treatment only for as long as needed
- Avoid “one-size fits all” approaches
- Focus on the person’s risk of re-offending, not the seriousness of the offense

Need Principle

- Intervention should target criminogenic factors
 - Antisocial/procriminal networks
 - Antisocial behavior
 - Substance use disorder
 - Lack of self control
- There are identified criminogenic factors. Be sure to refer to them.

Treatment Principle

- Intervention should be focused on behavior change
 - Different thinking = different actions
 - Targeted at the behavior that led to the offense
- E.g., cognitive behavioral therapy, functional family therapy
- Relapse recognition and prevention

Fidelity Principle

- Intervention is regularly monitored and evaluated for
 - Effectiveness - consistently having the intended impact
 - Quality Control - delivered as designed