



## **Fact Sheet**

### **Evidence-Based Programs**

In 2017, Senate Bill 59, part of the Justice Reinvestment bill package, directed the Department of Corrections to ensure all programs offered have been proven scientifically to reduce criminal behaviors and recidivism. This bill further required the Department's Quality Assurance Office 'adopt an evidence-based program evaluation tool that measures how closely correctional programs meet the known principles of effective intervention. The tool must measure program content and capacity to ensure the delivery of effective interventions for offenders.'

The Department adopted the University of Cincinnati's Correctional Program Checklist (CPC), as the endorsed fidelity tool to measure content and capacity as well as how closely programs adhere to the evidence. The CPC is known throughout corrections nationwide as the gold standard in evaluation tools for evidence-based programming.

Upon bill passage, the DOC inventoried all programs offered throughout the system. Working with assistance from the Council of State Governments, DOC staff made numerous site visits and conducted program observations to identify areas for further training. As a result, numerous state-wide trainings and information sessions were set up detailing to DOC and contract staff the essentials of evidence-based criminal justice programs and practices.

#### **Evidence-Based Program Committee**

The Quality Assurance Office established a committee to review and approve program proposals and ensure the programs are sufficiently evidence-based and appropriate for each population type. The committee includes:

- Probation and Parole Administrator
- Clinical Services Administrator
- Montana State Prison Warden
- Montana Women's Prison Warden
- Montana Correctional Enterprises Administrator
- Pine Hills Correctional Facility Administrator
- Probation & Parole Facilities and Programs Administrator
- Quality Assurance Director
- Mental Health Bureau Chief
- Chairperson of the Board of Pardons and Parole or designee

Programs approved to date include:

#### **Montana State Prison:**

- A New Direction
- Anger Management for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clients (SAMHSA)
- Living in Balance
- Thinking for a Change

#### **Montana Women's Prison:**

- Beyond Violence

- Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills Group
- Moving On
- Seeking Safety
- Thinking for a Change

Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center

- Interactive Journaling

Pine Hills

- Forward Thinking (Interactive Journaling) (youth)
- Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills Group (youth)
- Juvenile Sex Offender Program
  - Pathways
  - Footprints
  - Stages of Accomplishment
  - NIC supplemental workbooks
- Seeking Safety for adolescents

Contracted Programs

- Great Falls Pre-release Center
  - Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) Winning the Invisible War
  - Seeking Safety
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- Alternatives Alpha House
  - American Community Corrections Institute (ACCI) Marijuana Awareness
  - Dialectic Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Skills Group
  - Interactive Journaling
  - Living in Balance-Aftercare/Relapse Prevention
  - Matrix Model-Substance Use Disorder Treatment
  - Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)
    - Bringing Peace to Relationships
    - How to Escape Your Prison
    - Coping with Anger
    - Untangling Relationships
  - Prime for Life
  - Seeking Safety
  - Victim Impact, Listen and Learn
  - Wellbriety

**Correctional Program Checklist (CPC)**

As mentioned above and required in MCA 53-1-211, the Department's Quality Assurance Office must endorse a fidelity tool to ensure that measure program content and capacity to ensure the delivery of effective interventions for offenders. After extensive research, the Department chose the University of Cincinnati's, Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) to evaluate comprehensive

programs and will use the CPC-Group Assessment (CPC-GA) tool to evaluate standalone curriculum/group offerings.

MDOC began the training/certification endeavor at the end of February 2019 by certifying 16 staff in the CPC. To date, DOC has two finalized CPC reports. Another CPC is pending completion. Two of the three Group Assessments completed during the training process are being finalized today (9/9/2019), and the third is in draft stage.

#### **Additional Trainings and Efforts**

In addition to the CPC and the CPC-GA, the UC also provided two generalized cognitive behavioral techniques trainings for a total of 60 staff. These trainings are called the Core Correctional Practices (CCP) and were provided without charge to the Department, from existing grant funds with CSG designated specifically to the University of Cincinnati. This was an excellent opportunity to recognize how all staff can support offenders in both exercising the information they learn in programs and making more thoughtful decisions. DOC will continue to invest in training DOC staff to train this curriculum, so we may offer it to more/all staff, as it is the foundation to best practices.