

*Pitching Prevention*

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# The Juvenile Courts and Prevention

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# Training Objectives

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- ❖ Basic Understanding of The Georgia Court System and Where to Focus your Prevention Strategy
- ❖ Introduction to *What Works* in offender programming and how your *Prevention Strategy* might fit-in

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# Georgia Courts

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- ❖ The Georgia Courts where you are most likely to find a partner for your Prevention Strategies and Advocacy are:
  - ❖ Municipal
  - ❖ Magistrate
  - ❖ Juvenile
  - ❖ Probate
  - ❖ State
  - ❖ Superior
- ❖ A good resource is <http://www.georgiacourts.org/>

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# Risk-Need-Responsivity

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- ❖ Risk Principle - WHO do we target for services
- ❖ Need Principle - WHAT factors do we address
- ❖ Responsivity Principle - HOW to deliver services

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# Risk Principle

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- ❖ Individual with higher criminogenic risk should be prioritized for treatment and receive more intensive supervision than those with lower criminogenic risk
- ❖ Risk of Future Recidivism
- ❖ Services should be provided to those assessed as having a high probability of recidivism
- ❖ Treatment, supervision and other services must be appropriate given level of risk
- ❖ Actuarial assessments can predict future recidivism by taking certain risk factors into account

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# Need Principle

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- ❖ An individual's criminogenic needs should be targeted for intervention in order to reduce recidivism and prevent future criminal conduct
- ❖ Factors to be addressed are those tied to recidivism. In doing so, reductions in future recidivism is greatest
- ❖ Risk factors are characteristics that contribute to recidivism. They can be static or dynamic
  - ❖ Static - Factors that can't be changed
  - ❖ Dynamic - Factors we can change
- ❖ Criminogenic (crime producing) Needs are risk factors that are statistically related recidivism and are dynamic

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# Responsivity Principle

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- ❖ Stresses the importance of providing clinically-responsive treatment dosage, while attending to individual characteristics (family, employment, literacy, MH factors, motivation, trauma, etc.)

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# Risk-Need-Responsivity

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- ❖ The recidivism curve can be driven-down by 25 to 50% for moderate to high-risk offenders, but only when services adhere to RNR principles (Andrews and Bonta, 2006; Lipsey et al., 2010)
- ❖ Non-adherence to RNR principles in service delivery has not only been found to be ineffective, but detrimental to youth offender outcomes (Lowenkamp and Latessa, 2005)



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# Risk-Need-Responsivity

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- ❖ According to RNR research, participant risk/need increases the need for more intensive contingency management and controls increases
- ❖ A few axioms from RNR research apply
  - ❖ The higher the risk, the more intensive the supervision and contingencies
  - ❖ The higher the need, the more intensive the treatment (dosage)
  - ❖ TRY to avoid mixing risk and need levels.
    - ❖ Make informed decisions

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# What Works?

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- ❖ The three things to focus on are *Risk*, *Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT)* and *Program Quality* (Lispey et al., 2010)
- ❖ Where does Prevention fit-in?
  - ❖ HINT: *RESPONSIVITY*
  - ❖ *Lower-risk youth and adult offenders, families and siblings, mentoring support for treatment services, supplemental support, and advocacy*

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# Accountability Courts

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- ❖ There are 145 Accountability Courts in Georgia, focused on Addiction, Mental Health, Veterans, DUI's, and Family Preservation
  - ❖ <http://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/>
  - ❖ They are an excellent, receptive place to focus on prevention
  - ❖ You are likely to find an Accountability Court that shares your interests

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# Where Do You Fit-in?

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- ❖ You will find that Judges are receptive to supporting Prevention Strategies but be clear about your “ASK”
  - ❖ What can the court do for you?
  - ❖ What can you do for the court?

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# Practice Pointers

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- ❖ Think about your brand and mission. Why are the courts a good partner?
  - ❖ If you want to communicate with judges then make sure that you have proofed your materials for clarity and economy
  - ❖ Remember State and Superior Court Judges are elected. They shouldn't sign-on for a project without a compelling, value-adding mission
- ❖ Carefully develop a steering committee or work group, in addition to your board
- ❖ Consider an event or activity for that will highlight your value and stakeholders
- ❖ Focus on RESPONSIVITY, although DON'T use that word because nobody knows what it means
- ❖ Go sit-in for an Accountability Court session

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# Thank You

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