



Contemporary Treatment and the Criminal Justice System

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Mady Chalk, Ph.D.

Treatment Research Institute

Overview of Presentation

- Fundamental tenets
- Implications for the CJ system
- Relationship between the CJ system and SUD treatment programs
- Need for more research

Fundamental Tenets

- Addiction is a HEALTH CARE issue though it represents only 2% of healthcare spending.
- Addiction is a CHRONIC not acute disease and needs to be treated using a chronic treatment model such as that applied to diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

Fundamental Tenets

- Parity and healthcare reform are likely to pay for public sector treatment of offenders as they pay for any other low-income population.
- For treatment of offenders, the public seems to recognize only two outcomes: no recidivism and no crime, violent or otherwise.

Treatment Assumptions

- All treatment begins with comprehensive assessment which is used for treatment planning
- Treatment prepares patients for participation in their own recovery
- Treatment is person-centered, tailored to patient needs---not all patients receive the same treatment regimen

Treatment Assumptions

- In all programs concurrent recovery monitoring (CRM) is used to assist staff in adapting treatment goals and plans on a continuous basis.
- Treatment includes medications whenever appropriate.
- Continuing care services are provided following acute treatment, including telephone and/or face to face check-ups focused on addiction.

Assumptions

- Recovery support services are provided to assist offenders in maintaining sobriety, becoming employed, and finding housing.
- That an individual is an offender does not determine the type/modality of treatment a patient receives; clinical assessment is the basis on which such decisions are made.

Implementation Questions

- How much of our present assumptions about treatment are applied in treatment of criminal offenders?
- What are the outcomes we should expect of offender treatment?
- Are the outcomes any different from treatment of other populations?

What Needs to Change?

- Treatment programs need to assess all patients and differentiate among offenders and the treatment options they need -- person-centered care also applies to offenders.
- Addiction treatment in prisons, jails, and the community needs to include medications for any patient for whom it is appropriate.

What Needs to Change?

- Zero-tolerance orders are contra-indicated for a chronic disease that by definition is likely to involve relapse.
- Violation should not be the first response to a missed treatment session or positive drug test but all patients should be monitored for drug and alcohol use during treatment.

What Needs to Change?

- Specific agreements on expectations and responses to the management problems expected in a chronic disease are necessary between CJ and treatment.
- Awareness needs to increase that not all offenders need treatment during reentry and certainly not the same kind of treatment; over-treatment is as much of a problem as under-treatment in producing poor results.

Relationship between the Systems

- Treatment programs, as other health care programs, should not be surrogates for criminal justice supervision
- The roles of criminal supervision and treatment need to be clearly differentiated for the offender who is a treatment client

Relationship between the Systems

- Treatment programs can be expected to help offenders fulfill their obligations to the criminal justice system
- Contents and frequency of progress reports, including lab tests, need to be spelled out in formal agreements

More Is Not Always Better

- More stringent drug laws
- More and longer prison sentences
- More and longer probation/parole supervision
- More and longer treatment

What Needs to Be Studied?

- Screening and brief Intervention (SBI) for offenders who are at low-risk
- Clinical assessment and matching to intensity and type of treatment and need for cognitive skills training
- Continuing care services such as, telephone-based counseling following community-based treatment
- Recovery coaches as part of recovery support services

Contact Information

Mady Chalk, Ph.D.
Treatment Research Institute
mchalk@tresearch.org
215-399-0980

