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Criminal Justice System: A Primer for Behavioral Health Professionals

One of the Core Components of the Intercept Zero Model is a behavioral health system that is “criminologically informed and working closely with criminal justice partners who understand the behavioral health needs of offenders.”

Towards the goal of becoming criminologically informed I am proposing a primer on the Criminal Justice System for Behavioral Health professionals. The class would include the following areas:

1. Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

- a. Arrest
 - i. Warrant or Probable Cause
- b. Magisterial District Judge
 - i. Level of Crime
 - ii. Preliminary Hearing
 - iii. Bail, No Bail (murder charges) or Release on Own Recognizance
 - iv. Release with Conditions
 - v. Held Over to Court of Common Pleas
 - vi. Technical vs. Direct Violations

2. Sequential Intercept Model

- a. 5 Traditional Intercepts
- b. Intercept Zero

3. Risk – Needs – Responsivity

- a. Risk Factors –
 - i. Static and Dynamic
 - ii. Big 8 Criminogenic Risk Factors
 - iii. Protective Factors
- b. Treatment Needs (The need is what must be provided by some sort of treatment or programming in order to combat the risk factors of criminal activity.)
- c. Treatment Options
- d. Responsivity to Treatment

4. Intro to Social Consequences of Mental Illness and its' Effect on Risk Factors

- a. Direct vs. Indirect Cause of Criminogenic Risks
- b. Potential Areas of Indirect Risk
 - i. Co-occurring Substance Abuse
 - ii. Homelessness – Housing Issues
 - iii. Family Conflicts
 - iv. Stigma
 - v. Anti-Social Associates
 - vi. Poverty and Mental Illness

- vii. Employment/School Difficulties
- viii. Lack of Pro-Social Leisure Activities

5. Assessment Tools

- a. Purpose is to assess and manage possibility of future offending
- b. Types of Risk Assessment Tools
 - i. 1st Generation – Unstructured Professional Judgment
 - ii. 2nd Generation – Focus is on Static Risk Factors
 - iii. 3rd Generation – Includes Dynamic Risk Factors and Criminogenic Needs (Big 8)
 - iv. 4th Generation – Integrating Interventions and Treatment
 - v. 5th Generation – Just beginning to Look at Neurobiology of Aggression
- c. Actuarial Tools Useful in Initial Intakes
 - i. There are none specific exclusive of current criminal justice system involvement
 - ii. Possibilities – Hares' Psychopathy; Violence Risk Screening (V-Risk-10)
 - iii. Best options – Psycho-Social Assessments that include issues of:
 - 1. Co-occurring Substance Abuse
 - 2. Homelessness – Housing Issues
 - 3. Family Involvement
 - 4. Anti-Social Associates
 - 5. Poverty and Mental Illness
 - 6. Employment/School Difficulties
 - 7. Access to Health-Care
 - 8. Types of Leisure Activities