



## PROGRAM THEMES

The conference program encompasses three (3) plenary sessions and twelve (12) workshops. Workshop submissions from practitioners, researchers, academics and community members from across the globe should address the following program themes:

- 1. Advancing Practices:** Jurisdictions and agencies the world over are developing and implementing programs and practices to improve outcomes. There are two points of focus under this theme:

*Programmatic Innovations* – What are the latest evidence-based practices, best practices and emerging practices? What is the empirically validated, cutting edge research to advance the state of practice in community corrections? How is this research being applied? What are the results?

*Program Implementation* – Research and pilot projects plant the seeds for program innovations. The challenge is then to implement these innovations on a wider scale. How are evidence-based programs implemented with fidelity and taken to scale in agencies and jurisdictions? What innovations have been developed to support wide-scale implementation?

- 2. Administrative/Policy Innovations:** Jurisdictions continue to explore innovations in administration and policy to improve outcomes and save money. What are the innovations in administrative and policy area? Are community corrections programs and agencies being organized, funded and managed in innovative ways? Examples may include Justice Reinvestment (US), social impact bonds, public/private partnerships, privatization (UK and some US), community involvement (volunteers, mentors), non-traditional funding sources (for example in the US, the Affordable Care Act), and other issues in resources/funding. What is working and what is not? What is on the horizon?
- 3. Juvenile & Family Justice Innovations:** Knowledge of the development of the adolescent brain is having an increasing impact on juvenile justice law, policy and practice. The fact that the brain doesn't fully mature until the mid-20s has significant implications for law and practice. Increasingly, practitioners are realizing that more holistic, evidence-based approaches are needed, incorporating strengths-based models, developmentally appropriate services, family involvement and educational services. Submissions are invited to address innovations in working with juveniles and their families.



- 4. Restorative Justice:** Restorative justice programs strive to offer a balanced response to the needs of the victim, offender, and community. The involved parties collaborate on appropriate responses to repair the harm of wrongdoing, while ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Workshop proposals related to philosophy, program evaluation, academic research, operational models, and policy related information about restorative justice worldwide are welcome. Submissions may address, but are not limited to models of innovative restorative justice practices, applications of restorative justice services, evaluations of restorative justice programs and research on restorative justice theories.
- 5. Behavioral Health:** Community corrections agencies are becoming more sophisticated in their approach to offenders with behavioral health problems, including alcohol and drug abuse and addiction, mental health disorders, and sex offending. Collaborative efforts with treatment providers and other justice agencies are becoming commonplace. Often specialty courts are being implemented to address these offenders. Proposals should address innovative and effective approaches to behavioral health and community corrections.
- 6. Desistance:** In recent years there has developed a renewed interest in crime desistance and an effort to discover if there is anything that practitioners can learn from “why offenders desist” from crime that would inform their interventions and assist offenders to maintain a course of action that increases their efforts to change their lives. These sessions will discuss the latest desistance research and the implications for practice
- 7. The Retreat from Mass Incarceration:** The cost of incarceration causes many jurisdictions to retreat from increased use of imprisonment without changing the “tough on crime” approach. This shift has led to an increase in community supervision leading to what is now being termed mass supervision. Thus, community supervision has developed rapidly in scale, distribution and intensity. Research in this area is still in its infancy with much of the current data concentrating on mass incarceration. The need for additional research in supervision has left community corrections practitioners with a knowledge gap in their attempts to deliver justice efficiently and effectively in an age of austerity. These sessions will address current efforts to fill this gap in our knowledge on mass supervision.

## CONGRESS LANGUAGE

The working language of the Congress is English. Translation services for Spanish will be available during plenary sessions. If you wish to present in a language other than English, please provide your own interpreter.