Implementing Evidence-Based Supervision in Rural Agencies

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Implementing Evidence-Based Supervision in Rural Agencies

Susan E. Mills
Executive Director,
Tri-County Community Corrections
For Norman, Polk and Red Lake
Counties

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INTRODUCTION

- Presentation Focus
- Orientation to "What is Rural"
- Obstacles/Advantages to Being "Rural"
- Turning Me into WE
- Moving into Evidence-Based Practice
- Galvanizing Resources

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Definition of "Rural"

(supplied by National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention)

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/Newdefinitions

- OMB changes in Census 2000 (released in 2003)
  – Metropolitan (metro) and non-metropolitan (non-metro) classification system often used to define urban and rural America

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

– Non-metro America comprises 2,052 counties, contains 75 percent of the Nation's land, with 17 percent (49 million) of the U.S. population

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

– Non-metro counties are outside the boundaries of metro areas and are further subdivided into two types: micropolitan (centered on urban clusters of 10,000 or more persons), and all remaining are "non-core" counties

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

- Census Bureau modifications for measuring rural as territory located outside of urbanized areas and urban clusters
  - Rural includes open country and small settlements of less than 2,500 persons

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

- Urban clusters – small towns and cities that have adjoining towns or suburbs, both incorporated and unincorporated aggregations

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

- Thinly settled territory near towns whose city limits are very broad are considered rural
- Changes resulted in considerable shifts in rural geography and population – U.S. rural population was 59 million (21%) in 2000

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

- 2003 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes for Non-Metro Counties
  - Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to metro area
  - Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

- Urban population of 2,500 or more, not adjacent to a metro area
- Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to metro area

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Definition of "rural", cont'd

- Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area
- Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area

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Service Delivery in Northwest Minnesota

- Geographic service area is 3,278 square miles of Northwestern Minnesota
- Population density average is 13 people per square mile

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Service Delivery in Northwest Minnesota, cont'd

- Declining population due to fewer employment opportunities and smaller family size
- Decline in small businesses with resulting longer distances to big retail centers

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Service Delivery in Northwest Minnesota, cont'd

- High elderly population
- Natural Disasters – Red River Valley Flooding of 1997, 2002 and portions annually
- Increase in methamphetamine usage

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Obstacles/Advantages in Moving to Evidence-Based Best Practice

- Population base
  - Diversity is not an urban issue
- Geographic isolation
  - Transportation and distance issues
  - Technology issues

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Obstacles/Advantages in Moving to Evidence-Based Best Practice, cont'd

- Funding high-end services
  - The difficulty of specialization

AND…

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Obstacles/Advantages in Moving to Evidence-Based Best Practice, cont'd

- Greater relationship opportunity
- Greater visibility of offenders
- More opportunity for collaboration with local law enforcement, public defenders, state attorneys, service offices

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Obstacles/Advantages in Moving to Evidence-Based Best Practice, cont'd

- Fewer administrative hoops
- Accessibility to the judiciary and other decision makers
- Setting informed agency direction

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Advantages to Evidence-Based Practices in Rural Settings

- Reducing juvenile out-of-home placement
- Restorative practices may fit rural culture
- Reducing jail population with less costly alternatives

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Advantages to Evidence-Based Practices in Rural Settings, cont'd

- Consistency in practice
- Setting direction for the criminal justice practice
- Reducing recidivism

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Turning Me into WE

- Creating intentional relationships
  - Local policy makers
  - School districts' needs and services
  - Human service agencies' needs and services
  - Impacting sentencing

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Turning Me into WE, cont'd

- Understanding the funding policies of service providers in order to access offender services
  - Mental health services
  - Medical health services
  - Human and family services

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Turning Me into WE, cont'd

  - Private non-profit service providers
  - Education services
  - Chemical dependency service providers
  - Transportation services

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Implementing Evidence-Based Practice Small Scale

- Staff training is essential
  - Building agency capacity to provide in-house training
  - Sensitivity to language, gender, cultural barriers

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Implementing Evidence-Based Practice Small Scale, cont'd

- Offender assessment
  - Selection of risk/needs tools
  - Utilizing results in case planning

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Implementing Evidence-Based Practice Small Scale, cont'd

- Re-ordering supervision priorities
  - Staff time and supervision type
  - Utilizing risk/need assessment to classify supervision type
  - Para-professionals vs. professionals

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Implementing Evidence-Based Practice Small Scale, cont'd

- Staffing case assignment
  - Offender/probation agent matches are difficult
  - Specialized caseloads are costly
- Case planning in collaboration with service providers

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Implementing Evidence-Based Practice Small Scale, cont'd

- Building action oriented programs with partners targeting specific risk factors
- Reporting centers for low risk offenders

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Collaborating for Service Dollars

- Establishing a permanent task group or collaborative whose sole purpose is to bring down federal/foundation dollars
  - Find your regional partners
  - Fund grant writers
  - Develop regional identity

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Collaborating for Service Dollars, cont'd

- Developing the local agency services clients need
  - Understanding service partners' operations
  - Identifying competing priorities

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Collaborating for Service Dollars, cont'd

  - Using your sphere of influence to develop partners' understanding of offender service needs based on reducing recidivism
  - Building capacity of human service agencies to meet offender or agency needs

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Galvanizing Resources to Effect Change

- Formalizing collaboration and partnerships
- Cost sharing or service sharing agreements

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Galvanizing Resources to Effect Change, cont'd

- Joint grant applications that have regional impact
- Assist in developing regional service providers' methods that address offender risk/needs

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A Small Success Story

- Northwest Minnesota Region of 3,278 square miles and no adolescent chemical dependency services
- Referrals to 12 step adult programs in lieu of age appropriate, evidence-based services
- Developing new plan with multi-agency involvement

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A Small Success Story, cont'd

- Advertising a joint request for proposals
- Selection of vendor....failure at implementation
- Starting over selecting an EBP program model with staff

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A Small Success Story, cont'd

- Cross training social workers, probation agents, mental health staff in the "Changes" model
- Corrections takes the lead in hiring licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors
  - Formalizing a joint staffing process for admission; advisory group process and on-going programmatic review

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A Small Success Story, cont'd

- Developing the business model for payments from insurance / MA
- At last breaking even financially and positive support for continuation

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RESOURCES

- "What Works and What Doesn't in Reducing Recidivism: The Principles of Effective Intervention." Presented by Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D., Center for Criminal Justice Research Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati at www.uc.edu/criminaljustice 2007
- Rural Assistance Center at www.raconline.org/
- "Am I Rural" http://maps.rupri.org/circ/racrural/report.asp

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RESOURCES, cont'd

- "An Implementation Guide for Juvenile Holdover Programs." NHTSA (2001), www.nhtsa.dot.gov

- Bureau of Justice Assistance, Community Justice Series,#3 "Four Examples and Four Futures." Walter J. Dicky, Professor of Law, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Peggy McGarry, Principal, Center for Effective Public Policy

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RESOURCES, cont'd

- "From Theory to Practice – What Works in Reducing Recidivism." Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D. University of Cincinnati. On-line library National Institute of Corrections, http://nicic.org/Library

- "Case Classification for Juvenile Corrections: An Assessment of Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory" Anthony W. Flores, M.S., Lawrence T. Travis III, Ph.D., Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D., Center for Criminal Justice Research, Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati

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RESOURCES, cont'd

- Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties on the web at www.maccac.org

- Gender-Responsive Strategies for Women Offenders, "Responding to Women Offenders: The Department of Women's Justice Services in Cook County, Illinois," by Judy Berman, Ph.D. National Institute of Corrections, August 2006

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RESOURCES, cont'd

- "A Blueprint for Change: Improving the System Response to Youth with Mental Health Needs Involved with the Juvenile Justice System," by Kathleen Skowyra and Joseph J. Cocozza, Ph.D., National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice at www.ncmhjj.com June 2006

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Collaboration at Work

Northwest Minnesota Council of Collaboratives

http://www.councilofcollaboratives.org
http://www.nwmnconnections.org

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Susan E. Mills, Executive Director
Tri-County Community Corrections
600 Bruce Street
Crookston, MN 56716
(218) 281-6363
susan.mills@co.polk.mn.us

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