

THE ROLE OF TREATMENT PROGRAMS: GRADUATED RESPONSES FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH

Randolph D. Muck, M.Ed.

Advocates for Youth and Family

Behavioral Health Treatment, LLC



The Importance of Teams

- “Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated, and systemic approach to working with youth and families”
- “Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, non-adversarial work team”
- “Schedule frequent interdisciplinary reviews and be sensitive to the effect that juvenile justice and treatment actions can have on youth and families”

Considerations for Treatment Providers



How do the below differ, and which are best at behavior modification in a treatment milieu?

- Positive Reinforcement
- Negative Reinforcement
- Punishment

Comprehensive Assessment and Treatment Planning

- Tailor interventions to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families” (How does a rigidly implemented EBP fit in?)
- Tailor treatment to the developmental needs of youth
- Recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program and clearly define differences between treatment and justice goals, while offering support to meet the goals of justice

Assessing the true needs and resources: what is appropriate in a treatment setting?

- Conduct a strengths based assessment: (NPC Research Youth Competency Assessment)
http://www.npcresearch.com/materials/_yca_tools.php
- Individualize responses and direct toward pro-social and strengths/needs of youth (picking up trash is not a treatment intervention, though it may be a logical and natural consequence from the court)
- “Build partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.”

Personal Goal Activities

- Adolescent Leisure Questionnaire/PAL
 - Education
 - Health
 - Employment
 - Family/Friends
 - Legal
 - Personal Improvement
 - Sobriety
 - Social/Recreational
 - Household
 - Self-Selected/Other

Reference for Contingency Management and Adolescent Leisure Questionnaire

American Journal on Addictions, 2008, Vol. 17, No. 4 :
Pages 278-286

Contingent Reinforcement of Personal Goal Activities for Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders During Post-Residential Continuing Care

Susan H. Godley, Mark D. Godley, Kelli L. Wright, Rodney R. Funk, and Nancy M. Petry

Focus on Strengths

- “Maintain a focus on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between treatment, the court, and those it serves”

Goal-Oriented Treatment Responses

- Respond to compliance and noncompliance in treatment with treatment appropriate responses: homework with a goal, positive reinforcement, step-up or down in treatment consistent with need, reinforce and modify the behavior of youth and their families and possibly modify the treatment plan

Incentives & Sanctions: Language of Justice, Not Treatment

- Historical JJ responses vs. modification of behavior through a coordinated and thoughtful (research informed) process
- Punishment for a “wrong” is not the goal – behavior change is the goal
- While Justice uses a balance of incentives and sanctions, treatment is focused on the goals of treatment with responses matching
- Treatment is **NOT** an arm of the justice system

Maximizing Response Effects

- Key components:
 - ▣ Immediate, certain, fair and of appropriate intensity
 - ▣ Do not rely on standardized “lists” or “treatment plans”
 - ▣ Punishment alone is least effective way to change behavior – punishment does not belong in the treatment toolbox
 - ▣ Be comfortable with paradoxical intervention
 - ▣ Be cognizant of time
 - ▣ Perceptions of fairness – it all begins with individualization
 - ▣ Make sure youth understand their positive and negative reinforcers

Behavioral Contracting

- Use contracts as behavior change tool
- Educate youth and family early and often regarding the individualized nature of the program
- Coordinate treatment and JJ case management plans to alleviate potential incentive/sanction conflicts
- Exploration of current JJ Incentive & Sanction process, list, and purpose; Exploration of reassessment and treatment plan updates in the treatment process

Behavioral Contract Example/JJ and Treatment Working Together

Goal	Behavioral Tasks Linked to the treatment plan	Incentives	Non-compliance	Sanction: belongs to the court, be aware but not involved in the sanction
Enroll in GED program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Call or visit GED center by xxxxx date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Praise •Recognition from Team/Therapist • Fish Bowl •XXXXXX 	Failure to contact by XXXX, revisit issue and explore barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increased reporting to PO •Increase in curfew •EM

Activities/Compliance

Contracting/Contingency Management

- Pick One or Two Activities
- For each completed get to draw from fishbowl

- OR.....

- For each completed activity/goal, place token in a bowl. If all tokens in = pick from fishbowl
- Can have small, medium, large gifts
 - (Source: Petry et al., Rosenthal & Rosenthal)

Activities Contract Example

Goal	Activity	Verification	When will it occur? Who will initiate? Have youth write it down, step by step. Role play.	Sanction (Only applies to the court) Treatment Response as needed
Family/ Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Go to a family movie•Have family dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note from parents• Written summary of movie/conversation		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• XXXXX

Contact Information



Randolph D. Muck, M.Ed.

Senior Clinical Consultant

Advocates for Youth and Family

Behavioral Health Treatment, LLC

Phone: 240-397-3918

E-mail: randy@ayftx.com

Website: ayftx.com