



Iowa Juvenile Court Services Model of Practice

Mission

The mission of the Juvenile Court Services is to serve the welfare of children and their families within a sound framework of public safety. JCS is committed to providing the guidance, structure and services needed by every child under its supervision. In partnership with the community, JCS directs delinquent children toward reforming their behavior in the context of increased accountability, enhanced community restoration, and expanded personal competencies.

Values and Principles

The work JCS engages in with youth and families is guided by the following values and principles:

- Collaboration
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Community Engagement and Outreach
- Evidence Based Practice
- Equity and Fairness
- Strength-Based
- Trauma--Informed
- Youth and Family Engagement

JCS MODEL OF PRACTICE: RISK, NEED, AND RESPONSIVITY (RNR) AND CRIMINOGENIC RISK/NEED

Risk, Need, and Responsivity

JCS service delivery is based on the Risk, Need, and Responsivity Model of Practice and Criminogenic Risk/Need. This model is the driving force in identifying and addressing the treatment needs of juvenile justice involved youth. It considers personal, interpersonal, and social factors as being involved in the acquisition and maintenance of criminal behavior.

The Risk Principle or the “Who” stipulates that only those offenders with a higher probability of recidivism should be targeted for treatment and the highest risk youth should be provided the most intensive treatment.

The Need Principle or “What” requires the use of standardized assessment to identify and target the criminogenic risk/need factors that contribute to delinquency.

Responsivity or the “How” requires that the style and mode of intervention be matched to the offender’s learning style and abilities.

Criminogenic Risk/Need

Criminogenic Risk Factors are the characteristics, traits, problems, or issues of an individual that directly relate to the individual's likelihood to re-offend and commit another crime. There are two categories of criminogenic needs: static and dynamic. Static factors cannot be changed or addressed by any sort of program or therapy in the prevention of future crimes. In contrast, dynamic factors can be addressed by therapy, training, education, and/or targeted programming and subsequently altered to result in more law-abiding behavior.

The eight (8) criminogenic risk factors are anti-social behavior, anti-social personality, anti-social cognition, anti-social peers, family/relationships, school/work, leisure/recreation, and substance abuse.



JCS PURPOSE

- Achieve community safety through risk reduction
- Rehabilitate or habilitate the offender
- Work with schools and communities to reduce the risk factors associated with delinquency



CORE TREATMENT PRINCIPLE

The most effective interventions are behavioral-based and

- Focus on current factors that influence behavior
- Are action oriented
- Appropriately reinforce offender behavior

EFFECTIVE BEHAVIOR MODELS

The most effective treatment programs

- Structure social learning where new skills and behaviors are modeled
- Include cognitive behavioral approaches that target criminogenic risk factors
- Utilize a family base approach that train family on appropriate techniques
- Utilize trauma-informed and evidence-based treatment modalities
- Match the treatment to the individualized needs of the youth

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Juvenile Court Services utilizes evidence-based practices that result in the Juvenile Court Officer (JCO):

- 1) Assessing offender's criminogenic needs and risk factors using the Iowa Delinquency Assessment;
- 2) Utilizing a standardized structured process for determining level of supervision, type of service, and when it is appropriate to place a youth in out-of-home placement;
- 3) Targeting traits, skills, conditions, and behaviors that are most likely to lead to recidivism;
- 4) Engaging offenders in the change process;
- 5) Utilizing Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) and Motivational Interviewing (MI) to ameliorate offender's risk factors;
- 6) Matching intervention strategies to offenders' individual needs and circumstances;
- 7) Planning strategies, in collaboration with each Child and their Family, to facilitate behavioral change;
- 8) Adhering to the principles of restorative justice; and
- 9) Utilizing the Detention Screening Tool (DST) to structure juvenile detention decisions.