

# Working with Sex Offenders

*The Elements of a successful collaboration*

**2017 Reentry Summit – Instilling Hope, Enhancing Partnerships**  
**November 7-8, 2017**

Racine Vocational Ministry and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections



# How do we address the issues?



Where do I go from here?



Employment Opportunities



We offer support and hope

Transformation & Family Unification

# WI-DOC – What matters to us

- Introduction

- Nicole Brierly – DOC Probation & Parole – 12 years experience. BA Social Work UW –Whitewater, specialty case load of Sex Offenders, Mental Health, NGI and 980 offenders

- DOC Program Priorities

- SOT Treatment
  - Thinking for a Change ©
  - AODA, DV, Anger Management



# RVM – What matters to us

- Introduction - Heather Bennett, Program Coordinator – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Re-Entry Program
  - BA – Human Services (senior standing), Assoc. of Applied Science in Human Services, SAC-IT, MI Certified, AODA Certificate, Thinking for a Change Facilitator, Trainer of ORAS assessment system.
  - 3 years in Re-entry services, Support Specialist – META House, Disability Services – Gateway Technical College

- Evidence-based practice

*Consistent & Rigorous Application for Results*

- Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) – The country’s leading re-entry tool developed by the University of Cincinnati – Three years experience using tool. RVM has been trained directly by the U of C staff.
- Motivational Interviewing (MI) – The leading practice in creating behavioral & cognitive change

- Faith-based foundation

*Commitments that build trust and rapport for lasting change*

- We believe that all people have gifts that will allow them to succeed
  - We encourage people to focus on the “greater good”
  - Faith in a higher power encourages hope and enables motivation
- Respecting participants as people first and offenders second
    - Relationships matter – they are fundamental to trust and openness



# Collaboratively – What matters to us

## What is working for our programs

### 1) Collaboration

- Agent and the offender
- Agent and treatment providers
- Agent and offender/family/community

### 2) Evidence Based Practices

- Journals
- Homework
- Ongoing Assessment

### 3) Successes

- Focusing on the positive
- 4 to 1
- Reducing recidivism

### 4) Housing



# Pulling in the same direction

## 1) Shared Case Management

- Risk, Need, Responsivity
- Collaborative case management, planning
  - Working together to support plans that support each other
- Eliminates triangulation

## 2) Safe and Positive Pro-Social Engagement

- Self-help groups
- Encouraging Family/social relationships when appropriate
- Building in pro-social safe activities





# Keys to Enabling Success



## 1) Communication

- Opening lines of communication between agent, participant and case manager

## 2) Trust

- Eliminating “Us vs. Them” narrative
- Developing relationships with participants to establish trust

## 3) Evidence-Based Practices

- ORAS
- STATIC 99 R/Compass
- Motivational Interviewing

# Data – What do the numbers tell us?

## 1) Recidivism

- 0 gone back for a new sex offense
- 4 successfully completed supervision (**14.2%**)
- 3 returned to prison with new felony charges
- 3 returned to prison for ES violations only (no new charges)
- Only working with high risk offenders
- **10.7%** recidivism vs. State Average for high risk offenders **42%**

## 2) Dosage – a key to high risk re-entrants

- Average RVM dosage is 23.71 programming hours
  - Average programming contact = 6 months

## 3) Evidence based practice

- Partnerships with orgs that share evidence-based values / practices creates positive results



# Participant Stories

- 1) Prince Abbott – Morning Session
- 2) Eric Fleming – Morning Session
- 3) Chris Radcliff – Afternoon Session
- 4) Alfred Waldrop – Afternoon Session



# Questions and Answers

Feel free to ask questions of the providers or the participants.



Heather Bennett, Program Coordinator  
Second Chance Program, RVM  
214 Seventh Street  
Racine, WI 53403  
262-633-8660  
hbennett@rvmracine.org



James Schatzman, Executive Director  
Racine Vocational Ministry  
214 Seventh Street  
Racine, WI 53403  
262-412-0823  
jschatzman@rvmracine.org

Nicole Brierly, Probation & Parole  
Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
9531 Rayne Road  
Sturtevant, WI 53177  
262-676-8921  
Nicole.Brierly@wisconsin.gov

