

# Looking at EBP 101



- Review of materials from:
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  - James Bonta, PhD
  - Ed Latessa, PhD
  - Compiled by Tom Rhodes, Monroe County Community Corrections

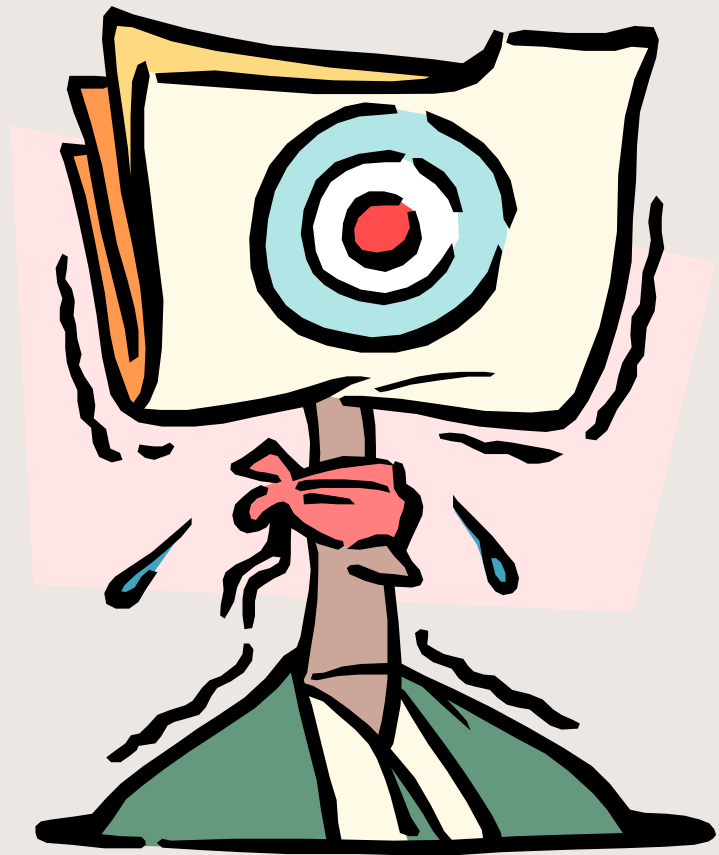
# WHAT ARE EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES?

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- The use of research to prove what is actually effective in reducing recidivism (risk to commit more crimes)
- This is not just compliance based – but emphasizes CHANGE

# Risk/Need Assessment

- Looking at history
- Looking at present
- Trying to predict the future



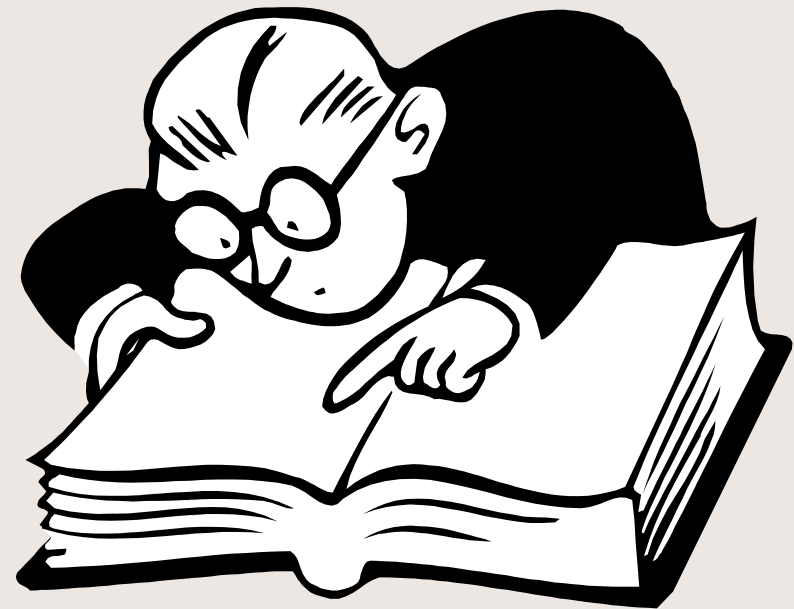
# General Principles of Classification

- Predicting future criminal behavior
- Matching levels of treatment/services to the risk level of the offender
- One size does not fit all!

# Factors Correlated with Risk

Simourd (1993)

- Lower Class Origins
- Personal Distress
- Family Structure/Parent problems
- Minor Personality Variables
- Poor Parent-Child Relations
- Personal Education/Vocational Achievement
- Temperament/Misconduct & Self Control
- Antisocial Attitudes/Associates



# The #1 Risk Factor

## Antisocial Attitudes/Associates



- Antisocial
- Pro-criminal attitudes, values & beliefs
- Views are supportive of a criminal lifestyle
- Associates act as role models
- Associates provide reinforcement
- Associates provide the environment
- Isolation from pro-social others increases risk

## #2 Temperament/Misconduct & Self Control

- Egocentrism
- Impulsivity
- A taste for risk
- Weak problem solving skills
- 40% of serious offenders commit their first criminal act by age 12
- 85% of serious offenders have committed an offense by age 14
- Escalation of offending
- Personality usually works in tandem with other risk factors



## #3 Personal Education/Vocational Achievement

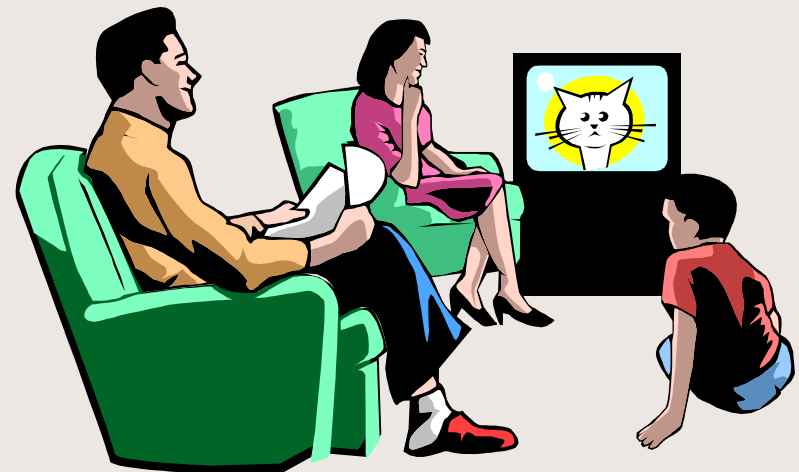


- Low levels of personal educational, vocational or financial achievement
- School & work performance
- Respect & interaction with authority figures



## #4 Poor Parent-Child Relations

- Family history of criminality & variety of psychological problems
- Low levels of affection, caring & cohesiveness
- Poor parenting supervision & discipline practices
- Outright neglect & abuse



# Minor Risk Factors

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- Anxiety
- Depression
- Lower class origins
- Self esteem

# General Principles of Classification Need

- Criminogenic

- Anti-social Attitudes
- Substance Abuse
- Peer Associations

These criminogenic factors  
if assessed & targeted  
can reduce probability of  
recidivism

- Non-Criminogenic

- Anxiety
- Low Self Esteem
- Medical Needs
- Creative Abilities
- Physical Conditioning

# Static Factors that do not change



- Prior offenses
- Prior substance abuse
- Family of origin
- Etc.

# Dynamic Factors can change



- Gain employment
- Gain GED /education
- Gain financial stability
- Gain better living conditions
- Gain pro-social support

# Assessments



- Indicate level of risk
- Risk level can drive amount of supervision
- Indicates areas of needs – focus on dynamic factors
- Does not replace sound judgment in using other sources of information

# What Works!



- Research shows that programs need to impact Dynamic Factors to see change
- Reducing key Dynamic Factors may lead to less recidivism
- Cognitive programs address the # 1 Risk Factor



# WHAT DOESN'T WORK

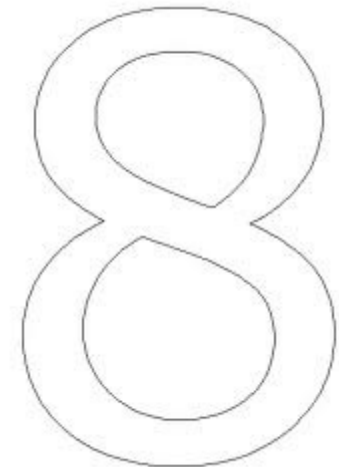
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- Boot Camps
- Scared Straight
- Straight Punishment
- Feel Good Programs – no research
- Mixing Low Risk with High Risk
- Placing Low Risk in Programming



# 8 Principles of EBP

- Assess Risk/Need
- Target Intervention
- Skill Train
- Increase Positive Reinforcement (4 to 1)
- Enhance Natural Motivation
- Engage Support in Community
- Measure Feedback
- Measure Relevant Practices



# Evidence Based Practices

**INVOLVES EVERYONE**