Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)

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Information taken from Assessments.com / Management Information System for a Juvenile Risk Assessment
Positive Achievement Change Tool

Wyoming’s New Juvenile Assessment Tool
Purpose

- Determine juvenile’s risk level to re-offend
- Identify risk and protective factors
- Determine most appropriate course of action
- Gather relevant youth/family information
- Maximize caseworker skills
- Case management
- Ultimately reduce recidivism
Background/Introduction

- PACT will replace all previous assessments used by DFS
- Started research over 2 years ago
- Trip to Florida/Washington to collect information and research PACT; interview Judges, DA’s, workers
- Implementation team developed; began meeting in May
- Rollout began October, 2008
- Rollout to be completed by May, 2009
PACT Assessment

- Washington Assessment developed in 1997 in Washington State
- Public/Private partnership between Assessments.com and Washington Institute for Public Policy and Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators to develop a validated risk and protective factor assessment instrument
- Originally designed to:
  - Determine risk level to re-offend
  - Identify targets of intervention
  - Monitor youth’s progress/case management plan
  - Reduce paper
- The Washington Assessment is used in 18 States and jurisdictions like Illinois, Florida, New York State.
PACT is:

• Valid
• Reliable (inter-tester reliability)
• Representative of risk and protective (strength) factors
• Representative of static and dynamic factors
• Clinically relevant- will easily translate into case plan items
• User friendly
Validity:

• The assessment should accurately measure what it intends to measure
  • Practitioner must feel it’s a useful tool
  • Face validity: the assessment adequately represents the concepts related to re-offending; a thorough examination of existing literature and field experience was used to guide the selection and development of the domains
  • Empirical validity: assessment can be shown to accurately predict re-offending; validated using 6 and 18 month recidivism results; Wyoming will validate
Reliability:

- A reliable instrument should produce the same results for the same subject when done by different assessors or when done shortly later
  - Extensive training
  - Certification procedures
  - Clear definitions
    - Item Level Definitions
    - Help Screens
Risk and Protective Factors:

- Many youth face the same risk factors.
- Why don’t all youth end up in the system?

**Protective factors**: Circumstances or events in a youth’s life that reduce the likelihood of the youth committing a crime.

**Examples**:
- Functional family environment
- Feelings of hope towards the future
- Pro-social relationships (youth and adult)
Static Vs. Dynamic Factors

• **Static Factors:**
  - Events in a youth’s life that are historic and cannot be changed

• **Dynamic Factors:**
  - Circumstances or conditions in a youth’s life that can potentially be changed
PACT is:

- Clinically relevant - will easily translate into case plan items
- User friendly
A Definition of Motivational Interviewing

• “A client-centered, directive method for enhancing intrinsic motivation to change by exploring and resolving ambivalence.”

• Miller and Rollnick, 2002
• Source: Assessments.com
Motivational Interviewing:

- **Agents of Change**
- **Discrepancy**: The inconsistencies between the client’s goals and their current behavior
- **Ambivalence**: simultaneous or contradictory attitudes or feelings
- **Motivation to Change**
DERS-MI

- Develop Discrepancy
- Express Empathy
- Roll with Resistance
- Support Self-Efficacy
Pre Screen Assessment

- Pre-Screen:
  - Completed to determine level of risk and:
    - Criminal History
    - Social History
    - Mental Health
    - Attitudes and Behaviors
Full Screen Assessment

- Criminal History
- Social History
- School
- Use of Free Time
- Employment
- Relationships

- Family/Living Arrangements
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Attitudes/Behaviors
- Aggression
- Skills
Criminogenic Needs

- Dynamic risk factors that have been clinically proven to be predictive of future criminal behavior.
Top 8 Criminogenic Needs:

- Anti-social attitudes
- Pro-criminal peers
- Lack of pro-social peers
- Personality factors conducive to criminal activity
- History anti-social behavior
- Low self control
- Dysfunctional family features
- Low levels of education or vocational achievement
- Low levels of involvement in pro-social leisure activities
- Alcohol/drug abuse

Domains:
- 10,11,12
- 6
- 1
- 7
- 3
- 4
- 8
The PACT Process

1. Explain to the youth the purpose of assessment in general and positive terms.
2. P.O. will convey that they have access to COLLATERAL information from school, and police and courts.
3. P.O will tell youth that they will get FEEDBACK on the assessment.

Source: Assessments.com
Source: Justice System Assessment and Training http://www.j-sat.com
PACT Process Con’t

• 4. Conduct the Motivational Interview
• 5. Complete the assessment online
• 6. Determine Level of risk to re-offend
• 7. Determine most appropriate course of action
• 8. Establish base line to measure youth’s progress and effectiveness of programs, services and interventions.
### Why Target High-Risk Offenders for Treatment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offender Risk Level</th>
<th>% Recidivism: Minimum Tx</th>
<th>Intensive Tx</th>
<th>Impact on Recidivism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>(↑ 6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>(↓ 22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(↑ 7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>(↓ 19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>(↑ 5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>(↓ 27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>(↑ 17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>(↓ 67%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Some studies combined intensive Tx with supervision or other services

Source: Justice System Assessment & Training [http://www.j-sat.com](http://www.j-sat.com)
9. Develop case plan—after the full assessment focused on interventions, programs and services.

**Establishing Goals and Tasks:**
- After assessment completion probation officer meets with the juvenile and his/her family to establish goals.
- Top three areas of risk are identified but any risk areas can have goals associated with them.
- Goals are established for not only the juvenile but also family members and the PO.
- The goals are measurable and have start and end dates.
- The PO monitors the tasks associated with the youth’s goals, records progress, sets new goals, and establishes new tasks.
- Protective factors are also displayed and should be emphasized and applied to reduce risk factors.
PACT Process Cont’d

10. Re-Assessments
    • **Re-Assessment:** The Re-Assessment is the juvenile probation officer’s principle tool for tracking the youth’s progress on factors related to re-offending. A re-assessment is the detection of changes in a youth’s risk or protective factors during supervision.
    • **A re-assessment does not require repeating the structured interview of the youth.** Rather, the juvenile probation officer reviews the risk and protective factor information prior to talking with the youth. Following a conversation with the youth, the juvenile probation officer records any changes discovered. Only factors that have changed are recorded.
    • Every three months or with significant event in case
Assessment Summary

• “The Washington Assessment is research based and is used to assess risk in order to assign youth to identified evidence based programs.

• The instrument was drafted following a meta-analysis of research literature and then modified based on feedback from an international team of experts. The assessment was revised again following reviews by Washington State juvenile court professionals, including a pilot test with 150 youth.

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy; March 2004
Summary Con’t

• The result is a 132 item assessment first used in 1999, currently used throughout the United States. The assessment has shown to be a valid and reliable tool to assess risk of recidivism.

• Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy; March 2004
Summary con’t

• The Washington Assessment is designed to accomplish 4 basic objectives:
  • 1. Determine a youth’s risk to re-offend as a way to target resources to higher-risk youth.
  • 2. Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the youth’s unique assessment profile.
  • 3. Develop a case management approach focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
  • 4. Allow case managers to determine if targeted factors change as a result of interventions.
Advantages of the PACT Assessment

- Noted increases in predictive accuracy (actuarial assessment versus clinical judgment)
- The identification of factors correlated with future criminal behavior
- The development of a case management plan
- The identification and effective use of resources
- Standardization of the assignment of levels of supervision and service
- Noted increases in staff proficiency
- Noted increases in assessment and interview skills

Source: Washington Institute for Public Policy 2004
Advantages Con’t

- Probation Officer acting more as agents of change
- Assists with a more strength focused approach
- Assists in motivating juvenile to change vs mandated to change
- More individualized and thorough assessment results
- Assessment is more family centered
- Incorporated all aspects of juvenile’s environment/personality
- Assessment drives interventions
- Consistent use across the state
Community Juvenile Service Boards

- Mandated central point of intake and common assessment
- Cities/counties choosing to participate outside of Department
Questions