

Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)

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Nicole Anderson

Department of Family Services (Nander1@state.wy.us)

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**

DEERS-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 Domains 10,11,12
- Pro-criminal peers Domain 6
- Lack of pro-social peers
- Personality factors conducive to criminal activity Domain 10,11,12
- History anti-social behavior Domain 1
- Low self control
- Dysfunctional family features Domain 7
- Low levels of education or vocational achievement Domain 3
- Low levels of involvement in pro-social leisure activities Domain 4
- Alcohol/drug abuse Domain 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?

↑ = Up

↓ = Down

Offender Risk Level	% Recidivism: Tx by Risk Level		Impact on Recidivism	Authors of Study
	Minimum Tx	Intensive Tx		
Low Risk	16%	22%	(↑ 6%)	O'Donnell 1971
High Risk	78%	56%	(↓ 22%)	
Low Risk	3%	10%	(↑ 7%)	Baird et al
High Risk	37%	18%	(↓ 19%)	
Low Risk	12%	17%	(↑ 5%)	Andrews & Kiesslin 1970
High Risk	58%	31%	(↓ 27%)	
Low Risk	12%	29%	(↑ 17%)	Andrews & Friesen, 1987
High Risk	92%	25%	(↓ 67%)	

* Some studies combined intensive Tx with supervision or other services

Source: Justice System Assessment & Training <http://www.j-sat.com>

PACT Process Cont'd

- 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

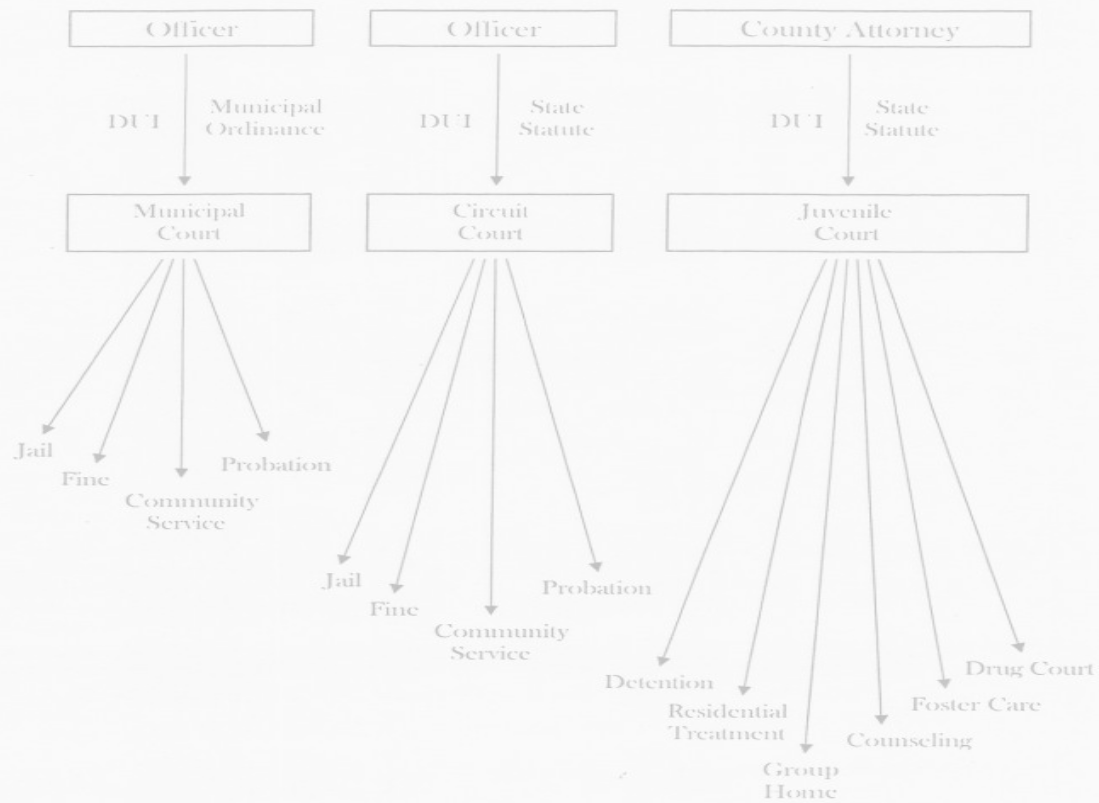
Advantages Con't

- 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

Current Juvenile System



Questions