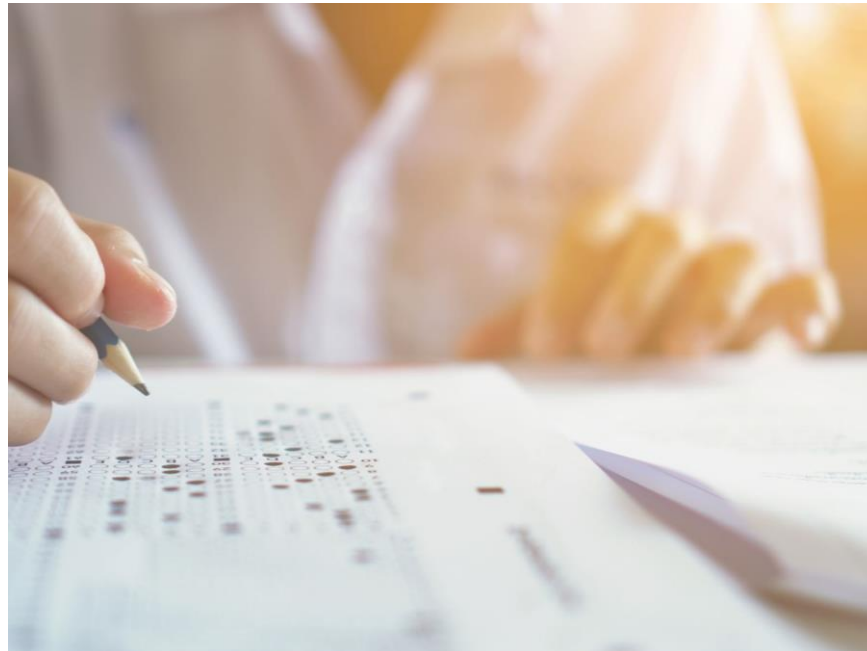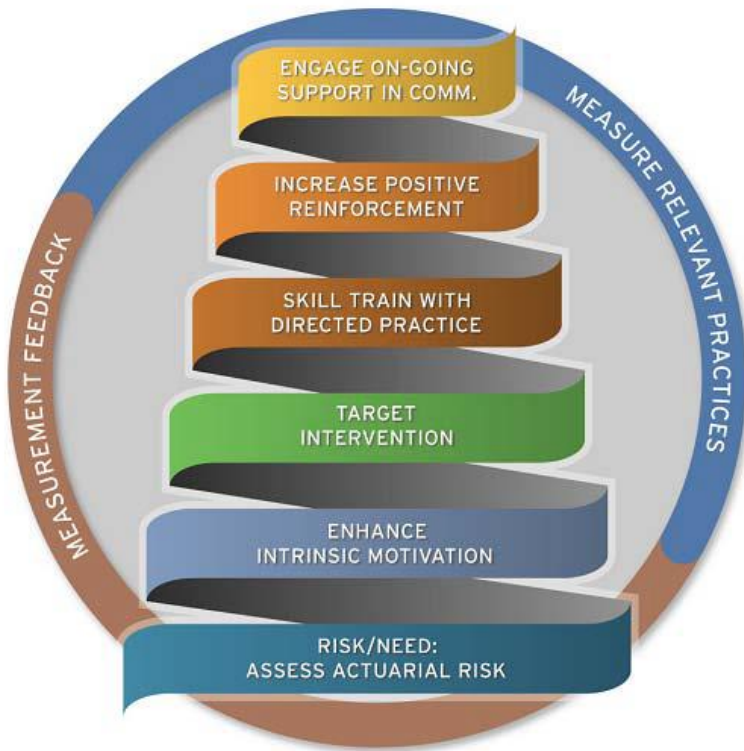# Offender Risk and Needs Assessments

Training Objectives

- Understand how assessing Risk to re-offend and addressing Needs (criminogenic factors) relates to reducing recidivism and increases public safety

- Identify various risk & needs (R/N) assessment tools/models

- "Administer" a Risk and Needs assessment and interpret results

- Understand how results are used to implement programs/interventions

ENGAGE ON-GOING SUPPORT IN COMM.

INCREASE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

SKILL TRAIN WITH DIRECTED PRACTICE

TARGET INTERVENTION

ENHANCE INTRINSIC MOTIVATION

RISK/NEED: ASSESS ACTUARIAL RISK

MEASURE RELEVANT PRACTICES

MEASUREMENT FEEDBACK

https://www.crj.org/

Risk & Needs Assessment (R/N)

- Objective, actuarial assessment: EBP&P

R/N Assessment

- Often valid across age, gender, race and economic backgrounds.
- Assists in making decisions concerning the necessary levels of supervision (Probation, Parole)
  - Low, medium or high risk
- Assists in decisions concerning
  - Sentencing
  - Institutional/Security level classifications
  - Need for programs, services, treatment
  - Pre-trial release
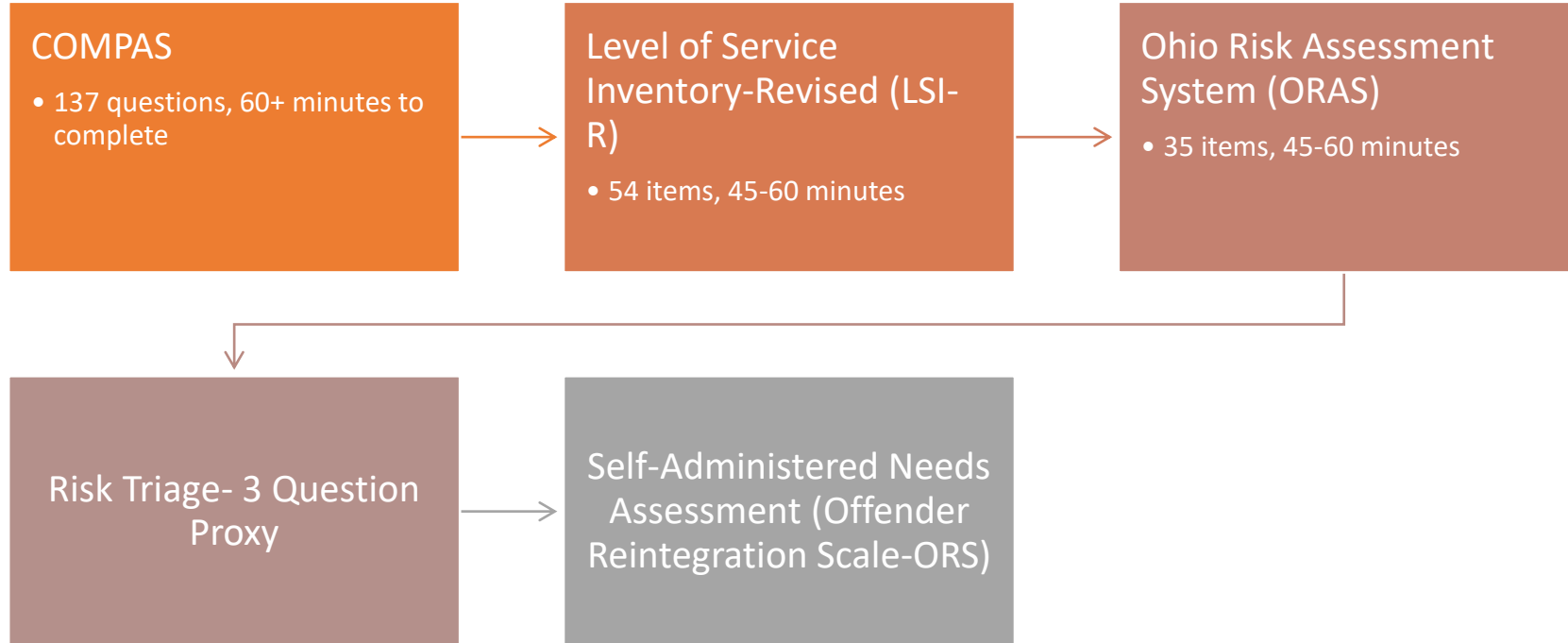 - Supervision Plan

Purpose of R/N Assessment

- Risk Principle
  - Match level of intervention, supervision, and classification to risk level
  - Identify "Who"
    - ✓ target population: Medium to low-high risk
- Need Principle
  - Identify "What"
  - Target services to criminogenic needs of offenders

Purpose of R/N Assessment

- Responsivity Principle
  - Determine "How"
  - Match treatment/program to severity/level of need/intervention
    - Frequency
    - Intensity
    - Duration

R/N Needs Assessment Models

COMPAS
- 137 questions, 60+ minutes to complete

Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R)
- 54 items, 45-60 minutes

Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)
- 35 items, 45-60 minutes

Risk Triage- 3 Question Proxy

Self-Administered Needs Assessment (Offender Reintegration Scale-ORS)

Administering a Risk/Need Assessment

- Face-to-face interview
- Include information from available records
  - Arrest history
  - Probation/parole reports
  - Other records
- Interviewer's professional judgment & training
  - Most assessment instruments require training and/or include administrator manual

Administering a Risk/Need Assessment

- Score response based on patterns of behavior, not a single event/incident
  - C = evaluate according to the client's current situation (past 12 months)
  - L = evaluate predominant behavior over client's lifetime

Administering a Risk/Need Assessment

- IN2 Rule
  - ✓ Applies when you are completing an assessment on a client who is **currently** incarcerated
    - Offender has been incarcerated 2 years or more, evaluate predominant behavior and supporting information over the most recent year in the institution
    - Offender has been incarcerated less than two years, evaluate behavior and supporting information over the most recent year in the community.

Risk/Need Assessment

- Demographic information
  - Offender name
  - DOB
  - *Gender
  - Cause/Case number
  - Screener name
  - Date (of assessment)

Risk Triage- 3 Question Proxy

http://www.j-sat.com/

Needs Assessment

https://www.paradigmeducation.com/content/offender-reintegration-scale-second-edition

ORS
Offender Reintegration Scale
Second Edition
John J. Liptak, EdD

Criminogenic Risk Factors

- Attitudes/Values/Beliefs
  - This is one of the most potent risk factors for criminal behavior
  - Pay attention to expressions and statements
    - Anti-social attitudes, rationalizations, minimizing
  - Compare, consider responses in other areas
  - More subjectivity in this area
  - Relates to readiness and motivation to change

Criminogenic Risk Factors

- Criminal Behavior
  - Past behavior is a good predictor of future behavior
  - Responses should be validated with available records
  - Responses can indicate a progression or regression in seriousness of criminal behavior

Criminogenic Risk Factors

- Family and Social Relationships
  - Information about early influences on an individual
  - Examines current socialization structure
    - Peers, friends, social "networks"
  - Powerful factors affecting an individual's inclination toward antisocial behavior
    - ACE-Adverse Childhood Experiences

Criminogenic Risk Factors

- Residence and Neighborhood
    - Residential factors reflect on lifestyle stability
    - Also relates to attitudes, values and beliefs

Criminogenic Risk Factors

- Education
  - Not directly related to criminal behavior
  - Reflects skills and behaviors related to stable and pro-social lifestyle
  - Used to identify education needs

Criminogenic Risk Factors

- Vocational/Employment/Financial
  - Reflects financial and social stability
  - Employment stability and/or ability to obtain employment
  - Reliance on financial assistance
    - Formal assistance programs
    - Informal assistance; family & friends

Criminogenic Risk Factors

- Alcohol & Drug Abuse
  - Alcohol and Substance Abuse are risk factors that correlate with recidivism
  - Separated as not all individuals are poly-substance abusers
  - Used to determine appropriate need for further assessment and treatment

Non-Criminogenic, but contributing Risk Factors

- Physical Health/Medical Concerns
  - Not necessarily "criminogenic" factors
  - But, may relate to "responsivity" to interventions/programs
  - Used to assess factors that may pose challenges or barriers to compliance

Non-Criminogenic, but contributing Risk Factors

- Mental Health
  - Mental Illness is not a criminogenic factor
  - But non-compliance with treatment and supervision conditions often results in criminal behavior
  - Dual diagnosis concerns
  - Used to assess treatment needs

Scoring and Interpreting Risk/Needs

- Sum score of all categories
  - Low requires minimal intervention and usually individuals are responsive to program/intervention
  - Medium requires moderate intervention with varied degrees of responsivity
  - High requires significant intervention, but responsivity is typically low

Scoring and Interpreting Risk/Needs

- Score in specific area
  - Areas scoring in the medium to high risk range require intervention
  - Intervention/program should be specific to needs area
  - Multiple needs can be addressed with comprehensive interventions

Interventions & Programs

- Attitudes (values & beliefs) area
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapies (CBT)
    - Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)
    - Thinking 4 Change (T4C)
    - SMART Recovery
- Family and Social Relationships area
  - Parenting classes
  - Couples counseling
  - Trauma informed programs/counseling

Interventions & Programs

- Education
  - High School Equivalency (aka GED)
  - ABE (Adult Basic Education)
  - Special Ed.
- Vocational/Financial
  - Vocational programs
  - Job Preparedness/readiness
  - Social Services

Interventions & Programs

- Alcohol/Substance Abuse
  - In Patient, Out Patient programs
  - Incorporate CBT
  - Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Interventions & Programs

- Physical Health/Medical
  - Social Services
  - Affordable Care Act (ACA)/CALAim
  - Basic Health education classes
- Mental Health
  - In Patient, Out Patient
  - Medication
  - Some CBT success

Wrap-Up

- Risk/Needs Assessment Models

- Purpose for Risk/Needs Assessments

- Challenges administering

- Evaluating the results

- Implementing programs

Questions?