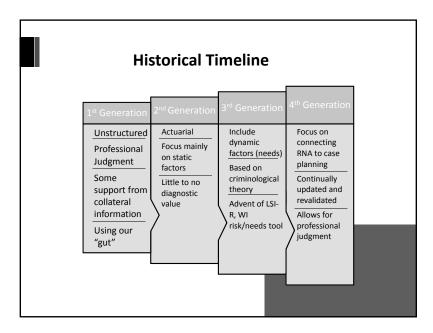


Learning Objectives

As a result of this session you should be able to:

- Identify the key components of a risk assessment and what a risk assessment is not
- Identify other narrow band assessment tools that allow treatment court staff to determine specific risk/need considerations
- Commit to using risk/needs assessment to inform entrance decisions and ongoing service delivery



Importance of Screening and Assessment

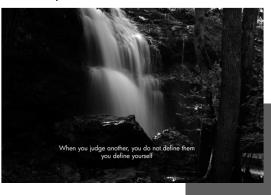
- To get the right people into program
- Focus on high risk-high need
- Targeting the wrong participants can do HARM



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Goal is to Assess Objectively

Avoid using "nick names" when discussing referrals that are being assessed by the team

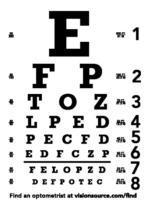


Decision

- A. Cutest kid in the state?
- B. Cutest kid in the country?
- C. Cutest kid in the world?
- D. Very Cute, but it's mostly subjective?

Answer is -

Quick Screen



What is Risk?

- Risk is derived from a blending of answers to at least 40 different weighted questions which fuels the risk score.
- What 3 static factors that impact a Risk Score more than anything else?
- A. Gender, Motivation, mental health diagnosis
- B. Treatment history, mental health diagnosis, support in the community
- C. Age, criminal history, age of first arrest

What is Need?

Need scales identify and measure the most problematic areas of an offender's life

Needs are the "fuel" to the risk "fire

Might be Bed Time?



Why pay attention to Risk / Need?

Always remember, high dosage for low risk clients can be potentially harmful to their outcomes.



Here's another reason:

Professional judgment alone

Use of actuarial tool

Patricia M. Harris, "What Community Supervision Officers Need to Know Clinical Judgment," <u>Federal Probation</u>, Vol. 70, Nr. 2 (September 2006)

Use of actuarial tool with professional judgment

Example of Risk

Female client with the following information:

- Very little criminal history, only 2 prior arrests.
- First arrest was at the age of 18.
- She is 27 years old.

What does this tell us?

Overall Risk Potential

Risk

Violent Beridivism Risk
General Reddivism Risk
Pretrial Release Risk
Decile 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

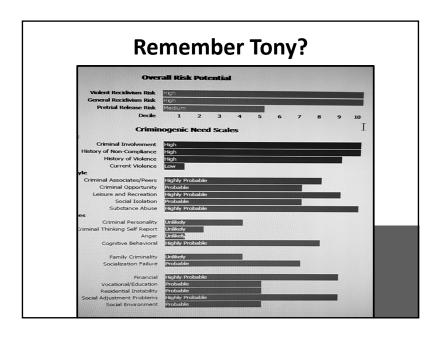
Need Scale									
Decile	1	2	3	4	s	6	7	8	9
	Crimi	nogenic	neea	Scale	25				
Criminal Involvement									
Criminal Involvement	Low								
History of Non-Compliance	Low								
History of Violence	Medium								
Current Violence	Low								
Relationships/Lifestyle									
Criminal Associates/Peers	Probable								
Criminal Opportunity	Probable								
Leisure and Recreation	Highly Probable								
Social Isolation	Probable								
Substance Abuse	Highly Probable								
Personality/Attitudes									
Criminal Personality	Highly Probable								
Criminal Thinking Self Report	Highly Probable								
Anger	Highly Probable								
Cognitive Behavioral	Highly Probable								
Family									
Family Criminality	Highly Deshable								
Socialization Failure								_	
300012001110110									_
Social Exclusion									
	Highly Probable								
Vocational/Education									
Residential Instability									
Social Adjustment Problems									

Risk/Need Example

- In this case the female shows low risk but does have higher needs. Would this person be eligible for your treatment court?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Not enough information

Collateral Information

- Referrals can sometimes struggle with honesty
- Do you gather collateral information as part of your screening / assessment process?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Not always



Screening Decision

Based upon the information you have, is Tony eligible for your program?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Remember Chelsea? Overall Risk Potential Violent Recidivism Risk General Recidivism Risk Pretrial Release Risk Docide 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Criminal Involvement History of Non-Compliance History of Violence Current Violence Current Violence Current Violence Current Social Izolation Social Izolation Social Izolation Social Izolation Social Izolation Social Izolation Financial Comminal Personality Ciminal Thinking Self Report Cognitive Dehavioral Financial Financial Financial Financial Social Adjustment Problems Readential Involvement Readential Involvement Readential Involvement Readential Involvement Readential Involvement Readential Involvement Social Adjustment Problems Social Adjustment Problems Social Environment Social En

Screening Decision

Based upon the information you have, is Chelsea eligible for your program?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Screening Results - Chelsea

- TCU Drug Screen 9 out of 9 (meets diagnostic criteria for suspected substance abuse dependency, indicates need for full substance abuse assessment)
- TCU Criminal Thinking Screen meets criteria for cognitive behavioral treatment
- Trauma Screen Does not meet criteria
- Mental Health Screen meets criteria
- URICA Action

Collateral Information

- Contacted Chelsea's attorney and found out that when she was 14 years old, her mother was sent to prison for a prostitution ring that Chelsea was involved in.
- Attempts to contact her father were not successful, but she did sign a release of information for him.

Action Plan

- Is Tony eligible for treatment court? Why or why not?
- What steps should you take to improve your referral system? Consider:
 - $\bullet\,$ Do your screening and assessment tools have validity ?
 - Who is trained to use these validated tools?
 - Is there empirical evidence with your tools?
- What steps can you take to improve your screening / assessment system to meet the standard?
 - Under what circumstances might we override the score?

Final Decision?

Is Chelsea Eligible for a Treatment Court?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Please turn off your clicker when done!