

Where We Are and Where We Need to Be

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Welcome!

17th century: Pascal's Pensees

"People are generally better persuaded by the reasons which they have themselves discovered, than by those which have come into the mind of others."

Martinson, 1974

Does nothing work?

Do all of these studies lead us irrevocably to the conclusion that nothing works, that we haven't the faintest clue about how to rehabilitate offenders and reduce recidivism? And if so, what?

1979: Edward S. Bordin



- Therapeutic alliance:
 - Agreement on relationship
 - Agreement on goals
 - Agreement on tasks
 - (Norcross, 2002, would add client preferences)
- Over 1,000 studies have emphasized the importance of the alliance in psychotherapy since (Orlinsky, 1994)

Salter, 1988 (p. 93)

- (T)he process of treating child sex offenders is heavily weighted in the direction of confrontation. Treatment requires continual confrontation.
- *No I don't trust you and you would be pretty foolish to trust yourself.*
- *Give me a break. What do you mean one drink can't do any harm?*
- However, later says that treatment should not be hostile. How do we reconcile this?

Parhar, Wormith, et al., 2008

- Meta-analysis of 129 studies
- *In general, mandated (coercive) treatment was found to be ineffective ... particularly when the treatment was located in custodial settings, whereas voluntary treatment produced significant treatment effect sizes regardless of setting.*



These days

- We know better
- We do worse

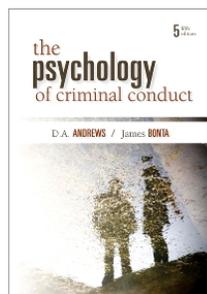
The Big Question

- *Do we want them to re-offend or not?*
- *What should we do?*
- *Who should we be?*

Andrews & Bonta (2010)

Three Principles:

- Risk
- Need
- Responsivity



Effective Programs

RISK Principle

- ❖ effective programs match the level of treatment intensity to the level of risk posed by the offender
- ❖ high risk = high intensity
- ❖ mismatching can result in increased risk

Effective Programs

NEED Principle

- ❖ effective programs target identified criminogenic needs
- ❖ sex offenders require sex offender specific treatment programming
- ❖ other programs may result in some ancillary gain, but risk for sexual recidivism likely will not be reduced

Effective Programs

RESPONSIVITY principle

- ❖ effective programs are those which are responsive to offender characteristics
 - cognitive abilities
 - maturity
 - motivation
 - mode of intervention
 - scheduling concerns

How do people change?

- Challenging “distorted cognitions”?
- Completing assignments?
- Following the manual?
- Or via a relationship experience where hope and possibility are renewed... or born.

Empathic, attuned interventions

- Unexpected
- Welcome
- Impactful

What we need

- Mindset
- Heartset
- Spirit

Compassion



Political climate

- Coercion
- Shame
- Blame
- Threats
- Punishment



We can leave no one behind

