

National Parole Resource Center

Resources for Boards Seeking to Build Collaborative Partnerships with Other Agencies

The National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) worked closely with two parole boards (Connecticut and Ohio) to assist them in building more collaborative partnerships with other agencies in an effort to reaffirm their goals to enhance public safety through successful offender reentry: to hold offenders accountable for their actions while delivering evidence-based interventions that reduce the likelihood of recidivism. To this end, both states were provided with targeted technical assistance and the design and delivery of a training event to enable the parole board, parole supervision agency, and Department of Corrections staff to consider how—together—they could support and further strengthen support and implementation of the principles of evidence-based practice. Both participating states focused specifically on implementation of a scientifically validated, dynamic risk and needs assessment tool to guide critical criminal justice decisions – institutional program assignments, case management and supervision, parole release and condition setting, responses to violations of parole, and revocation. Together, participating parole boards and their partners in each of these jurisdictions came together in order to:

- Learn more about existing efforts to strengthen practice in service of community safety and the wise use of resources;
- Implement the use of a consistent, research-supported risk and needs assessment instrument to enhance the ability of all stakeholders to be even more effective in their work;
- Identify key challenges that must be met in order to ensure successful implementation of a sound assessment system and broader implementation of evidence-based practice;
- Identify specific goals and objectives, which will contribute to the success and impact of these change efforts; and
- Agree on a plan for action that will enable participants to leave the workshop with a unified purpose and detailed workplans that will allow them to immediately begin implementation of tasks in their focus areas.

The training workshops focused on the following issues in particular:

- A review of the principles of evidence-based practice and the importance of collaborative risk and needs evaluation;
- A thorough explication of the specifics of the risk assessment and needs tools that will be implemented in each jurisdiction (the ORAS in Ohio and the and SCORES in Connecticut);
- An examination of the values and vision of each board and their participating partners;
- A presentation on the science of implementation;
- A discussion of how to most effectively undertake the challenge of implementing change with respect to a dynamic risk and needs assessment system;
- An examination of how these change in practice, tools available, and information will enable participating agencies to be more effective; and
- Action planning for implementation of new policies and practice.

For more information about the work in Connecticut and Ohio, contact Peggy Burke, NPRC Project Director, at pburke@cepp.com.