



EBP Corner

Special points of interest:

- Evidence Based Principles in DYS
- Principle 6: Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities
- Community Resources and Collaboration
- Examples of Engaging Ongoing Community Support in DYS

Evidence Based Principles in DYS

The 8 Evidence-Based Principles have a great impact on the effectiveness of services and interventions used with youth and their families, regardless of whether the service or intervention is applied within a placement or facility, or in the community.

Implementing evidence-based services, interventions, practices, and principles requires a significant amount of collaboration in order to achieve positive outcomes and reduce recidivism. Essential elements for effective and successful collaboration between facilities, communities, and support systems include: maintaining a common vision and purpose; maintaining healthy communication; ensuring integrity of services; encouraging effective problem solving; and maintaining accessible resources.

Relying on the importance of building and maintaining positive relationships with youth, their families, facility staff, treatment providers, and community members is a critical piece to ensuring long-term positive outcomes.

National Institute of Corrections. (2004). Implementing evidence-based practices in community corrections: The principles of effective intervention. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Crime and Justice Institute.

Principle 6: Engage Ongoing Support

Research literature indicates that many successful interventions with specific targeted populations (such as juveniles) are most effective with ongoing support and involvement from both biological and non-biological family members, mentors, volunteers, and other support systems. This requires providers (facility and staff) to

realign and actively engage **pro-social supports** from the home community.

Increasing support within the community has been shown to result in less recidivism and better outcomes for youth. The most effective treatments for reducing delinquency have been found to occur in the youth's natural environment and through the development of pro-social interpersonal bonds.



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Communities to Achieve Justice*

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Important Questions to Remember about Engaging Ongoing Support in Communities

Do we engage community supports for youth and families as a regular part of daily programming and facility operations?

Do we engage community supports for youth and families as a regular part of case planning and treatment planning?

Do we engage community supports for youth and families as a regular part of transition and reintegration planning?

How do we measure our community network contacts as they relate to a specific youth and family?

How do we measure our community network contacts in general?

Community Resources and Collaboration

Most services are typically integrated into a youth's natural environment. While this can't always be the practice while a youth is in a facility placement, there are many opportunities to engage support and build positive relationships.

Community supports (family and other) reinforce positive, pro-social behavior changes the youth has made while in treatment.

Skills need to be repeatedly introduced, taught, practiced, and repeated, with scenarios that are real and relevant for the youth and connect with their own experiences, belief systems, family systems, and community environment.

Pro-social support and resources include families, school, work/employment opportunities, leisure time activities, mentors, and support groups.



Examples of Engaging Ongoing Support in DYS

Family visits (including video or skype visitation)

Phone calls to families and other support systems

Mentoring opportunities with volunteers

Restorative Community Justice activities

Community services activities

Faith based services

Community transition passes and home passes

Educational opportunities

Vocational and post-secondary education opportunities

Family engagement activities

Questions about EBP?

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