

World Congress on Probation

10 October 2013

**"Evidence-Based Practices
and
Probation in the US"**

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"I am a Probation Officer"

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Evidence-based Practices – 10 Years

What Works – 20 Years

R/N/R - Almost 25 Years

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What do we have to show for it?

- Lots of activity
- Lots of talk
- EBP Fatigue

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In the US, overall, there is little in the way of comprehensive, quality implementation of EBP in probation.

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Inhibiting Factors/Barriers

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1. The Size of the US Probation (and parole) "System".
2. The Structure of the Probation System

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"Stupefying fragmentation of US
healthcare system"

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3. Governance of the System
4. Philosophy/Mission of Probation

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Conservative – get tough on crime

Liberal – make system fair and transparent

Martinson – Nothing Works

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- 5. Resources
- 6. The EBP Models
- 7. Anti-Science Bias

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Texas School Book Panel

"A number of its members do not accept evolution and climate change as scientific truth."

"There is little open talk of creationism. Instead they borrow buzzwords common in education, "critical thinking," saying there is simply not enough evidence to prove evolution."

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8. Implementation

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**"The Achilles Heel of
Evidence-Based Practice"**

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"Some assembly required?"

There is a lot of assembly required!

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9. Leadership

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Successful planned change requires:

A Good Model

+

Good Implementation

+

Strong Committed Leadership

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10. Examples of Successful Implementation

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Maryland Division of Parole and Probation

*Proactive Community Supervision
(1999-2004)*

"Tools of the Trade"

<http://nicic.gov/Library/020095>

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Travis County (TX) Adult Probation
Dept.

*Travis County Impact Supervision
Initiative*

(2005 - 2011)

http://www.co.travis.tx.us/community_supervision/TCIS_Initiative.asp

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11. Prospects for the Future

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- The Fiscal Crisis
- Waning Support for Mass Incarceration
- Non-partisan Advocacy Groups and Initiatives

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- Emergence of Conservative Political Support
- Growing Support for Probation and Community-based Treatment
- The Science of Implementation

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12. A Call for Leadership

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- Sustained, Committed Leadership
- Understanding and Acceptance of Difficulty of the Transformation
- Policy, Legislative and Fiscal Support
- Community Awareness and Support

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william.burrell@comcast.net