

# Reentry Strategies for Tribal Communities

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## Community Supervision

- What is it?
- How is it used to supervise tribal offenders?

## What are the benefits of community supervision?

- Court perspective?
- Offender perspective?
- Community perspective?

## Benefits—Court Perspective

- Cost savings
- Viable option to jail or other confinement
- Means for enforcing conditions of release
- Enhances credibility and accountability

## Benefits—Offender



- Stay at home
- Maintain (or seek) employment
- Access to needed treatment and other resources/services
- Maintain connection to community
- Maintain (or encourage) involvement in spiritual and cultural practices

## Benefits—Community



- Chance for restoration
- More system accountability and credibility
- Enhanced public safety

## Dual Role of Community Supervision Officers

A faint, grayscale background image of a pair of scales of justice, symbolizing balance and fairness.

- Enforce conditions of release
- Facilitate behavioral change
  - Using tools to determine factors that contribute to offending
  - Using resources available to address identified factors to reduce re-offense

## Why Do Risk Assessments?

A faint, grayscale background image of a pair of scales of justice, symbolizing balance and fairness.

- Provides credibility to community supervision
- Identifies those most and least likely to re-offend
- Identifies those who need specific interventions
- Improves proper placement of offenders
- Improves proper utilization of resources
- Reduces arbitrary decision making
- Enhances public safety

## Assessment Tools



- Decision making guides
- Supervision plan development
- Treatment plan development
- Provides objective measures for decision making
- **No universal tool**

## Decision Making Guides



- Pre-trial
- Pre-sentence investigations
- Supervision classifications
- Supervision case management
- Reclassification
- Violations of probation reports
- Early discharge decisions

## Three Types of Assessments



- Screening Instruments
- Comprehensive Risk/Needs Assessments
- Specialized Tools

## Screening Instruments



- Quick and easy
- Static items
- Detain or Not to Detain
- Primary Offender Risk

## Comprehensive Risk/Need Assessments



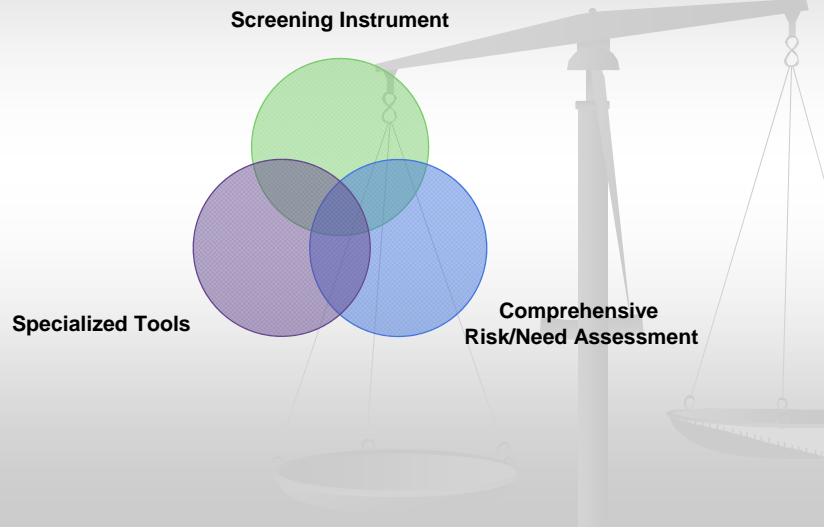
- Actuarial vs. Clinical
- Longer to administer
- More expensive
- Require staff training
- Provide outcome measures
- Dynamic—can be used for reassessment
- Facilitate case/treatment planning

## Specialized Tools



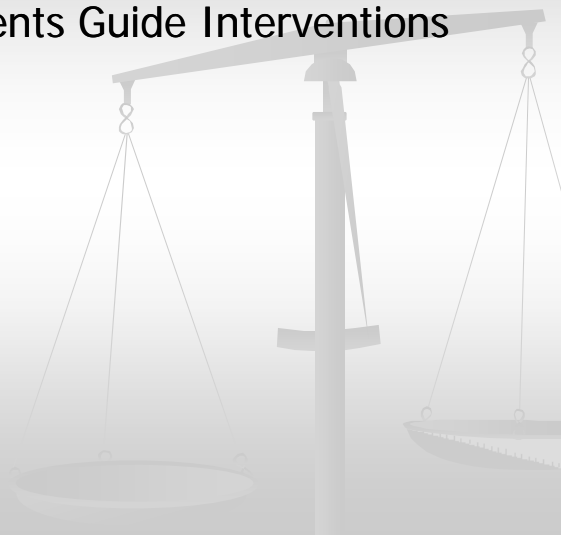
- Assess specific domains
- Require staff training
- Use in conjunction with comprehensive risk/need assessments

## Use of Tools



## Group Exercise

How Assessments Guide Interventions





## How do you identify which assessment is best for your jurisdiction?

- Questions to ask yourself:
  - Will personnel require training to render instrument?
  - Will you be able to analyze the results?
  - Extract meaningful results?
  - Appropriate for targeted audience (gender, cultural, developmental, etc.)?
  - Difficulty of tool to administer?
  - Is the tool valid/reliable?

## Reliability = Consistency

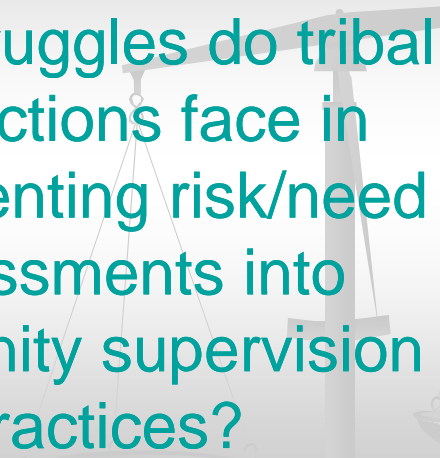
- Do we get reliable results each time we administer this assessment?
  - No matter how many times we administer
  - No matter who/how many different people administer it
  - Under all circumstances it is administered (e.g. in office, in jail, in treatment facility, etc.)

## Validity



- Does the instrument measure what we want it to measure?
  - Predictive validity = can we predict who will recidivate and who will not?
- Human behavior does not lend itself to 100% predictability!

What struggles do tribal jurisdictions face in implementing risk/need assessments into community supervision practices?



## Tribal Community Supervision

- Myriad challenges
  - Large geographic locations
  - Lack of funds to support community supervision personnel
  - Lack of funds to train community supervision personnel
  - Unique tribal laws and customs
  - Limited use of sanctions/incentives
  - Jurisdictional complications

## Community Supervision of Substance Abusing Tribal Offenders Project

- Funded by the BJA
- Managed by APPA
- Goals are to provide information, resources, training, and technical assistance on:
  - Benefits of community supervision for tribal offenders.
  - Development and implementation of effective community supervision practices for tribal courts.
  - Use of community supervision assessment tools as a means for holding tribal offenders accountable, identifying appropriate treatment needs and protecting public safety.
  - Development and implementation of effective correctional options.

## For Questions or More Information

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