

EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING ROUND-TABLE

IPAC
SUMMER CONFERENCE
June 23, 2016

Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council



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EBDM Defined

Strategic and deliberate method of applying empirical knowledge and research-supported principles to justice system decisions made at the case, agency and system level.



EBDM Defined

“Evidence-based decision making” (EBDM) is the practice of using research findings to inform or guide decisions across the justice system.



EBDM Framework

Public safety outcomes improve when:

- Collaborative partnerships
- Use research to guide work
- Work together



EBDM Framework

Goals:

- Safer communities
- More efficient use of tax dollars
- Fewer victims



ONE LESS

- *One less offender*
- *One less crime*
- *One less victim*



EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

EBP defined

- Policies, practices, and/or interventions supported by research



EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

EBP example:

- Research finding: empirically-based tools predict risk better than professional judgment.
- EBP: use of a risk tool to determine right amount of intervention.



Systemic Problems

According to Bureau of Justice Statistics:

- 67% of individuals released from prison are arrested 3 years after discharge.
- 30% of probationers are re-convicted for a new crime



87% of respondents indicate they would be more likely to support alternatives to jail if research consistently showed there are ways other than jail to reduce the likelihood that non-violent offenders will commit new crimes. Zogby International, August 2009



Systemic Problems

According to Bureau of Justice Statistics:

- 5 out of 6 defendants provided with a financial release condition are unable to make the bond amount set by the court.



RATIONALE

- Things can be improved.
- Improvement will come over time, through a succession of actions, each of which will provide the opportunity for learning.



The problem with most people is not that they aim too high and miss the mark, but that they aim too low and hit it. Michelangelo



RATIONALE

- Better than the status quo is, by definition, “better” and we should not wait to solve everything before beginning to improve some things.



RATIONALE

- We should be modest and realistic about our insights and abilities.
- We need to do something, because in the absence of informed action, nothing will change.



JUSTICE SYSTEM-CORE VALUES

- Public safety
- Fairness
- Individual liberty
- Respect for the concerns of victims and rights of the accused
- Respect for the rule of law
- Discretion
- Local control



93% of respondents indicate the criminal justice system should make neighborhoods safer. Zogby International, August 2009



EBDM PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: The professional judgment of criminal justice decision makers is enhanced when informed by evidence based knowledge.



PERSPECTIVE

- Actuarial tools: 17-year-old male more likely to have traffic accident than 40-year-old female.
- Actuarial tools enable professionals to assess an offender's level of risk.



EBDM PRINCIPLES

Principle 2: Every interaction within the criminal justice system offers an opportunity to contribute to harm reduction.



HARM REDUCTION

“Harm reduction” refers to decreases in the ill effects of crime experienced broadly by communities, by victims, by citizens, by families of offenders, and by offenders themselves.



EBDM PRINCIPLES

Principle 3: Systems achieve better outcomes when they operate collaboratively.



EBDM PRINCIPLES

Principle 4: The criminal justice system will continually learn and improve when professionals make decisions based on the collection, analysis and use of data and information.



Results-Based Management

- What gets measured gets done.
- If results are not measured, success cannot be distinguished from failure
- If successes cannot be distinguished, they cannot be replicated.
- If failures cannot be identified, they cannot be corrected.



89% of respondents indicate that criminal justice officials should tell the public how well they are doing at reducing crime. Zogby International, August 2009



EBDM in Indiana

- August 2010
- Grant County chosen to be a pilot for Phase II of EBDM
- Received NIC technical assistance
- Phase II goal: develop a plan for implementation of EBDM in county



EBDM in Indiana

- Phase III
- Implementation stage
- Grant County put its strategic plan into action
- Received NIC technical assistance



GRANT COUNTY PILOT

- Reduce the use of jail for low risk, nonviolent, pretrial defendants
- Reduce case processing time from arrest to disposition
- Increase victim satisfaction with the court process



GRANT COUNTY PILOT

- Reduce new offense rearrests for probationers.
- Improve housing stability, employment, and family functioning for probationers.



EBDM in Indiana

- Phase IV
- Planning teams in 5 states considered how to expand the initiative statewide



EBDM in Indiana

- Phase V
- November 2014
- Indiana was among 3 states selected for NIC assistance
- To develop a plan to implement system wide change strategies
- Align state and local jurisdiction
- With each other and with EBDM



EBDM in Indiana

- Phase V
- State planning team
- 6 local planning teams
- Grant County involvement



Six Local Planning Teams

- **Bartholomew County**



- **Hamilton County**



- **Hendricks County**



- **Jefferson County**



- **Porter County**



- **Tipton County**



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EBDM in Indiana

- Phase VI
- Similar to Phase III
- State teams and at least 3 local teams implement plans
- Grant County involvement
- Indiana is applying for NIC technical assistance.



A relatively small jurisdiction can still be innovative and sophisticated enough to protect the public by seeking to reduce recidivism through the use of research-based practices. Judge Jeffrey Todd, Grant County



I have been fascinated with the prospect of conducting business with a focus on a realistic and thoughtful assessment of crime and recidivism in our community based more on real evidence and less on what we suspect may be problems. *Police Chief David Gilbert, Grant County*





For more information:

<http://ebdmoneless.org/>

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