

**Innovative & Cost Effective Supervision**

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**PROBATION GROUP REPORTING**

Presented by:  
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② The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual BISC-MI Fall 2009 Conference  
② November 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, Battle Creek, Michigan

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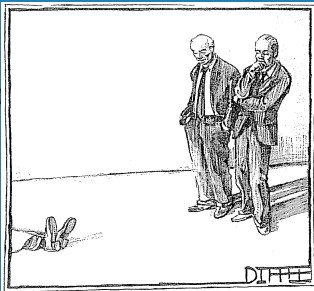
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"From the violent nature of the multiple stab wounds, I'd say the victim was probably a CONSULTANT."

Credit: Cartoon Bank

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Change Takes Resources:  
Reflection #10

② "Tradition is what you resort to when you don't have the time or money to do it right. "

Kurt Herbert Adler



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## THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE

- ⌚ The legal system advances or impedes therapeutic goals.
- ⌚ Laws can act as a therapeutic agent
- ⌚ Legal actors constitute social forces that produce therapeutic or antitherapeutic results.
- ⌚ Supervising Agents can enhance therapeutic outcomes by holding offenders accountable and enhancing the community's safety

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## PREVENTATIVE LAW

- ⌚ Come up with strategies to avoid or minimize the anticipated legal trouble
- ⌚ Proactively monitoring cases to insure that court orders are being carried out

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**CONSIDER?**

- Rationale for Specific Offenders.
- Why daytime, and evening groups.
- Offender & Community Safety
- Offender Accountability
- Clear message from the community



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**Why consider a supportive and accountable group reporting format**



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- Research has indicated that group work is often more effective and less costly than other alternatives.
- A similar research study of psychiatric as well as substance abuse patients revealed a decline in both symptoms and a need for treatment after patients entered support groups.

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**The benefits of monitoring**

- To the Agent
- To the Defendant
- To the Criminal Justice System
- To the Community

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**How group reporting supports compliance and change**

- Gives defendants a reference group wherein one shares...
- Provides an opportunity to hear multiple solutions from peers.

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**How group reporting supports compliance and change (cont'd)**

- Defendants gain hope



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**How group reporting supports compliance and change (cont'd)**

- Defendants often start confronting problems and accepting responsibility

Why?

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**How group reporting supports compliance and change (cont'd)**

- Defendants begin putting their problems in perspective and applying knowledge and skills deriving from experiences shared by others.
- The supervising officer can tap the strengths of group members, fostering independence and self-esteem in the process.



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**Before You Start**

- Find a location
- Assure staff safety at location
- Pick defendants from one particular program.

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## Before You Start (cont'd)

- ∞ Parole Officers need to be familiar with the program chosen
- ∞ Meet with the programs and inform them of your new monitoring practices.

(You will need their reports before each group meeting)

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## Getting Started

- ∞ Inform Defendants of the dates for PGM.
  - Have programs announce times /dates and locations
  - Post in Office
  - Put on phone message
- ∞ Keep groups between 15 and 25 defendants per one hour meeting
- ∞ Offer groups during the day and evening hours.

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## Start of Group

- ∞ Have Defendants pass in monthly/weekly reports.
- ∞ Announce purpose of the group.

I always say...

"I have never been on supervision, I can not tell you how to manage a family, job, and all the requirements of parole. However, several of the people in this room have done so successfully. We want to help you make it through parole and for this to be the last time. I willing to listen to your feelings and discuss options.

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## Start of Group (cont'd)

However I am not interested in complaining without a purpose. I know parole can be overwhelming for many of you, but if you look around you, are not alone and many of these guys are doing well. I also want to inform you of consequences if you do not comply, with the hope that you never have to experience them. Finally I want to monitor the program you are in and am interested in if you feel it is helpful or not"

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## BIP Weekly Reports

Week	Session #	Status	RDS #	RDS +/-	AA	Sub Tx	Demerit/Reason	\$ Paid	Balance
1/5/09	1		neg		AA	Y	N/A	25	0
1/12/09	2		Cancel		AA	Y	1 late	25	0
1/19/09		C1						0	
1/26/09	3		THC		No	No	2, AA Sub TX	25	0

The goal is to have multiple people watching the batterer.

Being able to identify non-compliance immediately.

Informing the correct people for safety and accountability purposes.

(What's your BIP's duty to warn policies?)

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## Real Time Web Based Reporting

First	New Session	Activity	Status	Absences Balance	Exceeded Absence	Tuition Balance	Aids Balance	Group
Jay	2	Cancel	Non-Compliant	4	4	275	5	FIMP
Paul	2	No Show	Non-Compliant	6	6	170	1	FWA
David	17	Cancel	Non-Compliant	6	1	60	3	T1T5.30
Matthew	2	Cancel	Non-Compliant	12	12	120	5	DTP
Tarance	48	EGS-Absence	Compliant	9	0	165	1	DTP
Balah	23	No Show	Non-Compliant	14	9	150	1	TTA
Donnie R.	20	Late Cancel	Non-Compliant	6	1	165	2	T1M8.00
William	48	Attended	Compliant	7	0	25	1	OTA
Michael	10	Mentor Session	Non-Compliant	7	2	215	2	T1T5.30
Lymon	37	Cancel	Compliant	9	0	95.00	5	TTA
Robert	4	Assessment Interview	Compliant	0	0	0	0	
Brendan	42	Attended	Compliant	5	0	50	0	OMP8.00
Fred	41	Cancel	Compliant	9	0	70	0	T1T5.30
Robert	37	Late Cancel	Non-Compliant	14	5	60	3	OMP8.00
James	47	Attended	Compliant	7	0	60	0	OMP8.00
Curtis	6	Attended	Compliant	1	0	25	0	FWA
Thomas	33	Attended	Compliant	7	0	50	0	TTA
Nathan	5	No Show	Compliant	3	0	80	2	FIMP
Al	11	Cancel	Compliant	1	0	0	0	T1M8.00
Barnell	2	Attended	Non-Compliant	8	8	-5	3	DTP
John	26	Cancel	Compliant	6	0	0	0	TTA
Dwayne	3	Cancel	Non-Compliant	3	3	275	2	FWA

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## Conducting the group

- Go through each defendant's personal report and reports from the agency .
- Focus on compliance issues: Is he attending and paying for services, doing homework, passing drug test etc.
- How is he doing in general, compliment him on progress or compliance.

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## Look for Cognitive Distortions

- That disavow responsibility
- That minimize the effects of violence, drugs/alcohol, crime, etc.
- That dehumanize or blame others.
- By challenging these distortions the Supervising Officer can achieve therapeutic results for the offender , group and society.

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## Keeping group interesting

- Try not to spend more than 5 minutes per issue.
- If an issue needs more time pull in feedback from more advanced members or people who can relate.
- Set guidelines on feedback (Tim can you tell Tom how you dealt with your lack of transportation to AA)

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## Setting Boundaries

- Do not allow offenders to enter group late.
- Do not allow hats to be worn, or disrespectful clothing.
- Do not allow disrespect or feedback that may collude with a defendants entitlement to engage in abuse tactics or substance abuse.

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## Other things to do at PGM

- Conduct PBT/ Breathalyzers.
- Invite guest (BIP staff, Victim service workers, Judges, Arresting officer, Substance abuse agencies etc)
- Offender photos.
- Make announcements. (About court requirements or services in the community)

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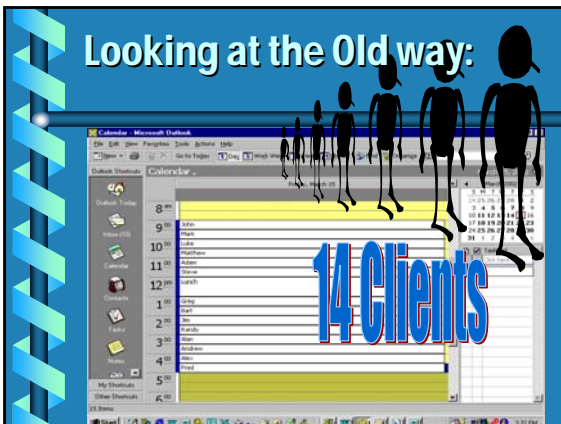
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## Looking at the Old way:



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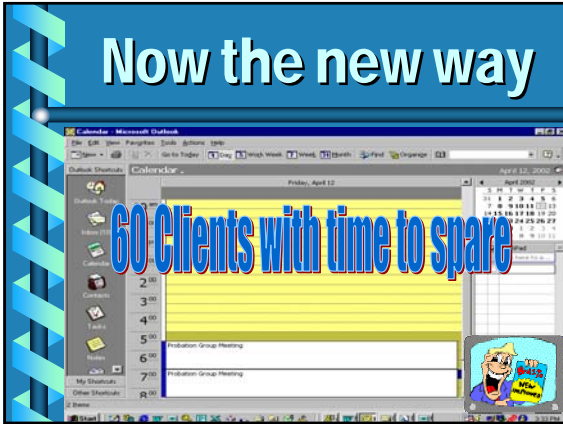
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## Now the new way



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## In the END

- ⌚ I have more time to complete other tasks.
- ⌚ Offenders spend quality time with agent.
- ⌚ Offenders earn leadership roles, often enhancing self-esteem and compliance.
- ⌚ Offenders understand the concepts of graduated sanctions and are less resistant to imposed consequences for their choices

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## PGM help with Court reviews

- ⌚ You have witnesses to what was told to the defendant.
- ⌚ Defendant could have been offered assistance from group. (document)

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**PGM can help with your CCR**

- Community partners can observe and...
- Educate you on group work
- Learn about your weaknesses
- Empower you
- Learn from you and the group
- Send a consistent message to offenders
- Create a unified front



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**Change Takes Resources:  
Remember**

**"Tradition is what you resort to when you don't have the time or money to do it right."**

Kurt Herbert Adler

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**Questions/comments/concerns?**

Corrections : Working smarter, not harder while being fiscally responsible



**Good Luck and Thank You!**

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**Thank You!**

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