

Psychopathology and the Mental Health Clinician

Assessment Five Project

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RESEARCH - MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS:

(a HANDOUT FOR LEGISLATORS FOR HOUSE TESTIMONY)

1. From the National Conference of State Legislators, Mental Health Needs of Juvenile Offenders, June 2007, by Sarah Hammond: The mental health and substance abuse needs of court-involved youths challenge juvenile justice systems to respond with effective evaluation and intervention. Active partnerships with the mental health community and other child-serving organizations can improve the care and treatment of these young people and prompt healthier results for individuals, families and communities.
2. From the American Psychiatric Association. (2010a). APA DSM-V Task Force Member Disclosure Report: Kenneth Zucker. DSM-5 Development (online). Retrieved from [http://www.dsm5.org/MeetUs/Documents/TaskForce/Zucker Disclosure 1-20-10.pdf](http://www.dsm5.org/MeetUs/Documents/TaskForce/Zucker%20Disclosure%201-20-10.pdf) Competency development approaches are based on the assumption that establishing and strengthening youths' bonds to conventional adults and institutions involves changing attitudes and behaviors of adults as well as juveniles, and reshaping organizational processes in adult institutions that exclude at-risk adolescents.
 - a- Youths should be actively engaged in productive activity with some potential to benefit others. They are also expected to make measurable gains in their own practical cognitive and social skills while serving others. Example: Drug addicts or alcoholics provide services and education to other substance abusers and find that as recovering service providers themselves they make therapeutic gains and learn more about their own recovery.
 - b- An important value of competency development is that youths who have been primarily perceived as a liability to local communities can become a resource and are capable of competent, productive behavior. They too find self-worth and a sense of belonging to a community.
- 3- From the U.S. Department of Justice:
 - a- It has been proven that when a child has a stable home they function better and are less likely to become a problem in their community. According to the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, suggest that children benefit more from a stable single parent home than a two parent home unstable or divorced home.
 - b- Programs that work to prevent criminal records for juvenile delinquents have the following elements (including but not limited to): To counter this having programs that build self-esteem; Provide positive role models who can actually interact with the child; Provide a program geared towards image reassessment and building.