

## **CORRECTIONAL VS THERAPEUTIC**

The Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI) theoretical roots and approach is from the Missouri's development over some four decades. Noted below are a few of the principles of the two approaches:

Crime violates State laws-----Crime violates people

Focuses on past behavior-----Focus is not only on past but moves beyond to the present and future

Punishment, paying debt to society-----Paying debt to victim/s and community, consequences

Crime stigma is irrevocable-----Stigma is removable, separates person from behavior

Custodial/behavior management-----beyond compliance to internalized change

Punishment Works....Suffering will cause change and enough penalties will maintain control

Kids being coerced and threatened produces change/ kids' crimes justify less than civil staff behavior

Staff members perform and view their job as meting out punishment in a harsh environment

### **In our work in the New Mexico system we were successful with:**

\*getting the first tier training completed and beginning second tier training toward sustainability

\*getting some of the system's mid-range leadership on board with the approach and practices

\*seeing some immediate positive results of reducing assaults on staff and youth

\*increased success with youth academic achievement and school behavior

### **The New Mexico Project was not successful with:**

\*completing second tier training leading to further system depth, outcomes and sustainability

\*dissolving all top Leadership "silos," to achieve sustainability

\* finishing and fully supporting the opening of the Lincoln Ruidoso program. Leadership there and beyond Lincoln Pines determined our information and approach were no longer needed.

In Summary, the work left undone above needs to be and can be completed. Although the system has regressed, there likely remains a presence of a therapeutic approach that could be resurrected and furthered.

**Tom Breedlove**

**Missouri Youth Services Institute Consultant**