CD-100000	NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT "We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always." Courage Responsibility Ethics Dedication - CREDibly serving the public safety of New Mexico **ISSUE DATE:** 09/15/15 **REVIEW/REVISED:** 09/15/15 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** 09/15/15 TITLE: **Evidence Based Programs**

AUTHORITY:

A. Policy *CD-010100.*

REFERENCE:

A. Pew-MacArthur Results First Clearinghouse Database
B. National Institute of Corrections
C. Association of State Correctional Administrators

PURPOSE:

The New Mexico Corrections Department is committed to promoting public safety and commits to utilize evidence based programs and promising practices in its development of formal policy relating to the quality and implementation of offender programming. Cost-benefit analysis will be utilized to ensure resources are being put into programs which provide measurable results to reduce recidivism.

APPLICABILITY:

All New Mexico Corrections Department employees, volunteers, service vendors, inmates and offenders under the supervision of the department.

FORMS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

None

DEFINITIONS:

A. *Evidence Based and Promising Practices*: Practices that have been empirically tested and have been shown to reduce recidivism among offenders.

B. *Evidence Based Programs*: The use of the best available research and information in program implementation.

C. *Cost-Benefit Analysis*: The approach that compares the expense of public programs to the returns they deliver enabling direct NMCD to direct limited funds toward the most-cost

effective programs while curbing spending on those programs that have proven to be ineffective.

D. *Request For Proposal (RFP):* bidding process by an agency or company interested in procurement of a commodity, service or valuable asset, to potential suppliers to submit business proposals.

E. *Professional Services Contract (PSC):* Agreement to provide professional or management consulting services such as administration, designing, feasibility studies, or legal or technical advice.

POLICY:

A. The New Mexico Corrections Department emphasizes public safety in its daily responsibilities and operations. Accordingly, it is the reduction of criminal recidivism that defines our public safety mission. By seeking programs which assist NMCD in its mission to reduce criminal recidivism, NMCD is offering communities a safer future. Efforts shall be focused on principles of evidence based practices:

1. Comprehensive inventory of current funded programs with a minimum of an annual review of the program inventory;

2. Basing its risk and needs assessment of offenders in validated and evidence based assessment;

3. Basing its programming efforts in sound science (evidence based) through annual review of which programs perform best;

4. Ongoing cost-benefit analysis to compare current programs to those determined through rigorous research to yield the most reasonable returns for investment of its resources, and;

5. Use the latest and most recent relevant evidence to inform program selection and implementation decisions.

Gregg Marcantel, Secretary of Corrections
New Mexico Corrections Department

09/15/15
Date

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PROCEDURE:

The framework for programming management shall be based on the following four (4) key components:

A. **Programming Assessment** - Annual systematic review of the effectiveness of the department's programming based on the latest and most relevant evidence.

1. Annual comprehensive program inventory shall enable the department to identify effective use of its limited resources while also supporting those programming activities that produce the more positive and tangible results.

2. The annual inventory shall include information regarding program design, costs, capacity, specific populations served and outcome monitoring.

B. **Review of Programming Effectiveness** - Rigorous research studies can test the effectiveness of NMCD funded programs. The results of these studies can identify programs most likely to produce positive outcomes and reduce criminal recidivism.

1. Considering the latest and most relevant research available, the department shall expand use of its evidence-based approach through consideration of its program inventory and available national evaluations to categorize how likely its programming choices are to produce the outcomes sought.

2. The department shall use the Pew-MacArthur Results First Clearinghouse Database, an online collection of data from eight (8) national clearinghouses to inform its review and assessment in rating those programs considered. As it relates to NMCD population, if a program is found to be ineffective, it shall be reviewed for re-design or removal in order to free up limited funding toward other evidence based programs.

3. Additional research from the National Institute of Corrections and the Association of State Correctional Administrators may also be used in program review.

C. **Overall Programming Goals** - To best shape its efforts to reduce recidivism and invest its limited resources, the department shall assure that no less than seventy percent (70%) of its

total programming is evidence based, following the criteria outlined by the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative.

1. Accordingly, programming selection shall follow a collaboration between the Adult Prisons Division, the Probation and Parole Division, Corrections Industries Division and the Recidivism Reduction Division utilizing principles of evidence based practices in determining final outcome to include by not limited to:

    a. Assess Actuarial Risk/Needs
    b. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
    c. Target Interventions
    d. Skill Train with Directed Practice
    e. Increase Positive Reinforcement
    f. Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities
    g. Measure Relevant Process/Practices
    h. Provide Measurement Feedback

2. Representatives from each of these Divisions shall provide a program inventory which will be combined into a single data base to for annual review of several key factors to ensure implementation of evidence based and promising practices.

3. In review of evidence based and promising practices the representatives shall take into consideration the unique population of New Mexico and it's needs in order to ensure fidelity and quality of programming to achieve best possible recidivism reduction outcomes to include:

    a. How the evidence is defined
    b. The criteria and standard for supervision levels
    c. The focus or target population of the program and
    d. The availability of providing services at the facility/county

4. In determining the specific needs for the population base, representatives will take into consideration both internal and external stakeholders, to include, but not limited to utilizing the RFP or PSC standardized process for possible programming implementation

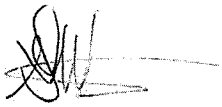
5. If it is determined the need to utilize outside contract vendors for programming, NMCD shall require potential contract vendors to provide written documentation, as part of the program evaluation, of what, if any, evidence based or promising practices are utilized in the programming structure. Preference may be given to those potential vendors who implement evidence based practices as part of recidivism reduction

6. Representatives from each Division consisting of Probation and Parole District Supervisors, Adult Prison Unit Managers, Recidivism Reduction Educators, Corrections Industries and Behavioral Health staff will meet initially then annually to determine predominant needs of offenders.

7. Representatives from each Division consisting of Wardens, Region Managers, Education Superintendant, Corrections Industries and Behavioral Health Bureau Chief will subsequently meet initially then annually to recommend evidence based programs for implementation, continuation or removal.

8. Directors from Adult Prisons, Probation and Parole, Corrections Industries and Recidivism Reduction will meet annually to make final determination on programs.

D. **Future Program Development and Sustainability** - To continue to advance its use of innovative, evidence-based evaluation of programming, the department shall continue its work to leverage executive and legislative support for its need to update and develop its data tracking, review, and evaluation infrastructure, so that it may be more intelligent and timely cost-benefit analysis and use of evidence to inform its spending and policy decisions may occur. Accordingly, based on a variety of cultural drivers associated with New Mexico, the NMCD shall encourage localized program development, targeting the risk and needs of the state's specific inmate culture for trial and pilot. The outcomes of those programs developed creatively at the local level shall be tracked and evaluated for their effectiveness and usefulness for future use.



Gregg Marcantel, Secretary of Corrections
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