

# Ethical Considerations in the Implementation of Innovative Correctional Practices

# Sources of Ethical Obligation

- Constitutional Law
- Statutes and Regulations
- APPA /other professional codes of ethics
- Agency directives
- Personal moral code

# Evidence Based Practices: Challenges and Opportunities

# Ethical Principle:

“I will strive to be objective in the performance of my duties, recognizing the inalienable right of all persons, appreciating the inherent worth of the individual, and respecting those confidences which can be reposed in me.”

APPA Code of Ethics 3.

# Ethical Quandary:

When “What Works” Isn’t Fair:  
Juvenile Probation and Parental  
Drug Treatment

## Ethical Principle:

“A probation officer shall . . .use all suitable methods, not inconsistent with the conditions specified by the court, to aid a probationer or a person on supervised release who is under his supervision, and to bring about improvements in his conduct and condition.”

18 U.S.C. § 3603.

# Ethical Quandary:

Conflicting Evidence: Deterrence-  
Based Correctional Programming  
and Trauma Informed Care

# Ethical Principle:

“A probation officer shall not be swayed by public clamor or fear of criticism.”

Indiana Code of Conduct for Probation Officers 2.4.

# Ethical Quandary:

Political Pressures: Fees, Poverty,  
and Declining Legislative Support

# Positioning agencies to identify and respond to ethical challenges

- You can't solve an ethics problem you don't know exists.
- Making space for conversations about ethical problems invites practitioners to become more intentional and reflective about the nature of their work.

# What Ethical Practice Looks Like

# Take Away Points:

- Innovative practices bring new opportunities for growth, but also new ethical challenges that need to be confronted by community corrections agencies.
- Making space for conversations about ethical dilemmas signals the importance of reflective practice and transparent problem-solving.
- You can address ethical challenges in ways that are neither costly nor complicated.
- Regularly soliciting information about ethical concerns fosters professionalism, promotes dialogue among stakeholders, and improves the legitimacy of supervision practices.

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