

Challenges of work with offenders within probation system who were assigned the obligation of psychiatric treatment

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PROBATION in CROATIA

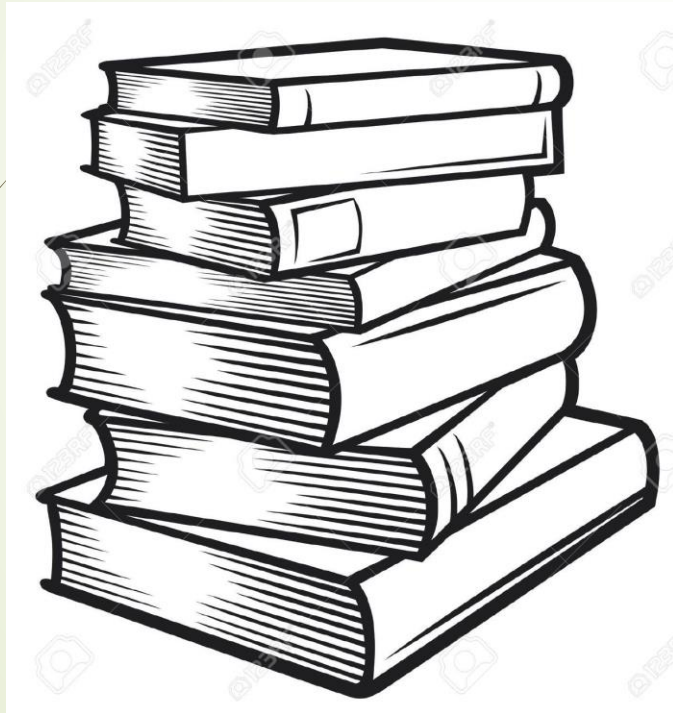
- 2009. first Probation Act
- 2011. Opening of probation offices – professionalization of service
 - 14 probation office all around Croatia
- **Probation office Zagreb I**
 - conducting probation tasks in Zagreb city area
 - population : 790 017 (18,4 % od total population in Croatia)
 - the biggest office in Croatia
 - cca 80 cases/person
 - 16 employees (social workers, psychologist, behaviour disorder experts, ...)

PROBATION TASKS

- community work with protective supervision/
security measures/ special obligations
- ▶ suspended sentence with protective
supervision/ security measures/ special
obligations
- ▶ conditional release with special obligations
- ▶ reports
 - ▶ Courts; state or district attorney; enforcement judge
- ▶ supervision
 - ▶ different obligations – State attorney
 - ▶ interruption of prison sentence (health reasons or other
reasons according to Probation Act)

Security Measures & Special Obligations

- Security measures (SM)
 - Upon psychiatric expertise
 - Obligatory psychiatric treatment
- Special obligations (SO)
 - No expertise
 - Consent of the offender
 - Up to 3 years
 - Psychiatric treatment



- Criminal Code
- Probation Act
- Protection law for people with mental illness



Statistics...

- ▶ SM or SO with
 - ▶ 65 % Suspended sentence
 - ▶ 19 % Conditional release
 - ▶ 13 % Community work
- ▶ Risk level
 - ▶ 60 % Medium risk
 - ▶ 10 % High risk offenders

WHAT DO WE DO?

Receiving verdict from court

- Collecting data
 - Official documentation (verdict, records of previous offenses, medical documentation, ...)
 - Interviews with offenders
 - Visiting offender / offender's family
- Risk assesment tool (SPP)
 - Assesment of harm for the others
 - Possibility of re-offending
- Individual plan for offenders
- Regular meetings with offenders
- Reports



Help vs. Control



VS



WHAT DO WE DO?



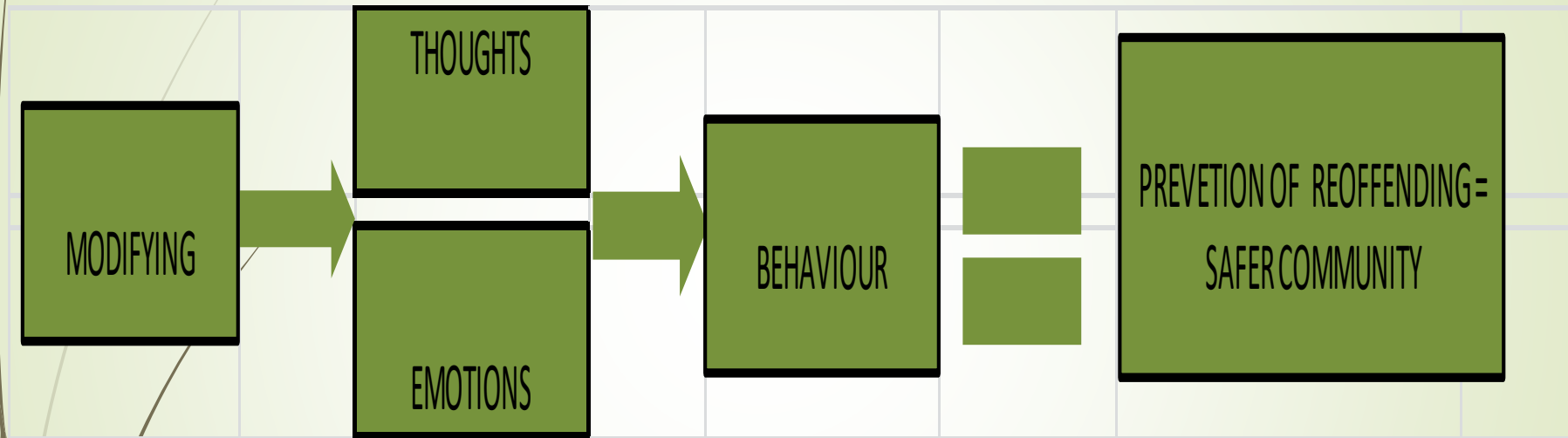
➤ Achieving goals of Individual plan

- Supervision in fulfillment of obligations sentenced by court
 - Psychiatric treatment
 - Alcohol / drugs / gambling treatment
- Counseling, motivating
 - Problem solving
 - Job search (how to write CV, how to present themselves)
 - Supporting abstinence

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Skills training
 - Communication skills (non-violent communication)
 - Developing parenting competences
 - Building quality relationships with partner, family, friends
- Education, informing
 - Consequences of drug and alcohol abuse
 - Applying to vacancies
 - Different rights (health insurance, financial support,...)

MAIN GOAL



Interagency cooperation



- Prison system
- Courts
- State attorney
- Police
- Medical institutions
- Social welfare centres
- NGO
- Community services
- State services

The challenges we meet

OFFENDERS

- Capability to understand the verdict, their rights and obligations
- Capability for behavioural change
- Lack of Self-control
- „Self - medication” – drug and alcohol abuse

COMMUNITY

- Prejudices and stigmatization
- Difficulties in finding a job



The challenges we meet

FAMILY

- Protective factor / risk factor
- Uneducated, unsupportive, embarrassed by mentally ill family member
- Abandonment – lack of control / source of information

➤ **JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

- Long- lasting trials - purpose?
- Lack of knowledge on mental illness – suitability of sanctions

The challenges we meet

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

- Unwillingness to exchange information – protection of patient rights
- Respecting of experts opinion – high risk offenders
- Different perspectives
- Probation officers tend to overestimate risk level ?

➤ **PROBATION SYSTEM**

- Lack of education in working with offenders who have mental health problem




Good practice

- constantly developing social network
 - Meetings, protocol
 - Informatization
- positive feedback from beneficiaries, organisations and other institutions
- positive feedback from offenders
- We were educated for group treatment with specific group of offenders (sexual offenses, domestic violence, violent behaviour)

Good practice

- Positive public image
- Step by step, probation service is now recognized as an important and valuable partner in Croatian legal system
- Helping other countries to develop quality probation service (Serbia, Slovenia...)
- International cooperation



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THANK YOU!