

Core Correctional Practices: From Theory to Practice

Maria Abelar

Wednesday, November 8th, 2:00pm-3:15pm

Maria Abelar is a Program Manager with Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Houston, Texas. In her current position she is responsible for the day to day operations of the Staff Development and Data Management units and is a member of the Strategic Plan Implementation Team. She works closely with Executive Team members to ensure implementation of programs and services are effective by offering assistance in the areas of training and curriculum development, data management and fidelity monitoring. She is responsible for managing the department's strategic plan and submitting grant applications for diversion program funding. During her employment with Harris County, Ms. Abelar held management positions in various units of the department including Day Reporting Center, Mental Health Initiative, Centralized Assessment Unit, Outpatient Counseling and Client Support Services and Quality Assurance. She is a Master Trainer in the delivery of the Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) and a certified Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) trainer. She has presented at various conferences including American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Winter Conference, Community Justice Assistance Division (CJAD) Skills and Virtual Skills Conference, Texas Probation Association Conference and Texas Corrections Association Conference.

Session Description:

The use of evidence-based probation and case management techniques within the treatment court model are critical in order to ensure the greatest reductions in recidivism for clients. This session will provide participants with an overview of Core Correctional Practices (CCP) and how teams can transfer to key principles of CCP into practice throughout the court process. During the session, staff will learn how to build case plans based on the principles of risk/need/responsivity and how to prioritize high need areas. Participants will explore the possible uses of CCP not only by probation/case management, but as a guiding framework in the staffing and court process as well.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how they can enhance their working relationship with clients.
- Develop case plans that are informed on criminogenic need areas.
- Assess behavioral markers to measure progress and improvement and to use these markers in staffing and court.
- Engage in conversations that raise awareness and increase motivation for the client.

