

# INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON INTERMEDIATE SANCTIONS (ICIS) Newsletter



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OF HEALTH



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## ICIS Web Site:

[hawaii.gov/icis](http://hawaii.gov/icis)

*Past issues of the ICIS Newsletter are available at our web site.*

## Also Visit:

The National Institute of Corrections <[nicic.org](http://nicic.org)>

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## What is ICIS?

The Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) was formed by Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon in a cooperative interagency agreement between the Judiciary, Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, and the State Attorney General in 2002.

## In this issue:

### National Institute of Corrections (NIC) July Visit



Mr. George Keiser, Chief, Community

Corrections/Prison Division, National Institute of Corrections (NIC) commended Ms. Janice Yamada, ACSB Administrator and other members of the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions for their perseverance in implementing evidence-based practices in the State of Hawaii during the Offender Reentry Pilot Project Stakeholders Meeting held in July. NIC has provided the Council with technical assistance for various evidence-based initiatives since its inception in 2002.

### HOPE Probation Orientation Session, *by the Honorable Steven S. Alm*



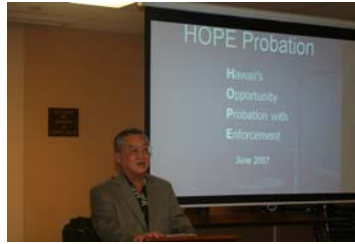
Judge Alm presenting at the HOPE orientation.

September 7, 2007 was a big day for intermediate sanctions. On that day, there was an orientation session for the main branch probation officers for the upcoming expansion of HOPE Probation.

## The Framework Behind the COMBINES Curriculum, summary by Consultant William Woodward

The COMBINES training program provides probation, parole, and correctional officers with skills they can use to combine various Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) into a cohesive supervision strategy, represented by the “S” in COMBINES. This training combines these proven practices and the “stages of change” to assist the officer in improving their interaction with the offender, no matter the stage of change, to increase the probability that they will succeed on parole or probation.

We know that research of different cultures have reliably supported three foundational principles, the risk, need, and responsivity principles. The Risk Principle specifies that higher risk offenders respond more favorably to intensive treatment than do lower risk offenders. In other words, if they ain't broke, don't try to fix 'em. The Need Principle suggests that a select set of intervention targets (the “big six” criminogenic need areas) will produce positive outcomes far more reliably than other targets. Finally, the Responsivity Principle indicates that offenders respond more favorably to interventions that are delivered in the cognitive-behavioral treatment (CBT) mode, emphasizing a little “tell,” a little “show,” and a lot of “try,” with skill rehearsals,



Chief Justice Moon thanks participants.

The event was also a celebration of the 3rd Birthday of HOPE Probation, and an opportunity for Chief Justice Ronald Moon to thank all of the partners in this cooperative effort. Partners present included probation, court staff, HPD, the Marshal's service, the Sheriffs, corrections, pretrial services, the prosecutors, the defense, the researchers, judges and HIDTA.

In the past three years, HOPE Probation has exceeded all expectations, helping to hold offenders accountable while helping them to reduce their drug use and better comply with their conditions of probation. As a result, HOPE is expanding to Main Branch Probation. In addition, the researchers from UCLA, led by Dr. Angela Hawken, will be undertaking a full scale evaluation of HOPE Probation over the next year. HOPE Probation, this true intermediate sanction, relying on the collaboration of all of its partners, continues to hold great promise for reducing recidivism, holding offenders accountable, and saving taxpayer dollars.

## PROVIDERS LEARN HOW RESEARCH, EVIDENCE INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT, by Joan Sakaba, Judiciary Program Specialist.



CPC evaluators and speakers who participated in the ICIS training.

Approximately 130 individuals from 40 service provider agencies treating sex, domestic violence, and drug offenders attended a two-day mandatory training session held on August 22 - 23 at the John A. Burns School of Medicine sponsored by the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS). The objective of the training was to build service provider core knowledge of evidence based programs to reduce recidivism, to increase service provider understanding and application of risk assessment instruments, and to improve working relations between service providers and probation, parole and corrections in improving offender programming. The training also focused on the program evaluation instrument, the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC). The state's criminal justice

simulations and role plays to overcorrect skill deficits.

We also know that program interventions—Motivational Interviewing (MI), Contingency Management, Social Support Facilitation, and Naltraxone—have already been classified as Evidence-Based Treatments (EBT). On another level, broader research focusing on psychosocial interventions has amassed compelling evidence that the working alliance—those “general factors” attributed to the PO as the individual change agent—contributes far more to the outcomes of treatment than the actual type of treatment program or intervention delivered.

Recently, especially as a result of some deliberate American Psychological Association (APA) or “dismantling” investigations, the term “general factors” has been recognized as the official term for the “dimensions of treatment that are shared across most psychotherapies, including education, a convincing rationale, expectations of improvement, the skill of the therapist, and the quality of the therapeutic relationship” (Carroll et al, 1997, p. 510). It is becoming apparent that these *general factors are the most significant contributor to positive outcomes.*

Outcome Attributions:

Features of the Individual Client = 40%

agencies will begin to use the CPC to evaluate program fidelity to research supported principles and to assist in the improvement of treatment programming beginning this fiscal year.

ICIS is a cooperative interagency agreement between the Judiciary, Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, and the Department of the Attorney General. It was formed in 2002 by Chief Justice Ronald Moon to lower the rate of recidivism and prevent future victimization by adult offenders.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Edward Latessa, a professor and head of the Division of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Latessa, who has been working with probation, parole, and corrections institutions in Hawai'i, presented information on evidence-based correctional practices and characteristics related to lower offender recidivism. Senior Probation Officer Joseph Amico (Maui Adult Client Services), Probation Administrator Ernest Delima (Maui), Dr. Timothy Wong (Researcher-Department of the Attorney General) and Wendell Murakawa (Administrator-Department of Public Safety) also presented during the training.

### **Hawaii Joint Police Association Salute to Women in Security and Law Enforcement**



Hawaii Joint Police Association Honorees

The Hawaii Joint Police Association (HJPA) honored Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Natalie Ornellas and Jean Oshiro among others during their 9th annual Salute to Women in Security & Law Enforcement on September 14, 2007 at the Honolulu Country Club.

Salute to Women recognizes the growing number of women in law enforcement whom have proved the ability to perform in the full range of police and security functions and have made significant contributions to the security, safety and well being of the citizens of the State of Hawaii.

**Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata**  
**Corrections Supervisor II/Community Based Administrator**  
**Oahu Community Correctional Center**

Nominated by Dovie Borges, LWFC

- Internal (IQ, Dual Diag., etc.)
- External (Soc. Support, Insurance)

Relationship w/ Counselor  
= 30%

- Working “alliance”
- Accurate empathy

Placebo (anticipatory set)  
= 15%

Intervention model  
= 15%

(Beutler et al, 2006)

Typical of the research from many studies, the above shows the contributors of positive outcomes distributed as proportions of variance on those “general factors.” For example, the features of the offender or individual client (which is brought to the intervention) represent 40% of the outcome variance, e.g. whether or not a client can afford health insurance, is dual-diagnosed, etc. The next largest element, relationship with counselor, consists of two related factors that POs should have under their control: the ability to foster a *working alliance* and the individual change agent’s skill in listening and understanding where the client is coming from and what they are experiencing—*accurate empathy*. Another significant factor in outcomes is the placebo effect, the tendency for people to actually change or get better simply because they think they that they are going to. This accounts for another 15% of the outcomes. Finally, most researchers attribute the remaining 15% of positive outcomes to the intervention itself. Thus, the



Jodie (pictured top left) with coworkers from DPS.

Since December 2002, Ms. Maesaka-Hirata has been overseeing *the* Community Based Section (CBS) for the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). She provides overall technical and general management, supervision, direction, training, monitoring, and evaluation services to facilitate community based programming for sentenced felons housed at OCCC.

This includes, but is not limited to the supervision and functioning of the community service work lines, furlough programming, inclusive of offender workforce development, substance abuse treatment, sex offender treatment, education, etc., as need by the CBS clientele and individual and group counseling. Jodie also serves as the Facility's Critical Aftercare and Peer Unit and/or peer support after a critical incident has happened at OCCC or in the community involving an OCCC's staff member and/or family member.

**Natalie K. Ornellas**  
**Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Trainer The Judiciary-State of Hawaii - Adult Client Services Branch**

Nominated by HJPA Past President Dovie Borges



Natalie accepting her HJPA award.

Natalie K. Ornellas is currently one of the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Trainers serving the Adult Client Services Branch for the Judiciary. Ms. Ornellas is co-author of our Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) training curriculum designed specifically for probation/parole officers and case managers to use in their office contacts with offenders. The curricula is being used by the Judiciary, Department of Public Safety, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority as part of the State of Hawaii's effort to reduce recidivism by implementing

intervention's contribution is not insignificant, but it is clearly outweighed by the relationship factors.

As these general effects between the PO as a change agent and client or the "working alliance", is key to positive outcomes, we now turn to the question of what is involved in a good working alliance. A working alliance is an effective relationship between a change agent and a client, with negotiated goals and a mutual willingness to compromise when necessary to meet the goals or to maintain a viable relationship. "The central ideas are that (a) the working alliance captures the *collaborative* element of the client-therapist relationship and (b) it takes account of both the therapist's and client's capacities to negotiate a contract appropriate to the breadth and depth of the therapy (or change enterprise)" (Horvath & Symonds, 1991). The key for effective case supervision therefore seems to be integrating the above principles within the context of the better formation of working alliances with offenders. The COMBINES training is intended to help us understand and apply these new general factors.

**The Supervision Contact:  
The Context Where Routine  
Interactions Take Place**

Some simple definitions for supervision contacts may help

evidence-based practices; conduct state-wide training for line staff and supervisors; and to provide individual and group follow-up sessions to promote sustainability efforts.

**Jean T. Oshiro**  
**Program Specialist, Cognitive**  
**Behavioral Therapy Trainer - State of Hawaii - Adult Client**  
**Services Branch**

Nominated by Dovie Borges



Jean accepting her HJPA award.

Jean Oshiro was a volunteer before accepting her full time position as a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Trainer for the Adult Client Services Branch of the Judiciary. She also co-authored a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) training curriculum designed for probation/parole officers to use in their office contacts with offenders. This curriculum was approved and used by the Judiciary, Dept. of Public Safety, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority as part of the State of Hawaii's effort to reduce recidivism.

Ms. Oshiro developed an abbreviated CBT curriculum designed for pre-sentence investigators, prison intake workers and pre-parole officers and delivered the training to staff; she participated in the development of staff proficiency benchmark standards for CBT and implemented the training protocol for benchmark proficiency standards to ensure quality assurance by conducting state-wide individual and group follow-up to promote sustainability efforts.

Both Natalie and Jean's positions are being funded through a U.S. Department of Labor Grant: "Hawaii Rural Job Training Initiative," that is administered through the Rural Development Project in partnership with the University of Hawaii.

**COMBINES Training**, by *Third Circuit Court Adult Client Services Administrator Zachary Higa.*

The COMBINES training was held for supervisors and line staff at the State Capitol during the last two weeks of June. The COMBINES training program provides probation, parole, and correctional officers with skills they can use to combine various Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) into a cohesive supervision strategy.

focus and clarify the COMBINES training. Caseload-carrying officers have both routine and non-routine interactions with their clients. Routine face-to-face meetings are generally scheduled in advance, either in the office or home, and are commonly referred to as "supervision contacts." Attending routine supervision appointments is a primary obligation for offenders who were formally sentenced to a field supervision sanction condition. In addition, for those agents providing some form of direct services, such as offender group or class facilitation, their groups can also be considered a routine contact. Officer/offender interactions such as monitoring whereabouts, unscheduled urine-testing, revocation proceedings are best referred to as "non-routine contacts."

Both routine and non-routine supervision contacts provide opportunities for inquiry, clarification, listening, providing advice and reinforcements. Routine contacts are naturally the more reliable formats for deliberately developing and advancing the supervision intervention or agenda. The time length for this type of contact varies between less than 5 minutes to a more than 30 minutes, depending on individual officer style and local jurisdiction norms. On average, measured routine contacts appear to last about 7–15 minutes. Non-routine contact length is less

As a result of the training, a committee was formed to discuss implementation of the COMBINES after the training with support from management.

As a result of concerns raised by line staff attending the training, some of the supervisors were asked to meet with the line staff about implementing COMBINES. Consultant Bill Woodward facilitated a discussion about the needs that were identified. There were several items presented and prioritized by the participants in attendance at this meeting. Essentially, the need to implement COMBINES in a supportive manner after the training so that it may be infused into supervision practices was the topic.

Volunteers formed this committee to discuss and share ideas about how this may be accomplished with management support. The meeting occurred on June 22 with the following interested professionals: Joe Amico, Ruth Forbes, James Hirano, Janice Yamada, Zachary Higa, James May, Ulu Dela Santos, (member from the Hope unit), JSAT staff (Brad, Bill and Avani).

The following ideas/suggestions for implementation were proposed: statewide booster sessions for all, staff/supervisor meetings once a week or once a month, one-on-one coaching (role play with specific topics), format for sharing information (role playing incorporating various components "roll the dice" - box with EBP on the six sides, discuss difficult cases with open forum, "e" learning, newsletters, designated "coach" of the week ... supervisors pick up caseload to help, supervisors need to what they expect of their staff, supervisors should facilitate training, supervisors should be available for staff, walk around "check-ins", accountability, training format to include: MI, LSI-R/ASUS, CBT/Case Planning and on-going support.

### **Sustaining the Effort**, by *Second Circuit Court Adult Client Services Administrator Ernest Delima*

In light of the above suggestions and in an attempt to reinforce the skills learned, on September 7, 2007, training was held for line staff of the Adult Client Services Branch, Maui section. The training focused on core factors from the COMBINES training that had been offered earlier in the year to Criminal Justice supervisory and line staff. The one day presentation focused on delivering key topic areas from the COMBINES training. The following was presented: GARTER – (Greet, Aim, Role, Topic, Evaluate, Review), Interventions for Change, Six Steps for Cognitive Behavioral Coaching, Elicit Provide Elicit, High Five, Working Alliance, and Relapse Prevention.

The training was conducted by the following staff from the Maui ACS office: Eric Kawaguchi, Supervisor – Special Services, Evelyn Mukogawa, Supervisor – Supervision Section I, Craig Hirayasu, Supervisor – Domestic Violence Unit, Traci Texeira, Supervisor, - Pre Sentence Investigation Unit, Nohealani Cabanting, Social Worker IV, Supervision Section I, Lara Nishikawa, Social Worker IV, Special Services, and Ernest Delima,

predictable. Routine contacts also vary in frequency, typically from 1-4 times per month, depending on agency policy for the respective risk level of the client. Given the brevity and importance of the supervision contact, **the way the contact is structured turns out to be crucial.**

#### **Four COMBINES Skills**

To develop the broader “working alliance” with the offender, it is helpful to understand and apply four major COMBINES skills in the context of the Stages of Change. For example, CBT, MI, Relapse Prevention (RP), and facilitating social support networks can begin to address anti-social peer influences in the context of a stage of change. In the COMBINES training, we can think about the stages of change as sizing up the offender (pre-contemplation), joining up with the offender (contemplation), plan/carry out (determination/action), and following up with the offender (maintenance/relapse.) The curriculum is designed to take each stage of change and integrate the four EBP skills discussed below:

**Motivational Interviewing** is a counselor-directed, client-centered style of communication that helps people resolve their ambivalence about changing a problem behavior (e.g., alcohol dependence, cocaine addiction, obesity, etc.). As people work through their ambivalence,

Administrator.

The Maui staff thanks the presenters for their efforts in delivering this new and exciting information to their colleagues.



#### **Welcome Clayton Frank, Co-chair of ICIS**

Clayton Frank, the new interim director of the Department of Public Safety will serve as co-chair for ICIS along with the Honorable Steven S. Alm. He is a 26-year veteran of the prison system serving previously as warden and administrator for the Halawa Correction Facility and Oahu Community Correctional Facility, and acting warden and administrator for the Waiawa Correctional Facility. He has also served as administrator of the public safety Institutions Division, overseeing the operation of the state's correctional facilities.

Congratulations are also extended to two of our existing members: Tommy Johnson, who has become the Deputy Director of Corrections and Max Otani, who is currently the Acting Division Administrator for the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Tommy Johnson previously served as paroles and pardons administrator for the Hawai'i Paroling Authority since 2001. He also served as a youth corrections officer for the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility and was a correctional service officer for a high security facility in Arizona. Mr. Johnson was named the Department of Public Safety's Manager of the Year in 2003 and was nominated for the same honor in 2005.

Max Otani has worked in the criminal justice field for over 20 years in various agencies, including parole, probation and pretrial. He is the chairperson for the ICIS Training Committee and is also the Hawai'i Deputy Compact Administrator for Parole under the Interstate Commission for Adult Supervision.

#### **Creating A Responsive Environment for Women and Families – Update, by Maui Intake Service Center Manager Wayne Matsuda**



**Professor Patricia Van Voorhis**

On July 17, 2007, Dr. Pat Van Voorhis of the University of Cincinnati, returned to Maui to present a closing report on her study of risk factors for women offenders under community supervision on Maui. The presentation

they are more likely to pursue and maintain positive, changed behaviors. Almost one hundred random control trials (RCT) have been conducted on MI. Most of these studies show significant direct effects or benefits from MI as compared to control conditions. A number of quality meta-analyses summarize both the research and the relative effect sizes across different populations (Burke et al, 2003; Hettema & Miller, 2005; Rubak et al; 2005; and, Vasilaki et al; 2006). At its heart, MI is about engaging people in a purposeful interaction, using reflective listening methods so that the individual has an opportunity to more clearly “hear” themselves think and adjust their beliefs and attitudes accordingly. Dismantling studies have determined that one of the causal mechanisms of MI is the practitioner’s ability to elicit “change talk” or “self-motivating statements” from the client (Amrhein et al, 2003; Catley et al, 2006; Moyers et al, 2005). There are challenges to training MI with conventional approaches (Miller & Mount, 2001), but a number of studies on training MI have determined that post-training feedback and coaching reliably assist trainees in acquiring these skills.

**Shifting Networks and Enhancing Social Support –** Beginning with research findings from Project MATCH (1997), the evidence supporting the efficacy of 12-

was held at the Maui Economic Opportunity offices in Wailuku and was attended by approximately 50 individuals including Interim Department of Public Safety Director Clayton Frank, Deputy Public Safety Director of Corrections Tommy Johnson, Senator Roz Baker, and Representative Joe Bertram.

The Dr. Van Voorhis’ study was begun as an initiative of Creating A Responsive Environment (CARE) for Women and Families and was sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections and the University of Cincinnati. On the premise that risks/needs of female offenders differ from those of male offenders, the study was conducted to determine if the use of a trailer instrument that was designed for female offenders coupled with the use of the LSI-R could more accurately identify risks/needs for women as opposed to the use of the LSI-R alone. The Adult Client Services Branch of the Second Circuit Court and the Maui Branch of the Hawaii Paroling Authority collected data for the research for approximately four years. Dr. Lorrin Pang, District Health Administrator with the Department of Health, assisted with the administration of the trailer instrument.

In her findings, Dr. Van Voorhis found that the LSI-R was a valid and good predictor of recidivism for females in the sample. She noted that high association between known risk factors and re-arrests of women subjects was a strong indicator that workers who administered the LSI-R were well trained in its use. By using the trailer in conjunction with the LSI-R, criminal history, drug/alcohol use, employment/financial difficulties, stressful family situations, and low self-esteem/self efficacy were significantly associated to recidivism. Some of these factors were not highly correlated or as highly correlated to re-arrest when only the LSI-R was administered. The study indicated that statewide adoption of the trailer would result in improved identification of risks and more appropriate interventions that address female offender needs.

The final report of Dr. Van Voorhis’ Maui study is due in late September, 2007. CARE is eagerly awaiting this report as it will help to set the course in the development of agency and operational policies to improve community outcomes for female offenders.

**Sex Offender Management Team (SOMT) – Update, by SOMT Coordinator Leanne Gillespie**



**Dr. Kurt Bumpy**

The mission of the Sex Offender Management Team (SOMT) is to develop and implement, through a collaborative effort and legislative support, best practice standards statewide for the evaluation, treatment, disposition,



Step Facilitation and AA has rapidly expanded and increased in quality. Until recently, researchers considered this unorganized affiliation to be a folk remedy, or a treatment augmentation at best. But in the past ten years, over 30 comparison studies of AA have shown direct and significant effects in terms of reducing drink/drug days or days of abstinence. Further, recent dismantling studies have uncovered at least two of the causal ingredients in AA: 1) program involvement or participation (working through the steps, service and twelve-step work), and 2) frequency of contact and interaction with others in the recovery affiliation. This combined evidence for 12-Step programs (AA, NA, CA) has recently advanced the status of this “program” to EBT with NIAAA.

There are discernable and trainable skills involved in facilitating network changes. Facilitating these network shifts is at the heart of NIC's model for reducing recidivism, where the sixth principle states the need to assist offenders in engaging on-going support in their natural communities (Bogue et al, 2003). As offenders embed differently in new networks (e.g., AA, faith-based groups, martial arts), their informal controls are enhanced, bringing about new “alternative supervision” resources. In other words, as the saying goes, “Good company is far more influential on behavior than willpower.”

ongoing assessment and supervision of adult sex offenders and youth with sexualized misbehavior. SOMT has made progress over the past six months towards accomplishing many of their goals. With financial support from a Children's Justice Grant, SOMT was able to work with national consultant Keri Fitzpatrick, to develop standards of practice for Hawaii's youth with sexualized misbehavior. In June, this grant allowed for Ms. Fitzpatrick to conduct onsite training and consultation for both SOMT and the statewide juvenile standards working group, which includes SOMT members, probation officers, victim advocates and therapists representing all islands. The target completion date for these standards is November 1st.

In June, SOMT received a second onsite visit from Dr. Kurt Bumby, federal consultant from the Center for Effective Public Policy and the Center for Sex Offender Management. The onsite visits from Dr. Bumby are the result of a 2006 Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management (CASOM) Grant (BJA-XP-WX-0019) awarded to SOMT to accomplish its mission in part through providing statewide training on evidence-based practices. With the assistance of Dr. Bumby, SOMT members have worked diligently to complete a comprehensive statewide assessment on sex offender practices here in Hawaii. This assessment will identify gaps in services so SOMT can target Hawaii's training needs. Dr. Bumby made another visit in August and will return again in October and early 2008. SOMT will provide several statewide trainings over the next 12 months.

The first training will be on evidence-based practices in adult sex offender assessment, specifically to train staff and private treatment providers to use the Static-99, Stable-2007, and Acute-2007 for assessing risk. Online versions of these instruments are available on the Council's web-enabled system, Cyzap. Last April, the Static-99 was installed online, followed by the Stable-2007 in August. The Acute-2007 is targeted to be online in October. The online versions are not only convenient and easy for staff to use, they allow for the pooling of common data, the ability to share validated risk related information, conduct quality control analyses and statewide research, all missing components thus far.

SOMT was awarded a second Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management (CASOM) training grant (BJA, 2007-WP-BX-0001) which will target the implementation of a statewide training academy for sex offender management.

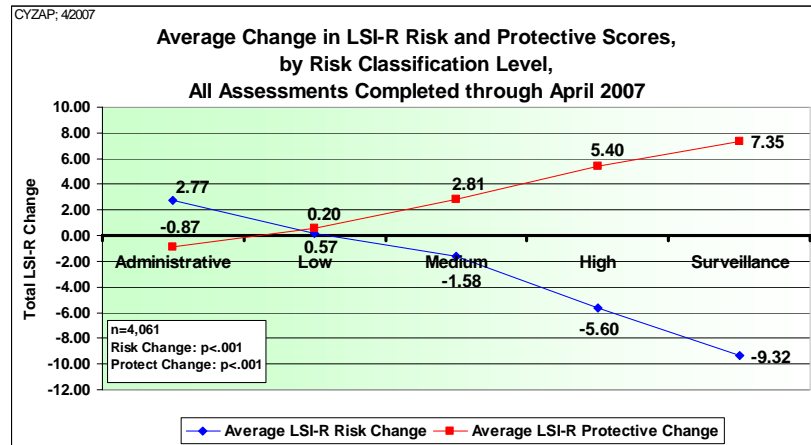
Way to go SOMT!

**Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment (CBT)** is a short-term, problem-focused psychosocial intervention that emphasizes skill training with guided practice (another NIC principle [4]). Numerous RCT's have determined that CBT is effective in reducing a wide variety of human behavior problems, including anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, antisocial conduct, etc. In fact, there is so much evidence for CBT that it formed the basis for the Responsivity principle in NIC's model, which states that in general, offenders respond far better to CBT interventions than any other type of program intervention (Andrews et al, 1990; Lipsey, 1993; McGuire, 2001; Aos, 2002). Programs that are based on CBT use interventions that help offenders modify the inter-relationships between their thoughts, feelings, behaviors, environments, and physical conditions. By acquiring new CBT skills, offenders are able to compensate for various developmental deficits, particularly low self-control, which is pervasive in offender populations (Gottfredson & Hirchi, 1990).

**Relapse Prevention (RP)** covers the conceptual model and related skill interventions for working with individuals who are at risk of slipping or relapsing in their commitment to abstain from various addictive behaviors (e.g., marijuana dependency, problem drinking, gambling,

## Research Corner:

*Research Update*, by John Hisashima, ICIS Research Analyst, Judiciary & Paul Perrone, Chief of Research and Statistics, Department of the Attorney General



September 2007

This graph examines the change in LSI-R risk and protective scores across risk classification levels and by multiple assessments administered during the 2002 through April 2007 time period. The data presented in this graph are based on a complete database of LSI-R assessments collected to date, but are limited to offenders who have received two or more assessments. An analysis of these data identifies two important trends:

- Over the course of multiple assessments, average risk scores decreased (i.e., improved) for offenders in the three highest risk classification levels, and increased for offenders in the two lowest levels.
- During the same time period, average protective scores increased (i.e., improved) for offenders in the four highest risk classification levels, and decreased for those in the lowest level.

These trends may suggest that the current evidence-based practices being utilized by all agencies are working as intended. In any event, substantial improvements in the targeted, higher-risk offenders' assessment scores are clearly evident. Surveillance level offenders (highest risk) are showing the largest improvement in terms of recidivism-risk reduction. Conversely, offenders at the Administrative level (lowest risk), who often don't receive any specialized treatment services, are receiving slight increases in risk scores and decreases in protective scores. While determining the exact

sex offending, etc.). RP skills consist in either identifying what stage someone is in, in terms of their personal “unraveling” towards a slip or relapse, and then assisting them in taking steps to avoid or minimize slips, recovering before a series of slips becomes a full-blown relapse. Alan Marlatt’s model for RP has been empirically tested and found valid (Miller & Westerberg, 1996). Moreover, many studies have found providing clients RP skills effective in curbing various maladaptive behaviors. This research is well summarized in several meta-analyses (Dowden et al, 2003; Hutchins & Burke, 2006; Irvin & Bowers, 1999; Carroll, 1996).

The four skill sets above form part of an integrated, “living” system. Whether rudimentary or refined, these skills work in concert with one another, like different muscle sets within a muscular system. Consequently there are interdependencies, tradeoffs, and blurry boundaries in between these competencies. Each of the core skill competencies has its own extensive research literature and will provide challenges for any practitioner before anything akin to mastery is possible. The solutions that will emerge from these efforts are all related to significant differences in positive outcomes.

cause(s) of these trends is beyond the scope of current research efforts, it is reasonable to theorize that the improvements in the assessment scores of the targeted, higher risk offenders is due to the efforts being made by probation and parole officers in utilizing their training in evidence-based practices to provide quality supervision and interactions with offenders.

## Upcoming ICIS Events:

- Abbreviated Cognitive Behavioral Training will be offered to Criminal Justice Staff tentatively on the following dates:

10/08/07 - Oahu  
10/12/07 - Hawaii  
10/24/07 - Maui  
10/25/07 - Oahu  
11/06/07 - Oahu  
11/09/07 - Kauai

### COG

12/11-13, 2007 at state office tower.

- The Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) will be conducting LSI-R training on September 26-28, 2007 and Motivational Interviewing training on October 25-26, 2007 for new workers. Sessions will be held at:

University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Henke Hall Room 109  
1800 East West Center Road

Sessions will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

- ICIS working group meetings will be held on October 25, November 29, and December 20. The policy meeting will be held on October 26.

**The next quarterly ICIS Newsletter will be published in December.**