



# FACT SHEET

## RISK REDUCTION SERVICES

# 2020

TIMOTHY C. WARD COMMISSIONER

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## OVERVIEW

- A unit within the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) mandated to reduce recidivism by providing research-based programs
- Provides constitutionally mandated or legally required programs
- Implements evidence-based programs that target crime producing behavior
- Focuses on changing criminal thinking and reducing criminal behavior
- GDC partners with federal agencies, state and county agencies and non-profit and community-based organizations

## SELECTION OF OFFENDERS FOR RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS

- Selected by an assessment process that identifies an offender's risk and needs

## PRIMARY TARGETS OF EFFECTIVE OFFENDER INTERVENTIONS

- Criminal thinking
- Substance abuse
- Education
- Employment

## PROGRAMS

### COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL PROGRAM

- Designed to change criminal thinking and behavior
- Hold offenders accountable for their behavior
- Interventions are structured and directive
- Effectiveness of these interventions in changing criminal behavior has been demonstrated in numerous scientific studies

### MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE

- Reduces the resistance participants have to more intensive programming
- Helps offenders identify for themselves where they are at in their stage of change with regard to their criminal behaviors, addictions, attitudes, values and beliefs
- Four-weeks, five sessions curriculum program

### MORAL RECONATION THERAPY (MRT®)

- Comprehensive, systematic attempts to treat substance abusing offenders from a purely cognitive behavioral perspective
- An objective, systematic treatment system designed to enhance ego, social, moral and positive behavioral growth in a progressive, step by step fashion
- Consists of 12 to 16 steps depending on the treatment
- Seeks to move clients from hedonistic (pleasure vs. pain) reasoning levels to levels where concern for social rules and others become important

### THINKING FOR A CHANGE (T4C)

- An integrated, cognitive behavioral change program for offenders
- Includes cognitive restructuring and skills building
- Helps offenders identify the reasoning they use that reinforces criminal behavior
- Helps offenders develop positive attitudes and beliefs to counter the negative ones that continue to get them into trouble
- Program was developed by the National Institute of Corrections and averages four months in length

### D.E.T.O.U.R.

- Dignity Encouragement Truthfulness Optimism Uniqueness Respect (D.E.T.O.U.R)
- Teaches offenders basic social skills critical to effective problem solving
- Scripted instructional unit comprised of eight sessions that focus on skill acquisition
- Developed to meet the need for a short-term training experience offered to relatively large groups, between 16-20, of offenders
- Transfer training (transfer coaching) component occurs six to 10 weeks after completing the instructional unit



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### ANGER MANAGEMENT

- 12-week program developed through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Structured cognitive program implemented to address the needs of offenders with a history of violence or behavioral problems
- Program provided at all Level V facilities, TCs, DRCs and probation offices

### REENTRY SKILLS BUILDING

- Class enhances the skills of the offenders and helps them overcome barriers they may face prior to returning home
- The program offers offenders information on how to apply for a job, how to keep a job, how to manage their budgets and resources they can turn to for assistance when released

### SEX OFFENDER PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- Focus on sexual offending as an abuse of power to meet needs despite the cost to others
- Addresses the areas that impact the way the offender views and deals with their crime

### MATRIX EARLY RECOVERY SKILLS (ERS)

- Developed by the Matrix Institute of Los Angeles
- Designed to help offenders begin the process of substance abuse recovery
- Curriculum consists of eight lessons designed to teach basic recovery skills

### MATRIX RELAPSE PREVENTION

- A 32-lesson skills building program
- Explains addiction information in simplistic terms

### RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (RSAT)

- Targets high risk, high needs offenders with a history of substance abuse as a crime producing behavior leading to correctional supervision
- Based on the Therapeutic Community Model
- Program is nine months in length
- Georgia has one of the largest RSAT programs in the country

### INTENSIVE REENTRY PROGRAM (IRP)

- Targets non-violent offenders with a history of substance abuse as a causative factor leading to correctional supervision
- Goal of the program is to give offenders tools that can be used to abstain from drugs, alcohol and criminal behaviors once released, thereby reducing recidivism

