

The Evidence Based Correctional Program Checklist (CPC)

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The Correctional Program Checklist (CPC)

- A program evaluation tool
- Developed from research on **evidence based practices**
- **Based on the CPAI**, which is endorsed by the National Institute of Corrections
- Contains items correlated with **reductions in recidivism**
- Creates a **standard based on research**

Evidence Based Practices

- Base program design on **proven theoretical model**
- Conduct **assessment of risk and need**
- Disrupt the delinquency network
- Use **appropriate rewards and sanctions**
- Monitor offender **change on intermediate steps** of treatment
- Include a **relapse prevention** component
- Integrate with **community-based services**
- Plan for **aftercare**

Principles of Effective Intervention

- **Risk Principle**—focus on high risk
- **Need Principle**—target criminogenic needs
- **Treatment Principle**— use behavior approaches
- **Responsivity**—match response to youth
- **Program Integrity**— ensure quality delivery

Purpose of the CPC

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Answers three basic questions:

- Where is the program now?
- Where does the program need to go?
- How can the program get there?

Using:

- Evidence based practices
- Principles of effective intervention

Where is the Program Now?

- Provides **current snapshot** of the program
- **Examines current** staff qualifications, program implementation, and treatment of offenders
- Past policies and planned changes are **not included** in scoring
- Allows change to be **measured across time**
- Encourages programs to **consistently improve**
- Shows **progress overall** and in specific areas

Where Does the Program Need to Go?

- Outlines **strengths** and **needed improvements**
- Identifies these areas based on research

STAFF CHARACTERISTICS: Strengths

- The program director, a LCSW provides clinical supervision to licensed staff on a bi-weekly basis and to non-licensed staff on a weekly basis. Therapists also receive weekly supervision from a MFT supervisor.

STAFF CHARACTERISTICS: Areas that Need Improvement

- Upon being hired, staff receive some training related to the program model including a 2 day training on ART and job shadowing for 3 months. However, training on other aspects of the program is spread out over several months and it was reported that staff may begin co-facilitating treatment groups prior to receiving formal training on them.

How Can the Program Get There?

- Outlines specific **recommendations for change**
- Encourages **timely** implementation

STAFF CHARACTERISTICS: Recommendations

- In addition to job shadowing and ART, the initial training should include a review of the principles of effective interventions, behavioral strategies such as modeling and the use of re-enforcers (both negative and positive), treatment planning, risk and need factors related to criminal conduct, and the use and interpretation of assessment instruments. It will also be important that staff receive formal training on MRT and the model used for home-based services.

(Sample Evaluation Excerpt Shaffer 2007)

The Objectives of CPC Evaluations in Utah

- **Increase the quality** of State Supervision programs using evidence based practices
- Assist programs in **identifying areas of needed improvement** and outline necessary changes
- **Establish benchmarks** of progress
- Identify programs with **effective structures** of service delivery
- Promote **accountability**

The CPC Assessment Process

Areas of Evaluation

- **Content**

- Offender Assessment
- Treatment Characteristics:

- **Capacity**

- Program Leadership and Development
- Staff Characteristics
- Quality Assurance

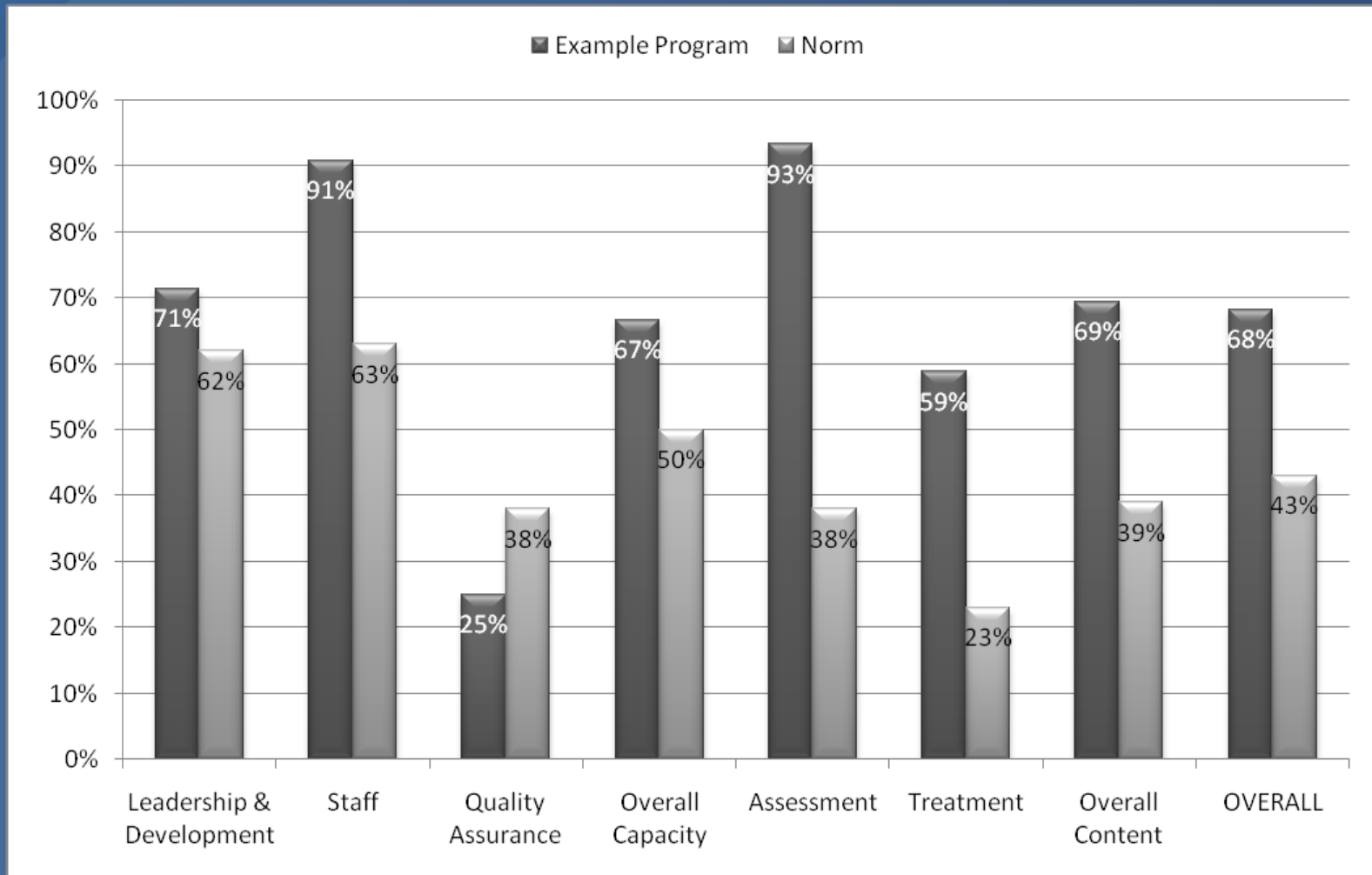
Components of the Assessment

- **Staff survey** of experience, education, and training
- **Structured interviews** with program director and staff using evaluation questionnaire
- **Review of assessments** and scoring guide
- Program **file review**
- Program **participant interviews**
- **Group observation** assessment
- Family interviews

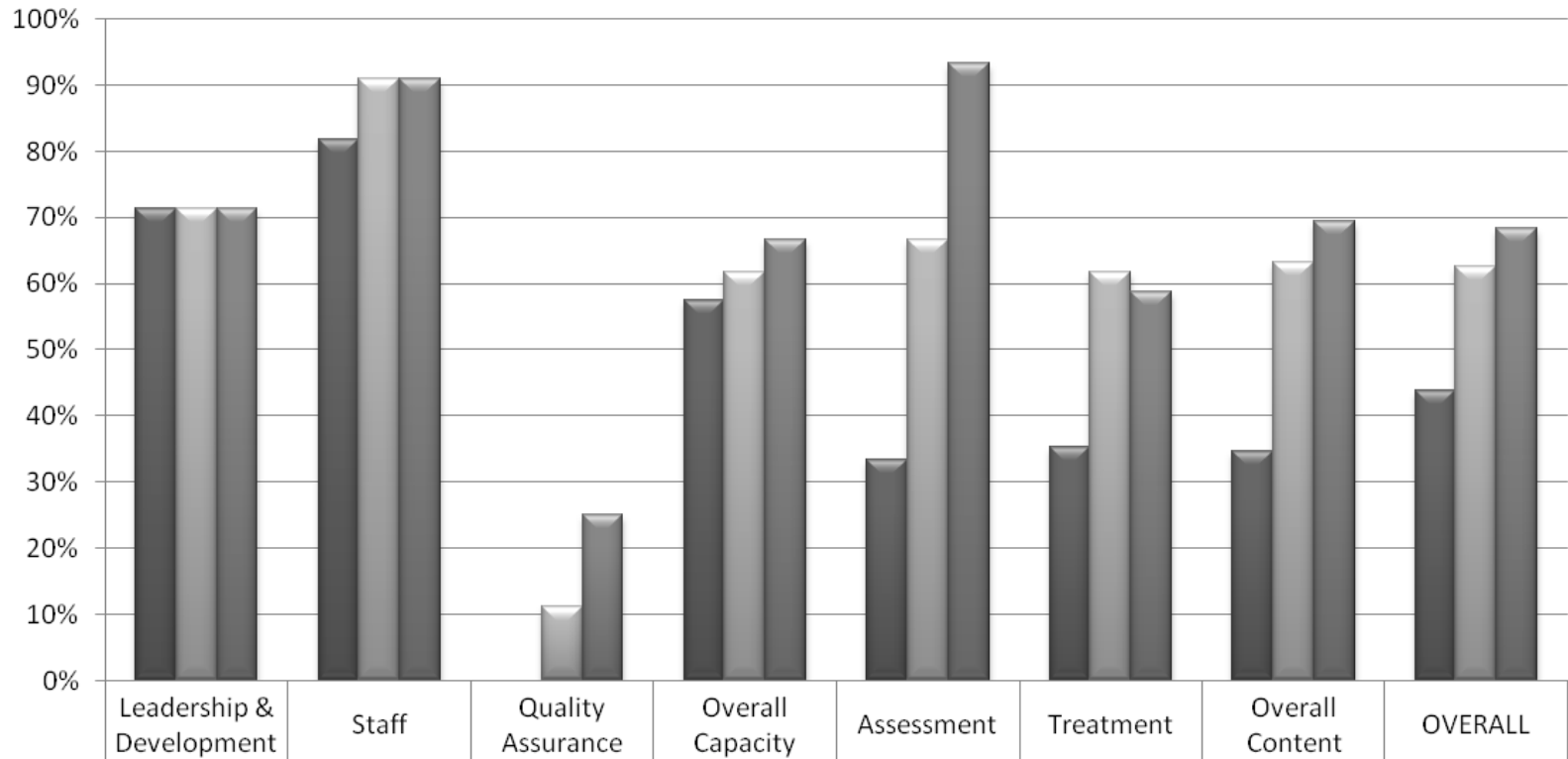
Assessment Process

- Request documents and completion of staff surveys **prior to on-site visit**
- **Review** documents **prior** to interviews
- **Visit on-site** to conduct interviews, observations, and file reviews
- Complete **preliminary draft** report of assessment
- Provide program with **opportunity to respond** to preliminary report
- Provide **final report** and any necessary feedback on recommendations or evaluation
- Provide **ongoing technical support**

Sample CPC Scoring Report



Sample Cross-Year CPC Scoring Report



	Leadership & Development	Staff	Quality Assurance	Overall Capacity	Assessment	Treatment	Overall Content	OVERALL
■ 1st CPC	71%	82%	0%	58%	33%	35%	35%	44%
■ 2nd CPC	71%	91%	11%	62%	67%	62%	63%	63%
■ 3rd CPC	71%	91%	25%	67%	93%	59%	69%	68%

Reporting & Feedback

- Programs are provided with an evaluation report **within 4 weeks** of assessment
- **Feedback meeting** is held with the program and court managers
- Reports include an **overall score** and scores in each sub-area
- **Strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations** for improvement in each sub-area are outlined
- Programs **may comment** on any areas of concern
- Most **pressing needs** are highlighted
- Ongoing **technical assistance and support** is provided

Benefits of the CPC

- Based on research of **empirically-tested items**
- **Applies to multiple program types** and formats
- Provides **rapid feedback**
- **Establishes benchmarks** of progress across time
- Provides **standardized measures** of program integrity and quality
- Supplies **cost effective** evaluations
- Identifies **areas of success and areas needing improvement**

Implementation of the CPC in Utah

CPC Training in Utah

- Three day **intensive training** with CPC expert
- Instructed in **relevant research** literature
- **Conducted a program evaluation** with CPC expert
- Evaluated **scoring reliability** and standards
- Provided a **report for review**
- Evaluated a program **in small groups**
- **Assessed accuracy** of evaluation with CPC expert
- Provided **follow-up training** and examination of **inter-rater reliability**

Continuous Reporting

- **Interactive website** accessible to program, managers, court staff, and funding agencies
- Presents comparison of **CPC scores and recidivism rates** across programs
- Provides overview of program participants' demographics, risk level, **changes in attitudes and behaviors**, risk area targets, **recidivism** during and after the program
- Outlines strengths and areas of needed improvement identified by the CPC and provides **technical assistance**

Overview CPC Progress in Utah

- State Supervision programs are **assessed annually**
- Most programs have **shown improvement** and **collaboration** between probation and programs has increased
- Programs and managers are able to **track progress** on key outcome measures such as recidivism, CPC scores, risk assessments, and cross-program comparisons
- **Successful approaches** can be **shared** across programs