

Correctional Therapeutic Community (CTC) Training

Overview for those Adopting the Program

The need for training in the CTC Program model will vary considerably from system to system. Many correctional systems have had experience implementing modified TCs already, following the guidelines of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program. They may have been exposed to TC Principles and Programming through the existing SAMHSA and OJP materials. For such systems with prior experience, this Correctional TC Program Model provides a means for standardizing and engaging in quality improvement of programming following evidence-based guidelines. Such systems may be able to use the information provided in the Implementation Materials Table without need of on-site training and orientation. For such programs, consultation is available on specific topics and concerns as needed, as outlined in the Table.

Other systems with less experience will benefit from more training and technical assistance. One means of self-assessing training needs can come from viewing the slides "Treating the Chemically Dependent Criminal Offenders in Corrections" (see Implementation Materials Table). The slides represent a comprehensive look at the Correctional TC process and, in viewing, prospective clients can likely judge whether they are relatively unfamiliar with TCs in corrections or recognize key elements of programming with which they are already familiar. The degree of technical assistance needed will be a factor of any system's past experience and current resources, and a training plan can be tailored to each system's circumstances. The program developers are available at no cost to talk with those considering the TC Program and advise them on the degree and types of technical assistance needed.

A full training package is recommended for systems and institutions with limited experience in providing substance abuse treatment and essentially no experience in the therapeutic community modality. The full prison TC implementation program's planned duration may take up to six months. The process includes site visits to the designated prison, a visit to a model prison or community TC and ongoing telephone consultation. Correctional institutions in need of varying levels of training and technical assistance can view the information below as a menu of options to be utilized as needed.

Training Resources

There are two implementation training resources available to those seeking to implement the Correctional Therapeutic Community Program. The first is on the East Coast: Strategic Solutions for Public Safety located in Maryland under the direction of Mike Hooper, who developed and implemented the Key-Crest model. The second is on the West Coast: Amity/Extensions in Arizona under the direction of Rod Mullen, who developed the Amity program at the Donovan Prison in California. Having two training centers provide good national coverage, and senior TC consultants are available to be assigned to prospective correctional organizations. For issues related to Program Principles or Program Evaluation, Harry Wexler and Steve Martin are also available to answer questions (*gratis*) or to formally consult for a fee.

FOR THOSE DESIRING FULL IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING

Planning and Orientation (minimum of one experienced consultant/trainer assigned for the new project through the entire implementation and initial support period)

- Two-day site visit by consultant prior to implementation for planning the correctional TC based on a thorough review of conditions at the target prison.
- Site visit is followed by a (minimum) three-day TC consultant guided visit to a fully functioning prison TC and/or a community TC serving clients under criminal justice supervision for the senior correctional staff (e.g., Warden and/or Head of Security) and the designated TC Director (and senior staff if possible) to get a direct experience of a well-functioning model TC that will help formulate structure and quality goals for the planned prison TC. During the three-day visit, discussions will be held with a TC consultant to deepen the understanding of the TC process and continue to refine the implementation plan for the new program.
- A full week of consultant support in the initial week of implementation

Implementation and Support

The six month correctional TC set up includes a weeklong start up with an assigned on site TC consultant to help organize and begin the process of implementation followed by weekly phone consultation to assist and monitor the implementation process and periodic on site consultations and trainings as needed.

Additional Recommended Curriculum Material (also included in the list of Implementation Materials in the NREPP Application). The material suggested here can be reviewed in more detail at each of the hyperlinks indicated.

[Encounter Groups for Addictions \(3-DVD Set\) Cost - \\$299](#)

by Rod Mullen

Illustrated with powerful and compelling vignettes from actual encounter groups, these videos explore how encounter groups have evolved, what we can do to improve groups and overcome pitfalls, and what the keys are to leading successful groups.

[The Therapeutic Community \(3-DVD Set\) Cost - \\$299](#)

by George De Leon

George De Leon, the leading authority today on Therapeutic Communities, provides an in-depth look at the history and core principles on TCs.

[TCs in Prisons: A Research Perspective Cost - \\$99](#)

by Harry Wexler

This video provides a historical review of the research that supports the effectiveness of the correctional TC and informs a deeper understanding of the model.

Training Costs

Costs for a TC consultant is generally \$1,000 per day plus site visit travel, housing and \$100 Per Diem. Correctional staffs that visit the model TC are responsible for their travel related expenses.