

**Treatment of Offenders
with Substance-Use
Disorders;
Policy Development
& Implementation**

Other Services:

Performance Based
Contracting:
Design, Implementation &
Evaluation

Financing & Purchasing
Coordinated,
Efficient Care

Integration of Substance
Use in Medical Care

State Readiness for
Implementation of
Medication-Assisted
Treatment (MAT)

Monitoring and treatment for the substance-involved offender are rapidly changing, particularly in the current budget environment as states cut costs. The potential for savings in the criminal justice system is significant.

The Treatment Research Institute (TRI) has built upon its expertise in addiction and addiction treatment to help states integrate the best of evidence-based management, monitoring and treatment for the substance-involved offender. TRI's Center for Policy Research and Analysis has helped Single State Agencies (SSAs) and state criminal justice officials (1) develop effective and safe policies and treatments for offenders; and (2) design, implement, and evaluate those policies and treatments.

States have found the consultation provided by TRI to be grounded in the latest scientific research about the nature of addiction and a sound understanding and appreciation of the public safety goals of the criminal justice system. TRI is able to provide a scientifically based perspective on addiction and addiction treatment to assist state substance abuse and criminal justice officials work together from a common approach, to base public policy on effective treatment options for offenders.

What TRI Offers:

TRI's Policy Center offers evidence-based services to improve offender policy and treatment program design - from the point of arrest through reentry to the community from prison. The services are tailored to meet the specific needs of individual states and jurisdictions within the state. In some cases, the assistance may be related to statewide or countywide initiatives; in others, it may involve one or more drug courts, probation/parole offices, prison based programs, etc. A brief description of some of these services follows.

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A. Workshops and Education on the Nature and Causes of Addiction

Workshops and education focus initially on state officials who must understand addiction itself in order to consider the relationship between public safety and treatment of offenders with substance/alcohol abuse disorders. TRI presents workshops for state officials based on contemporary science and research, stressing that addiction is a chronic disease and, thus, treatment must follow a chronic, not an acute treatment model. The workshop also discusses key implications of this understanding:

- Since there is no cure for many addictions, the best clinical and public policy strategies will promote long-term supervision and support in well-managed outpatient settings; and
- There are many features of clinical monitoring that are compatible with criminal justice monitoring – and, thus, many opportunities for the two systems to work together effectively and efficiently.

B. Program Design for Offenders

Once state officials understand the chronic disease model for treatment, they are in a position to begin to discuss the specific treatment options that promote reductions in *both* substance abuse *and* new criminal activity. TRI facilitates these discussions, helping officials decide on the specific type of treatment programs they want for the offenders they are targeting. TRI recommends the specific evidence-based treatment practices providers should employ and appropriate sanctions for non-compliance with criminal justice requirements.

C. Solicitation and Provider Selection Process

TRI can help state substance abuse and criminal justice agencies design Requests for Proposals for specific substance abuse treatment services.

D. Funding Models

TRI's Center for Policy Analysis and Research has special expertise in financing models for substance abuse treatment services, including performance-based contracts that reward providers for positive results. TRI helps state officials identify the results they want to achieve for the offender

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population, create performance measures, set targets for each measure, and formulate specific monetary and non-monetary incentives to move the system toward the targets.

E. Workshops for Treatment Providers and Other Stakeholders

Once the program and funding models are designed, TRI helps state directors offer the workshop described above, but tailored for all those involved with drug-involved offender populations (i.e., treatment providers, other public officials, health and mental health care providers, all criminal justice staff, etc.). Again, these training events help all involved understand addiction as a chronic disease, the implications and expectations of treating persons with a chronic disease, the new substance abuse treatment programming the state is putting in place, and the communication issues that will need to be addressed for successful treatment of offenders.

F. Evaluation

Because TRI is fundamentally a research institute, it has a major interest in conducting evaluations of offender treatment projects in states that are reforming their systems. When a formative evaluation is initiated, TRI will provide regular (monthly, when appropriate) data-based reports that analyze results and help officials identify successes and problems as they arise. TRI will provide consultation and advice for quality improvements that can lead to improved results.

The Treatment Research Institute's Center for Policy Research and Analysis works with each state, county, city, court system, department of correction, probation/parole office, etc. to individualize the menu of services described above to provide the type and amount of assistance requested by the jurisdiction.

The Treatment Research Institute (TRI) is an independent, non-profit research and development organization specializing in science-driven reform of policy and practice in addiction and substance use. TRI was founded in 1992 by A. Thomas McLellan, Ph.D. and colleagues from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for the Studies of Addiction. To learn more, visit the TRI website at www.tresearch.org or contact Bonnie Catone, Director of Communications, at bcatone@tresearch.org.