

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN PAROLE SCENARIO 1

TONYA

**T**onya was released on parole after serving 3 years of a 5 year sentence for Sale of Cocaine. She sold cocaine to an undercover officer in order to support her own cocaine addiction. While in prison, she completed her GED, but due to lack of availability received no substance abuse counseling.

Since her release, she is working toward regaining custody of her 2 minor children, who have been in foster care since her incarceration. She has worked sporadically at fast food establishments. She has been fired from 4 jobs due to tardiness and excessive absences. She has tested positive for cocaine on 5 different occasions. After each positive test, her Parole Officer has referred her to community substance abuse treatment. Each time she has failed to go to the scheduled assessment or the counseling sessions.

Tonya's mother recently reported that she stole her checkbook and forged her mother's name and passed a number of stolen checks against her mother's account. The mother refused to press charges and has paid all of the check charges to the impacted merchants. However, now the mother, with whom Tonya resides, wants something done with her daughter, who has seriously relapsed into her cocaine addiction, using on a daily basis. Her risk of re-arrest is "high", according to the Board's supervision risk assessment instrument.

The Parole Officer requested a warrant and arrested Tonya. She is now facing a revocation hearing before Chairman Garland Hunt, representing the Board.

The options are:

- 1 Revoke Tonya back to state prison with no specific programming requests, to do hard time for punishment.
- 2 Revoke Tonya back to state prison with instructions to complete the 9 month Residential Substance Abuse Program operated by the Dept. of Corrections.
- 3 As an alternative to revocation, mandate Tonya to complete a 6 month, Board approved, community Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, which is paid for with Board fiscal resources.
- 4 As an alternative to revocation, mandate Tonya to complete a community intensive out-patient substance abuse treatment program, so that she can continue with the process of acquiring custody of her children.

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN PAROLE SCENARIO 2

### TONY

**T**ony is a 36 year old inmate currently serving a 6 year sentence for Burglary. Since his teens, Tony has been involved in the criminal justice system with a lengthy history of property crimes. He has been on probation, in prison or on parole his entire adult life. He is known to abuse alcohol and marijuana, but does not have a serious addiction. Tony can be described as immature, impulsive and acting without regard to the consequences of his actions.

This period of incarceration, his fifth, seems to have proven different than previous. Tony has proclaimed that he is ready to take responsibility for his life and provide a life for his two young sons. During this incarceration, Tony has completed his GED and a vocational training program in Welding. Due to his criminal history, Tony is rated as high risk to re-offend. He also scored high on a motivation to change index.

Chairman Hunt has Tony's file to make a parole decision on his case. Tony is now parole eligible after serving 1/3 or two years of his 6 year sentence. Chairman Hunt and his fellow Parole Board Members have the following options.

- 1 Vote to parole Tony after he has successfully completed a cognitive-behavioral program (MRT) in prison.
- 2 Vote to parole Tony now with a special condition of his parole that he complete a cognitive-behavioral program (MRT) taught by Parole Officers.
- 3 Deny parole based solely on his risk score and lengthy criminal history.

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN PAROLE SCENARIO 3

### WILLIAM

**W**illiam is serving a Life sentence for Murder. In 1981, he was convicted of brutally killing his estranged wife by stabbing her, then mutilating her body by cutting it into small pieces and burying her remains. He had no prior criminal record prior to this offense.

During the 27 years that he has been in prison, he has had NO disciplinary reports, which is a rare occurrence. While in prison, he has completed numerous available programs. He completed Motivation for Change, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, (a cognitive-behavioral curriculum), his GED and Vocational Training to be a Firefighter. For the past 15 years, he is a trusted, accomplished inmate firefighter. He lives and works in a non-secure fire station located on prison property, but serves and responds to fires in the local community. Last summer, William and other firefighters, were recognized by the Governor for their efforts in containing wildfires that were burning out of control in South Georgia. William is a model inmate.

Because the murder was so brutal, there are numerous protests and petitions from the victim's family, local officials, and the community pleading for the inmate not to be released. The inmate has a constitutional right to be considered for parole and the file is being prepared for the decision.

William has strong family support and a job offer at a small community fire department if released. He is rated as low risk to re-offend on the Board's risk assessment instrument. At the time William was sentenced, life sentenced inmates were eligible for parole after serving 7 years. Last year, the statute was changed and now inmates serving a life sentence must serve 30 years before initial consideration. This does not affect William's eligibility, but does reflect public sentiment. In Georgia, of those life sentence inmates who have been paroled, the average number of years served is 21.

Chairman Hunt must make an independent decision on William's case and then pass the file to his fellow members to get a majority vote. Chairman Hunt's options are:

- 1 Parole William now based on his good behavior, program completion and inmate work performance.
- 2 Deny parole at this time and re-consider after he has served 30 years.

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN PAROLE SCENARIO 4

### BILL

**B**ill is a 42-Year old offender who was paroled 18 Months ago on a 4 to 8 year sentence for 5 counts of burglary of a residence. Underlying these offences is an extensive history of poly drug abuse and abuse of alcohol. He has had two prior sentences related to drug possession and burglary. While incarcerated, Bill completed a 6-month substance abuse program and received certification as an apprentice plumber. His risk and needs assessment rated him as high risk.

His parole plan was to his sister (the only family member who would take him), though she also has a history of alcoholism. Charlie got a job as a plumber helper.

During the first 13 months of parole, Bill reported to his parole agent regularly and complied with the imposed condition of parole: attend a support group (AA), complete a substance abuse program, no frequenting bars and maintain employment.

Bill recently has decompensated – testing positive twice for alcohol and opiates. He quit his job and currently is unemployed. His parole agent, after progressive counseling with him, has arrested and detained him.

The Hearing Officer options with the Board Member's vote are:

1. Continue him under parole supervision in spite of the multiple violations; place him under maximum supervision with electronic monitoring, and the requirement for him to retake the substance abuse program and increase the number of random drug tests.
2. Continue him under supervision but place him in a halfway back facility with the requirement for a reassessment of needs and risks and the completion of a cognitive behavioral program to address criminal thinking errors. Require he secure employment after release and a different residence.
3. Revoke his parole based on his level of risk at release and his multiple violations of parole and his extensive criminal history. Require he take a substance abuse program and address his poor work habits through a technical parole violator in Prison Program.

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN PAROLE SCENARIO 5

### CHARLIE

**C**harlie is a 74-year old inmate serving not less than 10 or more than 30 years for convictions of indecent deviant sexual intercourse, indecent assault and comm.. The victims of his crime were his then 5-year old grandson and 7-year old granddaughter.

He has no prior convictions and no history of drug and alcohol or mental health issues. His risk assessment (LSI-R) indicates he is low risk and his sex offender assessment (Static 99) indicates he is low risk. He is now set to be interviewed for his minimum eligibility parole review.

Reports of the crime indicate that he had oral sex with both children and persuaded both to view pornography. Reports also reveal that he has both the recommendation of the Department of Corrections for parole and a parole guideline score that indicates that he should be considered favorably for parole. According to reports, after 9 ? years in prison, he has no misconducts and has completed sex offender treatment in which he participated for 2 ? years.

During the course of the parole interview, Charlie admits to assaulting his granddaughter but denies he had any contact with his grandson (contrary to both the official version of the crime and his guilty plea to all counts). The interview also reveals that Charlie now admits to having 5 other victims, all 8 years old and under. Charlie is asked to identify red flags and triggers to his sexual offending but he cannot. He is also asked why he assaulted his victims and he states that he was angry with his wife for not giving him sex when he wanted it.

He does assure the Board that he will never reoffend because of what the lengthy sentence has taken out of his life (he does not mention the victims). His plan for not reoffending is avoid contact with kids.

Because this is a sex offense case a majority of the Board must concur, with Chairman McVey entering the deciding vote. The options are:

1. Vote to parole Charlie due to his completion of programs, clear conduct and DOC support, but place on intensive supervision and require that he continue to participate in sex offender programming in the community.
2. Refuse parole with review again in 1 year due to his denial of the victimization of his grandson, his lack of insight relative to his identification of red flags/triggers and the blame placed on his wife for failure to have sex with him and lastly, due to the revelation of additional victims, that could not have been dealt with during participation in sex offender programs.
3. Refuse parole pending reassessment of Charlie to confirm sex offending risk level. Reconsider him for parole after completion of the reassessment and completion of any further indicated programming.

## EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN PAROLE SCENARIO 6

### James

**J**ames is a 25-Year old inmate serving a 5 to 10 year sentence for possession of a controlled substance, possession of instruments of crime, and burglary of a car repair business. He was a juvenile offender with a history of substance abuse (marijuana, crack cocaine), and property crimes: destruction of property, vandalism, theft, etc.

He completed his G.E.D. in prison but has not obtained any living wage work skills. He has completed half of the prison substance abuse program.

James' risk and needs assessment (LSI-R) classifies him as mid to high risk, particularly in the domains of: associates/companions; substance abuse problems and employment.

James is being approved for parole. He has requested in his reentry plan to go to a Halfway House for several months rather than to his parents' home who could provide a stable residence. He also has a tentative job at a fast food restaurant.

Chairman McVey and another Board Member are considering the following options as they establish the offender's conditions of parole:

Options:

1. REQUIRE THAT:
  - A. Prior to release on parole he must complete his substance abuse program.
  - B. Go to the Halfway House for 2-3 months as a "step down" from incarceration.
  - C. He must work fulltime at the fast food restaurant or other full-time employment.
  - D. Complete an anger management program.
  - E. Participate in a community service graffiti clean-up project.
2. REQUIRE THAT:
  - A. Complete his substance abuse treatment in the county certified substance abuse program.
  - B. Reside with his parents.
  - C. In addition to working at his acquired employment, he must enroll in an evening grant covered vocational training program.
  - D. Require the parole office to enroll him in its cognitive behavioral program.
3. REQUIRE HE:
  - A. Complete his substance abuse program in prison prior to release.
  - B. Reside with his parents.
  - C. Enroll fulltime in a grant vocational program to acquire a marketable skill, with his parents (who have offered) to provide some financial living support.
  - D. Be placed on curfew restrictions and electronic monitoring.
  - E. Attend a substance abuse support group, such as 12-Step Program.