

Juvenile Defenders Association of PA “Transfer Decisions & Psychology”

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HBH Mission

Hempfield Behavioral Health, Inc. (HBH) is the leading provider of evidence-based behavioral health prevention and treatment services in central Pennsylvania. The mission of HBH is to take proven programs for the prevention or treatment of child abuse, delinquency, youth violence, school failure, and mental illness and implement them under actual community-based conditions.

Transfer Criteria

- **Severity & nature of offence**
- **Community protection**
- **Criminal sophistication**
- **Legal history**
- **Amenability to treatment**

What Matters to Judges?

- **Dangerousness**
- **Criminal sophistication**
- ***NOT* Amenability to treatment**

Quick Frame of Reference

OJJDP Bulletin June 2010

- Transfer *does not* deter further crime
 - Recidivism higher for violent offences tried in adult court
 - Overall 29% lower recidivism if adjudicated in Juv. court
 - PA study shows twice as likely to reoffend if transferred
- Arrests **are** deterrents
- Transfer *does not* examine programs, just juveniles
- Transfer *does not* maximize ecologies useful for change
- Transfer *does not* incorporate current brain science
- 70% of youth in JJ have 1 or more psychiatric dx

Mobile Laboratory





Prevention Research Center

FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT





Prevention Research Center

FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Emotion Induction



Fear



Sad



Happy



Anger

Program quality matters



Multisystemic Therapy

Home based treatment of violent, substance abusing youth 12-17.

- Single therapist
- 24/7 coverage
- 4-6 months (60 hours)

108 month outcomes: 789 cases

- 102 placed (13%)
- 687 successful (87%)

Henggeler, S. et al. (1998) Blueprints for violence Prevention: MST Boulder Co: Center for Study & Prevention of Violence.

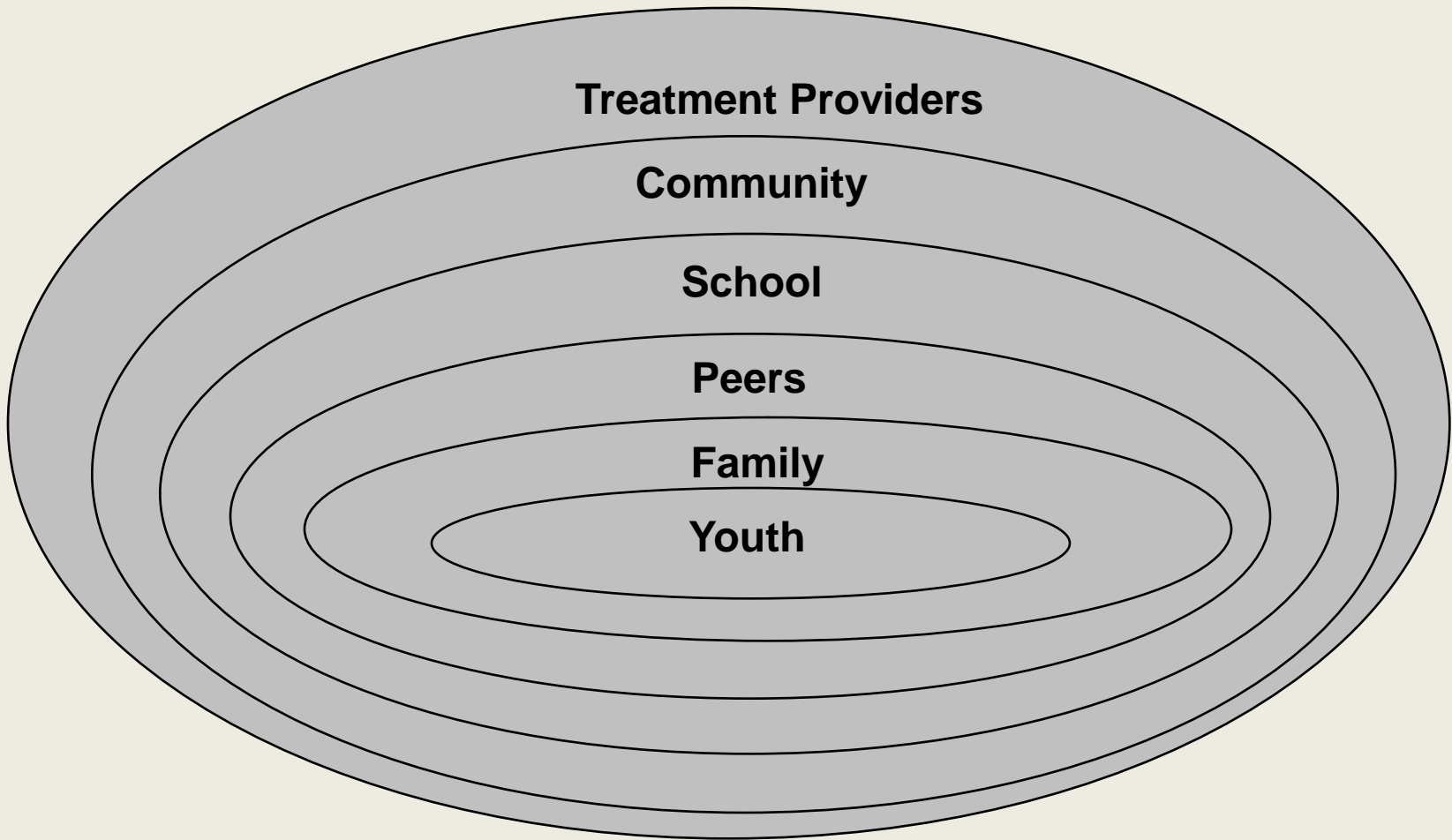
MST-Problem Sexual Behavior

Traditional MST behaviors plus:

- *Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault*
 - *Criminal Sexual Assault*
 - *Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse*
 - *Criminal Sexual Abuse*
 - *Other sexual offenses (i.e. sexual exploitation)*
 - *Sexual offenses that were pled down to nonsexual offenses*
-
- Denial
 - Safety planning
 - Age appropriate social activities



The Ecology



Risk Factors for Delinquency in Adolescence

Peer	
Rejection from peers	
Deviant peer involvement	
Weak social ties	
Substance use	
Peer approval of delinquent behavior (magnified when youth have little interaction with their parents)	
School	
Poor academic performance	Over crowded classrooms
Low commitment to school	Limited resources
Low educational aspirations	
Poor motivation	
Low expectations of success	

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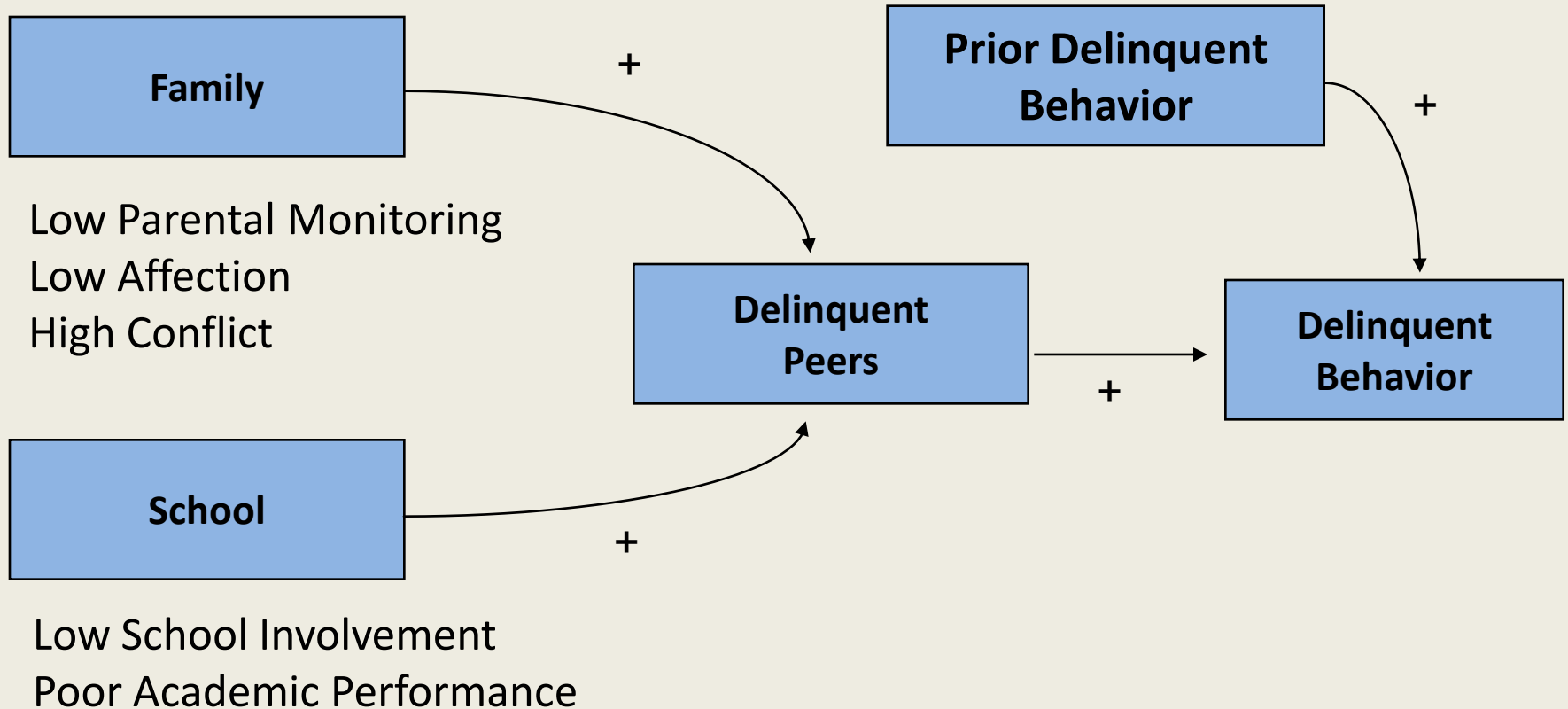
Risk Factors for Delinquency in Adolescence

Community	
Disorganized neighborhood	Ready access to weapons
Unmonitored criminal activity	Few prosocial opportunities
Violence	High residential turnover
High-crime neighborhood	
Norms favorable to crime	

Protective Factors

Protective Factors	
Perceived risk of a meaningful consequence	Decreased access to community crime
Attachment to family or family support group	
Parental monitoring	
Positive Social Activities	
School connectedness	

Condensed Longitudinal Model



*Elliott, Huizinga & Ageton
(1985)*

**Referral
Behavior**

MST Analytical Process

**Desired Outcomes
of Family and Other
Key Participants**

**Overarching
Goals**

**Environment of Alignment and Engagement
of Family and Key Participants**

**MST Conceptualization
of "Fit"**

Re-evaluate

**Assessment of
Advances & Barriers to
Intervention Effectiveness**

Prioritize

**Intermediary
Goals**

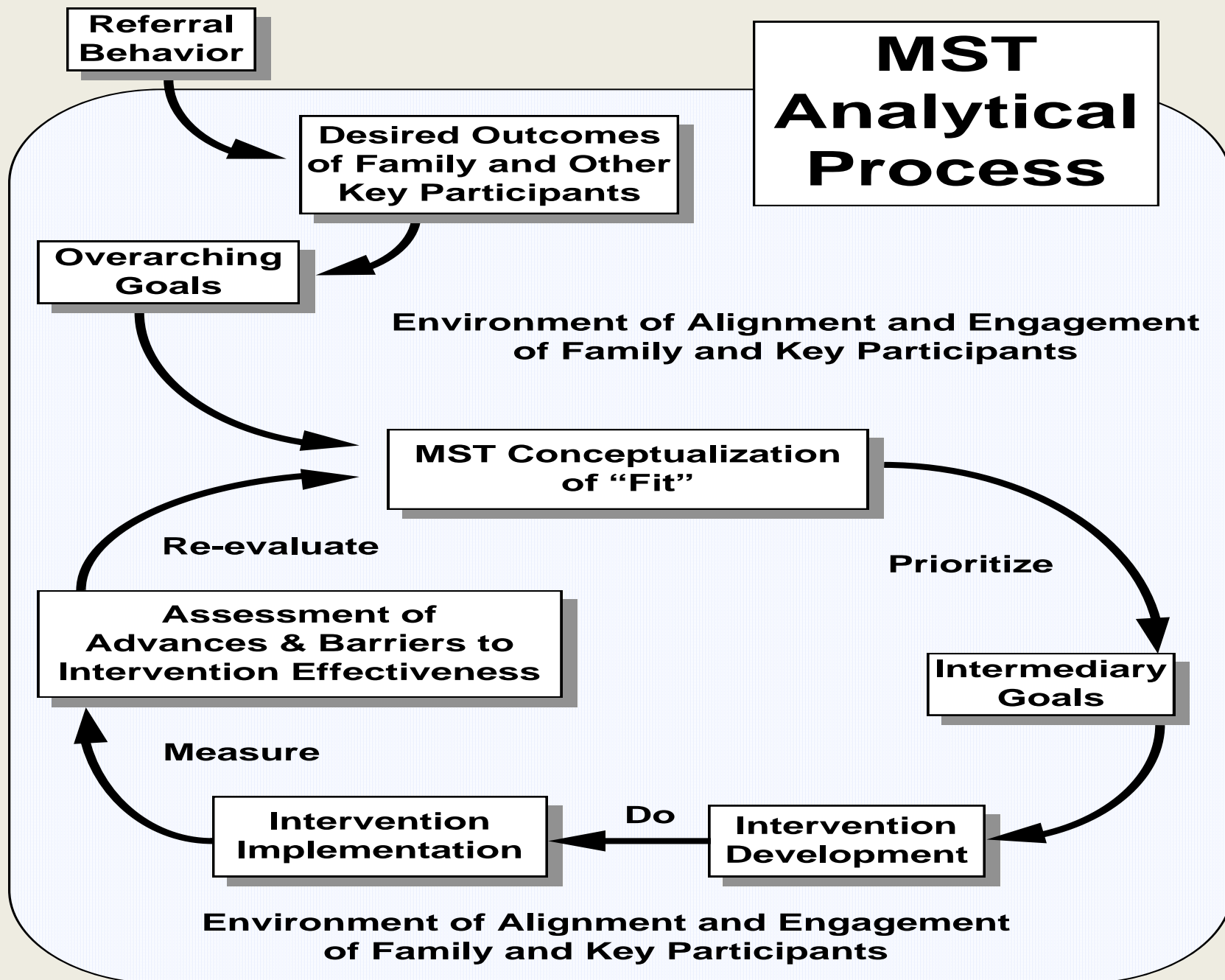
Measure

**Intervention
Implementation**

Do

**Intervention
Development**

**Environment of Alignment and Engagement
of Family and Key Participants**

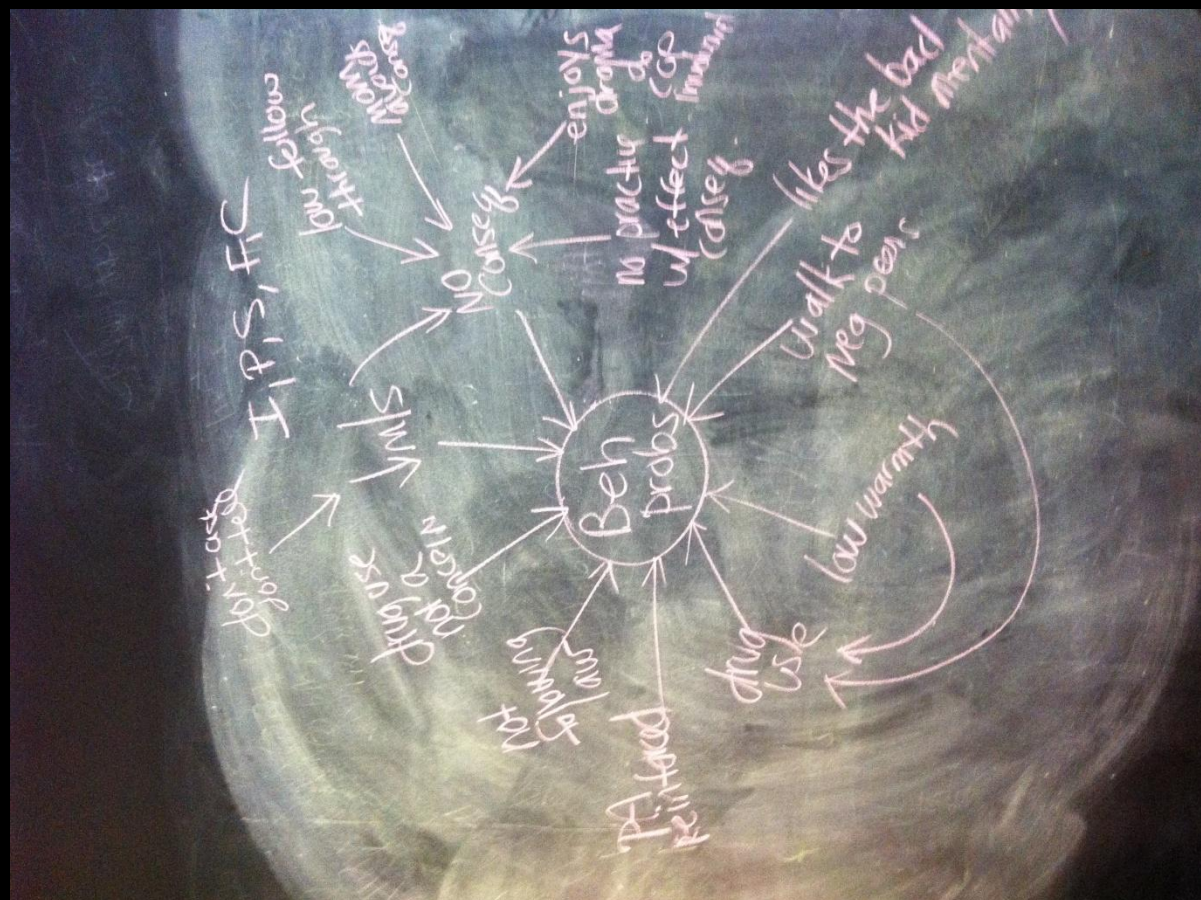


Motivational Interviewing: Enhancing Motivation for Change (Prochaska & DiClemente)

- **Five stages of change**
 - **Pre-contemplation (Think)**
 - **Contemplation (Choices)**
 - **Preparation (Plan)**
 - **Action (Barriers)**
 - **Maintenance (Support)**

Determining FIT

Thinking through FIT

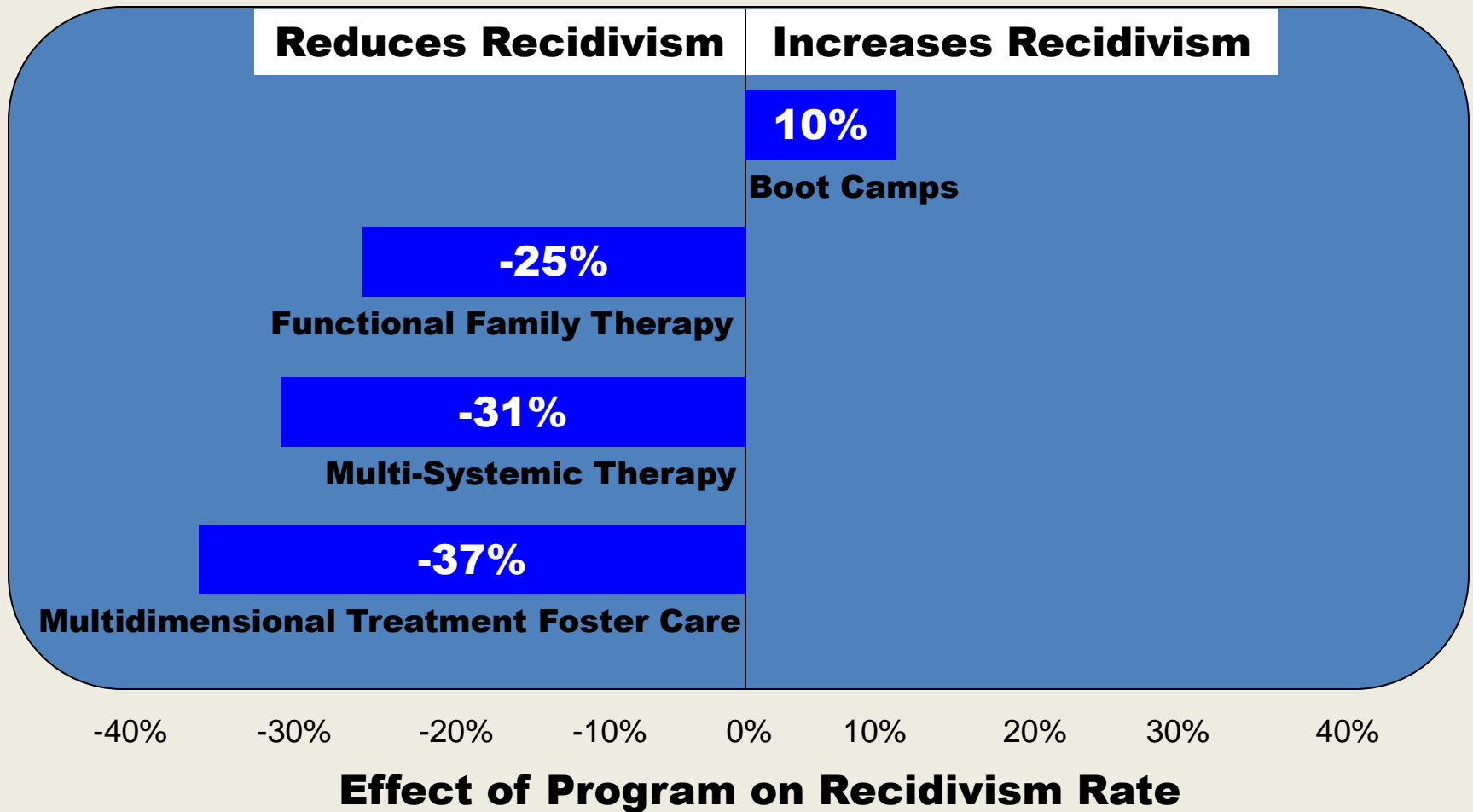


Critical Concepts



- **Alignment**
- **Engagement**
- **Motivational Interview**
- **FIT**
- **Empirical Strategies**

Evidence-Based Practices Reduce Recidivism



SOURCE: Meta-analysis conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy