

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

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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.

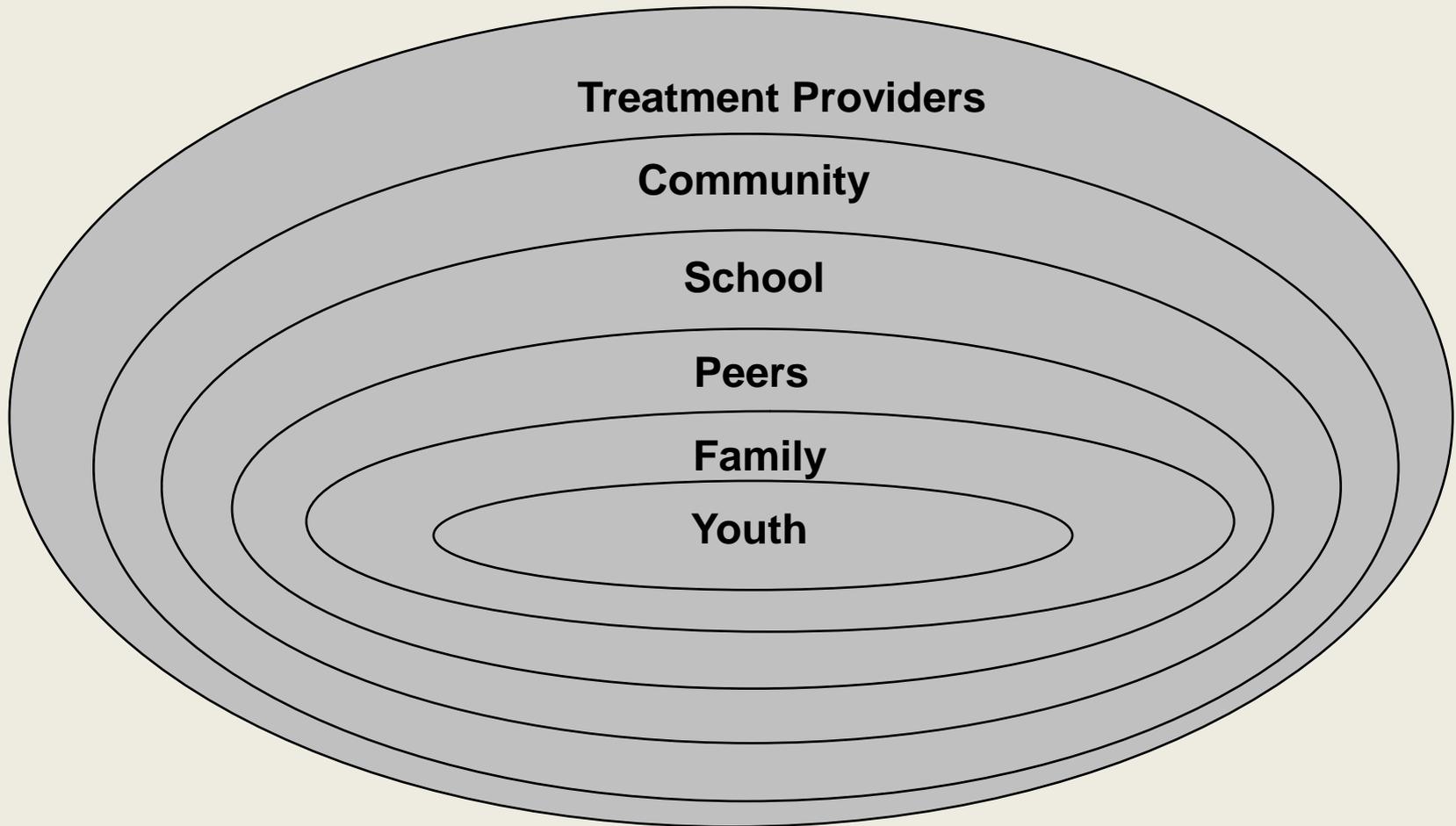
MST-Problem Sexual Behavior

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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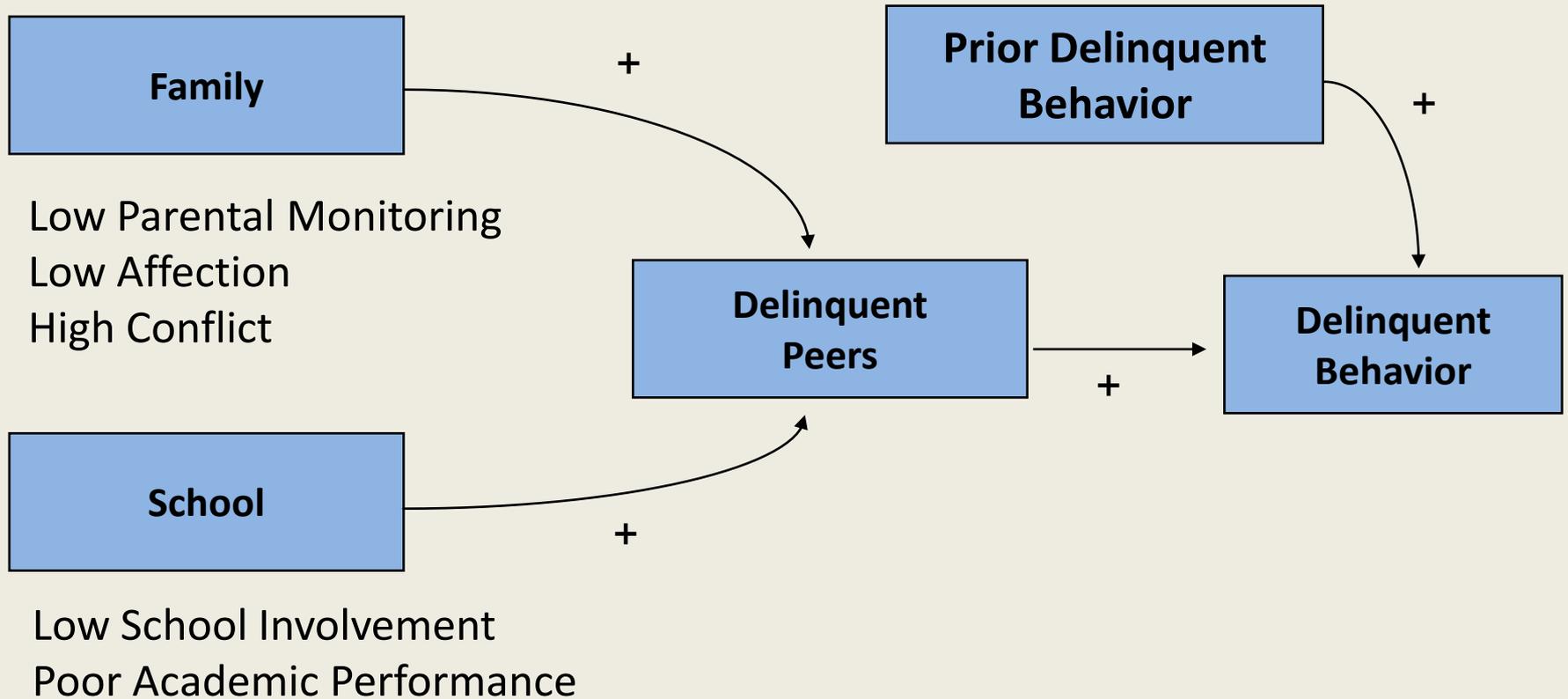
Community

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)*

MST Analytical Process

Referral Behavior

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

Prioritize

Assessment of Advances & Barriers to Intervention Effectiveness

Intermediary Goals

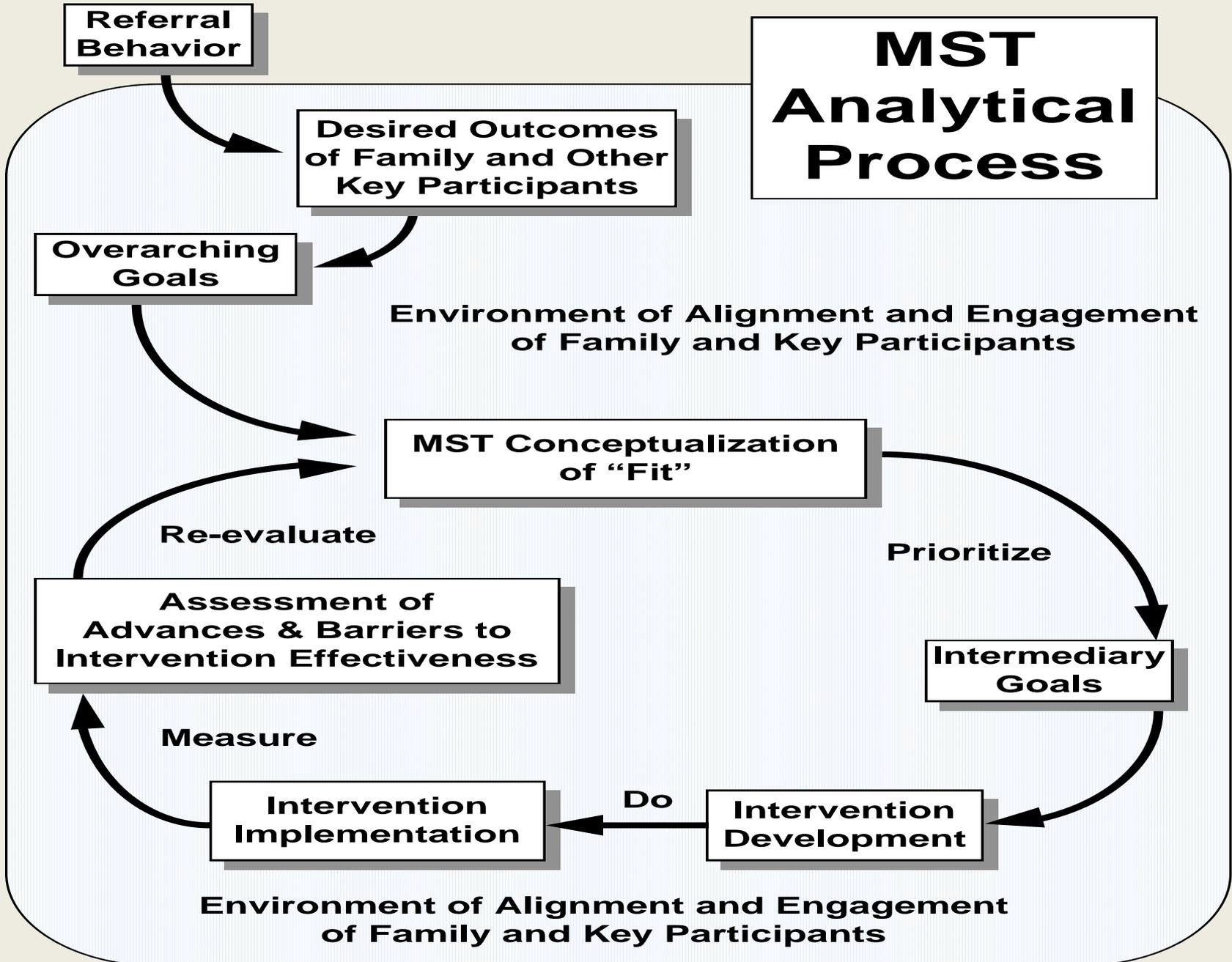
Measure

Do

Intervention Implementation

Intervention Development

Environment of Alignment and Engagement of Family and Key Participants



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

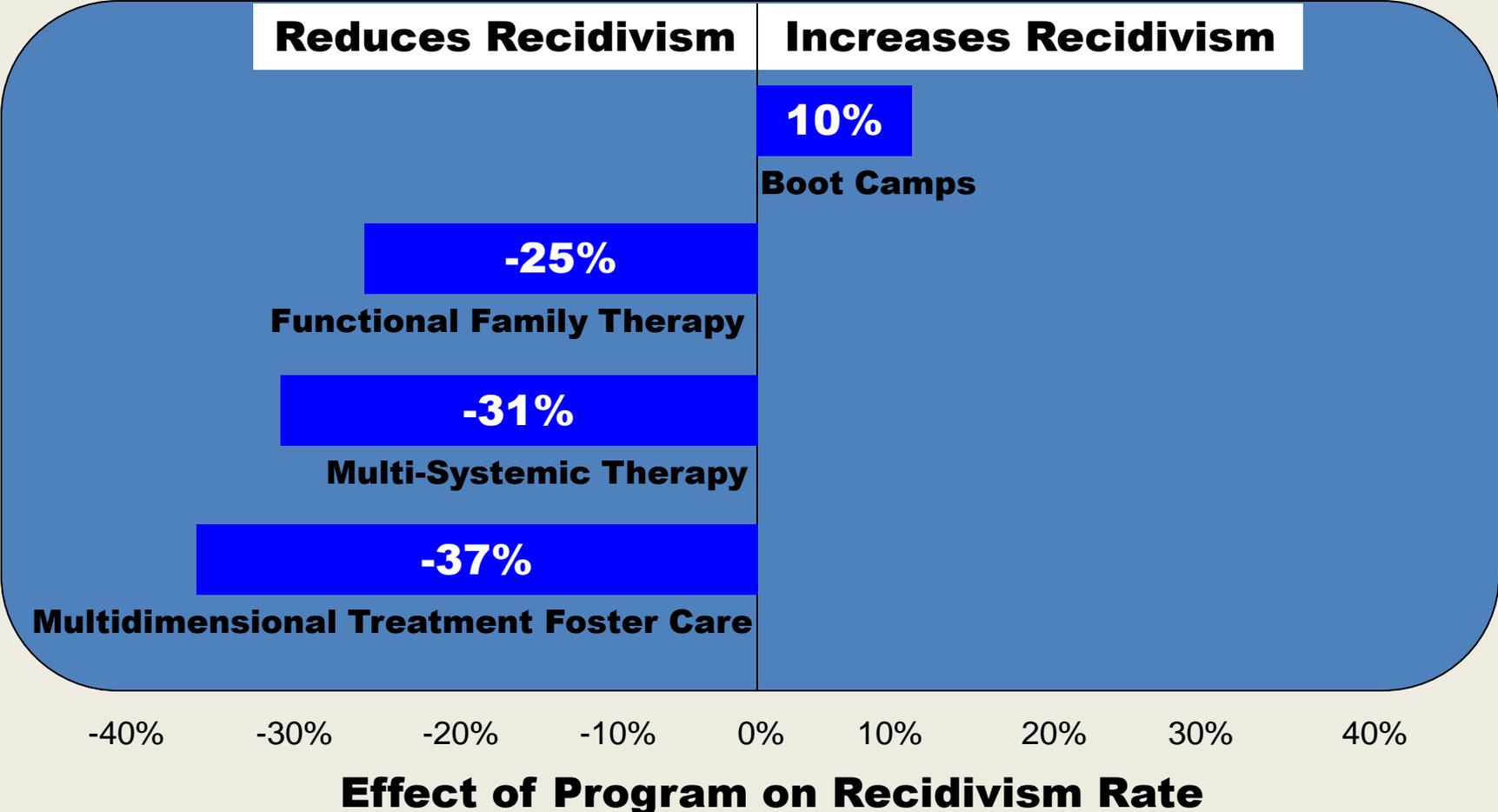
- **Five stages of change**
 - **Pre-contemplation (Think)**
 - **Contemplation (Choices)**
 - **Preparation (Plan)**
 - **Action (Barriers)**
 - **Maintenance (Support)**

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