The Identification, Confrontation, and Remediation of Criminal Thinking Patterns

Presented by
Bill Elliott, PhD.
Director of Mental Health and Behavioral Management
Indiana Department of Correction
wnelliott@doc.in.gov

THE “3 C’s” of Lifestyle Criminality

CONDITIONS
CHOICE
COGNITION

THE 8 PRIMARY CRIMINAL THINKING PATTERNS

- Mollification
- Cutoff
- Entitlement
- Power Orientation
- Sentimentality
- Superoptimism
- Cognitive Indolence
- Discontinuity

8 Primary Criminal Thinking Patterns: APPLIED TERMINOLOGY

1. It’s not my fault!
2. I know it’s wrong, but I’m doing it anyway!
3. I SHOULD get what I want!
4. I’m the BOSS!
5. I’m a really great person!
6. I can get by with anything!
7. That’s too much work for me!
8. I can talk the talk, but cannot walk the walk!

MOLLIFICATION

Denial of Responsibility
Denial of Injury
Denial of the Victim
Condemning the Condemners
Appeal to Higher Loyalties

CUTOFF

Internal Cutoffs
“Fuck It”
Corrosion
Self-Justification
Private Rituals

External Cutoffs
Alcohol and Drugs
Aggression Immersion
Music
Pornography
ENTITLEMENT

Uniqueness
Ownership
Misidentification of Wants as Needs

POWER ORIENTATION

Zero State
Power Thrust

“THE DIRTY DOZEN”
Power and Control Tactics employed by Offenders in Treatment

- Testing
- Diversion
- Solidarity
- Sphere of Influence
- Extortion
- Revenge
- Ingratiation
- Disreputation
- Rumor Clinic
- Negotiation
- Boundary Intrusion
- Splitting

SENTIMENTALITY

SUPEROPTIMISM

COGNITIVE INDOLENCE

DISCONTINUITY

MANAGING OFFENDER RESISTANCE TO TREATMENT: “THE 3 R’S”

Redirection
Relabeling
Reversal of Responsibility

ADDRESSING CRIMINAL THINKING THROUGH STRUCTURED GROUP TREATMENT

Problem Stating
Awarding the Meeting
The Meeting
The Summary
Recommended Readings