CHAPTER 3

Program Development and Management

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Developing an Effective Program

- Use an Evidence-Based Model of Change
- Match Program Dosage to Offender Risk Level
- Target Criminogenic Needs
- Match Treatment Services to Offender Learning Style
- Use Effective Methods with an Emphasis on Skill Building
- Sequence Interventions in a Logical Manner

Managing the Treatment Program

- Select, Train, and Support Staff
- Provide Continuity of Care and Community Supports
- Ensure Program Integrity
- Evaluate Program Effectiveness
- Ensure Support for the Program

Summary and Conclusions

Treatment programs designed to reduce criminal offending are not all equally effective. Considerable variation among programs exists. Historically, some have reduced reoffending, others have had no measurable impact, and some have actually increased reoffending. These facts have spurred more than three decades of research focused on identifying the characteristics that distinguish effective programs from ineffective ones. The results of this research have yielded a robust literature—commonly called the “what works” literature—that details the principles of effective correctional treatment.