

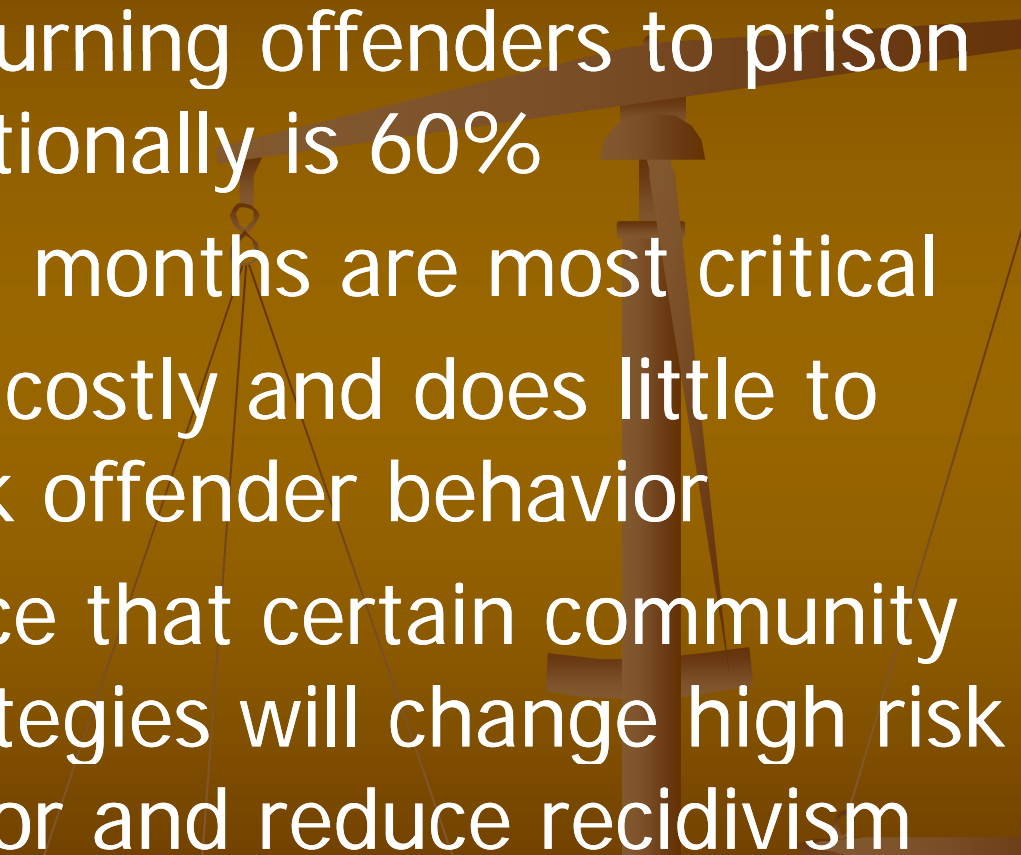


ACCELERATED COMMUNITY ENTRY (ACE)

A program designed to increase
the success of high risk offenders
returning to the community from
prison

Western District of Michigan

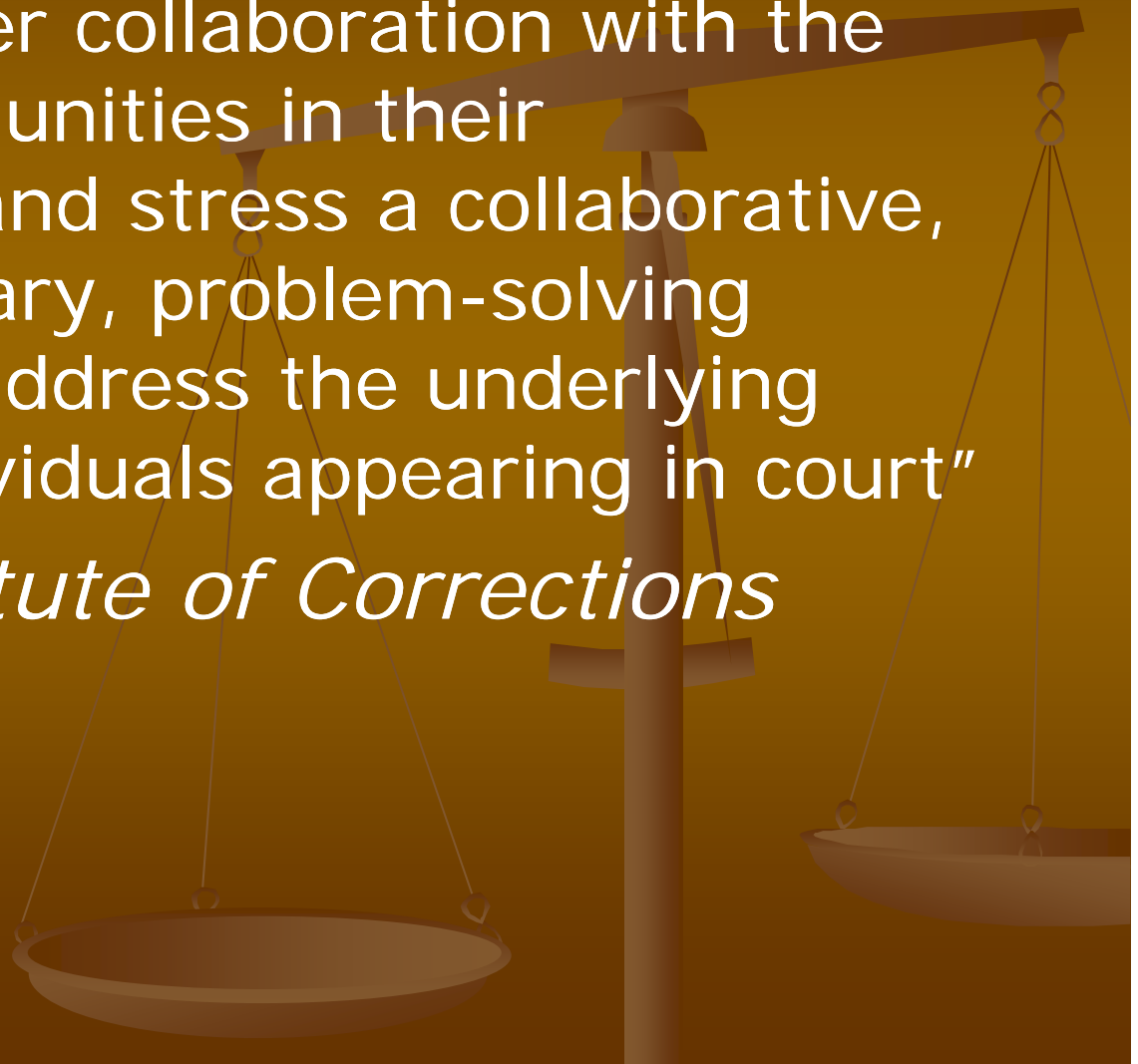
WHY?

- Statistics for returning offenders to prison after release nationally is 60%
 - The first 6 to 12 months are most critical
 - Incarceration is costly and does little to change high risk offender behavior
 - There is evidence that certain community supervision strategies will change high risk offender behavior and reduce recidivism
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Problem Solving Courts

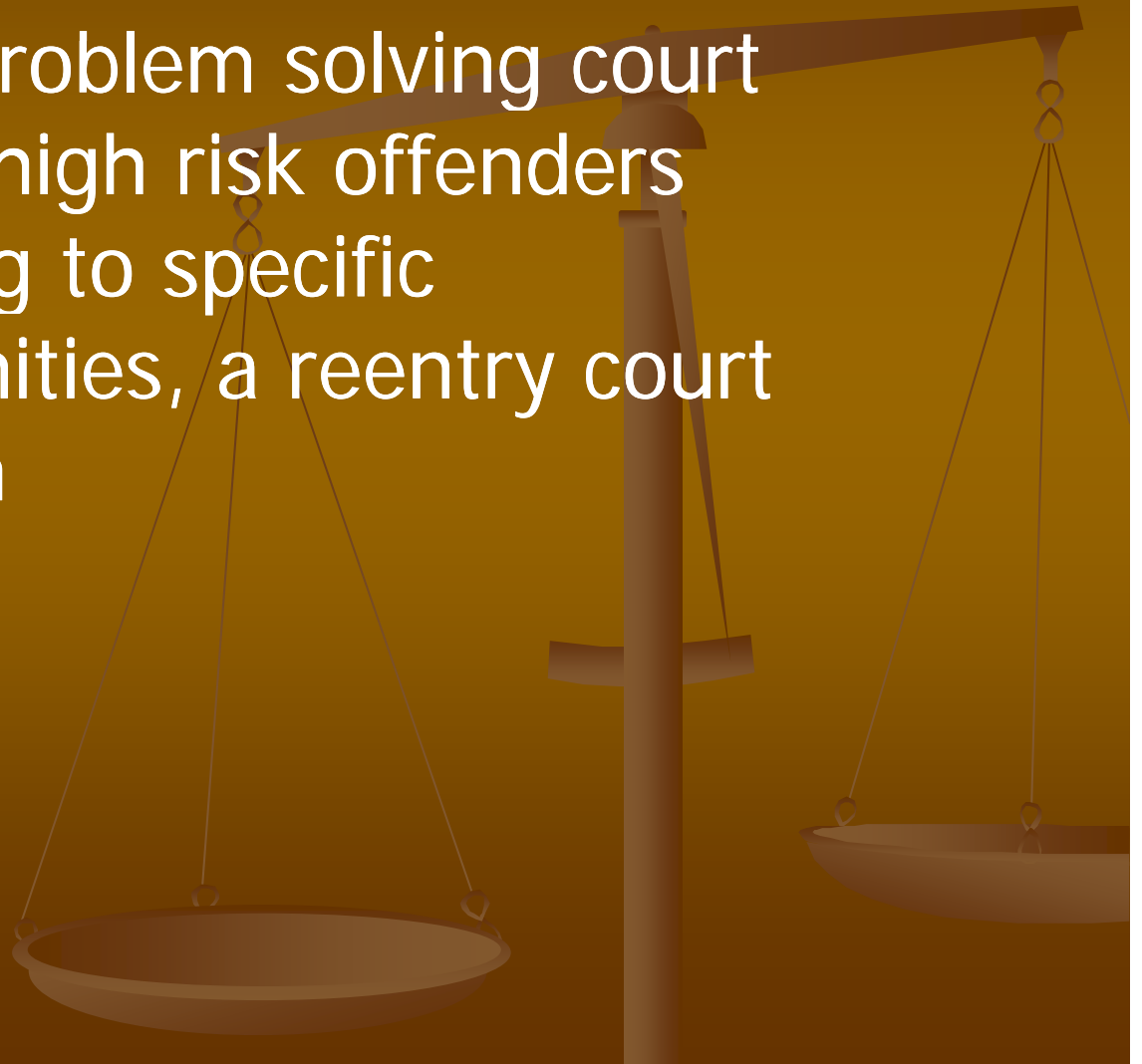
"focus on closer collaboration with the service communities in their jurisdictions and stress a collaborative, multidisciplinary, problem-solving approach to address the underlying issues of individuals appearing in court"

*National Institute of Corrections
(NIC)*



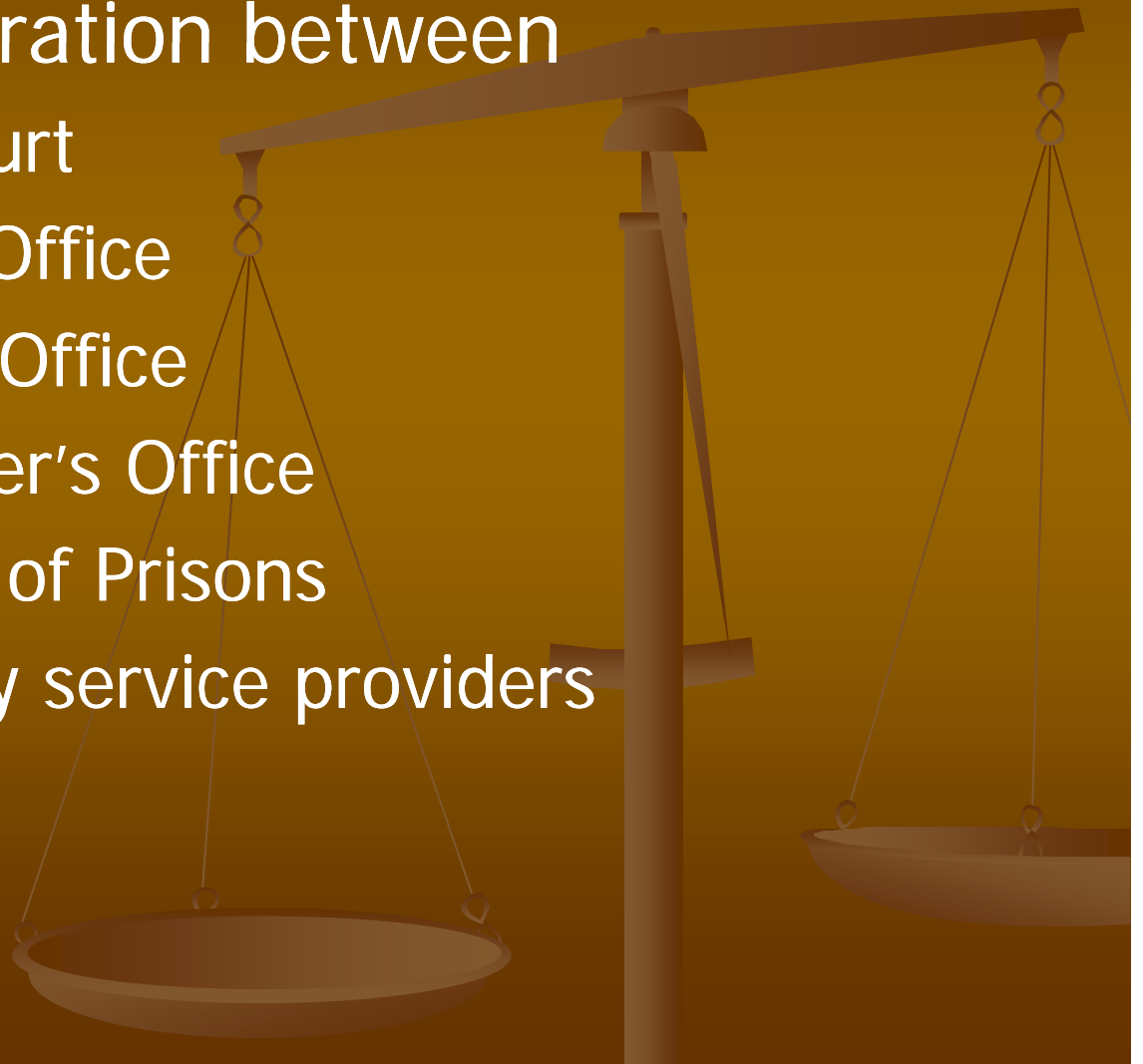
ACE

ACE is a problem solving court serving high risk offenders returning to specific communities, a reentry court program



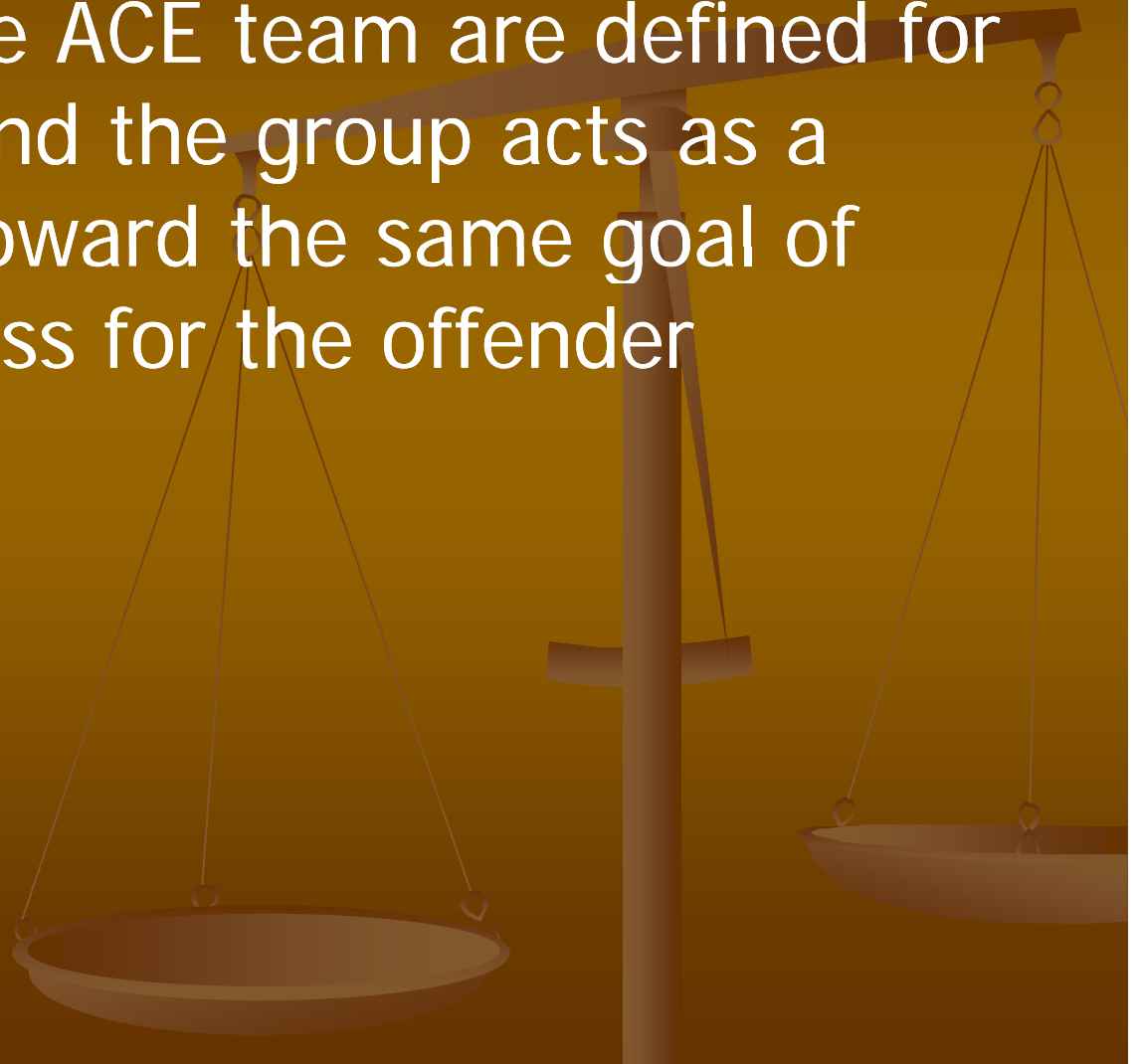
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- ACE is a collaboration between
 - U.S. District Court
 - U.S. Probation Office
 - U.S. Attorney's Office
 - Federal Defender's Office
 - Federal Bureau of Prisons
 - local community service providers

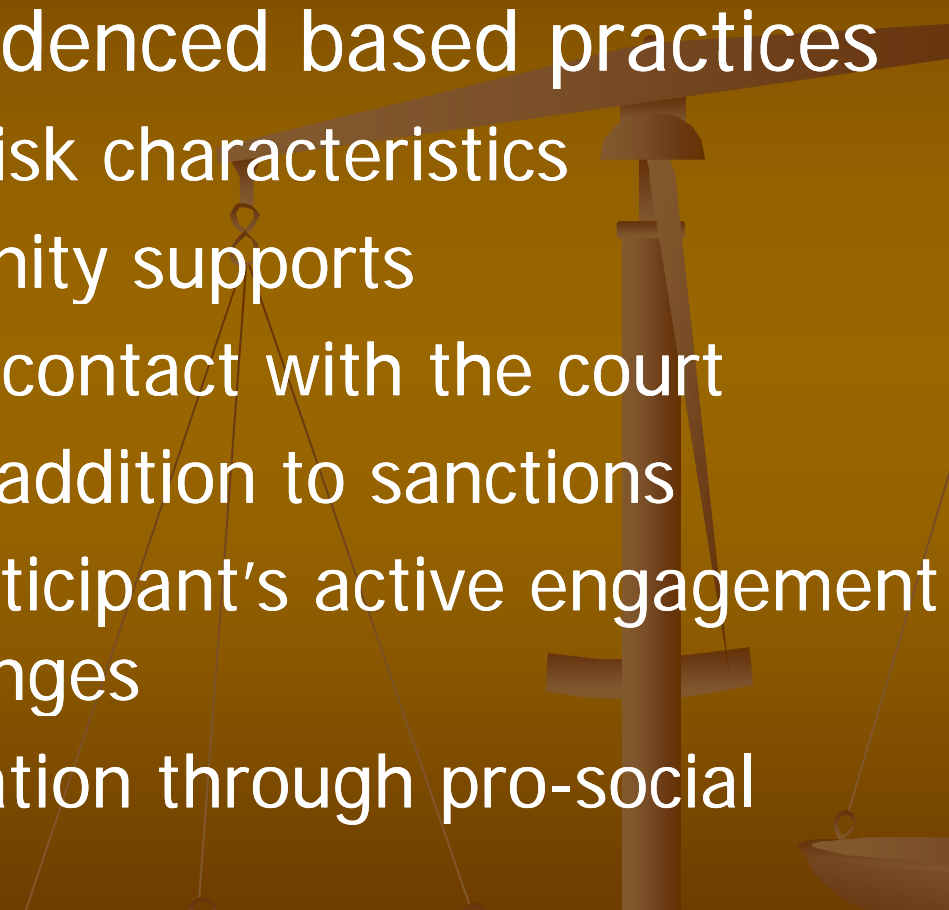


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- The roles for the ACE team are defined for each member and the group acts as a team working toward the same goal of long term success for the offender



ACE

- Utilization of evidenced based practices
 - Focus on high risk characteristics
 - Involve community supports
 - Involve regular contact with the court
 - Use rewards in addition to sanctions
 - Support the participant's active engagement in behavior changes
 - Increase motivation through pro-social relationships
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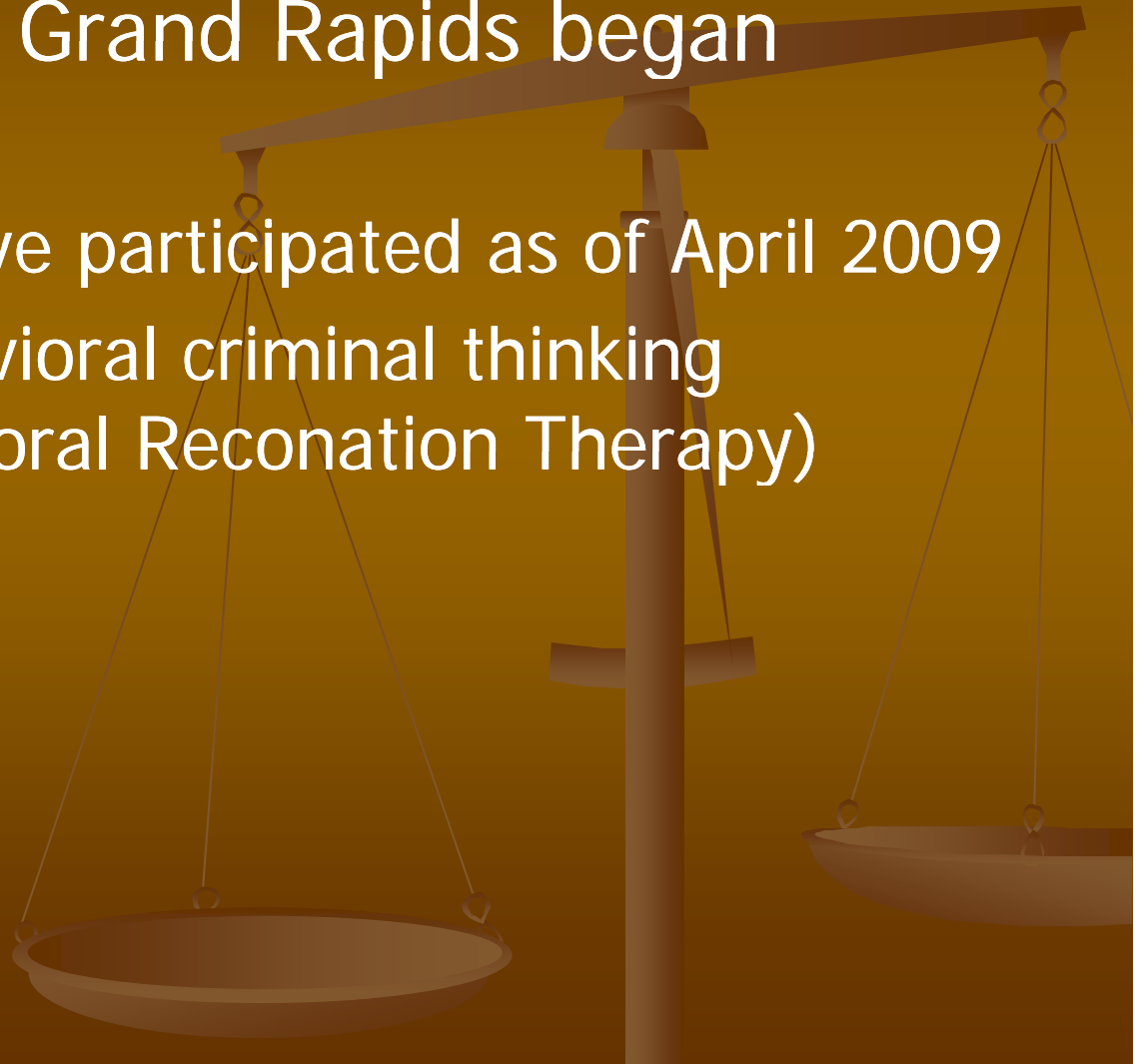
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- ACE program began in Berrien County
October 2005
 - Twenty six (26) have participated as of April
2009



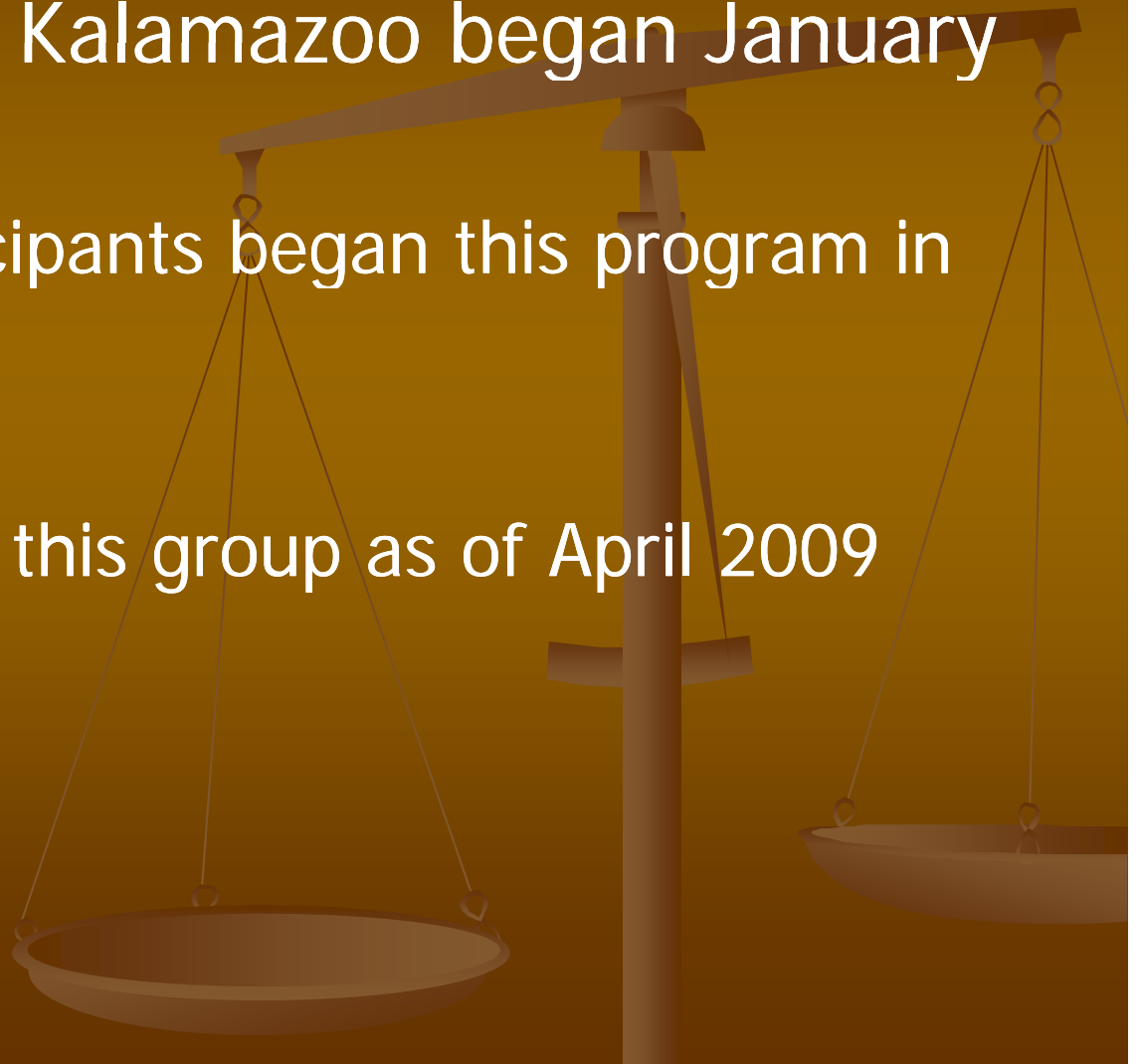
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- ACE program in Grand Rapids began March 2007
 - Fifteen (15) have participated as of April 2009
 - Cognitive-Behavioral criminal thinking intervention (Moral Reconciliation Therapy) added



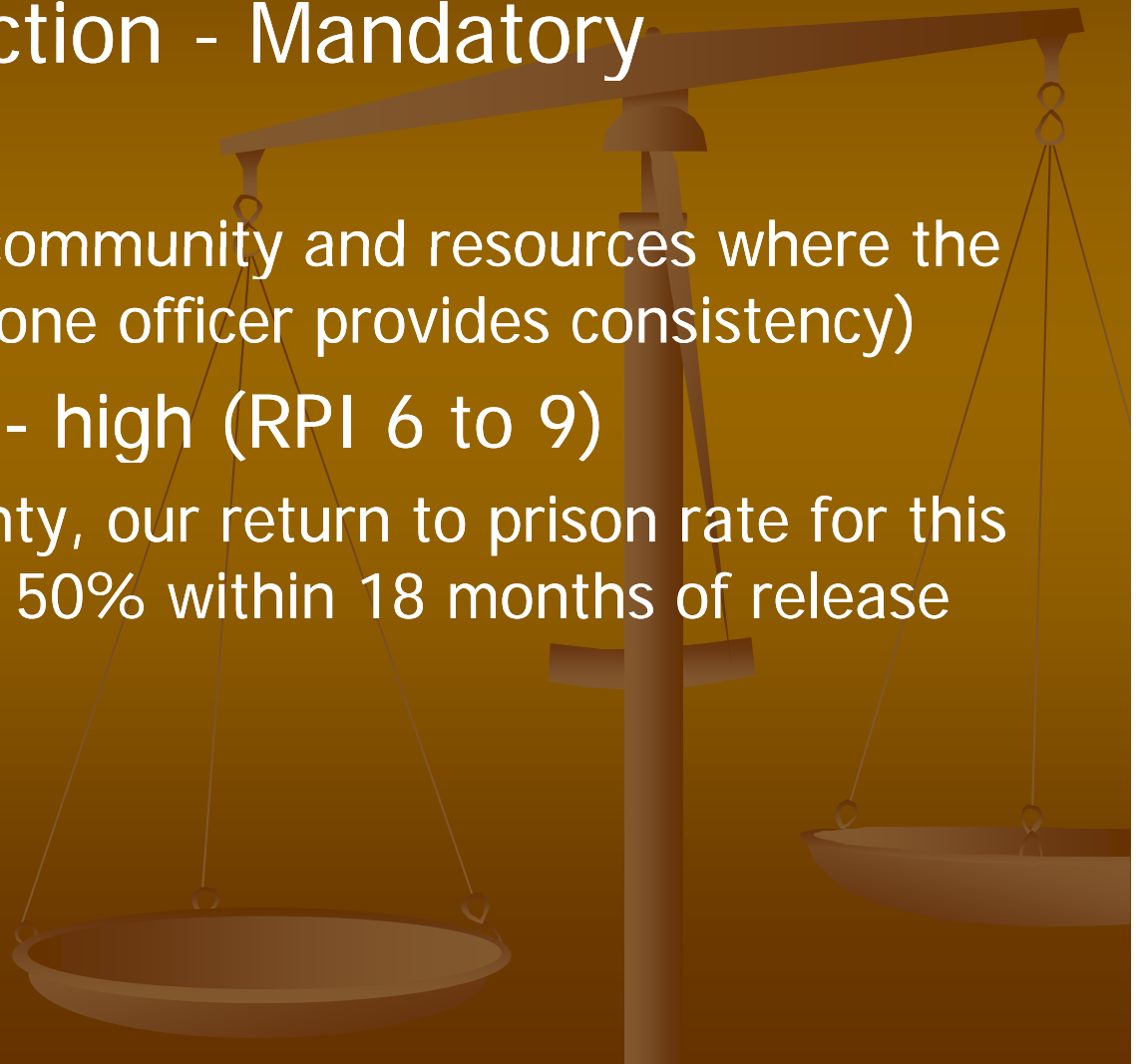
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- ACE program in Kalamazoo began January 2009
 - Nine (9) participants began this program in January 2009
 - All employed in this group as of April 2009



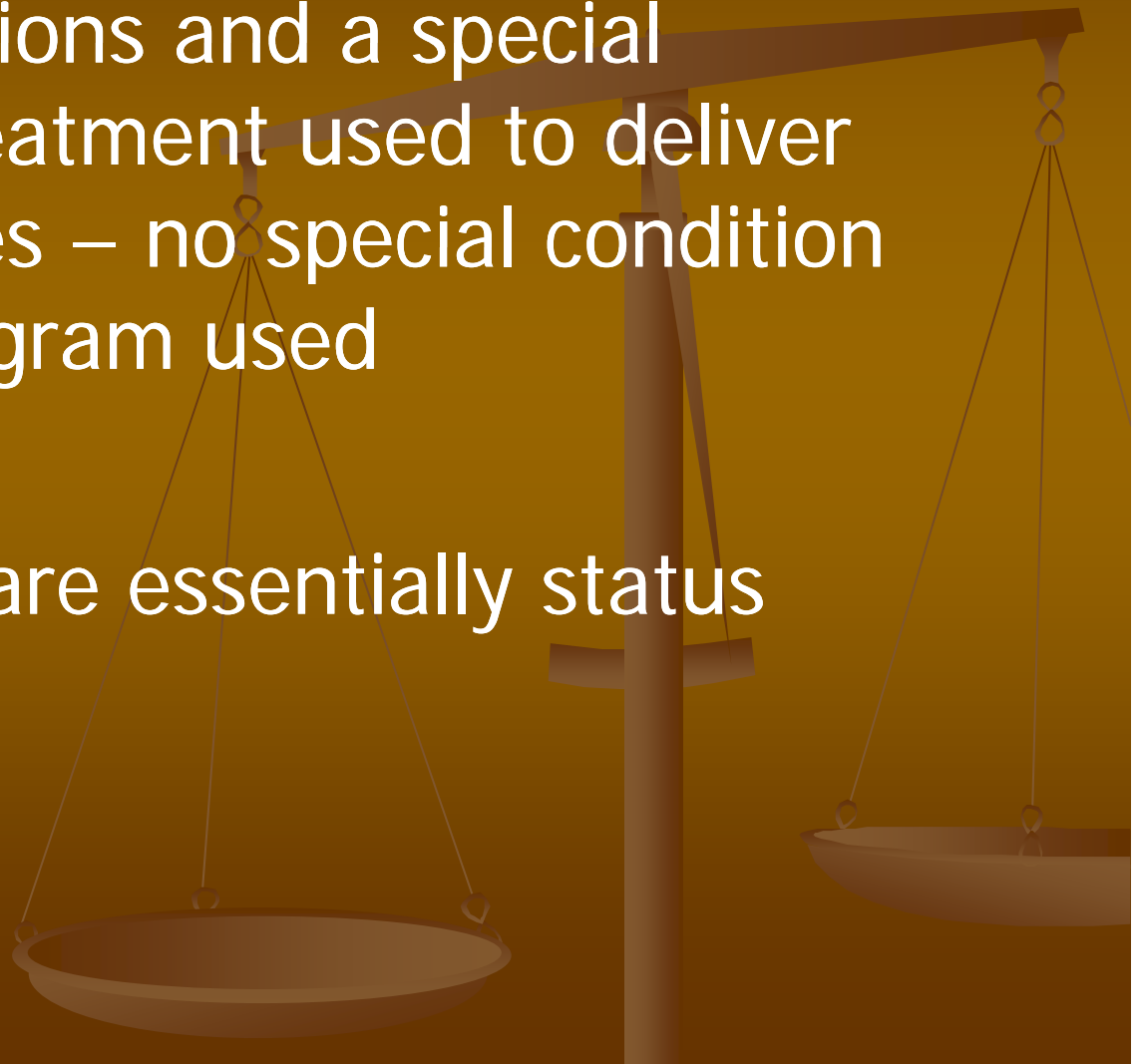
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- Participant Selection - Mandatory
 - Residence
 - to involve the community and resources where the offender lives (one officer provides consistency)
 - Risk prediction- high (RPI 6 to 9)
 - In Berrien County, our return to prison rate for this population was 50% within 18 months of release

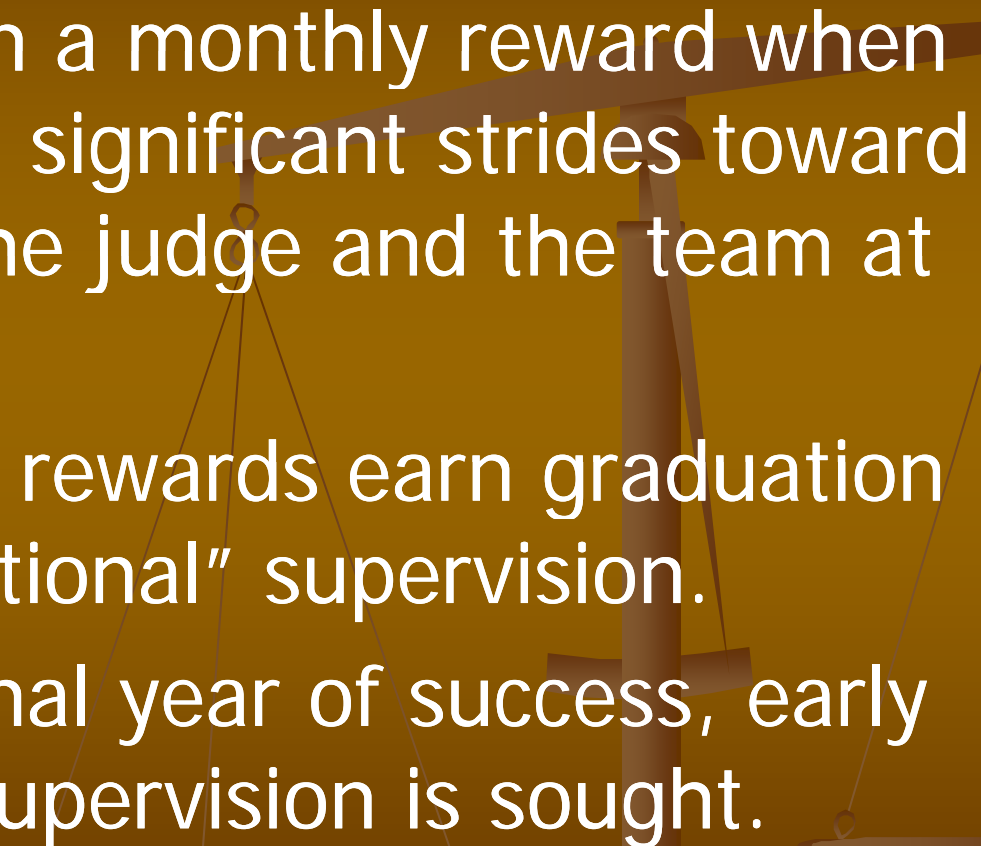


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- Standard conditions and a special condition for treatment used to deliver program services – no special condition for the ACE program used
- Court hearings are essentially status conferences

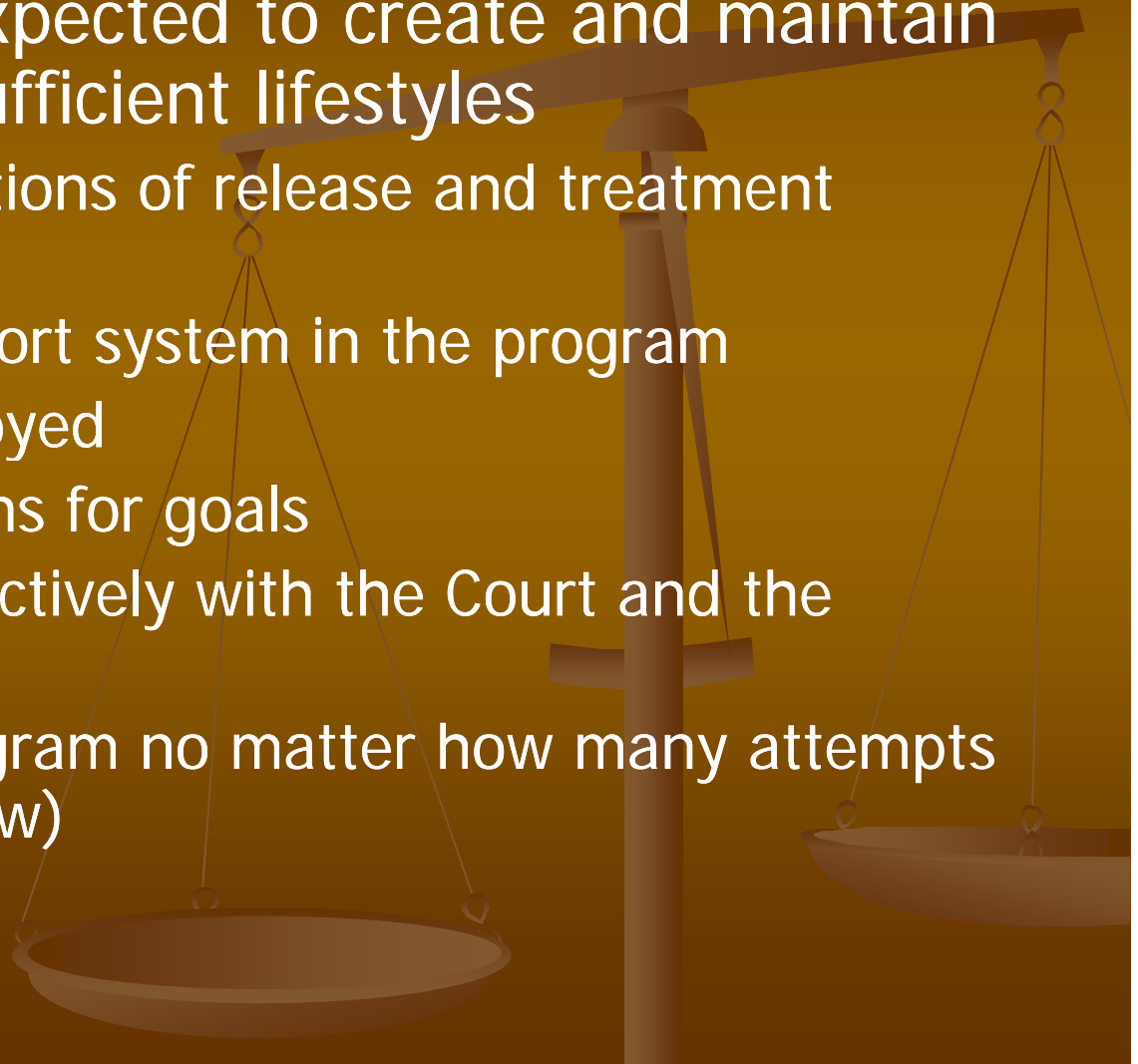


ACE

- Participants earn a monthly reward when they have made significant strides toward goals set with the judge and the team at each hearing.
 - Twelve monthly rewards earn graduation to a more “traditional” supervision.
 - After an additional year of success, early termination of supervision is sought.
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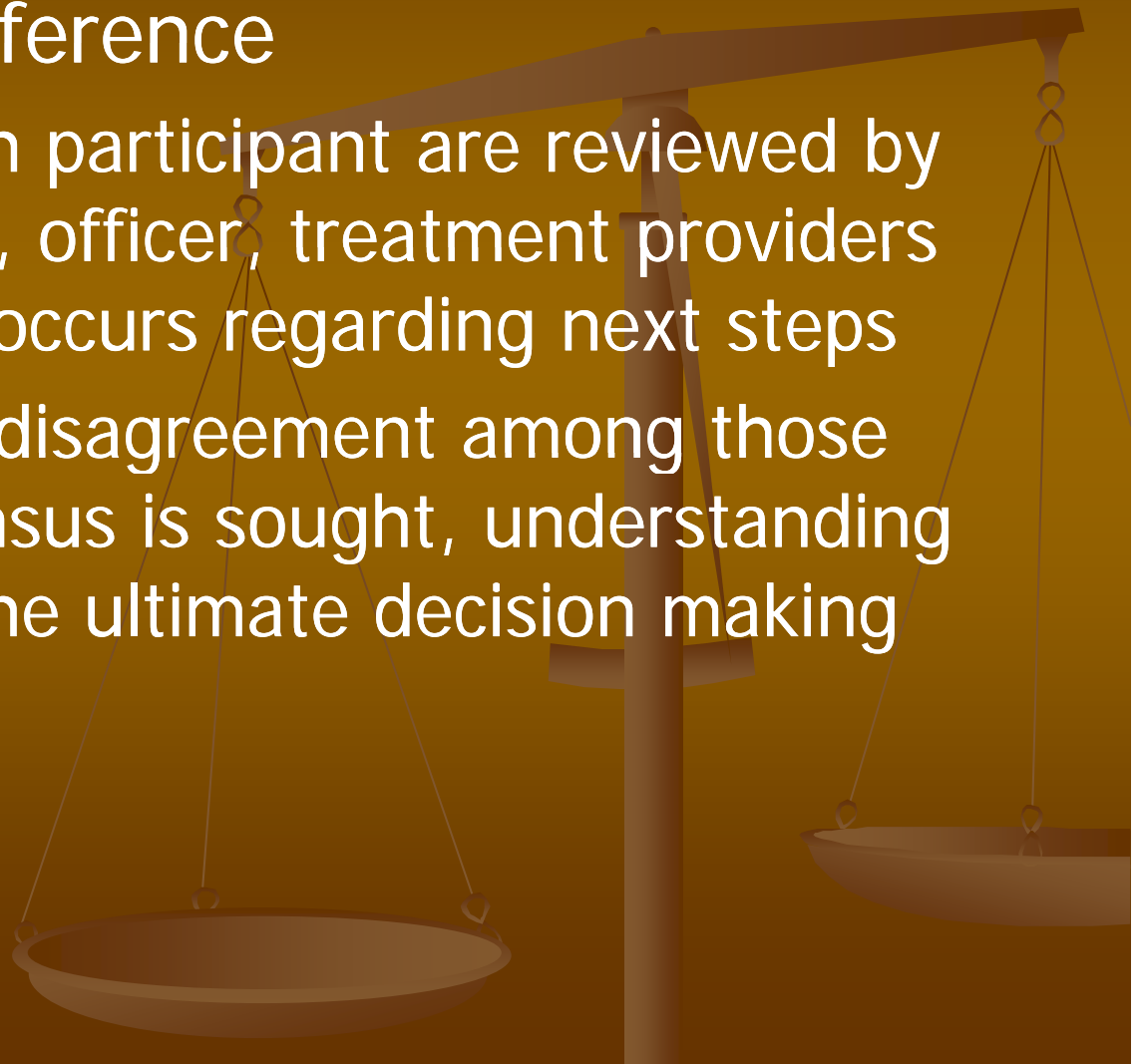
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- Participants are expected to create and maintain law abiding self sufficient lifestyles
 - Abide by all conditions of release and treatment programming
 - Involve their support system in the program
 - Be gainfully employed
 - Provide suggestions for goals
 - Communicate effectively with the Court and the probation officer
 - Complete the program no matter how many attempts (as available by law)



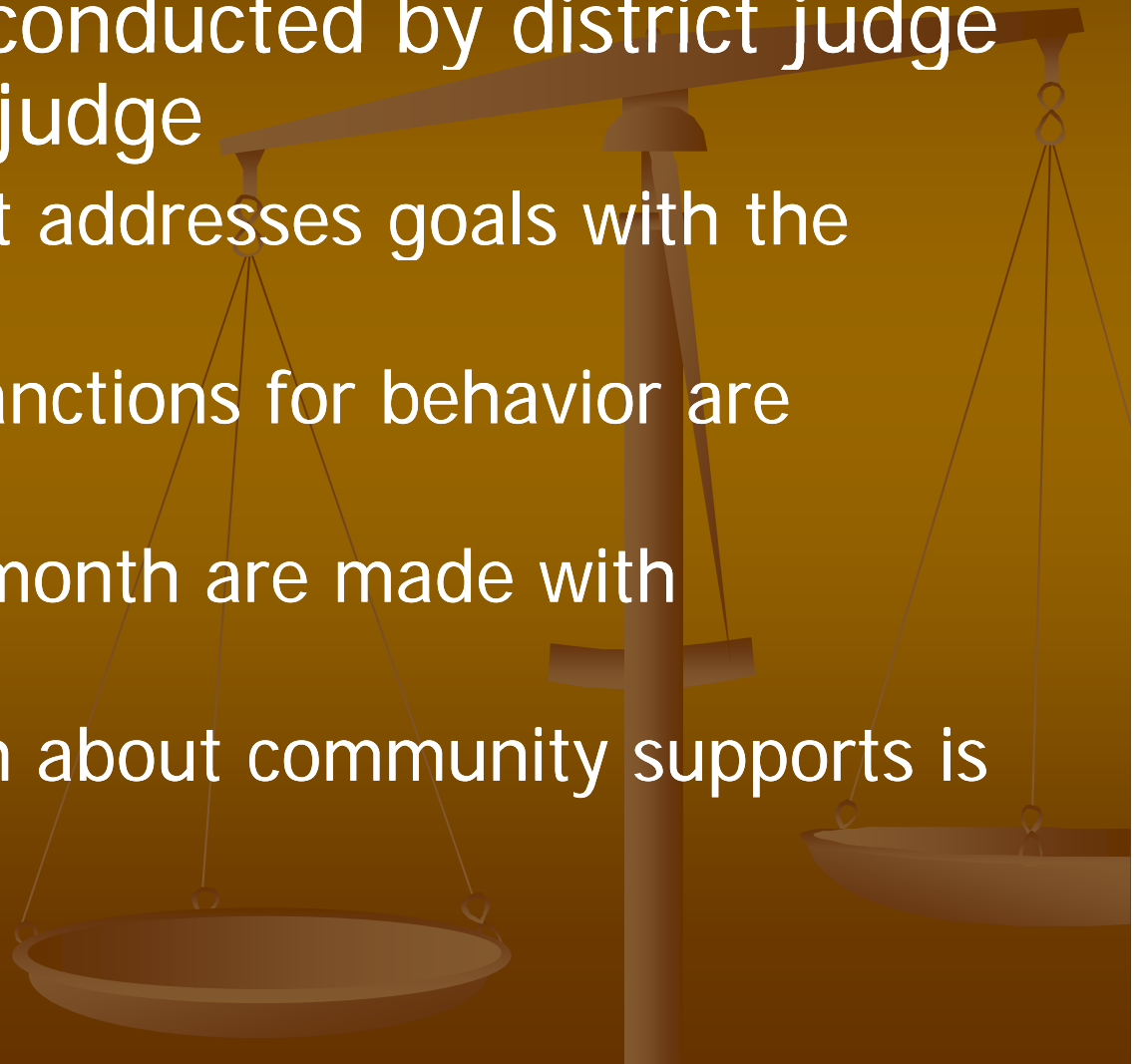
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- Pre-hearing conference
 - Reports on each participant are reviewed by Court, counsels, officer, treatment providers and discussion occurs regarding next steps
 - Where there is disagreement among those present, consensus is sought, understanding the Court has the ultimate decision making responsibility



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- Court hearings conducted by district judge and magistrate judge
 - Each participant addresses goals with the court
 - Rewards and sanctions for behavior are addressed
 - Goals for next month are made with participant
 - Some education about community supports is often provided



ACE



- First graduates (12 month mark) of the Berrien County ACE Program were honored in October 2006
- Twelve have completed the 12 month segment (as of April 2009)
- Ten have successfully completed additional supervision and were terminated from supervision early (April 2009)

ACE GRADUATE



ACE



- Process evaluation on the Berrien County ACE program conducted in Fall 2007 and published in Federal Probation Fall 2008
- Outcome evaluation begun
 - Comparison of 18 months after release requires time to complete study
 - Larger numbers needed for statistical significance

ACE



- As of April 2009, 20 of 50 participants (40%) were returned to prison but 15 have or will recommence the ACE program, one of those has successfully terminated supervision early.
 - Berrien County 54% (14 of 26)
 - Grand Rapids 40% (6 of 15)
 - Kalamazoo 0% (0 of 9)

Note: Berrien County group initiated with three lower risk participants

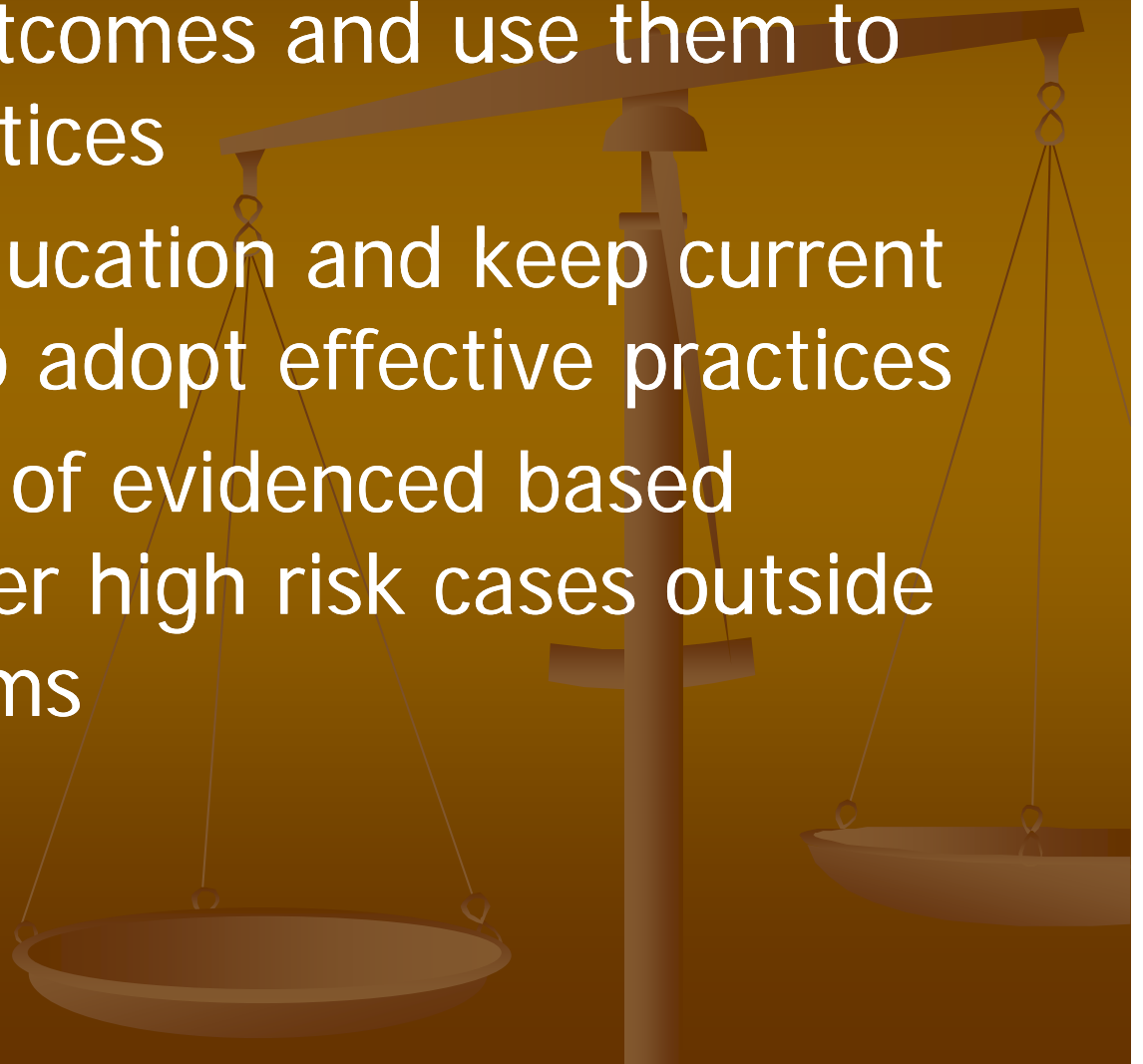
By-products of ACE



- Court involved in successful outcomes, not just supervision failures
- Community and family involvement in the supervision of offenders
- All are learning about the strategies most effective in the behavior change in the high risk offender
- Increased collaboration and understanding among parties involved with offender

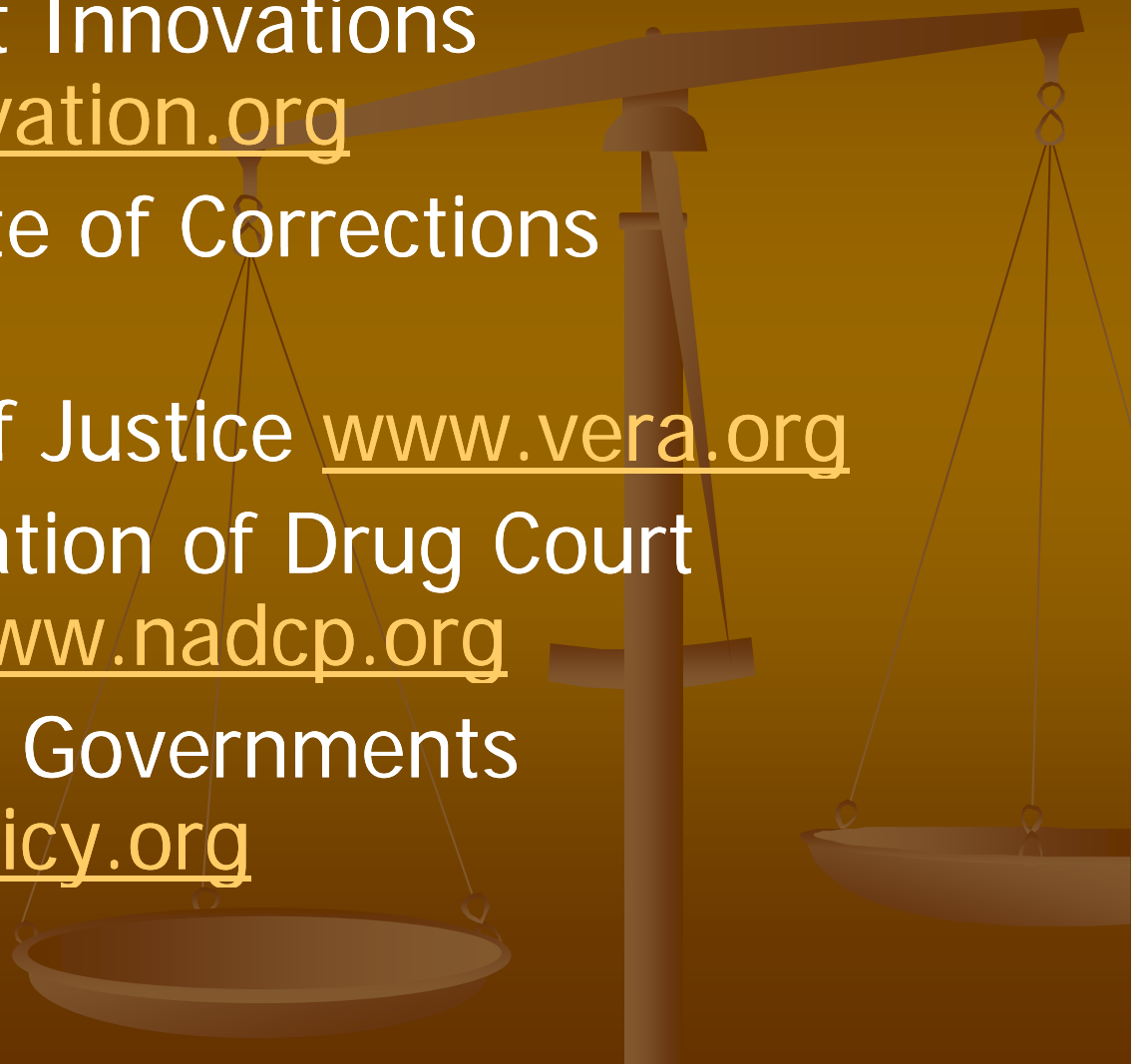
Next Challenges

- Measure our outcomes and use them to modify our practices
- Continue our education and keep current with research to adopt effective practices
- Expand the use of evidenced based practices to other high risk cases outside the ACE programs



Resources

- Center for Court Innovations
www.courtinnovation.org
- National Institute of Corrections
www.nicic.org
- Vera Institute of Justice www.vera.org
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals www.nadcp.org
- Council of State Governments
www.reentrypolicy.org



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