**MRT Program Proposal**

**Purpose for Using MRT:**

To provide an evidence-based program that will assist the probationer in the reintegration and transition back into the community and reduce their likelihood of recidivism.

**What is MRT?:**

MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy) seeks to decrease recidivism among both juvenile and adult criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning. MRT is systematic and implements a cognitive-behavioral approach, which positively addresses the probationer’s ego, social, moral, and positive behavioral growth.

MRT uses 12-16 objectively defined steps, which focus on seven basic treatment issues:

* Confrontation of beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors
* Assessment of current relationships
* Reinforcement of positive behavior and habits
* Positive identity formation
* Enhancement of self-concept
* Decrease in hedonism and development of frustration tolerance
* Development of higher stages of moral reasoning

**Expectations of Sessions:**

Group session will meet once per week for 90 minutes to 2 hours and can range in length from 3 to 6 months. Group size will be 15 people maximum and minimum of 8 people. Proposed date and time will be every Thursday 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Targeted Population:**

Adult probationers with moderate to high risk levels of recidivism. These include post-community supervision and mandatory supervision per 1170(h) PC.

**Program Procedure:**

* Upon sentencing, the Probation Department will ask for the term “you shall participate in counseling as directed by the Probation Officer.” This will allow the Probation Department to refer the probationer to the MRT group based on their risk level. The risk level will be determined by the ORAS (Ohio Risk Assessment System) which is conducted during intake.
* Once in the program, the person will be required to fully engage, participate, and complete the program. Failure to comply will result in a probation violation and the probationer will not be allowed back into the program for 30 days. After 30 days, the probationer will then be allowed to write to the Court and the MRT facilitator to explain their desire to re-enroll and complete the program.
* Incentive to complete the program may be a modification from formal to conditional probation at the half way point of their probation term and upon successful completion of MRT, all Court fines/fees are paid in full, no probation violations, and all other mandatory conditions are complete (i.e. 52-week batterers, anger management, child endangerment, community service, rehab etc.). Other incentives during the program will be $5 gift cards to reward positive behavior change.

**Cost: $25,931.52 per year**

Two Certified Facilitators: $21,931.52 per year

* Based on Debra Stewart’s base pay plus benefits and Jazmin Puga-Sosa’s overtime pay plus benefits. Included in cost are 4 hours per week for each facilitator to allow for two hours of group facilitation and two hours of preparation and case management.

Incentives cost: $1000 per year

Material cost: $3000 per year (Not necessarily accurate – waiting on stats)

* Based on the average of moderate to high risk probationers placed on probation during the 2017 calendar year times the cost of the MRT book ($25 each).