



The Power of Connection: Guiding and Empowering Safety

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Training Objectives:

- Participants will be able to define and develop “felt-safety”
 - relationally (connection)
 - environmentally
- Participants will gain an understanding of behavioral shaping as it relates to milieu management and safety.



- Clinical-Forensic Psychologist
- Background in Psychopathy, pediatric neuropsychology and Parental Acceptance-Rejection.
- Worked with juvenile fire setters, bomb makers, forensic inpatient hospitals.
- With TJJJ since 2016.

Key Terms

- Connection: is an energy exchange between people who are paying attention to one another. It has the power to deepen the moment, inspire change and build trust.
- Attachment: “lasting psychological connectedness between human beings.” -Bowlby

Key Terms

Felt-Safety: “when you arrange the environment and adjust your behavior so your children can feel in a profound and basic way that they are truly safe in their home with you. Until your child experiences safety for himself or herself, trust can’t develop, and healing and learning won’t progress” –Dr. Purvis “The Connected Child”

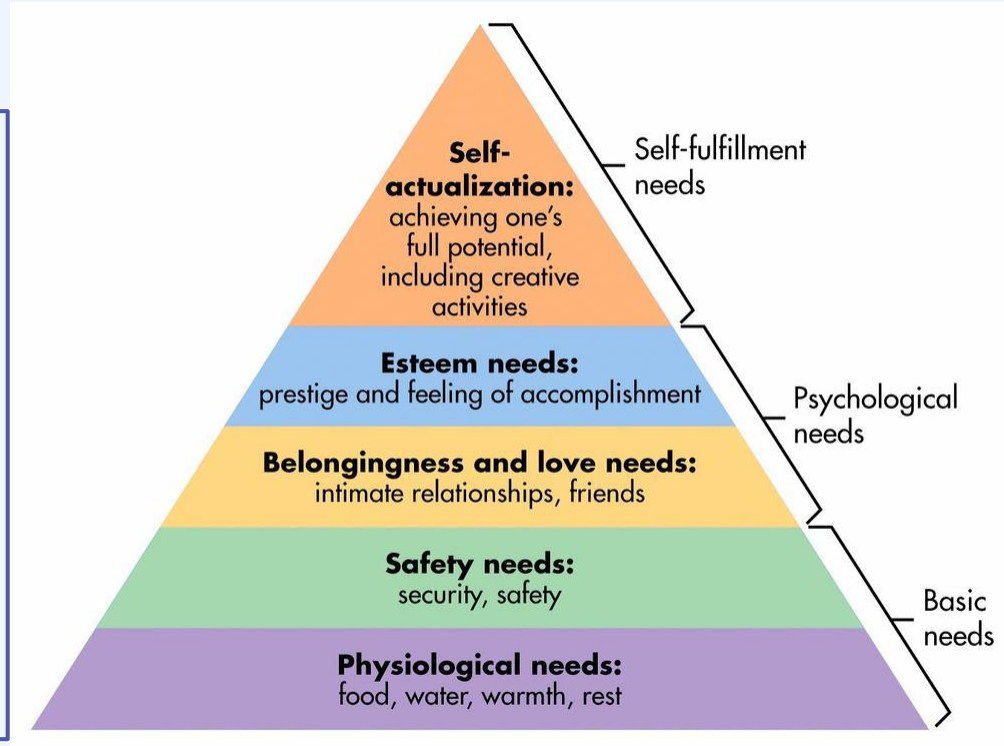
Phoenix Program 2017-2018

“The Phoenix Program is designed to protect staff and youth in Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) state-operated facilities from highly aggressive youth. The Phoenix Program provides these aggressive youth with a highly structured environment designed to reduce their aggression and to help them progress in treatment.” – GAP 380. 9535

The Fundamentals

Maslow's Hierarchy:

TBRI Principles:
Empowering
Connecting
Correcting



A stylized world map in shades of blue and green, serving as a background for the slide.

01

Environmental

Texas Model

- The Texas Model is the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's trauma informed care (corrections) model focusing on youth and staff safety; connection, empowerment, correcting, and individualization as needed. The Texas Model's principles are applied in such a manner as to provide youth with a structured, nurturing environment, where they can learn to regulate themselves, receive their prescribed treatment(s), safely address their trauma issues, and master key life-skills as they reintegrate into their respective communities

Texas Model

THE TEXAS MODEL: TRAUMA-INFORMED CORRECTIONS

Safety

Empowering

Foundation

Connecting

Correcting

Interaction

More
emotional
control

Better
decisions

Goals



Texas Model Dorms

Environmental:

- Softened Environment
- Stable dorm assignments
- Sensory Activities
- Nutrition & Hydration
- Regulation & Safety Unit

Relational

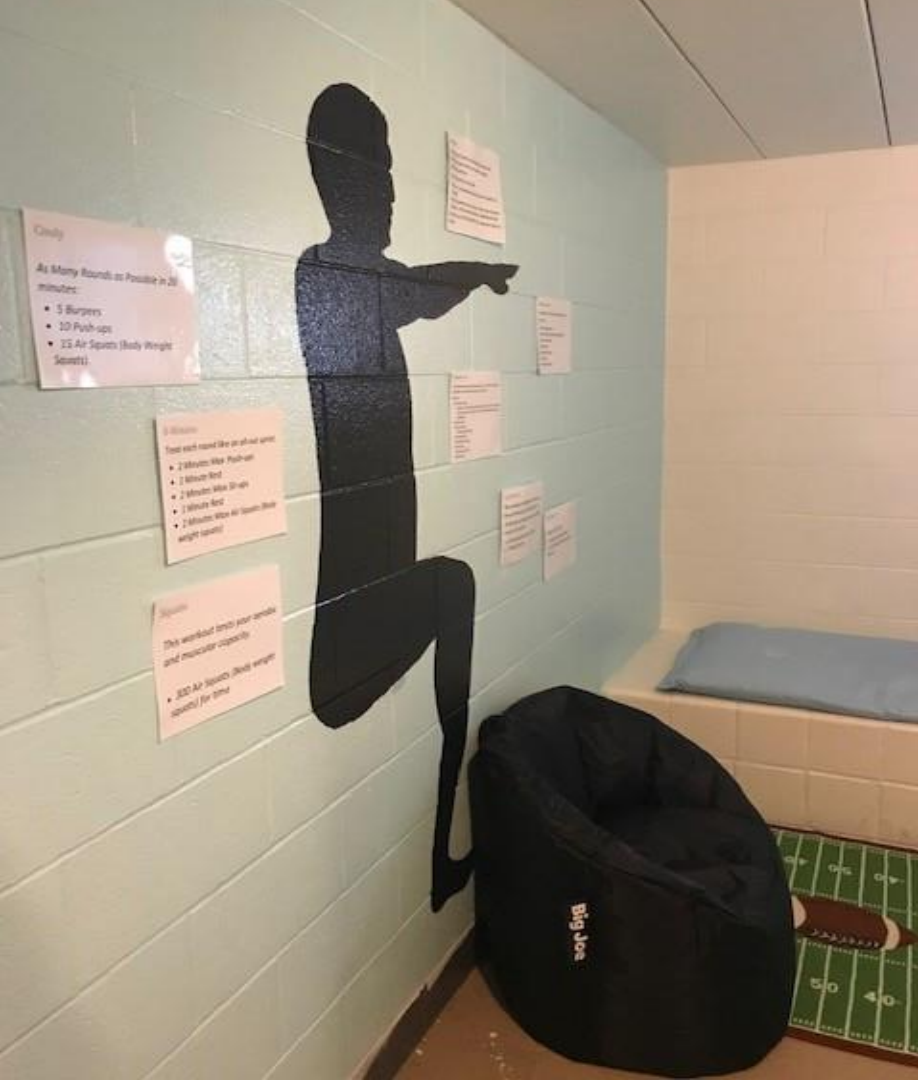
- Engagement Strategies
- I.D.E.A.L. Response
- Repairs
- Nurture groups





Over HIGHWAYS
KEEP THE PAVEMENT
CLEAN AND FREE OF
DEBRIS
• PICK UP LITTER
• KEEP THE SIDE OF
THE ROAD CLEAR
• PAINT ALL HOLES FRESH
• CHECK FOR CRACKS
• REPAIR CRACKS
• MAINTAIN DRAINAGE
• CHECK FOR POLES AND
POSTS
• REPORT POLES AND
POSTS





A stylized world map in shades of blue and green, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, serves as a background for the slide.

02

Relational

Relational Felt-Safety

A connection between two people where trust is paramount.

Developing connection:

- Shared interests.
- Shared experiences.

Being fair and honest.

Consistency allows us to shape behavior.



Relational

"Behavior goes where reinforcement flows".

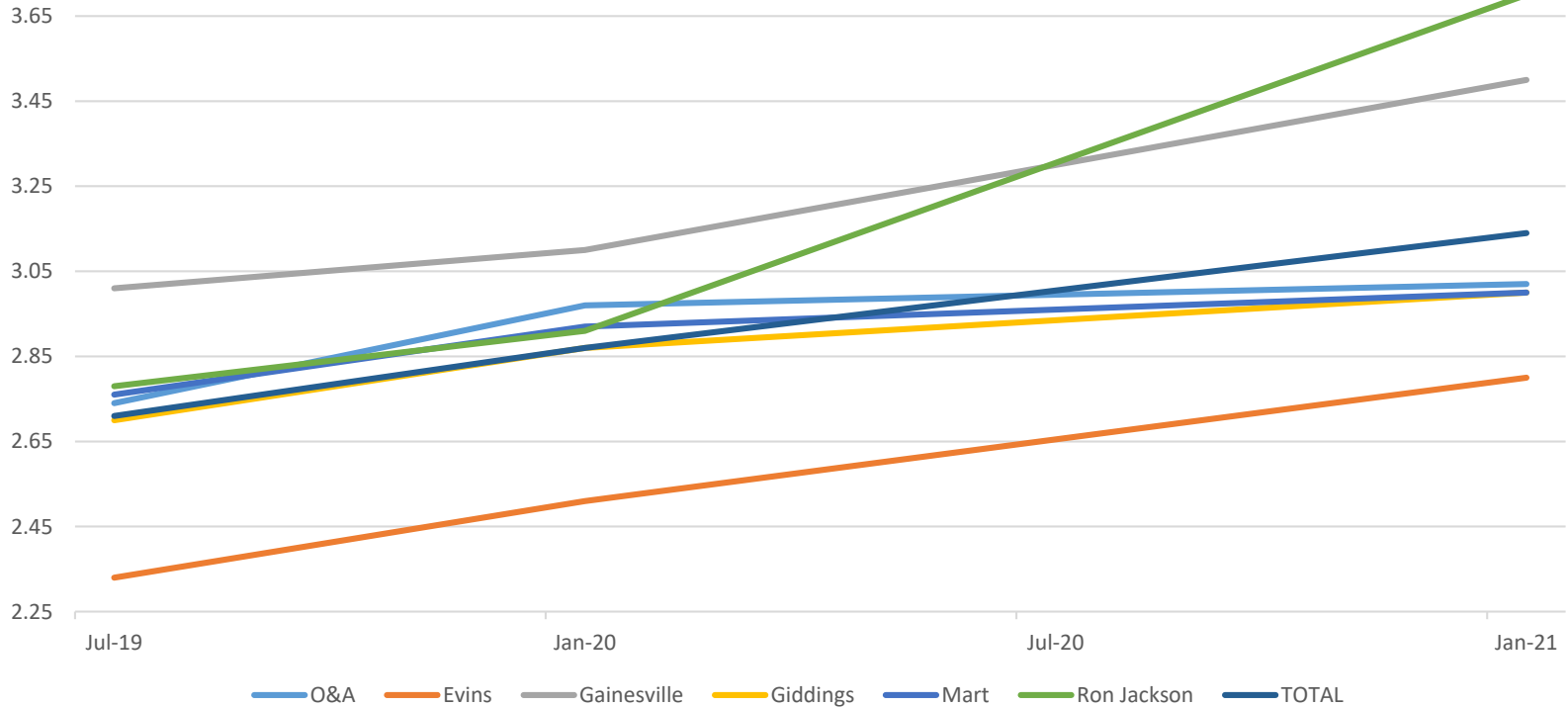


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user card

Relational (Reinforces)

- Anything that, occurring in conjunction with an act, tends to increase the probability that the act will occur again.
- Behavior that IS OCCURRING can be intensified.
- You cannot reinforce behavior that is NOT OCCURRING.

Youth Connection, by Facility- Waves 1, 2, & 3



Summary

- Environmental and relational factors play a large role in healthy connection and felt-safety.
- Boundaries are not only important but necessary for healthy connection.
- Structure and nurture are both necessary for successful outcomes.
- If you are not successful, try again.

A faint, artistic watercolor map of the world is visible in the background, rendered in shades of blue and teal. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the continents of North and South America on the left and Europe and Africa on the right. The colors are soft and blended, giving it a painterly appearance.

If not you, then who?

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Applications are available
Tjtd.texas.gov/careers.aspx

