

Mapping a Course for the Future: Using Multisystemic Therapy to Correct Deviant Antisocial Behavior in At-Risk Juveniles

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A new treatment approach is needed to address adolescents involved in delinquent and antisocial behavior. Multisystemic Therapy (MST) was designed to provide a clinically effective and cost-effective approach to the treatment of juvenile offenders and their families. The MST program operating in its inaugural year in Jacksonville Florida was examined. This program was randomly compared to other comparable level programs operating in the Duval County area. The MST program produced a higher successful completion ratio at less cost than the other programs currently being utilized. MST stresses the concept that parents are the key to success. Therapists can only do so much but a child's parents are involved throughout their lives continually.