

# The four basic correctional models in the juvenile system essay



Juvenile Justice Professor Wims January 7, 2012 The four basic Correctional

Models in the Juvenile Justice There are four juvenile correctional models.

First, there is the Treatment Model which is based upon the Parens Patriae

belief that the state acts as the guardian of a juvenile. The juvenile court

examines the youth to better understand the juvenile's existing problems.

After that an expert will diagnose and develop a treatment program for that

specific juvenile. Once the specific program has been completed, the juvenile

is placed back into society with the belief that they are rehabilitated.

The psychological, physical, and social aspects of the juvenile are the main

emphasis of this model. Yet, the uses of juvenile confinement facilities are

not believed to be beneficial to the juvenile. The second model is the Justice

Model. This model embraces the thought that the due process of law and

equitable sentences be utilized. It holds a juvenile accountable but also has a

punishment that is appropriate to the crime that was committed. This model

suggests several changes to the juvenile system.

These changes include an end to vague terms of sentencing and parole,

limiting the free judgment of juvenile practitioners, and the volitional

enrolment of rehabilitative programs for the juvenile defender. The third is

the Crime Control Model which places certain emphasis on punishment for

crimes committed. It is believed that a harsh penalty will teach the juvenile

not to commit such acts. This will also show juvenile peers what may happen

to them if they perform a criminal act. This model is a strong supporter of

incarceration for juvenile defenders. For instance the courts make an

example of the juvenile defender.

The fourth is the Balanced and Restorative Justice Model. This model focuses its' attention on the three different but equal goals. The first goal focuses on the accountability of the juvenile for the crimes committed against the victim. The second goal focuses on competency development of the juvenile to be rehabilitated. This goal stresses the need for the juvenile to reenter society having learned to be responsible for his/her actions and with the goal of being a productive part of society. The third goal focuses on community protection and stresses the need to establish a safe and secure environment for all.

To accomplish all of these, community members, law enforcement, and juvenile justice workers are utilized. They meet in a community setting instead of the juvenile justice system. The restorative process is started and discussed until an equal emphasis is placed on all three goals. With each model I feel that there is validity. However, the one that I feel works the best is the Balanced and Restorative Justice Model. I feel this model has several advantages over the other models. First, this model is comprehensive to everyone. It also has an underlying theory where all parties work together; a common goal of a better community can exist.

Secondly, this theory emphasizes accountability on the part of the juvenile. The adolescent is required to make amends for his/her crimes by making some type of restitution. Third, this theory allows for juveniles to be treated fairly and receive rehabilitation. This allows for the juvenile to reenter society as a responsible and productive citizen. The more responsible and productive the adolescent becomes, the less the chance of recidivism. In shorter terms

this theory brings the community together and offers a spirit of help to the juvenile offender, thus I think this model is effect and accurate.