

Assessments.com and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice:

Residential PACT Fact Sheet

The Residential PACT (R-PACT) accomplishes two primary objectives:

1. Provide a consistent continuum of care and services delivery for committed youth by modifying the Probation PACT to better fit the unique needs of a residential setting, while still maintaining the fidelity and validity of the original Probation PACT.
2. Develop a means to obtain more specific, relevant information that will assist residential programs in developing intervention strategies utilizing evidenced based practices that will address each youth's criminogenic needs.

Vision. The Residential Pact (R-PACT) began as a vision within the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice:

- a single PACT instrument (Positive Achievement Change Tool), modified to meet the needs of both community probation and residential services, to assess youth coming in the front door of the system and following them through commitment and transition back to the community,
- providing a consistent continuum of care and services from one end of the system to the other, collecting comprehensive information for risk classification, type and extent of treatment, placement consideration, plans for transition, and identifying and tracking the progress of intervention strategies all along the way,
- while guiding overall program development and resource allocation and eliminating duplication of efforts.

Program Development. With that vision in mind, Assessments.com(ADC) was chosen in 2007 to design, develop and support implementation of a residential version of the evidence-based risk and needs assessment already in use throughout the

state's system of community probation, the PACT, to make it sensitive to the immediate treatment needs and behavioral gains of youth placed in residential commitment facilities. The new assessment also had to be integrated with the Department's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), and implementation support was to include related training and technical assistance, and development of business rules and procedures for quality assurance and long-term fidelity.

ADC was also asked to design, develop and deliver two new reports:

- (1) An editable Performance Plan designed to lead the case worker to the most-indicated treatment programs and the most effective intervention steps, while providing typology of youth, evidence-based goals and suggested action items, measuring progress in all domains of criminogenic needs and documenting changes in behavior. The Performance Plan is also intended to serve as a discussion tool in the termination phase by identifying and documenting items that need to be continued in the community.
- (2) A Commitment Conference Summary Report for use by residential facilities staff and private providers of residential commitment services to assist them in interpreting and using the R-

PACT assessment information for determining the best outcome placement for youth.

Background on the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is charged with the responsibility of providing all juvenile justice services in Florida's 20 Judicial Circuits. During FY-05-06 DJJ served just over 14,000 youth in residential commitment programs. The majority of these youth are males, aged 15-17 who are committed to moderate risk programs. DJJ's Office of Residential Services has privatized 86% of all commitment beds, placing responsibility for daily treatment and care with contracted providers. As of the end of 2007, DJJ had 38 providers operating 129 programs statewide.

Why the PACT? As an agency, DJJ has officially adopted the following Principles of Effective Intervention and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) as a means of delivering services in the most effective and efficient manner that reduces recidivism:

- Risk Principle: Target higher risk offenders.
- Need Principle: Treat criminogenic needs associated with delinquent behavior.
- Treatment Principle: Employ evidence-based treatment approaches.
- Responsivity Principle: Address barriers to treatment including lack of motivation and tailor treatments to meet the needs of specific youth.
- Fidelity Principle: Ensure implementation quality and treatment fidelity.

The first and foundational principle of Evidence-Based Practices ("EBP") is to use an actuarial risk and needs assessment instrument. Such a tool, if implemented with fidelity, provides many benefits, including a consistent unit of measurement from which to study the efficacy of subsequent casework, programming, etc.

As an earlier part of DJJ's efforts to implement the Principles of Effective Intervention, both the Division of Residential Services and the Division of Probation and Community Interventions created initiatives around the various principles. For their part, the Division of Probation and Community Interventions modified, normed and implemented a risk and protective factor assessment instrument, the PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool). The PACT is a validated

instrument that identifies overall levels of risk to re-offend as well as a juvenile's particular criminogenic needs that, if addressed, would most likely reduce their risk of re-offending.

Why the R-PACT? As noted above, the underlying vision at DJJ is to provide a consistent continuum of care and service delivery for youth under its care -- from those supervised by Probation and Community Intervention, to youth committed to Residential Services, to those who return to their communities and who are supervised under the conditional release program. The development and implementation of the R-PACT is an effort to accomplish this goal, and is the means to better accommodate the unique needs of a residential setting, while still maintaining the fidelity and validity of the Probation PACT.

Throughout the Residential PACT initiative, the Division of Residential Services sought the following objectives:

Objective 1: To provide a consistent continuum of care and services delivery for committed youth by modifying the Probation PACT to better fit the unique needs of a residential setting, while still maintaining the fidelity and validity of the original Probation PACT.

Objective 2: Develop a means to obtain more specific, relevant information that will assist residential programs in developing intervention strategies utilizing evidenced based practices that will address each youth's criminogenic needs.

Benefits of the R-PACT. If implemented properly, the benefits of the Residential PACT include:

1. Provide a common assessment and evaluation process across the continuum of services;
2. Develop a common skill set, language and focus among both DJJ staff and providers;
3. Provide a basis for consistent and reliable assessment and intervention planning of youth committed to DJJ;
4. Provide a basis for designing and measuring strategic interim outcome measures that will serve as indicators of progress and improvement that, in turn, will correlate with recidivism reduction.

5. Utilize assessment data in the aggregate to assist in the development of a program profile that outlines a program's treatment successes by domain. This will assist commitment management staff in identifying appropriate placements for youth being presented for commitment.
6. Create a successful strategy for long-term sustainability through the development of a system of internal quality control, which would include DJJ staff and provider staff who are trained to provide training to new staff, coach exiting staff and monitor the fidelity of
7. assessments and data.

R-PACT Project History. In June 2004, DJJ's Office of Residential Services launched the *What Works* Initiative Residential Pilot Project. Ten residential sites were selected to be part of a pilot project designed to move programs toward operating in accordance with the five principles of effective intervention formally adopted by the Department. The project involved educating programs about the principles of effective interventions and evidence-based practices, as well as training programs in motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral interventions.

During this same time period, the Office of Probation and Community Interventions (PCI) was identifying an assessment instrument to be used as the basis for tailoring the intensity and duration of supervision and treatment in the most effective and efficient manner. PCI selected the Washington Risk and Protective Factor Assessment Instrument, developed in Washington by the Washington State Institute of Public Policy, Assessments.com and the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA).

Since its initial development and implementation in Washington, the tool has been tailored and adopted by many other jurisdictions in the United States, and has repeatedly shown strong empirical validity. For several months, several groups of PCI staff and various subgroup members evaluated what changes would be needed to align the Washington instrument with Florida's needs. Changes made included: (1) text changes to the definitions, item questions, and item answers to accommodate Florida's particular statutes and practices, and (2) modifications to several domains to incorporate additional mental health and suicide risk screening processes.

The revised instrument was named the Positive Achievement Change Tool, or PACT, for short. A

second component of the process was to develop an automated case plan which utilized data from the PACT to develop an individual case plan. The Youth Empowered Success (YES) Plan, developed by Assessments.com in collaboration with Brad Bogue of J-SAT, prioritizes the youth's criminogenic needs and suggests various treatment methods for addressing the most pressing risk factors.

With the completion of the roll out of the PACT/YES assessment/case management system to all 20 judicial circuits in September 2006, the time was right to expand the use of the PACT to residential facilities. By doing this, DJJ would continue to move towards providing a consistent continuum of care and service delivery for committed youth.

In February 2007, DJJ's Office of Residential Services was awarded JABG funds to initiate the development of an assessment instrument which would be built on the existing PACT. The PACT would be modified to better fit the unique needs of a residential setting, while still maintaining the validity of the original Probation PACT. This report provides an accounting of the accomplishments of this initial phase of the project including a draft of a Residential PACT.

Differences between the Community Probation PACT (C-PACT) and the Residential PACT (R-PACT).

Like the PACT, the R-PACT has 12 domains which include both risk and protective factors (see next page). Seven domains have both a historical/static and a current/dynamic section. Current is defined as "since program admission" for the initial assessment, and within the last four weeks for re-assessments and final assessments. For domains that cover both time periods, the historical sections are labeled with the letter A.

The history portion of each domain has not been altered, but the current portion of each domain has been changed to remove items not relevant to a residential setting and to add items that capture the types of behaviors, tasks, and environments typically found within a residential setting.

In addition, additional sub-domains have also been added to capture the type of information available and/relevant within a residential setting (e.g., 3D, 5C, 5D, 12A-E).

Differences between the Community Probation PACT (C-PACT) and the Residential PACT (R-PACT)

Domains	Probation PACT	Residential PACT
Domain 1	Record of Referrals	Record of Referrals
Domain 2	Gender	Gender
Domain 3A	School History	School History
Domain 3B	Current School Status	Current School Status
Domain 3C:		Current Academic School Status
Domain 3D:		Current Vocational Training
Domain 4A	Historic Use of Free Time	Historic Use of Free Time
Domain 4B	Current Use of Free Time	Current Use of Structured and Unstructured Recreation and Leisure Time
Domain 5A	Employment History	Employment History
Domain 5B	Current Employment	Employability
Domain 5C:		Current Outside Employment
Domain 5D:		Program Supervised Tasks
Domain 6A	History of Relationships	History of Relationships
Domain 6B	Current Relationships	Current Relationships While In Program
Domain 7A	Family History	Family History
Domain 7B	Current Living Arrangements	Current Family Relationships
Domain 8A	Alcohol and Drug History	Alcohol and Drug History
Domain 8B	Current Alcohol and Drugs	Current Alcohol and Drug Treatment Progress
Domain 9A	Mental Health History	Mental Health History
Domain 9B	Current Mental Health	Current Mental Health
Domain 10	Attitudes/Behaviors	Current Attitudes/Behaviors
Domain 11	Aggression	Current Aggression
Domain 12	Skills	Current Skills
Domain 12A:		Skills for Appropriately Dealing with Others
Domain 12B:		Skills for Appropriately Dealing with Difficult Situation
Domain 12C:		Skills for Appropriately Dealing with Feelings/Emotions
Domain 12D:		Techniques for Controlling Impulsive Behaviors Leading to Trouble
Domain 12E:		Techniques for Controlling Aggression