

Presentation title:

Transition of treatment of sex offenders in Japanese penal institutions

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An introduction of the sex offender treatment, Seihanzai Saihan Boshi Shido, in penal institutions of Japan in 2006 was a point of departure that activated political strivings to make treatment programs more systematic and effective than ever before. At the beginning, a variation of programs were enhanced by developing new programs such as a treatment program for people with intellectual disabilities and a pretreatment motivation program, with consideration of characteristics of sex offenders and environments in Japanese penal institutions. Then, the evaluation research conducted in 2020 demonstrated the effectiveness of the entire sex offender treatment programs in preventing recidivism, and also clarified the presence of some groups of sex offenders to whom the programs didn't work appropriately. Considering these findings, the largest revision of the theories and contents of the sex offender treatment programs was conducted in 2022. In this presentation, we would like to report this recent revision. There were three main changes in the sex offender treatment in Japanese penal institutions. First, strength model with the reference of Good Lives Model was introduced and integrated into the current programs based on relapse prevention model to enhance the effect on preventing recidivism with the systematic use of approach goals and strength. Second, in order to treat repetitive sex offenders such as train gropers effectively, a cycle model of modified relapse prevention technique as well as knowledge regarding impulse control such as functional analysis and metacognition were newly adopted. Third, aiming at enhancing the consistency and cooperation with probation offices which work with parolees as well, a format for relapse prevention plan and other materials used in both treatment programs were unified. Taken together, the sex offender treatment in penal institutions in Japan is in transition by adopting the recent evidence flexibly.