

# **Rockland County District Attorney's Office**



## **Misdemeanor Intervention Program (MIP)**

# Traditional Community Prosecution

Community Prosecution is typically a small program within a prosecutor's office with a limited number of attorney's assigned.



# **The Rockland County Model**

**Intelligence-Led: Community Policing**

**+ Community Prosecution**

**+ Community Partnerships**

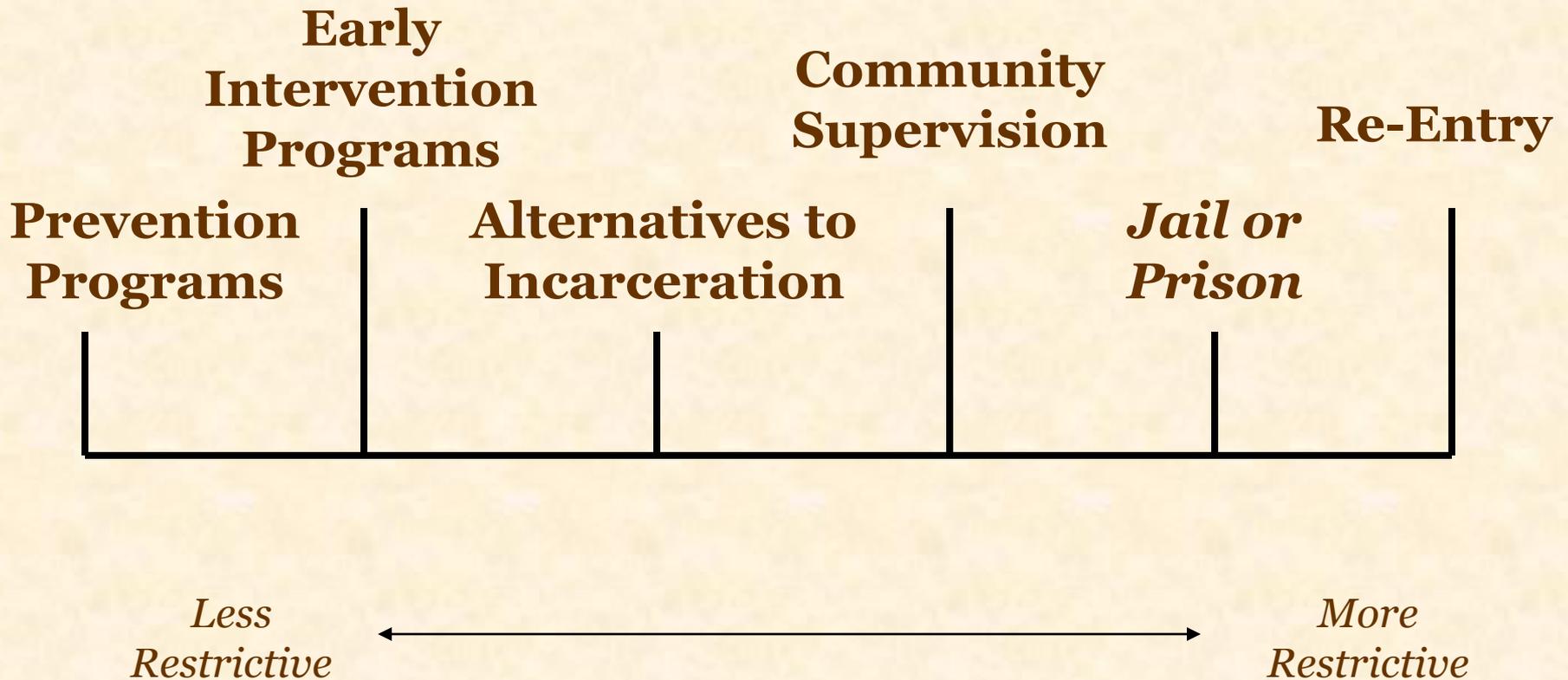
**= IL3CP**

# IL3CP

IL3CP is the paradigm under which **all** work by Assistant District Attorneys and DA Investigators is done. It is a broad and inclusive philosophy.



# Criminal-Justice Continuum



# MIP – Early Intervention

Early intervention programs are focused on:

- First-time low-level offenders
- Young low-level offenders

Goal: To stop development of a pattern of criminal behaviors

Programs:

- High School Intervention Program
- **Misdemeanor Intervention Program**
- Underage Drinking/Drugging Diversion Program

# Goals

- ❖ To confront 'criminal thinking'
- ❖ To reinforce significance of arrest
- ❖ To provide consequence for criminal behavior
- ❖ To respond to minimization of first time offenses
- ❖ To reduce recidivism of first time offenders

# Strategic Justice Partners

- An entrepreneurial team of business professionals and former prosecutors with an impressive record of building successful intervention, diversion and education programs for courts and prosecuting attorneys across the United States.
- Staff Psychologist developed MIP for RCDAO
- Oversees program, payments and staffing
- Responds to RCDAO direction and needs

# MIP Class

1 day 8 hour class facilitated by a Social Worker covering:

- Accountability/Responsibility
  - Offender held accountable for all behaviors
- Cognitive Dissonance
  - The uncomfortable tension which comes from holding two conflicting thoughts
- Situational Dynamics
  - Decision-making
  - Consequential thinking
- Conflict Resolution

# Accountability/Responsibility

- The foundation of the MIP Class is that each offender is accountable for their behavior choices
- Attendance is positively reinforced as their choice
- Ability to lead a more productive life is their personal responsibility

# Cognitive Dissonance

- Dissonance is most powerful when it is about self-image
- Values, attitudes and behaviors are used to identify dissonances
- MIP Class uses these dissonances to motivate behavior change

# Situational Dynamics

- How choices lead to unintentional consequences and external conflict
- MIP Class:
  - Identification of high risk situations
  - Identification of early warning signs
  - Identification of ‘danger signals’
  - Critical decision-making process
  - Identification of underlying values

# **Conflict Resolution**

- Identify communication style
- Identify each offender's reactions to conflict
- Identify effective ways of responding to conflict

# Outcome Information

- ❖ **94%** of offenders referred to the Misdemeanor Intervention Program have successfully completed the program
- ❖ **96%** of MIP participants have rated the program as ‘a lot of help’ or ‘a life changing experience’
- ❖ **97%** identified the instructor as very or extremely helpful
- ❖ **97%** felt the instructor was very or extremely professional

# Participant Comments

*"The instructor actually made me rethink how stupid I have been acting and I'm going to get my life together"*

*"Everything was great, my life has changed forever"*

*"Everything was fair and gave insight to a positive me."*

*"I like the way they approach peoples' situations"*

*"I liked how we spoke about our problems"*

*"I thought the organization of the group and the lesson plans were very good"*

*"I liked the interaction with the classmates. It made it a good experience because we all got along and have similar goals."*

*"It was a very good program and has helped me a lot, especially all of the exercises"*