

UC Corrections Institute presents

Ohio Youth Assessment System

OVERVIEW

The Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) is a dynamic risk/needs assessment system to be used with juvenile offenders. It offers juvenile justice actors the ability to assess youths at various decision points across the juvenile justice system. The OYAS is comprised of 5 tools, and while the Assessment is free to use, agencies must be trained by UC prior to implementation. Training on the system provides an overview of the assessment tools, and techniques for administering and scoring the individual assessments. In addition, the training will review how to use the scores obtained from individuals' OYAS assessments to develop case plans for reducing risk to re-offend. A training of agency trainers is also available, allowing agencies to build internal sustainability by certifying staff to conduct OYAS trainings.

The OYAS was developed by the University of Cincinnati, and made possible by a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The University of Cincinnati (UC) serves as the sole owner and proprietor of the copyright in the Ohio Youth Assessment (OYAS) manual and training program.

END USER

The end user session is two days of training for a maximum of 30 trainees, and is outlined below:

- Day 1: Introduction to the OYAS; Review and practice scoring of tools
- Day 2: Practice Interview Skills; Review and practice scoring of tools; Review assessment driven case planning; take certification test

TRAIN THE TRAINER

The train-the-trainer session is five days of training for a maximum of 12 trainers. To qualify as a candidate for this session, the trainee must have taken the end-user OYAS training and completed at least 20 assessments on youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The training is outlined below:

- Day 1: Review scoring for each OYAS instrument
- Day 2: Review Power Point with trainer notes, offer training tips, and review frequently asked questions
- Day 3: Trainers conduct a "mock" OYAS training in preparation for live training on days 4 and 5 and receive feedback from UCCI master trainers
- Day 4/5: Newly trained trainers deliver an end-user training to agency trainees

CONTACT

For more information about OYAS, please contact UCCI Program Manager Jennifer Scott at Jennifer.Scott@uc.edu or (513) 556-7765.

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Description of Tools

Diversion (OYAS-DIV): The OYAS-DIV is designed to help juvenile courts determine who can be safely diverted away from the juvenile justice system versus who should remain in the juvenile justice system. The tool consists of six items and can be completed through a thorough file review and/or face-to-face interview with the youth in approximately 10 minutes.

Detention (OYAS-DET): The OYAS-DET is designed to be used with youth being considered for detention. The results of the assessment will provide the court with the level of risk the youth poses while on pre-trial release. The instrument can be used at intake to aid in front-end decisions or the back door to release youth, when appropriate. This instrument consists of 6 items and can be completed through a brief face-to-face interview, which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Disposition (OYAS-DIS): The OYAS-DIS is a comprehensive tool to be used with youth adjudicated by the court. More specifically, the tool considers youths' overall risk to reoffend and criminogenic needs, while also identifying responsivity factors and case management strategies to facilitate successful intervention. This tool consists of seven domains, including (1) juvenile justice history, (2) family and living arrangements; (3) peers and social support networks; (4) education and employment; (5) pro-social skills; (6) substance abuse, mental health, and personality; and (7) values, beliefs, and attitudes.

Residential (OYAS-RES): The OYAS-RES affords residential programs the ability to accurately assess youths' overall risk to reoffend, as well as identify criminogenic need areas and barriers to treatment (i.e., responsivity factors). The results of the OYAS-RES may also be used for case planning purposes. Similar to the OYAS-DIS, the OYAS-RES includes seven domain areas.

Reentry (OYAS-RET): The OYAS-RET provides programs an opportunity to reassess youth after being in a residential program for an extended period of time. The OYAS-RET is based on the same domains as the OYAS-DIS and OYAS-RES, but is scored based on youths' progress in the residential program. The OYAS-RET should be used in conjunction with post-program supervision to ensure youths' successful transition back into the community.

Automated System

UCCI has partnered with the UC IT Solutions Center (ITSC) to create an automated system to provide agencies with the ability to integrate the OYAS seamlessly into their day-to-day work. The automated system can be accessed via a secure web-based portal and all agency data can either be housed on UC's servers or on individual agency servers. Please contact UCCI for start-up and annual maintenance costs associated with the automated system