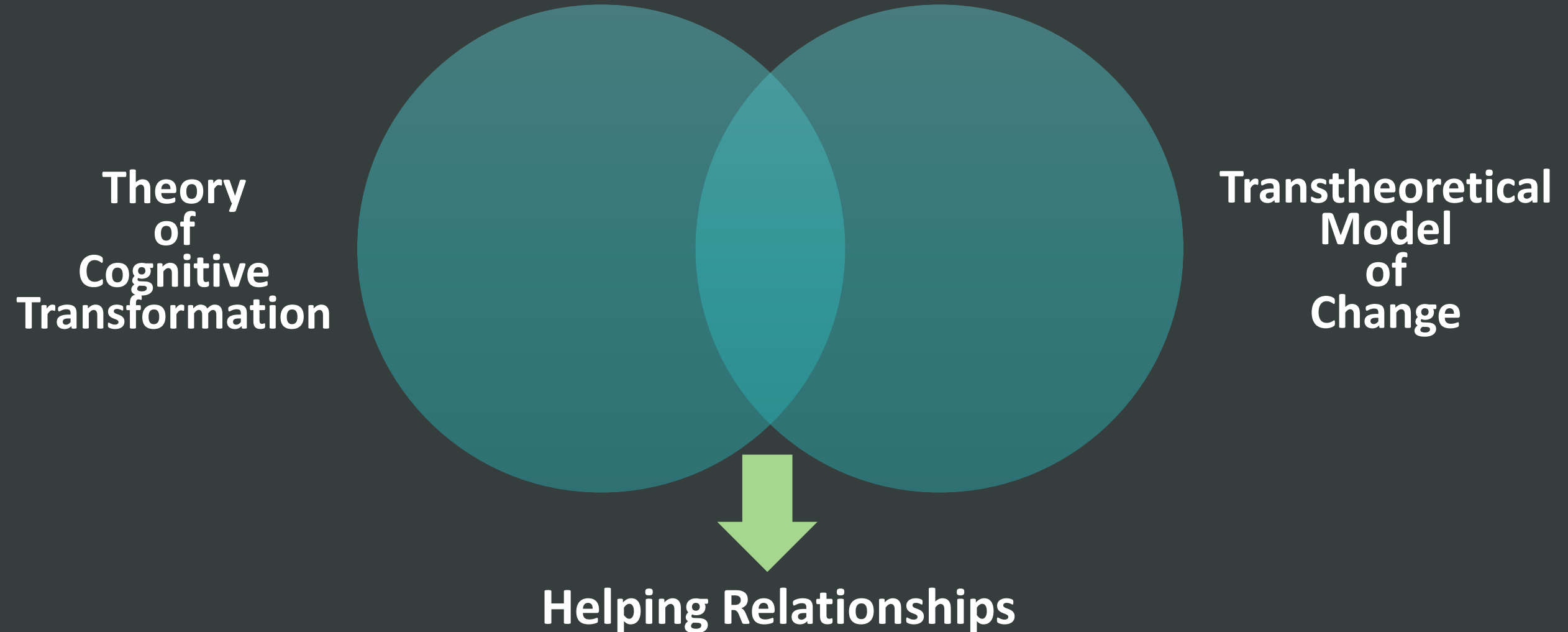


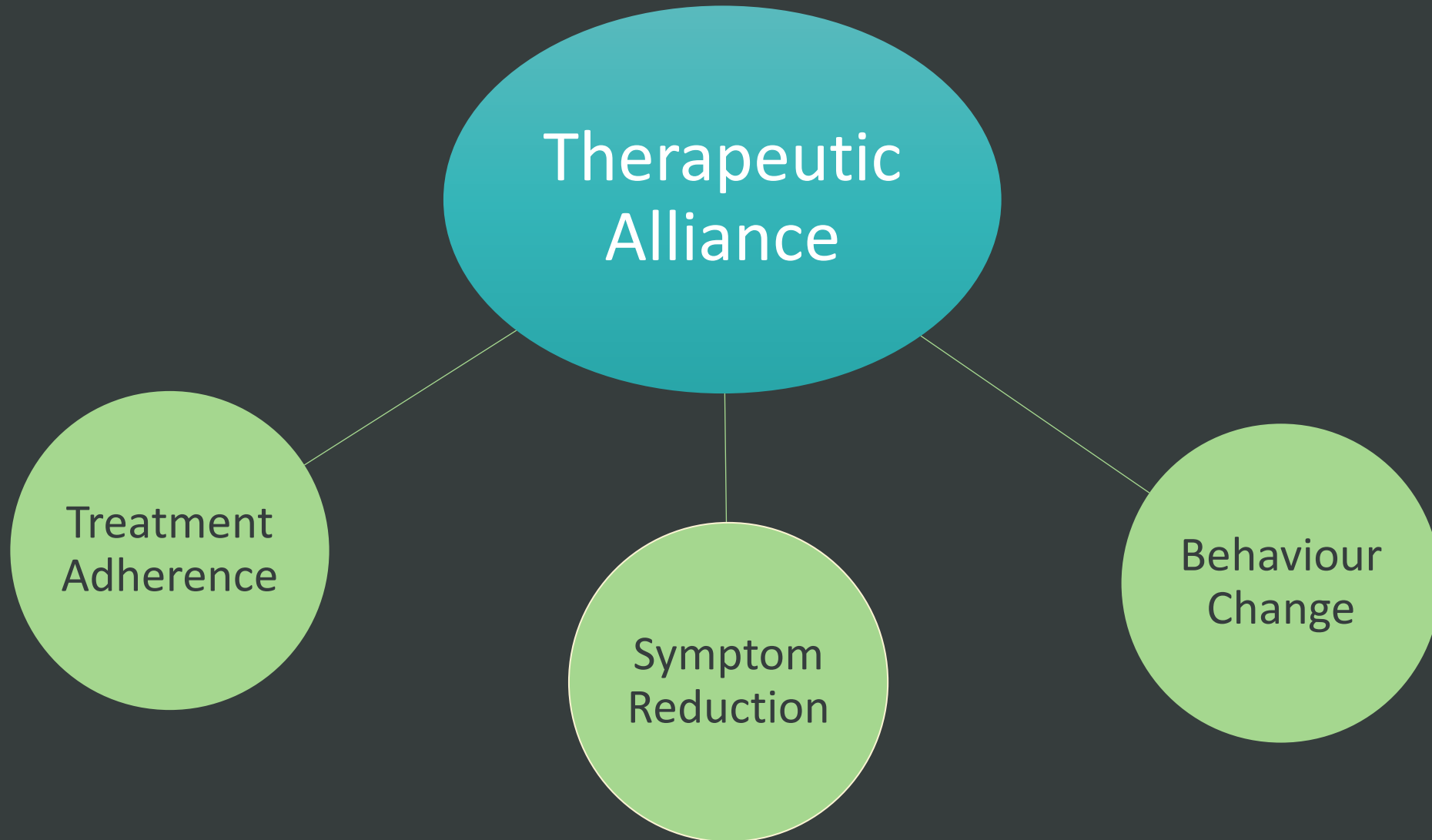
Exploring the Mechanisms of Change in Offenders: The Professional Relationship

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Theory Integration



Helping Relationships





Probation Officers

Meet Regularly

Refer to Services

Address Violations

Monitor Progress

Evaluate Compliance

Helping Relationships



Current Study

Explore the perspective of offenders on probation and professional relationship

What do they say about probation?

Do they identify qualities of their experience as helpful or undesirable?

Does their perspective differ based on stages of change?

Measures

Demographic Measure

- Author-constructed

URICA

- University Rhode Island Change Assessment (McConaughy et al., 1989)

LS/CMI


- Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (Andrews et al., 2004)

DRI-R

- Dual Relationship Inventory-Revised (Skeem et al., 2007)

Participant Sample

Precontemplation <i>n = 3</i>	Contemplation <i>n = 11</i>	Action <i>n = 4</i>
2 male; 2 female 2 moderate; 1 high risk DRI-R Total = 163.50 Caring/Fairness = 106.00 Trust= 18.67 Toughness= 32.33	10 male; 1 female 8 moderate; 3 high risk DRI-R Total = 173.18 Caring/Fairness = 115.18 Trust= 28.18 Toughness= 29.81	2 male; 2 female 2 moderate; 2 high risk DRI-R Total = 189.00 Caring/Fairness = 127.00 Trust= 30.50 Toughness= 34.5



Central Themes

1. Reflections on Experience

2. View of PO Role

3. Perceived Supportive Qualities

Reflections on Experience

Probation as a positive experience

“Just being on probation gives you the incentive. Like if I mess up, I’m going to jail. And haven’t, you know, he wants me to come here every, twice a week, or twice a month, call twice a month. Gives me the incentive, like yeah. There is someone out there that cares what I’m doing, like not just him, but a whole business”

6: Contemplation, High Risk, Male

Reflections on Experience

Neutral experience or “on the fence”

“You just come in and answer questions. It doesn’t really seem to affect me. As long as you follow the rules, it seems ok I guess... He is checking to see if I’m doing what I’m supposed to and that’s about it...if I didn’t want to make any change, this wouldn’t stop me... He just asks me what he needs to ask me... It wouldn’t stop me.”

9: Contemplation, Moderate Risk, Male

Reflections on Experience

Negative experience

11:
Action
High Risk
Female

“I don’t think probation is helpful. Obviously with all the breaches you can see it didn’t work out too well for me.”

“It doesn’t work. [POs] just keep the door revolving... You see your PO, you could get busted for drinking. They chuck your ass back in the can... It serves no purpose other than everybody keeps their jobs.”

3:
Contemplation
High Risk
Male

View of PO Role

PO as authority figure or disciplinary agent

“When we’re sitting on this side of the desk and there’s a probation officer on the other side, you’re always... protected... You got a bit of a wall there because... This is the person who can send me back to jail if they wanted.”

2: Action, High Risk, Male

View of PO Role

PO as supportive service

“I look at [his PO] as someone who’s gonna try to help me and keep me on the right path.”

1:
Precontemplation
Moderate Risk
Male

“I know she’s got a lot of job descriptions and a lot of duties she’s got to do.... If I had a problem, I could call her today and tell her regardless of whether it’s pertaining directly to my situation or not, with you know my past.”

13:
Action
Moderate Risk
Female

View of PO Role

PO as a gatekeeper to other services

6:
Contemplation
High Risk
Male

“[If I need help], they’d be like ‘well, call this person’ or ‘go four storeys up and ask them if they will help you make a resume.’”

“[My PO] would help me with um getting to school and stuff like that.”

4:
Precontemplation
Moderate Risk
Female

Perceived Supportive Qualities

PO being available and flexible

“Well, [my PO has] been there for me whenever I needed somebody to talk to... They all said if I need anything, just to call and they will help me out the best they can.”

14: Contemplation, Moderate Risk, Male

Perceived Supportive Qualities

Friendly and caring relationship

“There was a respect there for me, you know? Even if I couldn’t make a meeting, like sometimes we’d have them over the phone, it’s just, yeah... it was full time respect.”

15:
Contemplation
Moderate Risk
Male

11:
Contemplation
Moderate Risk
Female

“I just went in there and I wasn’t in a bad mood anymore. She just took me out of my mood, she’s very nice and it’s easy to talk to her.”

Perceived Supportive Qualities

Openness and honesty

“It’s been really good, the back and forth... I talk to her about everything and share everything with her. Even if I did something I wasn’t supposed to, like say I wasn’t allowed to smoke weed or like I smoked some weed... I’d share it with her... Because I was brutally honest with her and that was her main thing, you know?”

15: Contemplation, Moderate Risk, Male

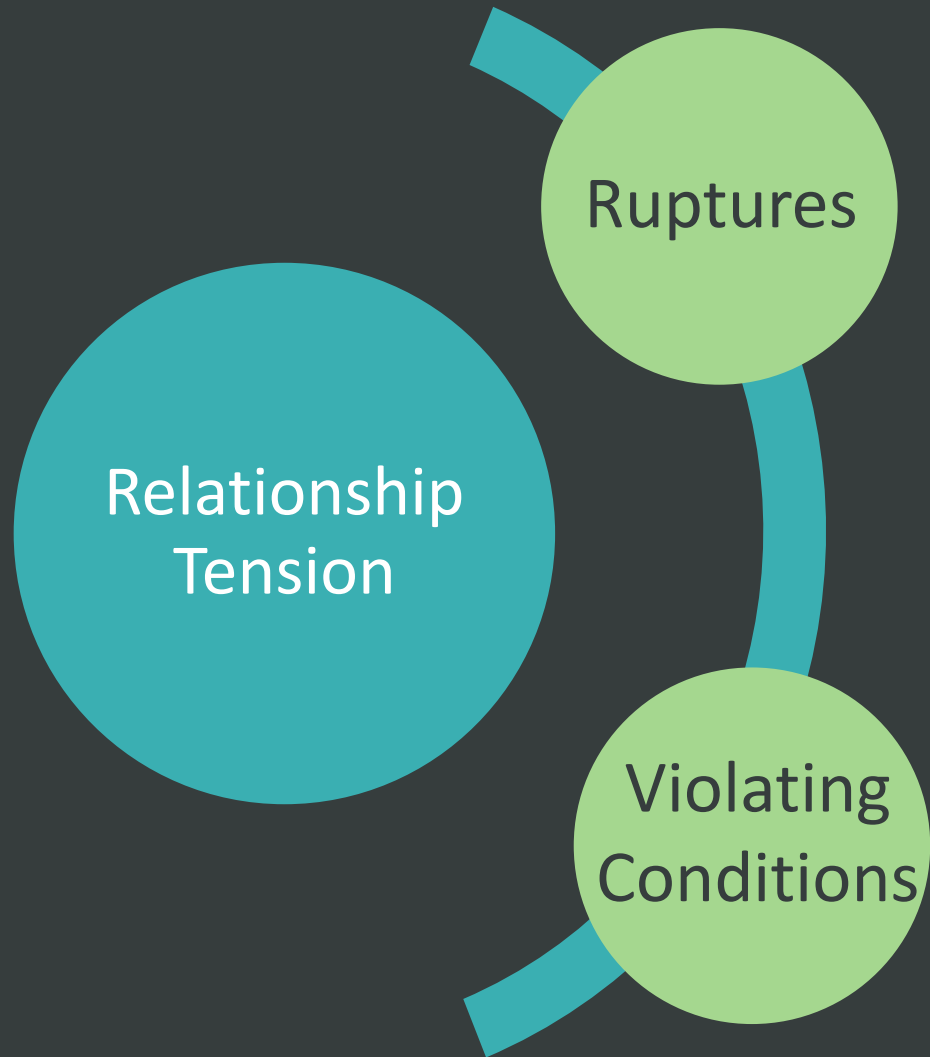
Perceived Supportive Qualities

Fair and understanding

“[Some POs] just get tainted. Like I’ve been in this shit for 10-15 years and I fucking hate [criminals]. Some [POs] are like that. But he’s not. I can tell. [My PO] wouldn’t breach ya for just something dumb. He wouldn’t try to fuck your day up, coming in here and you think you’re good and he’s like ‘I’m breaching ya.’ That’s not him.”

12: Precontemplation, High Risk, Male

Emerging Themes



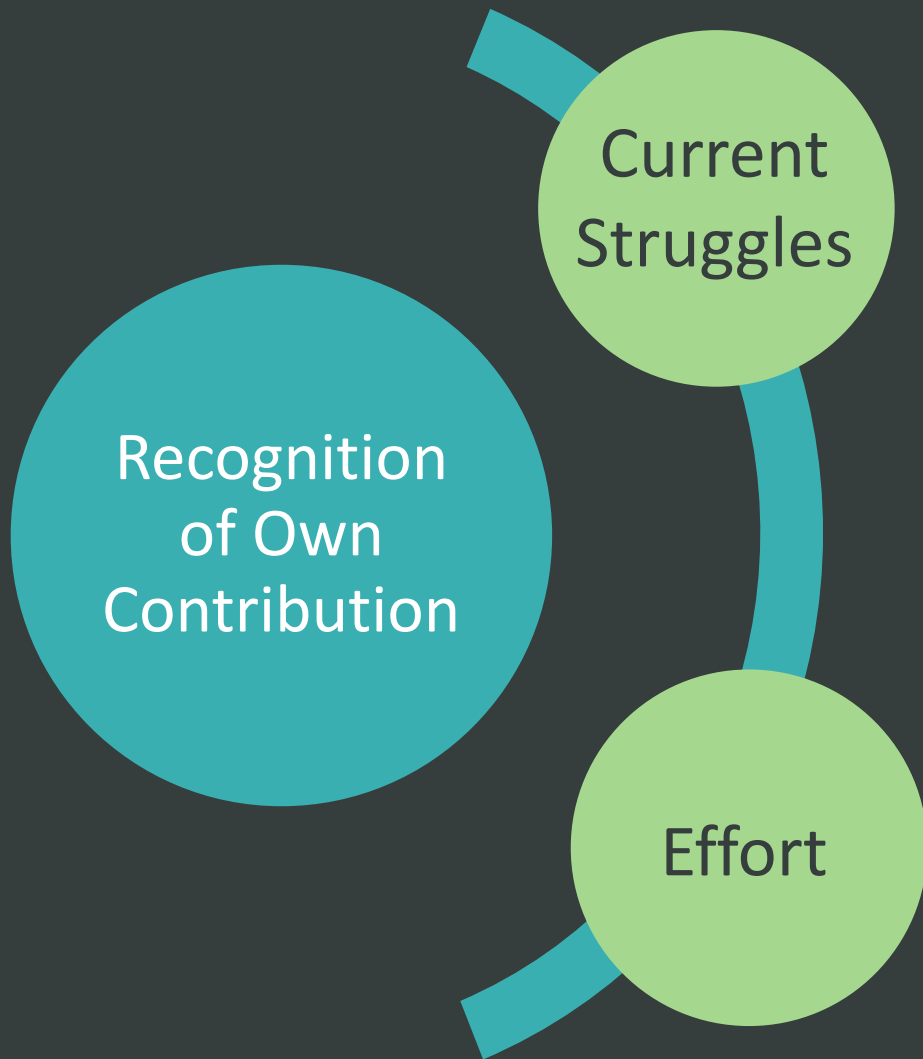
“When the probation officer did that, I was...totally pissed off.... I actually called and got the supervisor on the line and I said ‘I never want to see her again.’ So they changed my probation officer.”

2: Action, High Risk, Male

“If you’re doing what you’re doing and you know what you’re doing, then it’s an easy experience, but if you’re....wrapped around drugs and going out... breaking the law... you gotta know what you’re doing.”

5: Contemplation, Moderate Risk, Male

Emerging Themes



“I was going through a lot of psychological stuff with the PTSD and not understanding what I was going through... May have been, you know, cause-and-effect. I may have been coming off in a certain way to them, and they, they had been dealing with me in a certain way as well.”


2: Action, High Risk, Male

“I didn't really care, I seen it as like you know I'm not in jail. Like my PO would get me to go or attend these groups and stuff like that, but I would never end up going.”

7: Contemplation, High Risk, Male

Discussion

Participants had a lot to say about their experience and professional relationship



Important to utilize offender perspective to increase engagement and motivation



Greater outcomes in intervention and case plan

Limitations & Future Directions

Limited sample size

Relied on retrospective offender report

An important piece of a bigger picture

Research needed on probation officers'
perspective

Thank you!



Questions?