

Part I

Correctional Counseling and Treatment: Past and Present

In this part, the history of correctional treatment is reviewed and the economic, social, and political factors that had an influence on the way the criminal justice system responded to those who commit criminal offenses are explored.

In Chap. 1, the goals of correctional treatment and the techniques used to assist correctional workers in the achievement of the goals are delineated. These goals are broadly defined in terms of assisting the offender in establishing a lifestyle that is personally satisfying and conforms to the rules and regulations of society and protecting the community from the harmful activity of offenders. The models of treatment that have been utilized to punish and rehabilitate criminal and delinquent offenders are explained. The “medical” model, with its concentration on treatment, that was emphasized during the 1960s gave way to the “just deserts” model and the “justice” model during the 1970s, as the crime rates and fear of crime increased and crime control became a theme used by politicians seeking election to political offices. The change in emphasis was reflected in the passage of new laws that provided for mandatory prison sentences for certain categories of offenses and a de-emphasis on providing treatment programs in prisons and in community corrections. In the late 1990s and up to the present time, a different model, referred to as the “restorative Justice” model, gained much support from criminal justice personnel and legislators. This approach combines the treatment and punishment models.

In Chap. 2, the restorative justice model is explained. Under this model, the criminal offender, the victim, and the community are involved in the offender’s rehabilitation process. The offender is held responsible for the harm caused to an individual or the community and must compensate for the crime in some way, either through monetary payback or service to the community.

The restorative justice movement in the United States was the result of a number of factors, including the realization that neither the punishment oriented models nor the treatment oriented models by themselves produced the results desired.

The restorative justice model attempts to provide a balance between the needs of the victim, the needs of the offender, and the needs of the community.

Several of the programs used in restorative justice include mediation, compensation, restitution, and family group counseling. These approaches to balancing the

treatment and punishment given to offender are grounded in-evidence-based programs.

In Chap. 3, the emergence of victims of crime as a key component of the criminal justice process is explored. The movement toward assisting victims of crime and guaranteeing rights for victims of crime is closely tied in with other movements that occurred in the United States during the latter half of the twentieth century.

As the mass media drew attention to the inequalities of the justice system, the needs of minorities, women, children, and other groups, the victims of crime gained attention. Federal and state legislation passed in the 1970s and during later years provided funding for the implementation of victim services programs and also provided opportunities for the victims of crime to take an active part in the criminal justice process, rather than merely fulfilling their tradition role of being witnesses.