Using Problem-Oriented Policing to Reduce Violent Crime in Rural and Small Jurisdictions

June 26, 2024

Overview

- Introductions
- The Problem-Solving Strategy
- Real-life examples
- How can we help you succeed
- Questions

Introductions

- Dr. Craig D. Uchida, Justice & Security Strategies (JSS)

- Dr. Shellie E. Solomon, JSS

- Juliana Palmer, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Policy Advisor

- Special Speakers:

- Mike Green, Former DA, Monroe County, NY

- Robert Haas, Former Commissioner, Cambridge (MA) PD

- Esther Farmer, Former Assistant Chief, Miami PD

- Anna Goedert, Data Scientist, JSS

Guiding Principles

Customer Focused

Ease of Use

Leverage Technology

Data-Driven

BJA Small and Rural Violent Crime Reduction Grant

Awards

Equipment, Personnel, Community Programs

Goal

Reduce Violent Crime

Question: How do you successfully reduce violent crime in your jurisdiction?

Answer: Use POP/SARA approach.
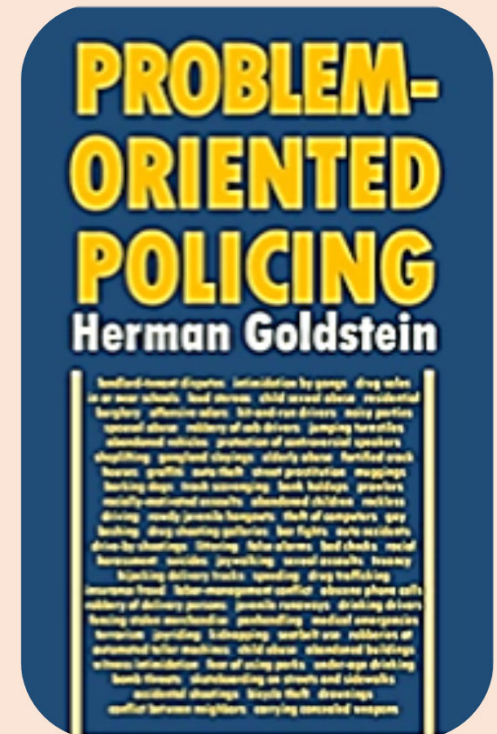
Problem-Oriented Policing Strategy

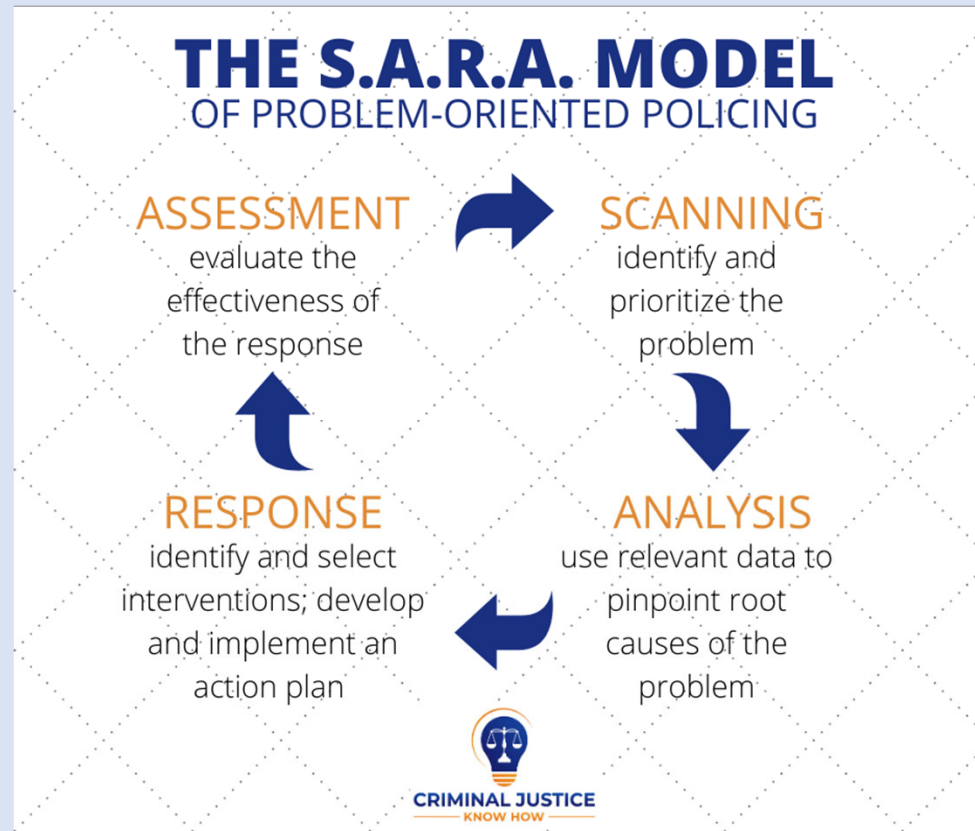- Herman Goldstein is the father of problem-solving

Key Themes

Data analysis

Appropriate responses

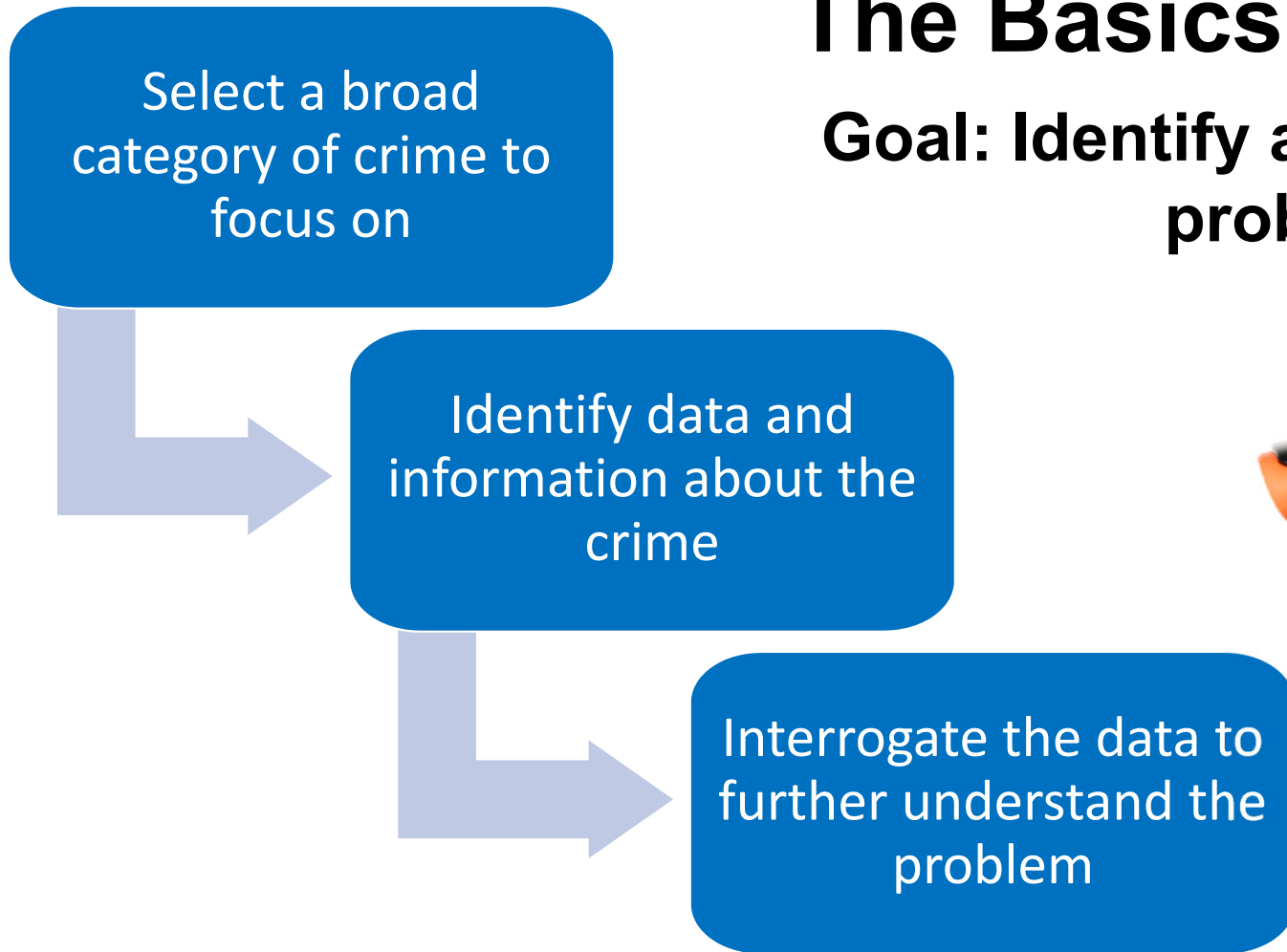Assessing the success/failure of the effort

SARA Overview

THE S.A.R.A. MODEL
OF PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING

ASSESSMENT
evaluate the effectiveness of the response

SCANNING
identify and prioritize the problem

RESPONSE
identify and select interventions; develop and implement an action plan

ANALYSIS
use relevant data to pinpoint root causes of the problem

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
KNOW HOW

HAVE YOU USED THE POP/SARA PROCESS FOR OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE PAST?

A. YES

B. NO

C. SORTA

The Basics of Scanning

Goal: Identify a specific crime problem

Select a broad category of crime to focus on

Identify data and information about the crime

Interrogate the data to further understand the problem

The Basics of Analysis

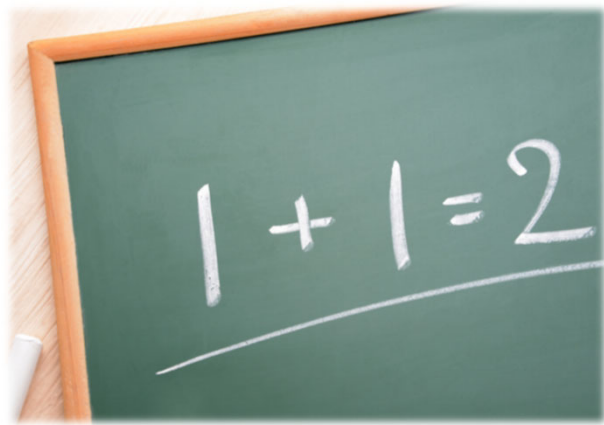**Goal: Use data to identify an appropriate and effective response**

Why does a problem persist?

Tools to solve the problem

Crime Triangle

Crime Scripts

Analysis Checklist

Crime Triangle

○ Basic elements:
- ❓ Location?
- ❓ Victim?
- ❓ Suspect?

Crime Scripts

- A sequence of predictable events
  - Every crime has a beginning, middle, and end

- Find the repeat circumstances to identify an "intervention point"

The Basics of Response

Goal: Craft and implement an intervention that targets intervention points

Do not rush to this step before completing scanning and analysis

What has been tried in the past for this problem and with what impacts?

JSS can assist you!

How to Devise a Response

- The same response may not work every time
- Responses will differ based on crime focus
  - Group based violence
  - Location based violence
  - Crime type

The Basics of Assessment

Goal: Determine the success of the response

What are the impacts of the response?

What data do you need to collect for a meaningful assessment?

Research partner, SME, or JSS can assist with this step!

The Purpose of Assessment

What can we learn that will help me going forward?

Do you need continued problem-solving efforts?

Was your chosen response responsible for crime reduction?

Produce an assessment to learn from experiences.

Good problem-solving means calling it as it is!

Case Study

Jose De Diego Middle School

- New school
- Age 12-15

Wynwood NET

- High Crime area
- Gang activity
- Graffiti tagging rampant

The Problem ?

- Multiple calls weekly of large gang fights
- School pickup area
- School dismissal times
- Safety risks

Initial Response

- Gang task force presence
  - No fights
- Broader duties
  - Field Interviews
  - Overtime
  - Arrest in area

Issue: Fights continue to occur when police not present

SARA MODEL

- Scanning
  - Incident logs
  - Interviews/observations
- Analysis
  - Patterns
  - Stakeholder insight
  - Behavioral issues
- Response
  - Structured Detention
  - Traffic Management
- Assessment
  - No further large fights

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How do you Succeed?

Planning

Crime analysis: Scanning, Analysis and Assessment

- Appropriate data
- Mapping
- Analytic skills
- Avoid analysis-paralysis

DON'T rush into the Response phase

DON'T forget to assess the problem

DO use Checklists!

Resources

- Training -- for officers, supervisors, and analysts
- Indirect Technical assistance
  - Webinars, discussion sessions, phone calls, documents
- Direct TA
  - On-site, in-person
- Library of curated documents

Contact Us
Meet your JSS TTA Team

info@srtvcr.com

Coming Attractions!

Solving Problems with Data and Analysis!

Using the Violent Crime Reduction Operations Guide

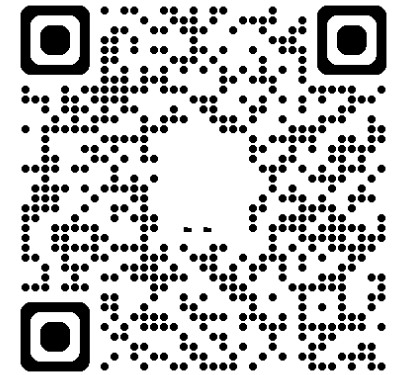*Automated License Plate Readers*

Closing Remarks

Juliana Palmer, BJA

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Questions?

Thank You