



# The Juvenile Unit West

Assistant Prison Governor Per Omdal

# The New Law on Mediation 1. July 2014 included 2 new penal reactions

**Youth punishment (YP)** – alternative to prison and stricter community sentences, a court decision.

- *Target group: young offenders(15-18) who has comitted severe or repeated crimes. Duration - 6 months up to maximum 2(3) years*

**Youth follow up (YF)** – for youth at risk, can also be decided by local prosecutors.

- *Target group: young offenders (15-18) considered to be at risk for committing more crime and/or has a need for follow up support.  
Duration – up to maximum 1 year.*

# Youth-unit.

## Architecture and functionality of building.

- The building must be designed to support the purpose and function of the facility. The building should not make a starting point in a prison neither a childward. The building must contribute more to the main purpose for the youth. F x wooden floors, decorations, color on walls, large windows....
- The design must ensure that it is possible to achieve a high degree of space adjustments. A need for flexible safe areas and limitations. All to preserve a safe and calm gathering the space-shapeing should be regulated and adjusted quickly in case of quick changes of situation.
- The described offer must comply with the international and national rules according to which children are to be treated. Convicted adults and children should not be socialized. The offer will in particular protect young convicts from sentencing zones with recurring problems and connections to organized crime.

# A ruin or a lighthouse for future, that the world has never seen?



The Juveniles –  
Who are they?



Robbing several buses- people in cashmachines, murders, drugcases, fire-bug/arsonist....



## Politiet: Jente (15) siktet for drap

\*\* Kvinne drept på institusjon i Asker



# Changes in the juvenile group

## 2009

- Boys
- Gang-related
- Violence/threats/robberies
- Cognitively well
- History with drug-abuse
- Short(er) time in prison
- "Angry young men"

## 2017

- Girls
- Individual criminals
- Murder / arson (pyromania) / threats
- Cognitive not well
- No history with drug-abuse
- Long stay in prison
- "Sick young women"

Child trauma – high degree.

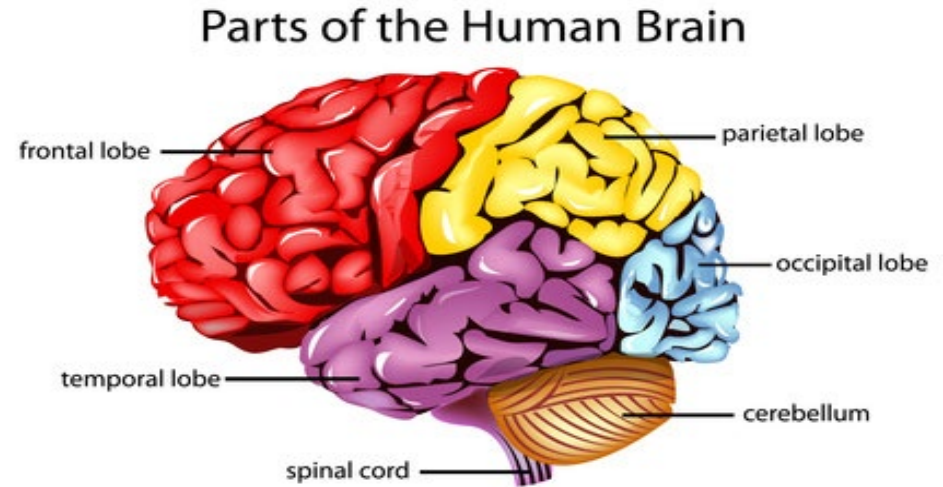
Executive-functions are disturbed and inhibit adult life. This can probably be found by age 4.

Et nevropsykologisk kollektivt konsept:

Some effects:

- Ability of planning
- controlling attention
- Organizing thoughts
- lack of flexibility and adaptability.

Location: Frontal lobe.





How do we work?

## The UN Convention on the right of the child, art 37 b)

*“...measure of last resort and*

***for the shortest appropriate period of time”***



# What works ?

- Punishment is not the path to change
- It is WHAT we do in the Juvenile unit that matters
- Accidental interventions may be positive, but doesn't necessarily reduce the risk of new crime
- We need to look for risk factors to reduce the risk of new crime
- Establish measures which need to be continued after release from the juvenile unit

# Method

- Risk – Need – Responsivity (RNR-model)
- Milieu therapy



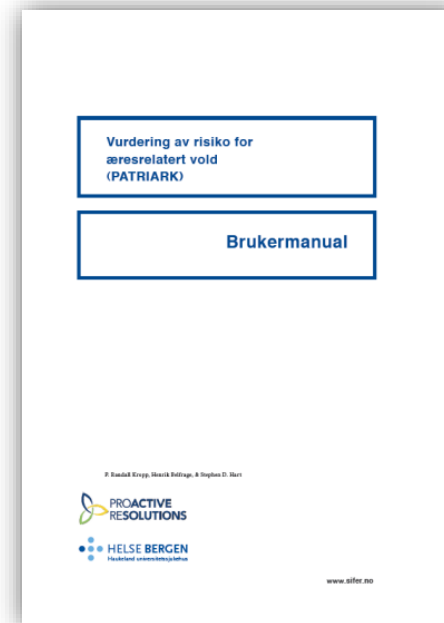
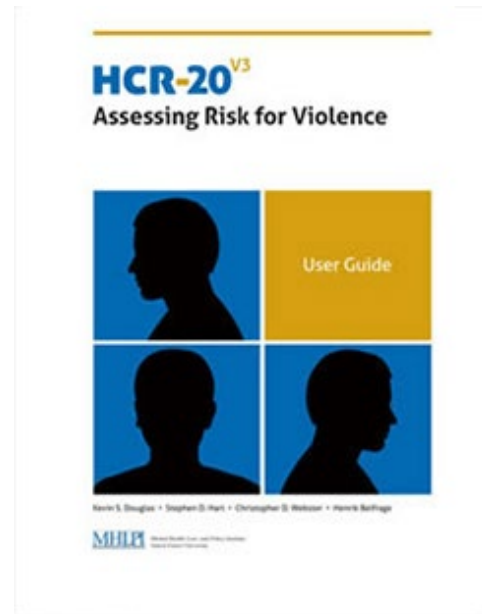
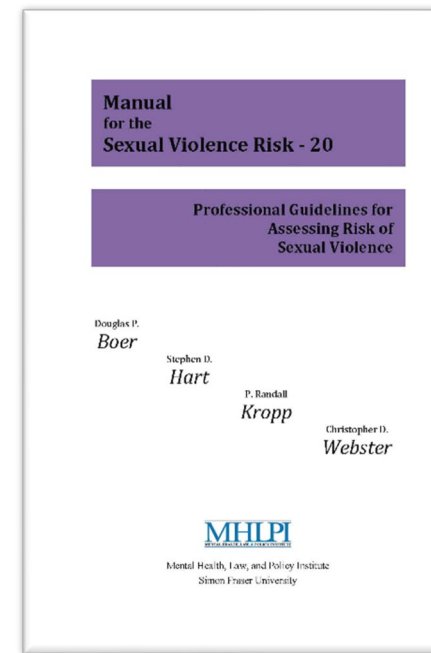
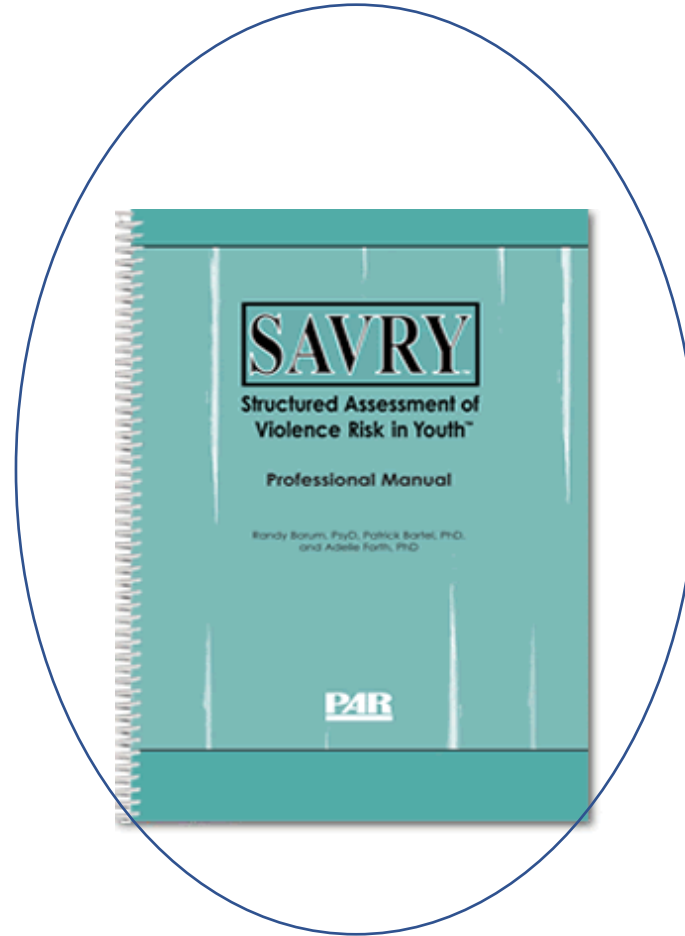
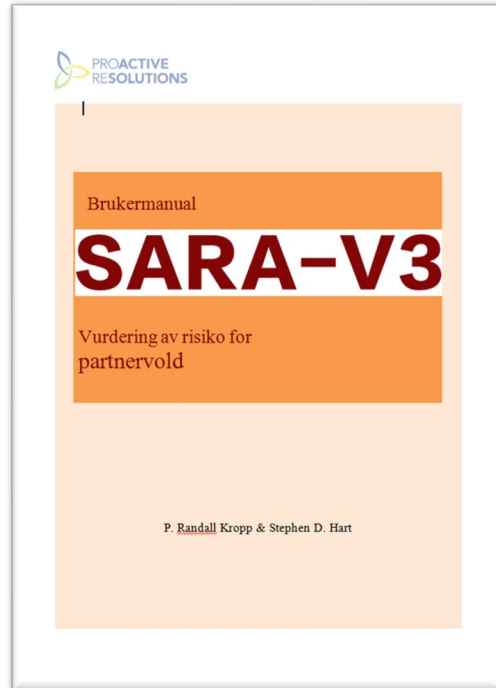


# Our experiences

- Attitude among the juveniles (being in prison, wish to make changes in life etc...)
- Use the law (The Execution of Sentences Act) as a tool
- Highly competent, comforting, encouraging and patient staff
- Focus on the method (R-N-R)
- Flexibility and individual facilitation
- Positive contact with family and friends
- The number of staff (activities outside the prison, safe surroundings within the prison etc)
- The importance, competence and daily access to the multi-agency team

# Risk assessment and risk management





# Case management plans

## Monitoring

- Surveillance or repeated assessment

## Treatment

- Rehabilitation, including further assessment

## Supervision

- Impositions of control or restriction of freedom

## Victim Safety planning

- Enhancement of security resources for identifiable targets



# The point is...

On the basis of accessible background information:

“Speculate whether an individual can commit violent actions and  
identify what is needed to prevent such violence from occurring”

Hart, 1999

# The Juvenile Unit in pictures...





# Alarms & keys



# Reception area





# Multi-purpose room



# Storage for effects and registration



# Room for drug control



# Small living room for juveniles





# Room for juvenile



# Separate bathroom for each juvenile



# Common area for the juveniles





# Kitchen area



Kitchen area

Diningtable





# Recreation area



# Room for education/school





# Separate kitchen for juveniles



# Observation room



# Isolation cell



# Isolation cell





# Administration



# Half way house/apartment





# Apartment for family/visitors



# Apartment for family/visitors





# Outdoor area





critical and positive.  
This unit belongs to  
all.



# Academical

- Prof Linda Grønning – Univ. Of Bergen, Faculty of Law. «Young offenders» may 2022.
- Prof Jørn Jacobsen – Univ. Of Bergen Ethical issues of the execution of punishment.
- Prof Ray Corrado – Fraser Univ. Vancouver
- Prof Steven Hart – Fraser univ.
- Prof Ida Hydle – Oslo met.



# Norwegian- American cooperation

- Amend –
- 5 year agreement from 2019 –

Ref.

- Prof. Brie Williams. Amend
- Working in California, Oregon, Washington and North-Dakota. Earlier years also in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Rhode Island, New York.
- Main purpose: Change the culture in prisons by reducing the negative health-effects caused by the work for staff. This will influence the attitudes towards inmates.