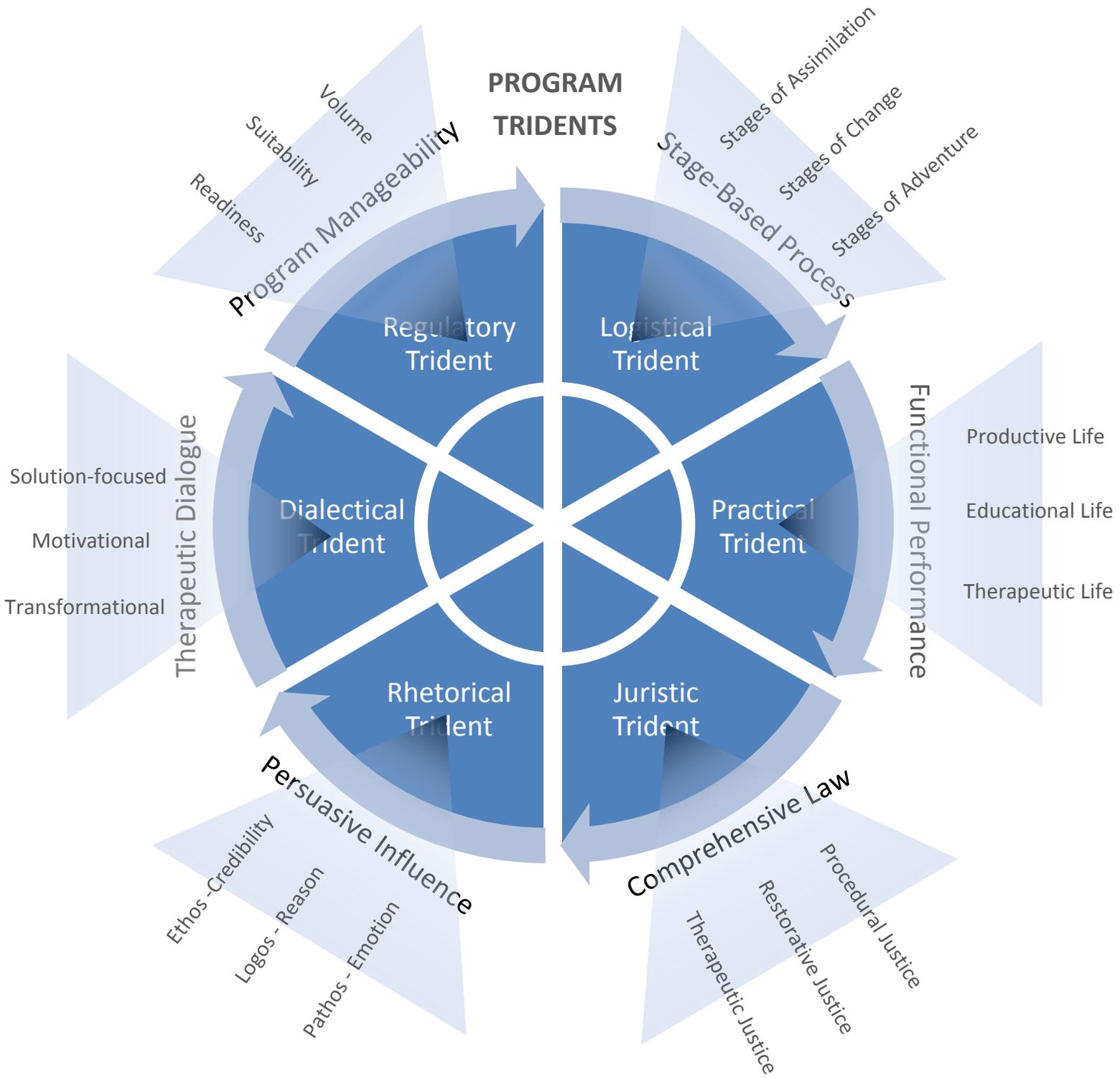


Triadic Approach to Mental Health Court Program Development, Education, and Training



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The First District Mental Health Court program is designed according to six triadic domains or tridents each comprised of three conceptual and contextual prongs that provide greater program dimension, as well as meaning and substance, beyond the remedial shell of specialty courts in general.

Regulatory Trident:

The regulatory elements address the issue of program integrity and manageability from three perspectives: (1) management of program volume through diagnostic exclusions, (2) management of participant suitability through an eligibility taxonomy, and (3) management of participant preparation through assessment of readiness for change.

Logistical Trident:

Program logistics is about movement of the participant through a series of stage-based processes including assimilation or organizational socialization, the process of human behavior change, and the stages of adventure known as the Hero Motif. Each process is generalized to the entire MHC population and each stage model is ascending in course and progressive toward the goal of program completion.

Practical Trident:

The practical trident represents the functional living component of the program inclusive of the participant's productive life (volunteer work or paid employment), educational life (remedial or formal course work), and therapeutic life (mental health / substance abuse treatment). This domain is scalable to the functional level of the participant.

Juristic Trident:

The juristic trident is concerned with how the program incorporates and operationalizes several key vectors of comprehensive law including, therapeutic justice, procedural justice, and restorative justice in its overall philosophy and operation.

Rhetorical Trident:

Facing the complexities of both criminal justice and mental illness is a formidable task. All participants undergo some struggle with ambivalence, avoidance, and counter-motivation. The rhetorical trident addresses the issues and dynamics of program compliance and the art of persuasion in terms of the appeal of credibility (ethos), reason (logos), and emotion (pathos).

Dialectical Trident:

For specialty court practitioners and magistrates to successfully function as agents of change requires specialty knowledge. The dialectical trident focuses on three variations of therapeutic and change-oriented interviewing, namely, solution-focused, motivational, and transformational dialogue.