

providers and other partners must take active steps to dispel myths and misperceptions about sex offenders and victims through community meetings, media outreach, and prevention efforts.

- *Legislative support.* Policymakers can demonstrate support for treatment by prioritizing funding for prevention efforts and rehabilitative services within correctional, juvenile justice, and social services agencies, by allocating resources to fund treatment mandates, and by requiring agencies to implement evidence-based programs and document outcomes. Legislative bodies in some states have demonstrated support for treatment efforts by creating sex offender management boards, endorsing state guidelines, standards, or certification processes for treatment providers. In addition, they can partner with researchers and experts in the field of sex offender management to develop evidence-based policies that can maximize community safety and minimize the potential for unintended collateral consequences and other anti-therapeutic outcomes.

Beyond eliciting the support of external stakeholders, treatment providers themselves can ensure that treatment remains an influential component of a broader sex offender management strategy in multiple ways, including the following:

- Participating on multidisciplinary case management teams as a means of eliminating unnecessary barriers to critical information-sharing, increasing transparency regarding the treatment process for other professionals, and facilitating well-informed and collaborative case management decisions;
- Expanding graduate training capacity by providing didactic presentations, specialized coursework, field placements, and clinical supervision;

- Establishing networks or alliances to create cross-training activities, peer consultation venues, and informal and formal opportunities to keep abreast of current research and practices;
- Ensuring that facility-based and community-based treatment interventions are complementary of one another in order to facilitate continuity of care;
- Instituting quality assurance mechanisms and participating in treatment outcome evaluations; and
- Practicing ethically and responsibly, and ensuring the ethical and responsible practice of colleagues, thereby maintaining the integrity and credibility of the treatment community overall.

## ► *Summary*

The treatment of adult and juvenile sex offenders is a key component of a comprehensive approach. Its value and impact can be maximized when it is available and accessible on a continuum, driven by research-supported models of change, focused on variables that are likely to reduce recidivism, individualized based on assessed risk and needs, delivered by qualified providers in a way that facilitates engagement, and supported by key stakeholders throughout the system.