



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-BP35 POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2012 UPDATE

Statewide implementation is dependent on completion of automation programming, which is currently underway.

2011 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS

Division of Probation Services to provide data and an update to CCJJ staff.

70 The Technical Violations and Behavior Change (TVBC) pilot began in December 2010 and is estimated to be complete in January 2013 (at the conclusion of three full evaluation phases). Qualitative and quantitative feedback is being used to make adjustments to the strategies, guidelines and to inform policy. A statewide training, quality assurance and implementation plan is under development as well as electronic programming efforts. The full statewide implementation schedule will be determined upon completion of the pilot, evaluation and computer programming (estimated summer 2013).

2010 UPDATE

Implementation underway. For the purposes of the Commission performance measures, Recommendations BP-35, BP-36 and GP-13 have been combined because the impacts overlap. Officials from the Division of Probation Services report that it was awarded a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in October 2009 to examine the use of sanctions and incentives as an effective means of supervising probationers. The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP), a consulting firm, was selected to complete the assessment. In 2010, the CEPP completed a literature review, convened an advisory group, developed a 9-month work plan, selected pilot districts, and convened a stakeholder meeting for April 2010. A multi-disciplinary steering committee provides feedback and direction. Onsite meetings, interviews, surveys and data collection will be conducted with each pilot district for the purpose of developing strategies and guidelines. A statewide policy will be developed and implemented based on the knowledge gained from the pilot site study.

2009 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The Division of Probation Services (DPS) distributed a memorandum to staff on the use of incentives in December 2007. DPS intends to continue to increase its use of incentives and rewards to reinforce positive behavior change. To this end, it has identified a working group to review existing policy and develop a strategic plan to expand the use of positive reinforcement and incentives for offenders on probation.

2009 IMPACT

Resources preclude the study of the extent to which this initiative is implemented and its impact on recidivism. However, the number of cases receiving technical violations, and the number of cases revoked to prison, will be reported in future Commission reports.

2009 BARRIERS

Without a comprehensive study, it will be difficult to gauge implementation barriers.

Description

Research shows that positive reinforcement is an important component of behavior modification. The use of incentives to facilitate successful completion of probation should be encouraged. Such incentives should be interpreted as evidence-based efforts to encourage the offender's positive performance for the purpose of enhancing public safety and preventing victimization.

Agencies Responsible

State Judicial (Division of Probation Services)

Discussion

This recommendation has been partially implemented. The use of positive reinforcement and incentives is a fundamental component of evidence-based correctional practices designed to encourage offenders to engage in behaviors that will improve their likelihood of success in the community. Use of positive reinforcement and incentives is consistent with the Commission's statutory mandate to "focus on evidence-based recidivism reduction initiatives..." [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1)].