

Rewards and Sanctions for Youth on Probation and the Impact on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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Graduated Responses Strategic Innovation Group

- Six jurisdictions from the DMC Action Network participated in this strategic innovation group
- Reviewed tools from other jurisdictions
- Presentations and programs about other jurisdictions' experiences, risk and needs assessments, positive youth justice, etc.
- Explored approaches to rewards as well as sanctions; how to incorporate positive youth justice

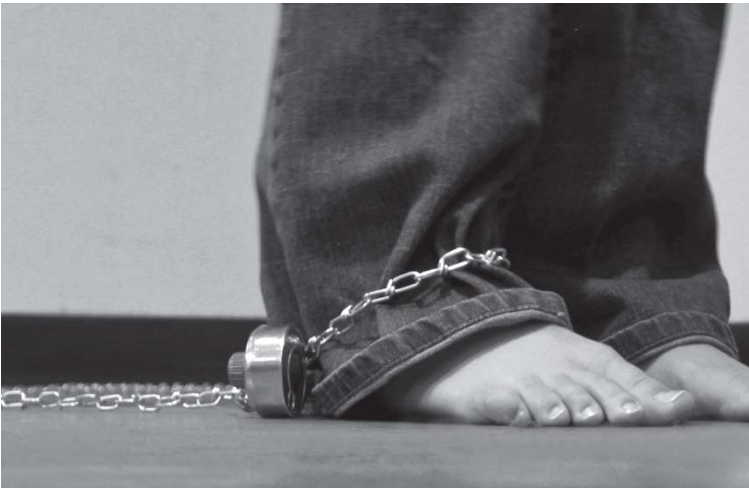
Why look at VOPs?

- Many jurisdictions' main VOPs are:
 - Truancy
 - Curfew violations
 - Dirty urines/ongoing drug use
 - Failure to attend appointments
- A large percentage of youth who violate were only on probation for misdemeanors to begin with
- Usually the violations on their own do not present major public safety concerns
- Many communities incarcerate more youth of color than white youth for VOPs



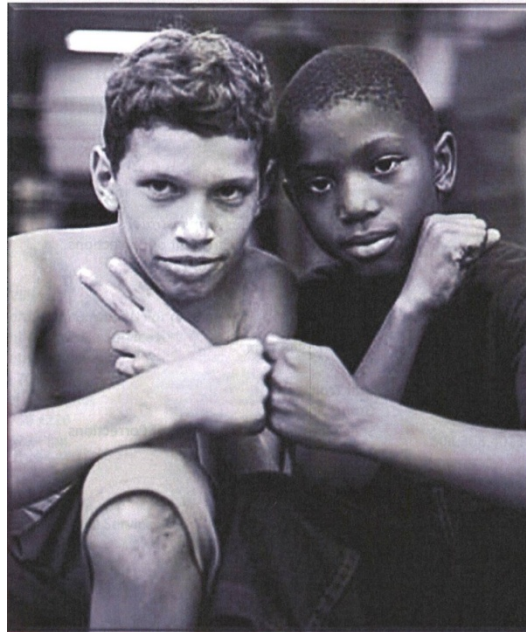
The Goal

- Hold youth accountable and encourage success under supervision without having to resort to incarceration or other out of home placement



Goals in Addressing DMC

- 1) Reduce overrepresentation
- 2) Reduce racial and ethnic disparities
- 3) Prevent youth of color from unnecessarily entering and moving deeper into the juvenile justice system



Two Approaches

- **Front end:** How are youth encouraged to succeed under supervision? Is the department focusing on what youth need for successful transitions to adulthood or strictly on monitoring?
- **Back end:** If a youth is violating probation, what tools can probation officers use to demand accountability and improve future compliance? Can those tools be used equitably?

Positive Youth Justice: An Emerging Framework

- Strengths and assets
- Attachment, engagement and socialization
- Usefulness and belonging
- Broad system of community-based supports



Butts, Bazemore and Meroe: *Positive Youth Justice*

ASSETS

Learning/Doing

Attaching/Belonging

| | | ASSETS | |
|----------------|----------------------|--|--|
| | | Learning/Doing | Attaching/Belonging |
| DOMAINS | Work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes |
| | Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes |
| | Relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes |
| | Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes |
| | Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes |
| | Creativity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Outcomes |

Graduated Responses for Violations of Probation Union County, NC

Presented by
Karen Tucker
NC DJJDP

Graduated Responses

- Why?
 - Reduce number of detention admissions for violations of probation
 - Allows for immediate and appropriate consequences to violations of probation while maintaining public safety and juvenile accountability

Before...



Union County, NC Detention Admissions

| | Native American | Asian | Black Hispanic | Black Non-Hispanic | Multiracial | White Hispanic | White Non-Hispanic | Total Admissions |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| VOP | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 15 |
| Common Law Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Simple Assault | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| B & E Motor Vehicle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Runaway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 1 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 20 |

Data is from October 2008 to December 2008 and was obtained from NC JOIN and Case Files.

How?

- Meetings with DMC Advisory Board and key stakeholders
- Reviewed possible sanctions/rewards
- Reviewed what other sites had used
- Developed Model Grid
- Trained court counselors
- Pilot testing in four counties

After...

60% reduction in detention admissions for Violations of Probation



Union County, NC Detention Admissions

| | Native American | Asian | Black Hispanic | Black Non-Hispanic | Multiracial | White Hispanic | White Non-Hispanic | Total Admissions |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| VOP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Common Law Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Simple Assault | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Break and Enter (M) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| AWDWISI | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 |

Questions Asked...

- While the overall detention admissions dropped, why did the minority admissions increase to 83% of the population?
 - Is it the seriousness of the violations or the seriousness of the original charges?
 - Is the court counselor using the appropriate sanctions?
 - How effective are the sanctions?
- Are there specific sanctions that are fair on their face, but present barriers for minority youth? DJJ will conduct broad analysis after statewide implementation.

DMC / Juvenile Justice

What we have learned...

- Many Court Counselors were using graduated sanctions on their own before the grid was formalized.
- When used appropriately, the graduated sanctions grid can reduce detention admissions and average length of stay for all youth.
- Rewards and Incentives grids should be used in conjunction with the sanctions. (Positive Reinforcement)
- Training and refresher opportunities are essential

Questions?????

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