



Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit
September 28-30, 2011
Chicago, IL

NYC Department of Probation Initiatives

Program Start Date: 2011 (pending)

Website: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/prob/html/home/home.shtml>

Evaluation/Research: This program is an emerging practice and will be independently evaluated.

Information: New York City Department of Probation (NYC DOP) is working with the State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA) and the Council of Probation Administrators (COPA) to effectuate changes both in how a probationer's individualized case plan is developed and how the probationer has access to their probation officer. NYC DOP is creating an "Individual Achievement Plan (IAP)" based on the same validated risk/needs assessment instrument, which will allow NYC DOP to focus on the areas probationers need to work on in formulating their case plan (IAP). The probation officer will work individually with the probationer to develop the IAP with the idea that by having input into the plan that the probationer will be more likely to adhere to its requirements.

Additionally, the NYC DOP will be moving their probation officers in five selected neighborhoods into community-based settings to allow the probationer to have easier access to their assigned probation officer. The probation officers will be co-located with existing community partners under this new plan. By having the probation officers in the community it will allow the probationer to have access to his assigned officer when needed and will reduce the time and energy it takes probationers to get to a centralized location for reporting. Furthermore, by co-locating with existing community partners, the probation officers will have a better understanding of the community they are serving and be better situated to respond to emerging trends.

These initiatives will create a system whereby (1) people's length of probation will be longer or shorter based on their initial risk and offense severity and (2) they can earn further reductions in their probation terms based on their behavior. We will be creating a series of other "incentives" for good behavior - our goal, based on the research, is 4 incentives to every sanction - which we hope will build on people's assets and help us achieve better outcomes with them. Also, by reducing unnecessary supervision of low-risk, successful probationers, this will allow us to focus our staff-power on higher risk folks. We believe that this will (1) reduce recidivism; (2) save probation costs and (3) save jail costs.